

Beeline

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What's Buzzing?

Active and Reserve Seabees working side-by-side

Recently, I spent a day visiting active duty and reserve Seabees training together at Marine Corps Base, Camp LeJeune, N.C. I was extremely pleased to see how well Seabees performed in the field, with virtually no visible distinction as to whether they were active or reserve. Tent camps and defensive perimeters were being maintained. Armories, galleys, medical facilities, equipment yards - all were in full operation. It reminded me of the Seabee legacies of the Persian Gulf War, when more than 2,800 reserve Seabees joined active Seabees in achieving stunning success for the Navy and Marine Corps team.

Today, the Navy Seabees are on the vanguard of active and reserve integration. Integration is no longer an innovative concept, but an accepted, indeed, expected mode of operation throughout all of the Armed Services. Hardly a crisis occurs today that does not involve the logistics, base building, and construction talents of our Seabees and the tapping of reserve Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps engineering talents and assets to assist.

For anyone who looks closely, it is clear that ever since the Persian Gulf War active and reserve Seabees have gone all over the world, serving side-by-side; keeping the peace in Bosnia; supporting democracy in Haiti; rebuilding nations in Africa; restoring hope in desperate places; providing comfort after natural disasters; and rescuing Americans in trouble.

These are the reasons why Americans are so proud of their Armed Forces and why I feel so privileged to be part of our active and reserve Seabee team. No one can doubt that our Seabees are made up of some of the finest men and women America has to offer. You are trained and professional. You go into harm's way and take risks that others avoid. You and your families make countless personal sacrifices for your country. You always get the job done.

As Deputy Commander of the Second Naval Construction Brigade, I want to see us become an even more effective, integrated Naval Construction Fighting Force. I want to build on the positives that integration has brought so far. I want to see a whole new generation of Seabees, officers and enlisted, pursue their careers and professional development having had numerous and frequent opportunities to work side-by-side with their active and reserve counterparts.

In this endeavor, please join with me and reflect for a moment on all that we have accomplished together and then resolve yourself, and for your command, to take every opportunity in the future to make it work better. I look forward to the challenge and hope to get out more to see you.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Marlay, RADM, CEC, USNR
Deputy Commander, Second NCB



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believes Seabees are living in interesting times



On the Cover

Equipment Operator Constructionman Tiana Brushwood stands poised for action as she waits to advance toward gunfire heard in the distance. EOCN Brushwood trained in a four-day field exercise called "Operation Southern Power Bee." For more coverage see pps. 8-9.

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The 'Professionals' Dig Deep

NMCB 5 removes three fuel storage tanks with a capacity of 300,000 gallons each and saves DOD nearly one million dollars

As you drove along the road separating the airfield from the perimeter of Kadena Air Base, you could barely notice the fuel storage tanks nestled snugly underground. But when these mammoth cylinders had to be removed, it became apparent just how deceptively large they really were.

Because each tank had a storage capacity of 300,000 gallons, civilian contractors would have charged close to a million dollars to remove them.

As luck would have it, the Seabees of U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 were in town for their seven-month deployment to Okinawa, and they were able to do the job for a fraction of that amount. The Air Force paid for the rental of several large

pieces of excavation equipment, and the 'Bees' went to work.

"For the first part of the job, we had to excavate around the tanks," said Equipment Operator Second Class Alesia Stokes, the crew leader on the project. "Then our steelworkers disassembled the tanks in three separate sections."

While it sounds easy enough, the amount of labor involved with this project was formidable because of the sheer amount of earth that had to be moved. The tanks themselves measured 65-feet wide by 35-feet deep. But once they were completely excavated, more earth had to be moved in order to keep the sides from caving in. When finished, the holes in the ground measured more than 200 feet wide.

"There were eight feet of



dirt, 18 inches of reinforced concrete and a quarter-inch steel plate on top of the tanks, all of which had to be removed. All-in-all, over 6,000 cubic yards of dirt had to be excavated," said Equipment Operator Chief Michael Abare, NMCB 5's Alfa Company Operations Chief.

Once the tanks were exposed, the steelworkers began the arduous task of dismantling the large plates and beams which made up the structures.

After the tanks were removed, the equipment operators moved in and backfilled the large holes left behind. A few berms were also moved, so the ground could be leveled off.

The hard work done by the "Professionals" of NMCB 5 isn't immediately visible. But whatever the Air Force decides to do with the land, any future projects are guaranteed to start on solid ground.

Story & Photos by
JO1 Lisa Novak



TOP RIGHT: EOCA Gregory Horst backs the excavator up as he removes a section of a fuel tank. ABOVE: A member of NMCB 5 uses a bulldozer to clear out a 300,000-gallon fuel tank.



Flying High

NMCB 74's Detail Norfolk saves the Navy \$50,000, by building the 8,400 square-foot Tension Fabric Structure in two weeks

The large, tent-like structure rising beside Naval Air Station Norfolk's Air Mobility Command (AMC) Air Terminal is a very visible example of Seabees supporting the Navy's various needs and helping save money. Seabees recently erected the Tension Fabric Structure (TFS) as a temporary measure to handle an increase in air passengers until a new terminal is completed in the year 2000.

Jesse Ritchie, Deputy Director of Norfolk's AMC Terminal, explained that the project was initiated as a result of the closing of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and a rescheduling of Navy/AMC overseas flights directly to and from Norfolk rather than via Philadelphia. Because flights will be coming directly from overseas to Norfolk, an area was needed for customs, agriculture and immigration processing, and the TFS

provided a temporary solution until the new terminal is completed. The TFS will be disassembled at that time.

Using Seabee labor to erect the structure saved the Navy more than \$50,000. The Seabees are part of a 75-person Detail from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, currently deployed to Puerto Rico.

