

UNITED STATES NAVY

SEABEE

FALL 2009



GULFPORT REBORN

ALSO INSIDE:

**The Center for Seabees
and Facilities Engineering**
Seabees Build, Fight and Train

NMCB 5 Erects "Noah's Ark"
in Afghanistan

SW2(DV) Robert Stethem
Portrait of Courage



WE BUILD ★ WE FIGHT

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WINNER OF 2008 AND 2009

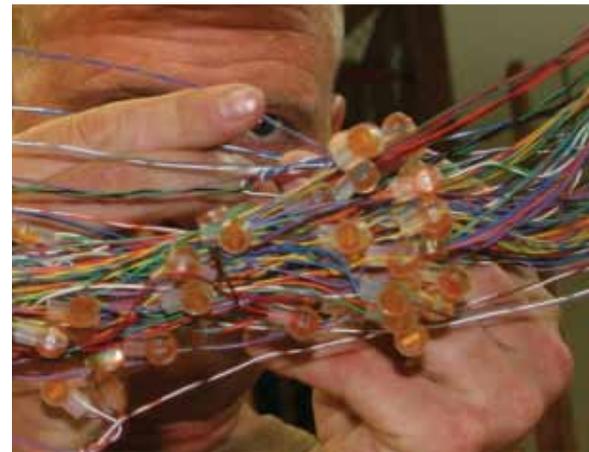


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FINAL WORD

CMDCM(SCW) John F. Mulholland, Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE), traces “Can Do” drive and mission support success to the seasoned staff and state-of-the-art training.



ON THE COVER

(Top right) Post Katrina, the “Grinder Bee” once again surveys all that takes place on NCBC Gulfport’s parade grinder.
Photo illustration

(Bottom left) The “Bee” toppled on its side after Hurricane Katrina hit NCBC Gulfport, Miss., in August 2005, a testament to the force of the storm along the Gulf Coast.
Photos by MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo

“The funding provided as a result of Hurricane Katrina gave us an opportunity to recapitalize facilities that serve the Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Soldiers who work, play and are trained at the installations along the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. These men and women proudly serve their country and deserve the best facilities we can provide.”

— CDR Christopher S. LaPlatney, Commanding Officer, Officer In Charge of Construction (OICC) Katrina

Greetings, Shipmates! I'm Mass Communications Chief James Pinsky, and I come to you via NECC Det Combat Camera Norfolk. No stranger to the Seabee community with a tour in NMCB 5 (1999-2002), I am humbled and honored to return as the team leader of *Seabee Magazine*. There is no place I'd rather serve than with you.

The future of *Seabee* is bright. Together with a superb team of public affairs personnel throughout NAVFAC, the Naval Construction Force and our design team at Qnexis, be assured that your magazine will continue to evolve into the kind of publication worthy of the Seabees.

It's hard to believe that more than four years have passed since Hurricane Katrina bore down on the Gulf Coast, forever changing the landscape of Mississippi and Louisiana. First on the ground following Katrina's exit – the Seabees. In this issue, closely aligned with the stand-down of OICC Katrina, we take a brief look back to those early days in August 2005 and a much closer look at where NCBC Gulfport is today.

Within the Naval Construction Force, the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) is the premier resource for curriculum and training supporting Seabees and CEC officers. Whether in a forward deployed environment or in response to a natural disaster, CSFE delivers state-of-the-art training which

meets the challenges of today's mission.

The *Navy Times* has announced its Sailor of the Year – Senior Chief Construction Electrician (SCW/FMF) Lauro A. Garza, a Reserve Seabee and Iraq veteran with the 9th Naval Construction Regiment in Fort Worth, Texas. Read more about this deserving Seabee in the *Awards & Commendations* section.

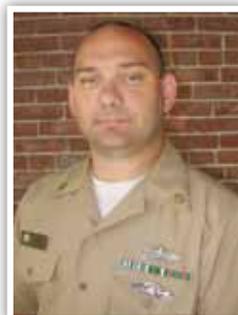
This issue's *Heritage* section recounts the heroic actions of Steelworker 2nd Class (DV) Robert Dean Stethem almost 25 years ago. To this day, his courage serves as a symbol of the strength of our citizens and our country.

With this issue, we bid fair winds and following seas to George Markfelder who served as team leader for *Seabee Magazine* since 2007. During this time, the magazine has grown in contributors and readership, and also received two Communicator Awards for distinction in publication content and design. Thank you, George, for your expert leadership and enthusiastic tenor. We wish you all the best!

Sincerely,



MCC(SCW/EXW/SW/AW/SG) James G. Pinsky
Team Leader, *Seabee Magazine*



MCC(SCW/EXW/SW/AW/SG)
James G. Pinsky
U.S. Navy photo

UNITED STATES NAVY
SEABEE
MAGAZINE

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Units or organizations with Seabees assigned are authorized no-cost distributions of *SEABEE Magazine* (ISSN 1546-8429). Send requests by mail on official letterhead signed by the commanding officer or officer in charge, citing number of unit personnel to the magazine's postal address.

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POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to the magazine address shown at right.

EDITORIAL

SEABEE Magazine is scheduled quarterly by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Public Affairs Office from the historic Washington Navy Yard, "the Quarterdeck of the Navy." Our readership consists of Active and Reserve Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers and their families, as well as veterans, retirees and the general public. Letters and electronic mail are welcome on all Seabee-related topics and, if published, are subject to editing for length and clarity. Written and photographic submissions that show Active and Reserve Seabees are strongly encouraged. We prefer to receive all written and photographic submissions by e-mail to seabemagazine@navy.mil. Images should include captions and be unmodified; digital files should measure at least 300dpi at 5x7 inches. All submissions must include the author's full name, rank/rate, duty contact telephone number(s) and e-mail address. Submissions by regular postal mail are strongly discouraged due to security precautions that may damage fragile contents. If necessary, send all postal mail to:

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(Background) Gulfport housing devastated during Hurricane Katrina.