"This is a new challenge," said Builder Chief (SCW) Todd Christian. He explained that erecting the TFS provided experience for the crew.

The Norfolk AMC Terminal is the largest of the six terminals in the continental U.S., handling about 10,000 passengers monthly.



TOP: Seabees from NMCB 74 recently erected this tension fabric structure for use as a temporary air terminal facility at NAS Norfolk. **LEFT:** Norfolk Detail members install fabric on the temporary air terminal.

Story & Photos by
Daryl Smith
COMSECONDNCB PAO

Running through the Pain

How one man learns to appreciate his own well-being

When a potentially fatal illness strikes an individual, family members often experience feelings of frustration and helplessness. The situation is beyond their control, and they spend a great deal of time wondering what they can do to help.

Richard Cordero's sister-in-law had been diagnosed with cancer of the adrenal gland several years ago. She had undergone surgical procedures, accompanied by intense chemotherapy treatment sessions and the cancer went into remission. But when it returned three years ago, Cordero, a gunners mate assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, wondered what he could do to help.

"When I reported to the command in August of 1994, my sister-in-law, Barbara Ayviz, had been undergoing chemotherapy and had undergone a few operations. I felt so sorry for her because of what she was going through. I asked God what I could do for her."

Shortly thereafter, the answer came to him. After seeing a program featuring individuals who dedicated their lives to others stricken with cancer, the first class petty officer decided he wanted to do something similar.

"Since NMCB 5 was so much into physical training, I decided to get involved with running. To me, it was inspirational. It struck me as the answer to what I could do, not so much to help her, but (symbolically) to let some of the pain fall on my shoulders. Whenever I get winded or feel hurt, I think of her and all the pain she's going through, and I can run through it."

Cordero started training for half-marathons late in 1994.

"As I was running, I kept thinking of her and all she was going through. When I finished my first race, there was a sense of accomplishment," Cordero said.

Cordero has set a goal to run 500 miles during this current deployment.

The deployment schedule doesn't leave the Chicago native with much free time. As the Battalion's senior gunner's mate, he is responsible for \$4 million worth of ordnance, including close to a thousand weapons (from handguns to mortars) assigned to the unit. He is also responsible for command weapons training.

Since he started running for his sister-in-law his attitude towards life has changed a great deal.

"I thank God daily that I don't have to endure the pain she's experiencing. I've learned to appreciate my body as a gift from God and to nurture it, not abuse it. I quit smoking four years ago after seeing what she was going through. I saw her after one of her surgeries. She had tubes everywhere, and was hooked up

to all kinds of monitors. Now I just pray that she can receive some of the strength and good health I have."

Ayviz's health started to rebound since her last operation and one of her large tumors has shrunk. She has been able to return to her home and her job in Round Lake, Ill., but still must endure the chemotherapy sessions for three days every a month.

Ayviz's said she is touched by his (Cordero's) running and the whole family is doing what they can to help her through the ordeal.

"When something like this happens, you learn to appreciate the life you have," Cordero said. "We all worry about her, but we know all we can do is leave it in God's hands."

Story & Photo by
JOI Lisa Novak



LEFT: GMG1(SW) Richard Cordero, the senior gunner's mate attached to NMCB 5, trains to meet his goal of running 500 miles for his sister-in-law who has cancer of the adrenal gland.

Diplomatic Service

NMCB 5 Seabees work behind the scenes to renovate the Tokyo Embassy



While Seabees are often seen on construction sites around the world, the work they do behind the scenes is also worth noting. Recently, a detail from U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 was assigned to the Tokyo Embassy to renovate hallway and office spaces.

Under the supervision of BU2 William Brown, the crew, including BU3 Manuel Segura, BUCN Ricky Jones and SWCA Marc Pridgeon, completed the removal, floor prep and placement of over 2,500 square feet of carpet tiles in a highly sensitive communications area.

As a result of the quality of work and the timely completion, they were in high demand for numerous other assignments. These included replacement of

over 1,500 square feet of carpet tile in the telephone operations office and the upgrade of more than 600 square feet of suspended ceiling in the Ambassador's official hallway. Former Vice President Walter Mondale was the U.S. Ambassador to Japan at the time.

The crew was also tasked with replacing and finishing the door to the Consulate General's Office. Demonstrating why NMCB 5 personnel are called "The Professionals," all of this work was done in the span of just two weeks.

The Battalion is currently on a seven-month deployment, with the main body located in Okinawa, Japan. The crew working at the embassy is part of the Battalion's detachment stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, and headed

up by Lt. Greg Lunsford.

After they completed the work, Petty Officer Brown and his three-man detail rejoined the detachment in Yokosuka. The crew's work at the embassy was recognized as a significant cost saving to the government.

Story by
Lt. Greg Lunsford
Photo by EOCS (SCW)
Thomas Schmidt

TOP: Members of NMCB 5 with former U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale, gather following the completion of interior renovations at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Operation Southern Power Bee

Four-day training exercise held at Ft. Leonard Wood simulates real world terrorist scenerios

More than 350 men and women of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 15 recently completed a four-day field training exercise at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. During the field exercise, Operation Southern Power Bee, construction battalion detachments from a six-state area set up a Command Operations Center, Company Command Post and Sentry Stations in a simulated terrorist environment.

"We are here to test our skills and learn how we can improve them," said Cmdr. Carl Knuckles, Commanding Officer of NMCB 15. The Seabees had plenty of opportunity to put their skills to work in the brisk and chilly winds of Missouri. While most unit members established and staffed the Command and Communication Center for the exercise, other members posed as terrorists. Their aim was to destroy and disrupt the Command and Communication Center.

Religious Program Specialist Third Class Anthony Gutierrez was one of many who stood guard during the exercise. "It is good to get out of the classroom and get hands-on experience," he said. The entire perimeter of the Command Post was surrounded by concealed sentries. Seabees clad in their camouflage blended so well into the background that they appeared to be a part of mother nature itself. Machinist's Mate Second Class Henry Sutter, a

St. Louis-area native added, "It really feels good to be giving something back to my country."

Suddenly, as Sutter was speaking, the whispered military conversations were interrupted by M-16 and M-60 gun fire. The



scent of gun powder filled the air as units assumed a higher level of alert. Recently affiliated Equipment Operator Constructionman Tiana Brushwood intensely gripped her M-16 while awaiting for the hand signal from the squad leader to advance.

This future college student was excited about her role in the terrorist scenario, "I feel pretty lucky to be out in the field," said Brushwood. She added, "This is only my third time drilling as a reservist and I am really excited."

When disguised terrorists were stopped at checkpoints, exercise umpires observed training techniques that were taught in the classroom successfully put into action. "Seabees can't get enough of this stuff," explained Gunner's Mate Senior Chief, Timothy Bullard. Bullard added,

"All these lives depend on this type of training. We practice over and over and we need to do this as much as we can." Bullard, a 21-year veteran of the military, was pleased to see so many people participating in this training. He continued, "We had men and women driving over 200 miles at their own expense to Fort Leonard Wood. That really says a lot about each individual's dedication."

Many who took part in the exercise felt it was a great success. "The exercise was definitely money well spent," said Capt. Charles Klimmek, Cmdr. of the Ninth Navy Construction Regiment.

Senior officers who participated were quick to point out that the hands-on training provided the best opportunity for real world scenarios. "Being able to provide support for those on active duty should the need arise means we have to be ready and we will be ready to replace troops on the front line," said Lt. Cmdr. Ramon Ramirez who is the administrative officer of NMCB 15.

The following Detachments of NMCB 15 participated in Operation Southern Power Bee: 0215, Kansas City, Mo.; 0415, Lincoln, Neb.; 0815, St. Louis, Mo.; 0915, Tulsa, Okla.; 1115, Topeka, Kan.; 1215, Wichita, Kan.; 1515, Des Moines, Iowa.

Story by
Lt. Abram McGull
Photos by
JO2 D'wayne Rider



PREVIOUS PAGE: EOCN Tiana Brushwood stands poised for action during training maneuvers. **TOP:** Exercise scenarios include military patrols and terrorists control checkpoints for those attempting to penetrate the command. **LEFT:** Gunnery Sgt. Lewis Logan instructs Seabees on the finer points of advancing techniques during field training. **ABOVE:** Cmdr. Carl Knuckles Commanding Officer of NMCB 15 goes over M-60 cleaning procedures.



Overcoming Obstacles...Together

NMCB 7 officers and chiefs team up to test their leadership and teamwork skills

The officers and chiefs of the "Magnificent Seven" recently had the opportunity to train together and build teamwork during a two week combat skills course. The purpose of the two-week course is the honing of military skills such as weapons employment, the operation of command centers, organizing and planning security patrols, and land navigation.

The course began with a week of classroom training at the Center before going into the field at Camp Shelby for the second week of the course. During the field portion of the course, NMCB-7 officers and chiefs were given the opportunity to become familiar with the various weapons systems employed by the battalion. Participants were allowed to fire a wide array of weapons systems



including the MK-19, M-60 and .50 caliber Browning machine guns.

The course was capped off with the Leaders Reaction Exercise. This challenging exercise consists of various stations, each with different obstacles, designed to test each team's leadership and teamwork skills. During the ex-

ercise, individuals are assigned to teams and tasked to overcome obstacles and achieve an objective within the given time limits and with no casualties. The teams are given rudimentary materials to use in order to accomplish the assigned mission. A wrong move usually results in harmless (if unpleasant) consequences, such as falling into a pool of water.

The two week classroom and field training opportunity provided the officers and chief petty officers

of the battalion the opportunity to work closely together, to develop professional skills and have a little bit of fun.

Story by
 Ens. Darrell Reynard,
 Photos by
 PH2 John Hamill

A Lasting Contribution

NMCB 5 makes repairs at Camp Shields and improves the quality of life there for future battalions

Although their Okinawa deployment is coming to a close, the "Professionals" of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 haven't slowed down one bit. In addition to the regularly scheduled projects still underway, "The Professionals" are making repairs on the base which will benefit other battalions that occupy Camp Shields in the future.

After the Battalion arrived in Okinawa for their seven-month deployment, Bravo Company conducted a controlled inspection of Camp Shields facilities and determined what repairs and improvements were needed.

During the controlled inspection, a need was identified for new home furnishings throughout the barracks and a number of jobs aimed directly at improving the quality-of-life for future battalion deployments.

The builders, led by Builder Third Class Hugh Callahan, repainted rooms and repaired ceramic tiles in shower stalls in both officer and enlisted barracks. They also repaired the sidewalks around the enlisted barracks and in front of the galley after a typhoon left a huge sinkhole in its wake. Additionally, they helped rehab the dental offices and replaced drop ceiling throughout the enlisted barracks.

Under the direction of Utilitiesman First Class Raymond Mathewson, the shop's utilitiesmen continually worked on galley upkeep, maintaining and servicing more than 300 refrigerators, as well as performing plumbing jobs and repairing shower units.

Repairing what was already there is only part of the story. Construction Electrician Second Class Hal Ngo directed the Bravo Company electricians as they in-

stalled a Local Area Network (LAN) system which connected all of the computers throughout the camp, enabling users easier access to information and a limited number of printers.

"Our construction electricians worked on the LAN system. They installed 1500 meters of fiber optic cable and conduit, installed 78 office outlets and six computer hub stations," said Builder First Class David McDonald, Bravo Company Maintenance Control Director. "The system will modernize how all the companies communicate with each other, as well as outside sources. With all the work we've done, Bravo Company has made a lasting contribution to Camp Shields.