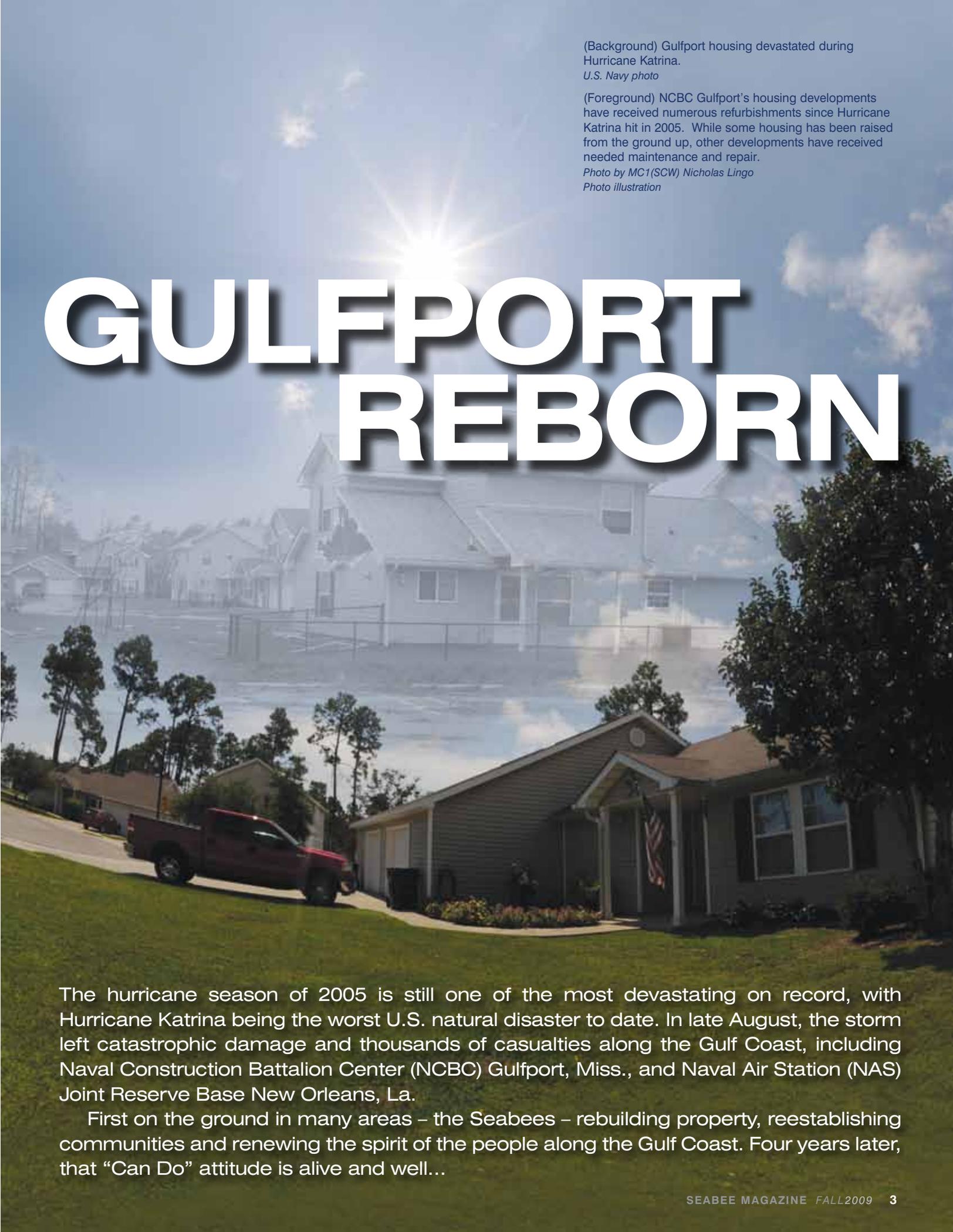
U.S. Navy photo

(Foreground) NCBC Gulfport's housing developments have received numerous refurbishments since Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. While some housing has been raised from the ground up, other developments have received needed maintenance and repair.

Photo by MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo

Photo illustration

GULFPORT REBORN



The hurricane season of 2005 is still one of the most devastating on record, with Hurricane Katrina being the worst U.S. natural disaster to date. In late August, the storm left catastrophic damage and thousands of casualties along the Gulf Coast, including Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., and Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, La.

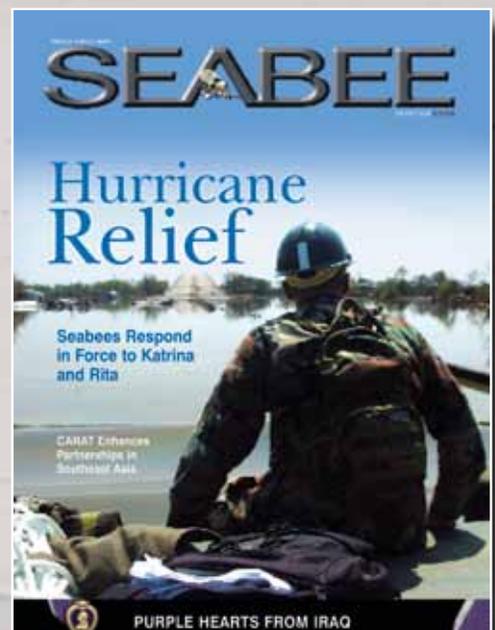
First on the ground in many areas – the Seabees – rebuilding property, reestablishing communities and renewing the spirit of the people along the Gulf Coast. Four years later, that “Can Do” attitude is alive and well...

NCBC Gulfport Builds on the Future After Katrina

By Rob Mims, Public Affairs Officer, NCBC Gulfport

In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina, the most devastating natural disaster to date to hit the United States, took aim at the Gulf Coast. Unfortunately for Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport, Miss., the eastern side of the storm's eye wall came barreling toward the base. It sustained significant damage to many of its facilities, some of which dated back to the World War II era. After the rain and winds subsided, base and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) officials assessed the damage and devised a plan: the Katrina Recapitalization Plan. This plan focused not on just restoring what was damaged, but on building what was needed for the future – more capability with a smaller infrastructure footprint, better land use and significant opportunity for energy savings.

More than \$400 million was set aside to provide the Seabees and their supporters the facilities needed to accomplish the mission. The plan included work spaces, such as an Armory, Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Training Complex with a Disaster Recovery Training Complex, Security and Fire Department,



NFELC: Long-distance Hurricane Support Provided Following Katrina

By Linda Wadley, Public Affairs Officer, NFELC

Just a few hours after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, the Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC), more than 1,700 miles away in Port Hueneme, Calif., revved into high gear setting up their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to aid NCBC Gulfport as the base responded to damaged infrastructure and facilities.

NFELC supports the Navy's expeditionary forces through life-cycle management of their equipment and material, and emergent operational logistics support. NFELC's responsiveness, innovation and strategic relevance are an indispensable partner to Supported Commanders and those in need.

Post Katrina, NFELC's logistics experts worked to restore communications; assess and restore utilities; provide the base with assets, such as tents and cots; break out the massive stores of construction equipment housed at Gulfport that would be used throughout the region by Seabees responding to the disaster; and coordinate, in partnership with the 31st Seabee Readiness Group, the deployment of Seabees from Port Hueneme to the Gulf region.

NFELC's Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) division deployed Seabee technicians, generators and substations, working with NCBC Gulfport's EOC, to restore utilities at the base, including the galley and a converted warehouse to house more than 2,000 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and public health personnel. MUSE techs and equipment also provided utility support to other U.S. Navy activities and communities damaged by Katrina.

The Seabees' new communication system – the RDSAT (Rugged Deployable Satellite) – pre-staged at Port Hueneme and Gulfport, was brought online Sept. 1 of that year, restoring NCBC Gulfport's EOC phone, internet and e-mail communication with the world.

In addition to expeditionary logistics, NFELC provides wartime maintenance and mobilization of Navy expeditionary equipment; mobile utilities in support of global Navy and Marine Corps requirements; and acquisition, registration and licensing of Civil Engineer Support Equipment and Civil Engineer End Items.



Assisted by an NFELC team member, EO2 Jonathan Bias loads an 800-kilowatt generator from NFELC's Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) division aboard an aircraft at the Point Mugu airfield, Naval Base Ventura County, Calif., Sept. 2, 2005. The generator made its way to the Gulf Coast in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

U.S. Navy photo by Joel L. Baldwin, NFELC

Command Headquarters, Auto Vehicle Repair Facility, Tactical Training Facility with a state-of-the-art Combat Convoy Simulator, and a Naval Meteorology Professional Development Center. The entire logistics infrastructure was rebuilt, via the Operational Expeditionary Logistics Facility which consolidated logistics functions from a number of old facilities, and now provides a modern facility to support expeditionary logistics requirements.

The package also included upgrades in the quality of life for Seabees and their families: a bachelor enlisted quarters, a new Navy Exchange, fitness center with pool, training hall with 600-seat auditorium and Seabee Heritage Center, new commercial gate which includes three inbound and outbound lanes, X-ray technology, direct access to the new Operational Expeditionary Logistics facilities and warehouses, a new main gate with a Welcome Center (including housing office, pass and ID), a new secondary gate, 212 base housing units and a single Sailors center.

These upgrades encompass more than one million square feet of new building space and provide top-notch facilities for the NCBC Gulfport community.

Four Years Ago and Today...