Story & Photos by
JO1 Lisa M. Novak

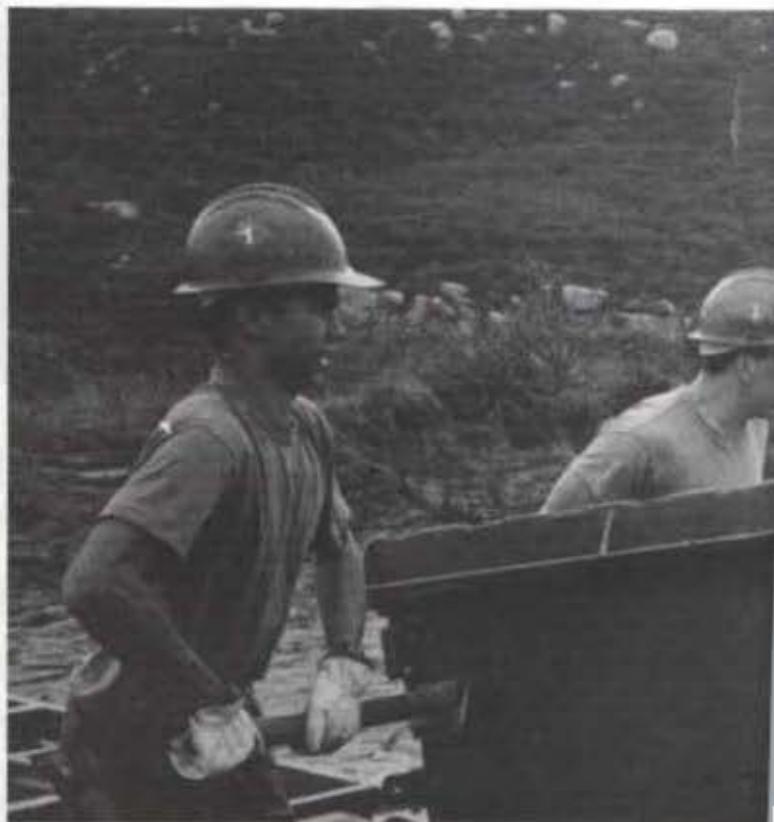


RIGHT: Members of Bravo Company repair sidewalks by the enlisted barracks on Camp Shields.



64 Bees & the

NMCB 1 Seabees
together in the future w



Sixty four Seabees assigned to the "First and the Finest" Naval Mobile Construction Battalion have recently completed a training exercise which has greatly enhanced their contingency readiness.

The training, offered by the U. S. Marine Corps 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group at Camp Pendleton, Calif., prepared the Seabees to assist Marines by erecting, disassembling and transporting lightweight portable medium girder bridging systems.

Although Seabees haven't recently been assigned such tasking, missions of this type aren't entirely new to them. Until the late 1980s, Seabees were trained and occasionally tasked with constructing a similar type of bridging system - the Bailey Bridge.

However, because the other military forces which normally utilize such bridges were considered to be specialists with their own type of bridging systems, Seabees shifted their focus to other types of training.

Until now, Seabees have not been officially



The exercise was a week of intensive training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., which included the construction of a portable medium girder bridging system.

'Bailey Bridge'

and Marines work
with leading-edge technology



tasked with performing such operations on their own, or in conjunction with any other forces, but that is expected to change place later this year.

Because of the speed and ease at which they can be erected, medium girder bridging systems are an essential element during a mobilization operation or a disaster recovery operation.

In the event of an actual mobilization operation, Seabees would most likely be expected to disassemble and palletize the systems so that they could be quickly transported to the location when they would next be utilized. Once at the site, Seabees would assist Marines with the reassembly.

Story by
EA2 (SCW) Brian Foster
Photos by
EOSC(SCW) John Morris





Paving the way for a smoother ride

NMCB 14 Seabees save the government \$6,000 by completing road projects at the Veteran's Outpatient Clinic



Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14 Detachment 0314, a Naval Reserve unit based in Orlando, Fla., used its April drill weekend to complete a variety of projects at the Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Orlando, thereby saving the government more than \$6,000.

The projects included repaving parts of the parking lot, replacing tile carpet in the front of the Clinic, expanding the sidewalk along part of the Clinic, laying concrete block at the Clinic's carpenter shop, and installing a 4-inch underground conduit near the Clinic's engineering spaces.

The largest project - repaving parts of the parking lot - will help buses and other large vehicles enter and leave the clinic. According to Ric Stallings, an Engineering Technician with the VA Clinic, buses - which come to the clinic every 15 minutes - were running off the pavement because there was not enough room for them to make the turn. This was creating pot-holes, he said.

The Seabees helped by expanding the paved areas where vehicles turn. They pulled up the asphalt, dug enlarged corners using a back hoe, and installed concrete along the parking lot.

In addition to expanding the parking lot, the Seabees installed concrete along a sidewalk corner to improve handicap access. Stallings explained that the sidewalk required patients who are confined to a wheelchair to make a 90 degree turn. The Seabees added concrete where the sidewalk intersects, making it easier for wheelchairs to make the turn. The expanded corner also ensures the sidewalk meets American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, Stallings said.

The unit also provided cosmetic changes to the front of the Clinic by installing over 5,000 square feet of new tile. The Seabees began by removing the tile carpeting that was in the front of the Clinic. Afterwards, they spread adhesive along the floor and installed vinyl tile which the VA purchased. Two civilian employees of the Clinic helped. One of them, Jack Fletcher, is also a Seabee attached to NMCB 14, Det. 0314.



Using Seabees to install tile, pour concrete, and install the conduit saved the Clinic \$6,495 in labor, profit, and overhead costs, according to Lt. Cmdr. Michael Denmon, USNR, Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Atlantic Division.

It also provided the Seabees with on-the-job experience.

"You can't learn to swim from reading a book about it. You learn by having someone teach you," said CE3 Ernesto Raya, an Advanced Pay Grade affiliate who has been with the unit four months.

"I've done some concrete work at home, but never anything like this," Raya said, adding that he learned much while helping pour concrete along the VA Clinic's parking lot. It was helpful to have someone point out when you're making a mistake," he said.

Story & Photos by
Lt. J.g. Jonathan Culver





Short Bursts

CBU 417 saves MWR \$55,000

Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 417 completed two projects that will improve the quality of life at NAS Whidbey and save Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) thousands in construction.

The projects - Memorial Park Irrigation and Costen/Turner Head, saved MWR over \$55,000. The Memorial Park Irrigation project was the first step in turning the unused land between the football field and Saratoga Street into a multi-purpose recreational area. The Costen/Turner Head project called for the construction of a 24-foot-by-12-foot restroom for the Park. (COM THIRD NCB)

SECNAV greets 850 Seabees

Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton greeted more than 850 Seabees at Naval Construction Battalion, Port Hueneme, Calif. He handed out awards to five individuals, attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony and spoke with Seabees about quality of life and career issues.

In the area of quality of life, SECNAV noted that 3.7 billion dollars has been budgeted over the next six years for new and improved measures such as housing, morale, welfare and recreation facilities and childcare facilities.

The SECNAV applauded the Seabee team approach and concluded by stating the importance of Seabee Battalions as self-contained building and fighting forces. "The bottom line is...You are doing great. You are the experts," said SECNAV. "You go into harms way to establish the airfields, command posts, bases and whatever is necessary to ensure victory." (COM THIRD NCB)

Dedication pays off



Builder Senior Chief Petty Officer David W. Schill was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for leadership achievement and superior performance of duties while providing support to Cargo Handling Battalion 8 from October 1995 to September 1996. He also was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his assistance with his local church group, the Moorestown Civic Association, the Millville Army Airfield Museum and the Sea Cadets from Jan. 1, 1993 to Jan. 1, 1997.

NMCB 23 Reunion Dinner

The NMCB 23 (NMCB 23) annual reunion will be held Saturday, Aug. 16, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the Howard Johnson Hotel, Old Town Alexandria. The cost is \$35 per person. Dress: Coat and Tie or Summer Whites (Optional). Make check payable to NMCB-23 CPO Mess and mail payment by June 1, 1997 with RSVP.

For additional information contact UTCS Kenneth Gerbert at (800) 682-6320 or (703) 806-6307.

NMCB 23
6205 Stuart Road Suite 101
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5275
Attn: Reunion Committee

NMCB 4 wins Pacific Golden Anchor

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 was recently chosen as the recipient of the Commander-In-Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet Golden Anchor award for 1996. This is the battalion's second Golden Anchor in a row and the sixth time NMCB 4 has received the award. The command has also won the Silver Anchor (runner up) five times.

These awards demonstrate NMCB 4's continued commitment to high retention and how it takes care of its people with programs and events that not only involve the Seabees but their families as well. Criteria for the award includes: retention, team organization, sponsor and indoctrination programs and awards. (JO1 Michael Murdock, NMCB 4)

NMCB 7 wins Atlantic Golden Anchor

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 was named the winner of the Commander-In-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Golden Anchor Award for fiscal year 1996.

The award marks the third consecutive year NMCB 7 has been chosen for this award. This award recognizes that NMCB 7 has once again achieved excellence in retention and personnel programs management.

"This battalion has devoted tremendous efforts toward people," said Cmdr. John E. Surash, NMCB 7's Commanding Officer. "There is nothing more important than our people. It's easy to lose that perspective. This award is a testimonial to the commitment and dedication at all levels of the chain of command to taking care of the individual Seabee." (JO2 Mark Rankin, NMCB 7)

So much to do, so little time

Reserve Seabees and a squadron of Air Force engineers team up for a weekend of tough construction

A group of "Can Do" Reserve Seabees and a determined squadron of Air Force engineers teamed up recently for a weekend of real construction work at Beale Air Force Base in Northern California. The joint efforts by NMCB 18, detachments out of Sacramento and Reno coupled with their active duty Air Force counterparts, accomplished in four days what might have taken several weeks.

Two major projects included the building of 14 hardback structures in a bivouac area over which tent material would be laid, electricity and phone lines hooked up and installation for heating put into place. Another team of Seabees built a reinforced cinder block building which will house oxygen and acetylene

tanks. In doing so, the Seabees assisted the Air Force in complying with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safety requirements and saved them more than \$10,000 in fines.

"I appreciate what the

The Seabees also finished other projects for the base including insulating, dry walling and roofing a field communication center.

According to the unit training petty officer, BU1 (Sel) Wiley Evans, the Seabees overall had a memorable experience at Beale Air Force Base.

"They trained, shared four days of hard work and camaraderie with each other and with Air Force Civil Engineers. The Air Force shared valuable lessons with the Seabees in their own construction techniques and learned quickly why the Seabees motto is "Can Do."

"They trained, shared four days of hard work & camaraderie with each other..."

BU1 (Sel) Wiley Evans
Unit Training Petty Officer

Seabees are able to accomplish in a short four days, their dedication to finishing a project and saving the taxpayers real dollars," said Col. Wayne Newman, Commander of Beale AFB.

and learned quickly why the Seabees motto is "Can Do."

Story by
JO1 Fred Fralley

Rear Adm. Shelton's 'Roo'-tine visit

Outstanding performance always shines in higher places

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 recently received a special visit to help celebrate the 55th birthday of the United States Navy Seabees and the 130th anniversary of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps while on their 1997 Pacific deployment to Guam.