(Inset) Featured on the cover of the Winter 2006 issue of *Seabee Magazine*, BU1 Charles Fury, NMCB 40, transits the flooded streets and damaged surroundings in Port Sulphur, La., in the Buras Levee, following landfall of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

Photo by MC3 John P. Curtis

(Background) RPSN(SCW) Dillon Parks, NCBC Gulfport, Miss., takes in the view of a rebuilt fishing pier south of the base. Unrecognizable four years ago, the totally refurbished pier represents only a fraction of the \$1 billion in contract work completed along the Gulf Coast following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Photo by MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo



Seabees check the damage on board NCBC Gulfport, Miss., in August 2005.

Photo by MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo

Photo illustration

OICC Katrina Presented Meritorious Unit Commendation

By Sue Brink, Public Affairs Officer, NAVFAC Southeast

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast recently presented a Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) award on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., to recognize the work of Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) Katrina.

“By their truly distinctive achievements and unrelenting perseverance, the OICC Katrina team provided the necessary effort and work to restore normalcy and repair facilities after the disaster,” said CAPT Doug Morton, commanding officer, NAVFAC Southeast.

OICC Katrina stood up Aug. 1, 2006, to support recovery efforts for supported commands and military personnel and their families on six major installations across 110 miles of the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast.

“The exceptional quality of work, speed and scale of recovery efforts were especially noteworthy in light of the devastation to surrounding communities,” CAPT Morton said.

OICC Katrina, under NAVFAC Southeast, served as the lead facility engineering and acquisition authority for U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force activities damaged by Hurricane Katrina. It provided forward-deployed, leveraged engineering support, and an on-site operational commitment for reconstruction and recovery efforts spanning the Gulf Coast from Pascagoula, Miss., to New Orleans, La.

The OICC Katrina team oversaw a contract load total of approximately \$1 billion, with work in progress of more than \$250 million per year. The program oversight consisted of 89 new facilities, demolition of 84 facilities, repair of 309 facilities, 16 building renovations and 212 new housing units.

Now, after more than three years of facilitating recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast, the remaining work can be reintegrated into the neighboring Public Works Departments at NCBC Gulfport, and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, and OICC Stennis Space Center, New Orleans, La.

The OICC Katrina site officially closed in July.



(Above) NCBC Gulfport's commissary, repaired long after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, is situated next to the newly built Navy Exchange.

Photo by MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo

Photo illustration

(Left) The front of the commissary on board NCBC Gulfport was heavily damaged by floods and winds from Hurricane Katrina.

Photo by MC2 Paul Williams



(Above left) CE2 Aaron Riggo closely examines electrical wires at the CE C1 Advance Course during a troubleshooting exercise, NCTC Gulfport, Miss., July 2009.

U.S. Navy photo by Milt Williams





CSFE

THE CENTER FOR SEABEES AND FACILITIES ENGINEERING

Nationwide Training Offerings Support Naval Construction Force

The Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) is the primary resource for development and management of curriculum that supports training for Seabees and CEC officers. CSFE's overall goal is to ensure personnel arrive at their prospective operational units equipped with the right training to execute the mission. Continual changes in unit assignments, the incorporation of updated technology, and improvements in operational and instructional methodologies drive changes to the training requirements met through courses developed and delivered by CSFE.

Formally established in March 2003, CSFE reports to the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) on all aspects of training to support Seabee readiness and mission capability. CSFE manages curriculum for 280 naval courses, and employs 216 military, 101 civil service and 113 contractor personnel at seven locations throughout the United States.



(Above) Disaster Recovery Team students erect a wooden casualty lifting as part of the final practical lab during Basic Rescue class, NCTC Gulfport, Miss., July 2009.
U.S. Navy photo by Milt Williams



SCHOOLS

Civil Engineer Corps Officer School (CECOS), Port Hueneme, Calif.

CECOS supports technical expertise and career development for facilities management/acquisition/planning, Seabee construction, management/operations and contingency engineering. The Environmental Division provides training for ashore environmental and natural resources in the areas of conservation, pollution prevention, compliance and cleanup worldwide. In FY 08, CECOS trained 4,599 students. Current CECOS key initiatives include Leadership Continuums, Chief's GMT/Mentoring Handbook, Naval Construction Force (NCF) Operations Transformation and Facilities Engineering Command (FEC) Training Pipeline.

www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/cecocos

Naval Construction Training Center, Gulfport, Miss. (NCTC GP)

NCTC Gulfport provides technical training for Seabees in all seven OF-13 ratings in state-of-the-art facilities, and hosts U.S. Army and Air Force students for Builder (BU) and Steelworker (SW) apprentice-level courses. Last year, NCTC GP trained 8,816 Navy, 940 Army and 558 Air Force students. In 2008, NETC named NCTC GP as the Best Learning Site and Best Training Support Department.

www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/gulfport

Naval Construction Training Center, Port Hueneme, Calif. (NCTC PH)

NCTC Port Hueneme continues to be recognized as the West Coast fleet-concentration area's premier provider of technical training. This location provides career path training to personnel in all seven Seabee ratings and schedules training to meet battalion homeport requirements. In FY 08, NCTC PH fulfilled 8,074 quotas. In addition, this location hosts the Air Force in its Construction Mechanic (CM) "A" School course.

www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/hueneme

NCTC Port Hueneme Detachment, China Lake, Calif.

The NCTC China Lake Detachment trained 118 Seabees in water well drilling, blasting and quarry, and rock drill operations in FY 08. These high-risk courses teach Seabees how to select sites for water well drilling, and how to safely use various explosives for drilling and quarry operations. The remote location of this learning site provides students a unique opportunity for hands-on training.

www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/chinalake

CSFE Detachment, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Seabees attend specialized training on Mobile Utility Support Equipment (MUSE) at this detachment on a U.S. Army installation in Northern Virginia. Seabees are hand selected to become MUSE technicians; approximately five graduate each year. MUSE-trained Seabees deploy worldwide to operate/maintain power generators in a variety of environments.

COMM: (703) 806-5227/DSN: 656-5227

CSFE Detachment, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"A" School courses for the Engineering Aide (EA) and Equipment Operator (EO) ratings, as well as disaster operations preparedness, are taught jointly with the Army. Fort Leonard Wood trained 821 Navy students in FY 08.

www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/ftwood

CSFE Detachment, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

Sheppard Air Force Base supports "A" School for Construction Electrician (CE) and Utilitiesman (UT) ratings with the Air Force, and provides "C" School courses for air conditioning. In FY 08, 687 Navy students attended classes at the detachment.

www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/sheppard



CM2(SCW) Luke Leifeste learns how to properly splice high-voltage cable during the Electrical Specialty Phase at Prime Power School, CSFE Detachment, Fort Belvoir, Va., in April. U.S. Navy photo

RESOURCES

Portable Learning Reference

CSFE developed the Seabee Electronic Toolbox (SET) to provide Seabees instantaneous access to reference material. SET, Revision 1, released in May, contains rating-specific and general references for professional enhancement, leadership tools, and certification and qualification information. Personal growth resources for family members are featured in this revision. SET's intended target audience is Naval Construction Force OF-13 personnel, and E6 and below; it is shipped to each command.

On-line Learning References

CSFE also maintains active Communities of Practice (CoPs) for CEC officers and each rating on Navy Knowledge On-line (NKO). NKO features pertinent information for officers and enlisted, and supports static and dynamic displays through Chats, "Ask the Chief," CSFE feedback and more. Log on to NKO at www.nko.navy.mil. At the top left, use the drop down menu and select Communities of Practice. Then select Seabees and Facilities Engineering from the list provided.