Rear Adm. Michael W. Shelton, Commander, Second Naval Construction Brigade, joined the Kangaroos for their celebration of the annual Seabee Ball held at the Guam Parc Hotel at Tumon Bay. Arriving a day before the festivities, the Admiral took the opportunity to visit Camp Covington's troops and work spaces.

After attending lunch in the

Camp Covington galley, Rear Adm. Shelton then toured Camp Covington and spoke with '133 Seabees, leaving a trail of praise and acclaim behind him. He stopped at the camp armory, where GMG1(SW) Randy Williams presented a static weapons display, describing the functions of the battalion's Table of Allowance weapons, from the MK-19 Grenade Launcher to Night Vision goggles. From there, it was on to the Alfa and Bravo Company areas where the Admiral finished his afternoon with inspections and briefs of the workspaces and their functions.

"It is a particular pleasure to visit '133," said Shelton. "You all have done absolutely outstanding in the past couple of years, par-

ticularly with your service in Europe and Bosnia. You certainly have hit the ground running (on deployment), both with Det Fallon's flood control efforts and your efforts on these projects here. You're off to a great start."

"The Navy is very proud of you," said Shelton. "Winning the Army Superior Unit Award for your outstanding performance in Bosnia makes everyone in the Navy proud. It was a particular pleasure for me to recommend you for the Peltier Award, and I know all of you will carry out a successful and safe remainder of the deployment."

Story by
JO3 Anthony Falvo

Spring Beeline 17



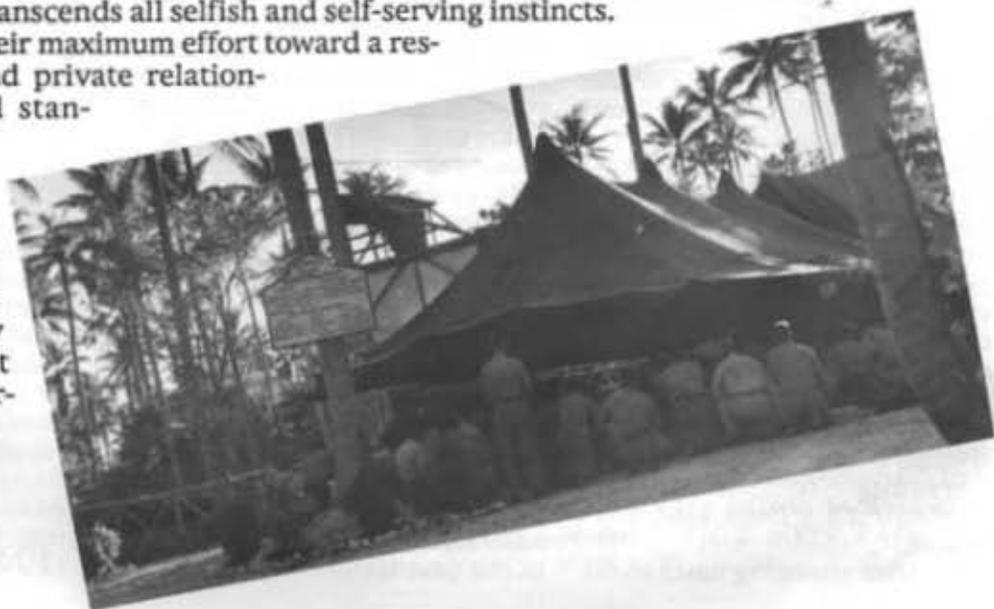
From *the* ArcHive



In God We Trust

Story & Photos provided
by Sam Christian,
Curator CEC/Seabee Museum, Gulfport

Basic spiritual values; patriotism, piety, honor, love, duty, charity and personal responsibility are the most powerful forces that shape the character of our world and of its people. The late General Douglas MacArthur said: "Our strength rests in those high-minded and patriotic Americans whose faith in God and love of country transcends all selfish and self-serving instincts. We must command their maximum effort toward a restoration to public and private relationships of our age-old standards of morality and ethics - a return to the religious fervor which animated our leadership of former years to chart a course of humility and integrity to best serve the public interest."



“God was with the men of the U.S. military because they wanted him to watch over them.”

Patriotism and religion were highly visible in WWII whether in the deserts of North Africa, the frozen forests of Germany or the malaria-laden jungles of the Pacific. God was with the men of the U.S. military because they wanted him to watch over them. The following photos on these pages are from a collection that was donated to the CEC/Seabee Museum by Father Joseph Lyons, who was a Chaplain

with the 63rd Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) in the Pa-

to build places of worship to bring the men together to pray for peace and safety for the world. The men of the U.S. Navy Seabees built chapels on every island they went to. They constructed chapels from tents with palm tree logs as pews and thatched roof structures to more elaborate Quonset Hut buildings with steeples. The structure made it possible for Sailors to pray for their lost comrades and to thank God for another day of life for themselves.



cific during WWII. The photos show a few examples of how the soldiers worked hard



PREVIOUS PAGE TOP: Jewish Holiday Services at Admiralty Islands, October 1944. PREVIOUS PAGE CENTER: ST. Mary's Chapel, Manus Island (the old chapel). CENTER: The pews in the old St. Mary's chapel were palm tree logs. LEFT: Division headquarters chapel, Admiralty Islands. ABOVE: The final communion at the Christmas Mass at Admiralty Island in 1944.



ABOVE: A member of NMCB 23 clears trees and grades land that was a gift from a local property owner.

Seabees and Marines get Land

Overgrown tract in Erie, Pa., given new lease as a gift to reserve center by local property owner

The Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Erie, Pa., expanded its boundaries earlier this year after receiving one-half acre of land as a gift from a local property owner. The land, which borders the Reserve Center's Marine Corps vehicle lot, had not been maintained and was of little value to the previous owner.

Local residents complained about overgrown vegetation and an increase in undesired animal habitation. After receiving approval from the City and County Council, the School District, and

the Mayor of Erie, taxes were waived and the property was transferred to the ownership of the Navy.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23's Detachment 0723 took on the project of removing dead trees, trimming shrubbery, and grading the land. The assignment enabled Seabees to receive additional hands-on training. Future plans for use of the new property will be determined by the Navy in consultation with the Reserve Center's Marines and the Army Ambulance Company. Space for vehicle stor-

age at the Reserve Center has been limited, and the expansion may provide additional vehicle storage and a service area. In addition to this expansion, the work of Detachment 0723 has been well received as a contribution to the betterment of the Erie community.

Story & Photo by
UTCN Jennifer Packard



News to Use

CPO Initiation to include Naval Heritage/Core Values Reading

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, ETCM (SW) John Hagan, has launched an initiation season to require the reading from a list of books of naval heritage as part of the Chief Petty Officer initiation.

The books of non-fiction naval history are fully detailed in the MCPON's March "Direct Line" newsletter to all Command Master Chiefs and Chief's of the Boat.

"This requirement for all CPO selectees to learn more about our past is related to, but not really exactly about, history," MCPON Hagan wrote in his newsletter. "Our focus is on heritage. Understanding the distinction between history and heritage is, in fact, important to achieve our objective."

Newly selected Chiefs will be required to read at least one of the books from the list. During the CPO Indoctrination course the new chiefs will discuss the lessons learned from their reading in relation to Naval Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

"The United States Navy has a history that is longer, richer and more glorious than any other institution in America," Secretary of the Navy John Dalton wrote in support of the initiative. "Respect for their legacy and their traditions should be a powerful incentive for Sailors to retrace the course and speed of our Navy's celebrated history. In the reading list presented here, the MCPON has selected the works that can best teach us about what has come before. These are our best sources of inspiration and guidance. I commend these readings to you."

All books have been deemed appropriate by competent authorities, including: the Naval Historical Center, the Naval War College historian and Naval historian Dr. David Rosenberg, who holds the Mahan chair for Naval History at the National Defense University.

Included among the authors on the reading list are former Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and retired Navy Captain Edward L. Beach, author of "Run Silent, Run Deep" and "U.S. Navy, 200 Years."

"Today's Navy is at the greatest crossroads of its history," Capt. Beach said of the initiative. "While experiencing the drawdown incident to the end of the international tensions that resulted from World War II, it must more than ever gird itself to fight new kinds of battles. Doing this without study of what has gone before, and how and why, would be the same as turning on a computer without first reading the instruction book."

Story by
JOC Cleve Hardman
Public Affairs Asst. to the MCPON

New Direct Deposit requirements set

Direct deposit (DDS) is the easiest and fastest method for payment of pay and allowances. All Naval Reserve members drilling, mobilized or recalled to active duty, who enlisted or reenlisted after July 26, 1996 are required to comply with DDS requirements.

The Naval Reserve Force is currently at 82 percent and the goal is 100 percent. Increased emphasis is needed to ensure members are enrolled in DDS by Dec. 31, 1998. After that date all pay for which exception has not been granted and the member has not designated an account for receipt will be held at the serving Defense Financial Accounting Service (DFAS) until the required financial institution information is provided. Commanding officers and senior enlisted members are tasked with counseling command personnel concerning the benefits of DDS and enrollment.

DoD's Health Care Benefit Program premiums increase

Quarterly premium rates for the Defense Department's Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) has increased as of May 1. The new premiums are \$933 for one person and \$1,996 for a family.

The program extends health care coverage similar to TRICARE Standard (CHAMPUS) for military sponsors and families who lose their military health care benefits when they transition to civilian life. Eligible persons have 60 days after their loss of military health care benefits to enroll in CHCBP.

Please write CHCBP Administrator, P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, MD 20849-6119 for more information. (NENS)



Getting back to it

NMCB 3 begin their
seven-month deployment
in Rota, Spain

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 relieved NMCB 40 during a recent turnover ceremony at Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain, marking the beginning of its seven-month deployment. In addition to the mainbody site, details deployed to Sigonella, Sicily; Naples, Italy; Souda Bay, Crete; St. Mawgan, United Kingdom, and Thurmont, Md.; Throughout various stages of the deployment, Three-Bees will participate in deployments for training including: "Baltic Challenge," Estonia; and West Africa Training Cruise, Africa.

While in Spain, NMCB 3 will repair ordnance magazines, pave a parking area for Navy housing, finish the berm and retaining wall for a special operations training area, construct concrete containments for Defense Reutilization Material Officer (DRMO), replace waterlines and hydrants, demolish a pre-engineered building (PEB) and renovate another for use as a gym/recreation facility and conduct general repairs and maintenance of the camp.

"The biggest thing prior to deploying is to ensure all your family's needs will be met such as attaining a power of attorney, set-

ting up allotments to pay bills, etc.," said Alfa Company's EO1 (SCW) Denzil C. Bauer, "Once deployed, the most important thing is to communicate. You have to keep those letters rolling back and forth."

"I was told that the more you deploy, the easier it gets. But actually, it gets harder," said Charlie Company's BU2 Alonso Cadena, a veteran of four deployments with NMCB 3. "It doesn't matter if you deploy to Bosnia, Rota, Guam or

whatever, it's what you make of it once you get there." Petty Officer Cadena's family not only had a deployment to prepare for, they had to prepare for his upcoming transfer. Soon after the battalion returns to homeport, he, his wife and their two-year-old daughter will move to San Diego.