College Credits

CSFE manages a variety of free opportunities through Navy and local colleges, and on-line courses. The Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) link on NKO displays what credentials are available and can be funded, including Tuition Assistance, e-learning, Navy COOL Bucks, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education (DANTES) and the GI Bill.

CSFE evaluates formal Navy training courses annually for college credit equivalency. The Learning Center and each subordinate Learning Site are accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE). In addition, the American Council on Education (ACE) accredits curriculum, conducts thorough reviews of curriculum for officer and enlisted courses, and recommends college credit.

www.acenet.edu

CECS Garza Named 2009 *Navy Times* Sailor of the Year

By Michelle Tan, mtan@militarytimes.com

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Most of the time, Senior Chief Construction Electrician (SCW/FMF) Lauro A. Garza Sr. doesn't know the veteran being laid to rest at the national cemetery here.

But that doesn't matter, because when Garza puts his Box Stradivarius trumpet to his lips, the haunting notes of "Taps" fill the air in a final tribute, a tribute he believes is the least he can do for a comrade.

"In Spanish, they call it 'alma,' from the soul or the heart," he said. "The bugler on the recording might be very good, but mine has feeling. This is one of the things I can do to give back to the service members."

Garza, a 45-year-old Reserve Seabee and the 2009 *Navy Times* Sailor of the Year, volunteers regularly at the cemetery, often playing "Taps" at back-to-back services using the trumpet he has owned since high school. The Iraq veteran — now preparing to deploy again, this time to the Pacific — also is called upon whenever a Sailor or Marine is scheduled to be buried at the cemetery. He has played "Taps" at more than 800 funerals, including more than 150 in the past year.

In addition, he coordinates requests for blank ammunition used during the funerals, and visits wounded Sailors at nearby Brooke Army Medical Center, volunteering to bring them groceries or completing electrical work at their homes.

When he's not in uniform, Garza is the federal regulatory compliance officer for CPS Energy in San Antonio, where he lives. Seven years ago, when Garza was the company's human resources manager, he proposed a new benefits policy for deployed reservists. The company adopted the policy, and employees now receive 30 days of full pay and six months of differential pay while they are deployed.

However, Garza, who is married to Roxanne Starr and has two grown children, downplays his contributions.

"When you're a chief, you don't tell people what you do, you just do it," he said. "In a few years, this will be over, and it'll be history. I never want to regret anything. This is not what I do. It's who I am."

Garza is the consummate Seabee, Command Master Chief (SCW/SS) Larry Heikkila wrote in his statement nominating Garza for Sailor of the Year.

"He is gregarious, intelligent, has a heart for others and is willing to take the hardest job to see if he can accomplish the mission," Heikkila wrote, noting his volunteerism and extensive work organizing the area's annual Seabee Ball. "He is almost tireless, but always has time to sit down to mentor a Sailor."

A PERSONAL BEGINNING

Garza, assigned to the 9th Naval Construction Regiment in Fort Worth, Texas, started playing the trumpet in the Boy Scouts when he was 11 and began bugling in 1992 when he joined the Navy.

The first funeral he played was for his paternal grandfather, an Army Air Corps veteran who died when Garza was 16.

"It's a privilege...to do this," Garza said. "I always pray before I play."

In March 2003, Garza was mobilized for duty in Iraq. At the last minute, his unit did not deploy but spent four months at Port Hueneme and Fort Hunter Liggett, both in California.

When he returned to San Antonio, Garza learned that a fellow senior chief and Seabee, Bob Westover, had been wounded and was recuperating at Brooke.

"So, I went and knocked on his door," Garza said. "It's our town. We try to make people at least feel like we've got them covered."

One of the things Garza did was make sure Westover had a steady supply of milk to help him regain the weight he had lost.

"I'm the guy who can get him milk and stuff," Garza said about Westover. "He's the real hero."

Garza, along with six other Navy chiefs who live in the area, continues to visit wounded troops at Brooke. The chiefs, known as the Alamo Chiefs, bring donations to the Fisher House and help wounded service members who need electrical or other types of work done at their homes.

In June 2005, Garza was mobilized again. This time, his unit deployed, and he served in Iraq's Anbar province from September 2005 to March 2006.

"We've been tested now, under fire," he said.

This summer, Garza and his fellow Sailors will deploy to the Pacific, he said, adding that some day he would like to play "Taps" for a service member being interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

When he retires in a few years, Garza said he hopes to start a chiefs' club to serve area veterans with everything from finding a job to doing work on their houses.

He just needs to finalize the business plan and secure funding, Garza said.

"It's all about those people who are [buried at the cemetery] and those who will come after us," he said. "It's all about service. There's no higher calling than to serve your country."



CECS(SCW/FMF) Lauro A. Garza Sr., 9th Naval Construction Regiment, NAS JRB, Fort Worth, Texas
U.S. Navy photo

Reprinted with permission from The Navy Times

U.S. Navy photos



CE1(SW) Eric Brooks, NMCB 24, checks and repairs a power supply unit on a forward operating base in Al Anbar province, Iraq.



CM1 David Ducharme, NMCB 24, performs daily tasking while working in the Combat Operations Center, Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.



ET1 Bill Lancaster, NMCB 24, adjusts a UHF antenna, enabling more efficient communications at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

Three NMCB 24 Seabees Receive Commissions

Three Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 enlisted Seabees are receiving commissions to become naval officers at the rank of ensign.

Construction Electrician 1st Class (SW) Eric Brooks has served the Navy on active duty, as well as with the Reserves for the last 14 years. Brooks learned of his direct commission in March 2009. While an active duty service member, Brooks was stationed aboard USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68), working in

interior communications, as well as work center supervisor.

Construction Mechanic 1st Class David Ducharme was also notified of his upcoming commission in March 2009, having served more than 20 years with the Navy Reserve in multiple east and west coast Naval Construction Force units.

Electronics Technician 1st Class William H. Lancaster III received confirmation of his naval officer direct commission in February 2009. He has served nine

By CM2 Nicole Harmon, NMCB 24

years with the Navy and has been a Reservist since 2002.

“These Seabees have distinguished themselves during their enlisted careers, and demonstrated the ability to excel at anything they choose,” said CAPT Craig A. Scharton, commanding officer, NMCB 24. “The loss of them from the enlisted ranks is more than offset by the contributions they will make to the Navy as commissioned officers.”

COMMAND NEWS



Cariello Takes Helm of 22nd NCR

By MCSN Michael D. Wright, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

CAPT Louis V. Cariello relieved CAPT Robert A. McLean III as commander of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) during a change of command ceremony on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., June 5.

RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, FIRST Naval Construction Division (1NCD), served as guest speaker.

CAPT McLean assumed command of the 22nd NCR in June 2007. During his tour, he led the regiment on a deployment to the Al Anbar province in Iraq, and oversaw the completion of more than 140 projects valued at \$100 million. He departs to become the commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East, Yokosuka, Japan.

The ceremony marks a return to the 22nd NCR for CAPT Cariello. In April 2000, he was deployed as commander of the 22nd NCR (Forward) in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Most recently, Cariello served as deputy commander for operations, NAVFAC Pacific.

(Left) CAPT Louis Cariello (left) receives the command flag from CAPT Robert A. McLean III, as he assumes command of the 22nd NCR on board NCBC Gulfport, Miss., June 5.

U.S. Navy photo

NMCB 11 Changes Hands for First Time Since Recommissioning

By MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo, NMCB 11 Public Affairs

Command of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 was relinquished by CDR Stephen Revelas, the battalion's first and only commanding officer since it was recommissioned Sept. 14, 2007.

CDR Michael Monreal assumed command of NMCB 11 during the ceremony held on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 22.

Guest of honor CAPT Edward Brown, commander, 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG), reminded the battalion what he shared with them before their first deployment.

"Before NMCB 11 left, I asked you to go out and make history. I believe you've done just that," said CAPT Brown. "The expert guidance of CDR Revelas has been instrumental. You've done a great job with these fine young men and women, Skipper."

Revelas has transferred to Naval District Washington as the public works officer.

(At right) CDR Stephen Revelas (right) receives the Navy Meritorious Service Medal from CAPT Edward Brown, commander, 20th SRG, during NMCB 11's Change of Command ceremony, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 22.

Photo by MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo



NMCB 133 Changes Command

CDR Chris Kurgan (right) accepts NMCB 133's command flag from CDR Paul Odenthal during the change of command ceremony at the Training Hall on NCBC Gulfport, Miss., June 25. This portion of the ceremony is a time-honored tradition that symbolizes the passing of responsibility of a command from a commanding officer to his or her relief.

Photo by MCC Ryan C. Delcore

30th NCR Assumes Engineering Mission in Afghanistan



Brig. Gen. John McMahon (foreground), director of Engineering for U.S. Forces Afghanistan, and command staff from the 30th and 25th NCRs salute the flag during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Aug. 24. During the ceremony, the 30th NCR, led by CAPT Kelly Schmader, commanding officer, assumed command and control of construction operations from the 25th NCR.

Photo by MC1 Kenneth Robinson



E01 Mario Gonzalez stacks dominos with children from the Hye Sim Won Orphanage in Seoul, Korea, June 24. Sailors stationed at Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea (CNFK), visit the orphanage every month to celebrate the children's' birthdays with pizza, cake and games.
Photo by MC1 Bobbie G. Attaway

CNFK Seabee Coordinates Volunteer Program at Local Orphanage

By MC1 Bobbie G. Attaway, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea Public Affairs

Sounds of laughter and clapping, images of children playing various games, and the aroma of pizza, fruit and cake are just a few of the many experiences a person may have had during a birthday party at the Hye Sim Won Orphanage in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in June.

One Seabee in particular experiences all of these senses every month. Not only does he help volunteer with other Sailors from Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea (CNFK), he is also the one who makes it all possible. Equipment Operator 1st Class Mario Gonzalez has been coordinating monthly volunteer trips to the orphanage for the past year.

“As the coordinator, I raise funds for our monthly birthday parties and annual Christmas parties. I also provide transportation, send out invites and raise awareness of our efforts,” said E01 Gonzalez. But, he points out it is not just all work.

“Not only do we get to enjoy pizza and cake, but we also get a chance to interact with the underprivileged kids, and learn the Korean language and customs,” said Gonzalez, “as well as enjoy playing board games, puzzles, and arts and craft events...”

Taking off their shoes and relaxing with the children, whose ages range from newborns to teenagers, Sailors gain more than just something to put on their evaluation.

“Sailors get the satisfaction of knowing they are a positive influence in their community and shatter the negative

“Sailors get the satisfaction of knowing they are a positive influence in their community and shatter the negative military stereotypes that make the headlines from time to time,” said E01 Mario Gonzalez.

military stereotypes that make the headlines from time to time,” said Gonzalez. “Not only is it fun for the kids, but it shows that we care about their birthday and try to make the day special, as well as reinforce a positive relationship we have shared over the years.” Gonzalez, along with three other service members, received the Friendship Award at the annual Korea America Friendship Society (KAFS) June Festival. The award

is presented to individuals who have contributed significantly to promote goodwill and understanding among Koreans and Americans.

Sailors have been volunteering at Hye Sim Won Orphanage since the 1950s, when the orphanage was located in the southern city of Busan. After the hostility during the Korean War ended, the orphanage was relocated to Seoul.

Pacific Partnership Leaves Smiles, Renovated Schools and Clinics

(Bottom) LTJG Christian Auger (left), NMCB 1, and LTJG Shawn Talley, ACB 1, say goodbye to schoolchildren after playing ball at Koulo Primary School, Lifuka, Tonga, July 17, during a Pacific Partnership 2009 engineering project.

(Inset) CE3 Wei Zhang (left), ACB 1, paints with Royal New Zealand Army Warrant Officer Class 2 Carl Fairbairn during a Pacific Partnership 2009 engineering civic action project at Hihifo Primary School, Lifuka, Tonga, July 17.

Photos by MC2 Joshua Valcarcel



By LCDR Nancy Harrity, Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) One and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) One, along with the entire Pacific Partnership 2009 team, departed Tonga on July 27 where they worked alongside Tongans, and delivered a variety of humanitarian civic assistance programs. Seabee battalions and partner engineering teams completed a number of projects including renovations to a medical clinic, two schools, a community center and a water catchment project.

Overall, Pacific Partnership expended more than 400 man-days on engineering projects in Tonga, according to LTJG Shawn Talley, ACB 1, the mission's engineering lead. "We could not have finished...early without the help of the local community providing several people daily to paint and help with construction," LTJG Talley said.

"This is a very successful conclusion of a very excellent working relationship between all of you," said Dr. Viliami Tangi, Tonga's deputy prime minister and minister of health. "[Pacific Partnership] has strengthened the relationship between all of your countries and Tonga."

"The public support of our team has been tremendous, with villages coming out to work side by side with our team," said Commodore Andrew Cully, mission commander, Pacific Partnership 2009. "The support from the Tonga Defense Service prior to and during our stay put us well ahead of schedule on all of our engineering projects."

Pacific Partnership 2009 is delivering humanitarian and civic assistance missions from USNS *Richard E. Byrd* (T-AKE 4), an underway replenishment ship, to the Oceanic nations of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.





By MC1(SW) Kurt Riggs,
NAVFAC Headquarters
Public Affairs



Since their inception in World War II, the Seabees established themselves as a force to be reckoned with both in construction and in combat. From time to time, individuals emerge as heroes on and off the battlefield to take their place in Seabee lore.

SW2(DV) ROBERT DEAN STETHEM

SEABEE & HERO

Steelworker 2nd Class (DV) Robert Dean Stethem earned his place in Seabee history on June 14, 1985, when the flight carrying his detachment from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 bound home from Greece was hijacked. The world media would soon carry the message of the hijackers of TWA Flight 847 around the globe, but it would be a few days before they learned of the sacrifice of this young Seabee.

Members of the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah boarded the plane in Athens, smuggling aboard guns and grenades with intentions of hijacking the plane.

SW2 Stethem, along with fellow members of UCT 2, had just finished a deployment at the Naval Communication Station Nea Makri. Once airborne, the terrorists took control of the plane, and collected passports from all aboard to establish identities. Stethem was identified as being a member of the U.S. Navy.

The next 24 hours were the last of Stethem's life. Explaining to a fellow passenger that he was the only non-married, childless man in his unit, he endured beatings and torture at the hands of his captors, refusing demands from the hijackers to plea for assistance, while the plane shuttled from Beirut to various destinations in the Mediterranean basin. When the terrorists' demands to release 766 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel were not met, Stethem's

ordeal ended in death after he was shot in the head; his body was then dumped out of the plane and onto the tarmac at Beirut International Airport. Dozens of passengers were held hostage over the next two weeks, until released by their terrorist captors.

Posthumously, Stethem received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his heroic display of "exceptional valor and professional integrity while a hostage of militant Shi'ite hijackers of Trans World Airlines Flight 847," his official citation for the Bronze Star reads. The citation continues, "Exhibiting physical, moral, and emotional courage beyond extraordinary limits...he drew upon an unwavering inner strength and absorbed the punishment, infuriating the hijackers with his refusal to succumb, a symbol to them of the strength of the United States of America."

Further honoring the fallen and now legendary Seabee, the Navy commissioned the destroyer, USS *Stethem* (DDG 63) in 1995. In addition, the Stethem Award is presented annually to a Seabee in recognition of outstanding individual moral courage in support of the traditions of the Builder Warriors while in the course of actual operations.