Story & Photos by
JO1 Charles L. Bear



TOP LEFT: CM2 Floyd Bowden tests a Blazer's charging system in the Alfa Company's Light Shop. LEFT: CM2 David V. West replaces a battery in a forklift in Alfa Company's Heavy Equipment Shop.



Career Corner

Orders: 'You snooze, you lose'

I just reported to BUPERS and received a terrific turnover from Cmdr. Cowell. My first days on the job have taught me a few things that I believe are worth sharing with you (some of these state the obvious or are the same old story, but I promise you - they are all on the mark).

Detailers try to optimally match the list of rollers (Seabees approaching their PRD) with the list of requisitions (requisitions are basically job opening announcements that are published by EPMAC, nine months in advance of the month the opening needs to be filled). The process affords the detailers very little flexibility with either list.

It is often difficult to get through to the detailers on the phone. Internet and faxes work best.

Things work best when a Seabee contacts his/her detailer nine months from their PRD with enough of an idea about the sorts of locations and jobs they are looking for so that they can commit when a workable set of orders is offered. If you snooze, you lose.

We need more Seabee master chiefs to apply for the 9580 (command master chief) NEC. If we don't, advancements will suffer and an increasing number of NCF command master chief billets will have to be filled by non-OF-13 master chiefs.

Today's budget climate has done a great job of forcing the system to align the inventory (number of Seabees) with the Enlisted Program Authorization (number of valid billets). However, just because you have an inventory of 100 Seabees does not mean that you can fill 100 billets

(some are LIMDU, some are in training, and some recently decided to retire or separate, etc.). The moral of this story is, some billets will be gapped.

Seabees are recognized, even in the bowels of the Navy Annex, as a top-notch, professional community that is comprised of this country's finest young men and women.

I am looking forward to and am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Seabees here in our nation's capital. Stay flexible, realistic and optimistic when evaluating your future career opportunities. Have a safe Seabee day.

Lt. Cmdr. Mason Crum
Seabee Branch Head
Pers 401 C

Veterans wanted for CB-Vet program

Are you interested in both a civilian and military career in the construction trades? Well then the Construction Basic (CB-Vet) Program in the Naval Reserve is for you.

The program allows qualified veterans from any service, who want to train and learn with the Naval Reserve Seabees to enlist. No prior service construction experience is required.

Applicants for the CB-Vet Program at E-3 must have 8 years or less and members at paygrade E-4 must have less than 10 years prior service in any branch of the military, and have completed twelve weeks of initial active duty training.

CB-Vet enlistees will train with other Naval Reserve Seabees one weekend a month at a Seabee unit close to their home and gain valuable experience during a two-week annual training (AT) period.

Participants in the CB-Vet Program will receive extra monthly paychecks, educational assistance through the Montgomery G. I. Bill, opportunities to learn new skills, medical and dental coverage and savings from the use of exchanges and commissaries.

Cmdr. Jim Smythe, Director of Training and Engineering, Reserve Naval Construction Force Support Command, Gulfport, Miss., said, "I think it's a good program. People come in the program motivated. There is no in-

centive other than the opportunity to be a Seabee. We're trying to make the training complete so that the CB-Vets coming in will be well prepared for their next assignment."

For the most up-to-date information on the CB-Vet program, call or visit your local Naval Reserve recruiter or your Career Counselor.

You may also call the Naval Reserve toll-free at 1-800-USA-USNR.

Information taken from
the Construction
Basic-Veteran (CB-Vet)
Fact Sheet.



From the Master Chief

Living in interesting times

The Chinese have an ancient curse, they say "May you live in interesting times." I can tell you that we Seabees are living in interesting times. And the Seabees of the future will live in even more interesting times. But, I don't believe it's a curse, I believe it's a blessing and a challenge. We have had Seabees working in some very interesting places; how about; Estonia, Albania, Uzbekistan, Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Botswana, Latvia, Belize, Panama, Honduras, Tunisia, Croatia, Mozambique, Iceland, Norway, Great Britain, Bahrain, Thailand, and so many other islands and countries it looks like a world Atlas. Not to mention the usual deployment sites we almost yawn about because we go there so often, but they are exotic to normal folks: Spain, Guam, Okinawa, Cuba; we forget how special and fortunate we are.

No other military organization in the world gets the opportunity to do once during a career, what we as Seabees do routinely. We have people working in embassies, consulates, foreign military headquarters, U.S. military headquarters and Top Secret projects where the very existence of the places is known to only a few.

We have Seabees teaching construction skills to foreign military students, Seabees teaching villagers, Seabees teaching other U.S. Military engineers and Seabees teaching Seabees. And yet I hear there are no good jobs anymore, no more islands to build, no more history to be made, nothing they do

means anything. BULL!!

They need to talk to the Seabees working in Haiti, ask them if they have any job satisfaction, talk to the Seabees who built the counter drug riverine camp in the Amazon jungle in Colombia, ask them if they felt that the guerrilla threat was real and the work important, talk to the Seabees who built a city in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for 30,000 migrants and ask them if they were making history!

The future is going to be even more exciting, mainly because we don't know exactly what's coming. Sure, everyone knows there will be tight money and we will have to do the same mission with less. Personally, I think that is a great challenge; it's saying we will have to figure out how to be more efficient and develop new and streamlined ways to operate. We will have to train ourselves to a higher level of tactical and capability fitness, and, oh yeah, remain a cost effective source of peace time construction support for the fleet. That's quite a challenge in itself, and while that's happening we will still be going to new corners of the world.

The Partnership for Peace Program will take us further into the former Soviet Union. We will be developing plans for deployments very much like our current Civic Action team program for areas outside Micronesia and the potential for more joint service guarantees new horizons. No more good jobs; you just STANDBY SEABEE!

**CUCM (SCW) William J. Hammond
Operations Chief, COMSECONDCB**

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