This story was compiled from several news reports related to these events, and is not an official history of TWA Flight 847.



(Left) SW2(DV) Robert Dean Stethem
U.S. Navy photo

(Opposite, top left) A mural depicting SW2(DV) Robert Dean Stethem, the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals, the ill-fated TWA plane and the Navy destroyer commissioned in his name.

(Opposite) A small boat crew assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS *Stethem* (DDG 63) boards the ship after successfully completing operations. *Stethem* is one of seven Arleigh Burke-class destroyers assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 and is permanently forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

Photo by MC2 Byron C. Linder
Photo illustration

NMCB 5 Builds Modern-day 'Noah's Ark' in Afghanistan

By Cpl. Aaron Rooks, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade

The Marines affectionately call the structure "Noah's Ark," for its similarities to the vessel built before it is said flood waters covered the earth in biblical times.

In the rugged desert of southern Afghanistan sit hundreds of tents occupied by Marines as far as the eye can see.

Rising above the dust and grit that blow across the Helmand plains, one object stands out majestically amongst Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) – Afghanistan's sprawling tent city at the unit's base of operations at Camp Leatherneck.

This modern-day ark, built for Marines in less than three months by Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion

(NMCB) 5, looms over all other structures across the desert camp.

"In my 19 years in the Navy, this is the largest wooden structure I've ever seen Seabees build," said Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas Damron, a supervisor for the construction of the 12,000-square-foot building.

The structure is the largest built by the Navy outside the United States since World War II. It will be used as the brigade command center for coordinating various aspects of MEB-Afghanistan's mission, including counterinsurgency operations, and mentoring and training Afghan national security forces.



BUCN Leslie Stangler (foreground) and BU2 Jason Bowman, NMCB 5, mark a cut line for the staircase of a newly constructed Marine Expeditionary Battalion (MEB) building at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 12.

Photo by MC1 E. Rosario



(Above) Petty Officers 1st Class John Cid (foreground) and Thomas Damron, NMCB 5, frame a wall of the Regimental Combat Team 3 Combat Operations Center, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 13.



(Left) Seabees worked a challenging schedule to meet the May 22 deadline and complete the largest structure built by the Fighter Builders since World War II. Pictured is the MEB-Afghanistan Combat Operations Center, May 13, near completion.

U.S. Marine Corps photos by Cpl. Aaron Rooks

Postcard from Iraq

By LCDR Frank Cervasio, CEC, International Zone OIC
Central District (GRC), Gulf Region Division,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baghdad, Iraq

Mission First, People Always is a common saying used by leaders throughout my 22-year career, but it has never meant more to me than during my last six months in Iraq.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, our office was assigned a wide variety of construction projects focused on improvements to civil infrastructure and basic life support. We worked closely with the Baghdad Municipal Government, and a multitude of local and foreign contractors to construct sewer and water networks, schools, hospitals, police stations, judicial facilities, barracks and telecommunication centers. Areas in the city that never had running water or a functional sewer system were brought to life with the completion of these projects, and the quality of life for the citizens immediately improved. Yet the most important part of the deployment for me revolved around the people. As I reach the end of my deployment, I reflect on the long work hours and many days away from home and think about what impact we've had here: an Iraqi child in a new school or a section of the city being protected by Iraqi police; an Iraqi local national engineer successfully closing out a complex project; or an Iraqi citizen having just delivered a child in a newly renovated maternity hospital. The positive impact our work has on the Iraqi people makes the deployment worth the sacrifice."



LCDR Frank Cervasio (center) discusses the progress of Baghdad's Alwaiya Maternity Hospital with the USACE contractor in Iraq.

U.S. Navy photo

22nd NCR Commodore Visits NMCB 24 at Al Asad Air Base



CAPT Robert McLean (left), former commodore, 22nd NCR, speaks with SW1 Anthony Irizarry (center) and BU2 Richard Henderson, NMCB 24, during a tour of Camp RJ, Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, April 20, while they work in the pre-fabrication yard cutting timbers for a tower that will be constructed near the base. CAPT McLean is currently commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East, Yokosuka, Japan.

Photo by CM2 Nicole Harmon

UCT 1 Repairs Specialized Mooring System

By MCC(SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

Underwater Construction Team (UCT) One deployed to the Middle East to conduct an inspection and repair of a single point mooring system (SPMS) at a remote air base in mid-March.

UCT 1 personnel provided supplementary underwater and repair services in support of a successful hydrostatic pump test of the SPMS. These services included the visual inspection of the conduit path, possible replacement of a variety of hoses, and subject-matter expertise on the installation and undersea operation of the system.

“Without large amounts of fuel, the capability to use this location as a forward operating base is severely limited. They need the fuel, and this system is the only way to deliver it,” said Construction Mechanic 1st Class Adam Cooper, UCT 1.

UCT 1 also provided underwater inspection services in sup-

port of the bi-annual inspection schedule for the SPMS system. This included the inspection of a topside buoy for damage and comprised hardware, lighting, solar panels and a fog horn. As part

of this tasking, UCT 1 conducted a video survey of critical areas of the system, provided live video in support of the inspection and verified the condition of all system valves. UCT 1 was also prepared to use the diver locator system (DLS) to accurately track the conduit path and mark any identified anomalies.

“This dynamic and challenging underwater construction project supports vital U.S. interests and missions in the CENTCOM AOR. I’m extremely proud of the dedication and professionalism of our Seabee divers, despite the austere conditions,” said LCDR Greg Miller, commanding officer, UCT 1.

The operation is scheduled to take up to two and half months.



EA1(SCW/DV) Michael Boettger (center), UCT 1, discusses how the crew will position a mooring leg alongside the ferry, including an explanation of safety zones, rigging capacities and hand signals.

U.S. Navy photo

Seabee Electrician Leads the Charge in MEB-Afghanistan Progress

By Cpl. Aaron Rooks, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade

Being at a construction site before anyone else arrives is a nightly routine for Petty Officer 2nd Class Landon Church, an electrician from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Church is the project lead electrician in building the combat operation center. Since March, his knowledge and experience have been essential in the progress made by Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)-Afghanistan and its subordinate elements.

“This has been the opportunity of a lifetime,” Church said. “I knew in the beginning that the MEB project was crucial to the beginning of operations here, and it has been an honor to head up and manage

the electrical portions of the project.”

He and his team of four electricians installed more than 10,000 feet of wiring throughout the building that will run power to hundreds of computers, telephones and more.

“I chose to push through it [the MEB project] one item at a time, and pretty soon the plan came together,” Petty Officer 2nd Class Landon Church, NMCB 5, said. “It eventually evolved into one of the biggest projects the Seabees have seen in quite some time.”

“I spent many hours reviewing building codes for electrical components and making sure I had an overall knowledge of every aspect of

the project, down to the very last detail,” Church said.

Nine months before arriving at Camp Leatherneck, he was assigned to his battalion's convoy security element. There he focused on weapons training, improvised explosive device

awareness and urban combat.

Then, he was handed the blueprints for three of the largest projects he'd ever fathomed.

Church attributes his suc-

cess to the hard work and commitment of the electricians on his team. He's happy with the results so far, but said that wouldn't be the case if not for his men.

“I've tasked them, and they haven't let me down,” Church said. “They put in the extra effort to get the mission done.”

Seaman Apprentice Aaron Bluit said he found inspiration in following Church, a leader 12 years his junior. “I'm glad I'm able to be a part of his crew,” Bluit said. “His positive leadership has helped us get the job done.”

“The best thing to do as a leader is to give the troops a sense of accomplishment,” Church said. “Once they see that it all works and comes together, they develop a trust in you.”

NMCB 11 Re-establishes Camp Mitchell in Rota, Spain

By MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo, NMCB 11 Public Affairs

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 have re-established Camp Mitchell in Rota, Spain, as a geographic logistics hub for European and African theater deployments. The 'Bees marked the occasion as members gathered in formation around the camp flagpole to present the battalion colors for the first time as a unit in Rota, July 7.

The process began back in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, where the 'Bees closed down the camp which included retrograding Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE), tools, materials and facilities, and returning control of camp property back to the Coalition Forces Land Component Command. NMCB 11 Seabees then offloaded new P-25 Table of Allowance, including more than 300 pieces of CESE and 150 containers.

With increasing missions in Africa, the Rota-based Seabee battalion will now launch detachments and details to provide humanitarian civic assistance construction and exercise-related construction projects in EUCOM and AFRICOM theaters of operation.

(Right) Seabees from NMCB 11 load a piece of Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) on a trailer for transport to Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain. The new equipment will help re-establish Camp Mitchell as a logistics hub for forward deployed Seabee units and will better outfit Naval Construction Force units for deployment to EUCOM and AFRICOM.



EOCN(SCW) Sean Ruel, NMCB 11, begins the pre-start phase required before removing equipment from the MV (Mobile Vessel) Alliance New York at Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain, this past summer. NMCB 11 is deployed for the first time since being re-established in 2007, and is forward deployed to Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Photos by MC1(SCW) Nicholas Lingo



Seabees from NMCB 24 pose with Iraqi bakers at a flatbread bakery in Baghdadi, Iraq, April 11. The improvised bakery provides a daily supply of bread to a local Iraqi Army unit.

Photo by UT2 Travis Christensen

NMCB 24 Embarks on 'Bread and Benches' Mission in Iraq

By UT2 Travis Christensen, NMCB 24

During a project in Baghdadi, Iraq, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 Seabees took a break in mid-May to experience local culture and promote goodwill between the Iraqi people and Coalition forces.

Aided by an interpreter, the Seabees visited a local flat bread bakery built into the side of a Hesco barrier wall. Upon their arrival, Utilitiesman 2nd Class James McIntyre named it "The Hesco Bakery."

Hescos are large cloth bags surrounded by heavy-duty wire mesh; when filled with hundreds of pounds of dirt and gravel, they are used for impromptu walls and barriers.

The Iraqis gave the Seabees a tour of their improvised bakery, and demonstrated how a simple mixture of water, flour and salt can be pounded and tossed onto a flat cushion with a hardwood backing. The bread is then peeled away from the furnace wall, and placed on a table for cooling before being

distributed to Iraqi Army forces operating in the area.

"It's amazing how simple flour and water is so delicious," said Construction Electrician 1st Class Robert Liberale.

While sampling the bread, the Seabees noticed that the Iraqi men who produce approximately 1,700 flatbreads daily had only broken plastic lawn chairs to sit on. The Seabees immediately went to work using excess wood left from a previous project to build two benches for the bakers.

Road Repair Crew Hits the Ground Running in Al Anbar

By CE1 Kevin Stolinsky, NMCB 24

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24's road repair crew hit the ground running at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, in mid-July with support and security provided by one of its convoy security element teams. The crew was tasked to repair six road surfaces, fill in a low water area, remove rock and stabilize a slide area.

The Alfa Company crew, with approximately 50 years of combined equipment operator experience, used more than 800 gallons of Pave Mend epoxy to repair the craters in the road surface during the project's first phase.

The second phase began by removing 60 yards of material along the roadway. This material was then loaded into a dump truck to be used in stabilizing a low-water washout area. Then, the crew sloped and



NMCB 24 equipment operators use an excavator and front-end loader to remove excess material from an embankment to repair a wash-out in Al Anbar province, Iraq, May 29.

Photo by EOCS Jerry Carter II

graded the material to prevent future washouts.

During the third phase, NMCB 24 'Bees removed approximately 100 linear

feet of loose material from the initial slide area, and raised the roadway to a stable level.



(Left) NCCS(SCW/SW) James “Jake” Brady (right) sews a stitch into the collar device of MC2(SCW) Jeffrey R. Militzer to signify ‘tacking on’ his crow.
Photo by Chaplain (CAPT) Ronald Wells

25th NCR ‘Tacks On’ Crows

By HMC(SCW) Beverly J. Malm, 25th NCR Public Affairs

Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class (SCW) Jeffrey R. Militzer was waiting patiently for training to start at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, May 29. All of a sudden, his leading chief petty officer stood up and said, “Today we will be ‘tacking on’ Petty Officer Militzer’s crow.” Everyone looked around the room, in complete disbelief of what they had just heard.

In the past, “Tacking on the Crow” typically referred to a practice of hazing, where shipmates would punch the arm of a newly promoted petty officer – a practice now forbidden Navy-wide due to the injuries and embarrassment experienced by Sailors. Any practice of an activity which may be construed as a hazing incident is strictly prohibited in today’s Navy. Each year, training is held to make all hands aware of the Navy’s zero-tolerance policy against hazing.

Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SCW/SW) James “Jake” Brady summoned MC3 Militzer to the front and began the ceremony. With everyone looking on in stunned silence, NCCS Brady inserted a threaded needle into the edge of the badge on Militzer’s collar – not what anyone was expecting and definitely not any form of hazing. As he sewed his stitch, he explained the history of “tacking on a crow.”

“In days long past when a Seaman was being promoted, his shipmates would take him out on the town, while the crew remaining on board would sew or ‘tack on’ the new rating badge to his uniform,” Brady said. “Typically, because he had been out very late the night before, the newly promoted Sailor would not even realize that his uniform had been changed until the following morning when he reported for quarters.”

After Brady completed his stitch, he called on each person to take a turn placing a stitch into the edge of Militzer’s collar device, and congratulate him on his recent promotion to Petty Officer 2nd Class.

“We, as chief petty officers, are the guardians of heritage and tradition,” explained Brady. He recalls a conversation with one of his mentors, Master Chief Equipmentman (SCW) Chris Redding, who had performed a similar ceremony with his Seabees and received many praises from them for making the ceremony special. “That’s when I chose to adopt it as well, and bring back this tradition,” Brady said.

“I fully plan to carry this new tradition on to my future duty stations,” said newly promoted MC2 (SCW) Militzer.

Dirty Jobs: NMCB 11 in Kandahar

By EACN(SCW)
Jeffrey Sarmiento,
NMCB 11
Public Affairs

Seabees are no strangers to dirty jobs. Just ask the team of NMCB 11 Seabees that constructed two improved biological waste management plants at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, this past spring.

Before construction began, the team surveyed the 5.5 acres of existing ground, drew a topographic map and created a work plan.

Then, the equipment operators dug out seven cubic feet of earth from the area. The excess earth was moved to form a three-foot berm around the soon-to-be created ponds.

So far, this project did not seem dirtier than any other construction project – until the Seabees had to move three million gallons of waste into the new facilities.

“This deployment has given our junior troops a chance to further their knowledge of the jobs to be done,” said Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW/SW) Jasen Hanicsh, the project supervisor overseeing the entire construction of the waste treatment plants.



NMCB 133 FTX Focuses on Squad Leadership at Camp Shelby

BUC Scott Bernard (left) and BUC Joshua Kolenda, NMCB 133, carry concertina wire to their squad's fighting positions during training on Camp Shelby, Miss., June 4, as part of the battalion's week-long Khaki Field Training Exercise (FTX).

Photo by MCC Ryan C. Delcore



"Roos" Turn up the Heat During Summer Tactical March

Seabees from NMCB 133 conduct a 2.6-mile tactical march while wearing full battle gear on NCBC Gulfport, Miss., July 2, to become acclimated to the summer temperatures in preparation for a Field Training Exercise (FTX) in August. The tactical marches are held weekly in place of traditional physical training to get the Runnin' Roos accustomed to their heavy gear in the hot weather.

Photo by BUC Jason K. Holden

NMCB 3 is “Better Than Best” During Operation *Bearing Duel*

By MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte, CMCN Martina Goad and LTJG Corey Lounsbury, NMCB 3

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 completed their annual field training exercise (FTX), Operation *Bearing Duel*, at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in April.

The exercise prepared NMCB 3 for deployment to a combat zone by placing the battalion in a fictitious, war-torn country in order to provide engineering support to a notional Marine Expeditionary Force conducting stabilization and security operations.

During *Bearing Duel*, NMCB 3 encountered a wide variety of asymmetrical tactics, including improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers, and even using civilians as human shields for reconnaissance and attacks.

“It is not only a test of endurance, pride and a rite of passage for the new troops,” said ENS John Daly, “but the battalion’s performance during FTX helps set the tone for the deployment and shows the battalion’s ability to plan and execute the mission.”

Operation *Bearing Duel* was orchestrated by the 31st Seabee Readiness Group (SRG), which helps train battalions on contingen-

cy construction, as well as tactical skills including weapons, convoys, patrols and defensive strategies. More than 100 Seabees from the 31st SRG inspected and evaluated the battalion during the FTX.

Approximately 90 Seabees from NMCB 4 and tactics experts from the 31st SRG played the role of enemy forces to test NMCB 3’s tactics and also played roles in graded scenarios.

During an FTX, the 31st SRG primarily evaluates a battalion on the execution of construction missions. The battalion must plan and complete multiple projects with available resources in allotted timeframes, while also contending with the actions of local civilians and

the enemy. NMCB 3 was tasked with building Southwest Asia huts and a timber tower, repairing damaged roadways and runways, and drilling a water well.

“Everyone stepped up and executed superbly, from our React squads to the Combat Operation Center to our detachments and everywhere else in between,” said CDR Antonio Edmonds, NMCB 3’s commanding officer. “I was particularly pleased to see the troops maintain a positive attitude throughout the exercise.”

“In true NMCB 3 fashion, we took care of the troops and they took care of the mission.”

— CDR Antonio Edwards, Commanding Officer, NMCB 3

CMCN Nicholas Miracle, NMCB 3, mans a .50-caliber Browning machine gun after a simulated Chemical, Biological and Radiological attack during Operation *Bearing Duel* 2009, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., April 23. *Bearing Duel* is an FTX which tests the battalion’s ability to deploy to a contingency environment.

Photo by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte





BU3 Richard Snyder, NMCB 3, mans his fighting position's 240 Bravo Machine Gun after a simulated Chemical, Biological and Radiological attack during Operation *Bearing Duel* 2009, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., April 23.

Photo by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

NMCB 40, Australian Army Prepare for Disaster

BUC(SCW) Eric Chamberlin (left), NMCB 40, and Australian Army Sapper Scott Lawson, 21st Construction Regiment, work together in a driving rain to tighten piping used for a water well project during the Voluntary Demonstration or Response (VDR) for Disaster Preparedness, Sapang Bato, Republic of the Philippines, May 7. The exercise is one of several Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) projects NMCB 40 is conducting while deployed to the Pacific Command area of operation.

Photo by MCC Anthony Briggs Jr.



JLOTS is sponsored by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and employs forces in various parts of the world in the interest of training and maintaining the capability to bring equipment, supplies and personnel from ship-to-shore where port access is denied or delayed, or where ports are non-existent, damaged or inadequate due to hostilities, natural disasters or other situational forces.

ACB 2 Leads JLOTS Guantanamo 09

By ENS Corey Bell, Public Affairs Officer, ACB 2

With Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) Two in a lead role, more than 560 personnel from multiple Department of Defense (DoD) organizations conducted exercise INTEGRATED ADVANCE, PHASE C, Joint Logistics Over The Shore (JLOTS) 09 at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Cuba (NAVSTA GTMO), May 15 - July 15.

Two Military Sealift Command vessels, SS *Cape May* (T-AKR 5063) and SS *Cornhusker State* (T-ACS 6), sailed in mid-May from Norfolk, Va., to NAVSTA GTMO with U.S. Navy and Army LOTS assets. The mission was designed and executed as a JLOTS proof of concept to demonstrate DoD's capabilities as applied to SOUTHCOM's disaster response operations.

CAPT Paul Webb, JLOTS commander and commanding officer, ACB 2, fully integrated his Navy and Army team which built, operated and maintained command and control nodes, a life support area, logistics staging area and multiple beach discharge points, including DoD's only expeditionary pier, Elevated Causeway System (Modular) (ELCAS (M)).

Once constructed, these critical areas were used in support of an in-stream (ship at anchor) offload of Twenty-foot Equivalents

(TEUs) from SS *Cornhusker State* to GTMO leeward and windward using the Navy and Army landing craft, including the Navy's Improved Lighterage System (INLS) and the Army's LCU-2000. Camp Toner supported Navy and Army personnel, and was named in honor of LTJG Francis L. Toner IV, CEC, who was killed in March by an Afghan National Army soldier while deployed to Combined Security Transition Command, Afghanistan (CSTC-A), at Camp Shaheen, Mazar E-Sharif, Afghanistan.

The robust exercise not only enabled the provision of realistic cargo throughput data in support of SOUTHCOM and NAVSTA GTMO disaster response operations, but also demonstrated how JLOTS capabilities can be used to expand DoD's strategic and operational reach in a wide array of operations.

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, ACBs 1 and 2 also teamed up to advance the completion of the GTMO River Bridge project. In less than 15 days, two 200-foot steel beams were safely offloaded and positioned to enable the construction of a river bridge to serve as a key enabler for the U.S. Marine Corps Security Detachment which patrols the fence line along the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, border.



(This page) At the conclusion of JLOTS Guantanamo 09, more than 560 personnel from multiple DoD organizations who participated in the exercise, including Seabees from ACBs 1 and 2 and NMCB 11, gathered at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Cuba.

(Opposite page) During JLOTS Guantanamo 09, a causeway ferry offloads a tractor trailer at a beach discharge point at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Cuba between May 15 - July 15. The equipment loaded on the tractor trailer was used to support the reconstitution of the Elevated Causeway System (Modular) (ELCAS (M)).
Photos by MC2 Meranda Keller





On the Leadership Reaction Course, members of NMCB 26 work together to overcome a multitude of physical and mental challenges during training at NCTC Gulfport, Miss., in April.

Photo by BUC(SCW) Marvin Burrage

NMCB 26 “Reconfigures” Battalion Structure

By ENS Scott A. Gardner, NMCB 26 Public Affairs

Late last year, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 26 conducted Operation *Reconfigure* at Air National Guard Base Fort Custer, Augusta, Mich. Approximately 500 Seabees gathered for this four-day exercise to “reconfigure” from their geographical detachments into the battalion company structure, as well as prepare for training at Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Gulfport, Miss., in April. Operation

“This is the first time in all the years I have been with the battalion that I have seen this number of personnel assembled for a weekend drill.”

— CDR Philip Spalding,
Commanding Officer, NMCB 26

Also, 62 Seabees were frocked to the next higher pay grade.

“This is the first time in all the years I have been with the battalion that I have seen this number of personnel assembled for a weekend drill,” said CDR Philip Spalding, commanding officer, NMCB 26.

The battalion is preparing for its second all hands, four-day training evolution in November, the focus being company defensive tactics.

Reconfigure allowed NMCB 26 Seabees to train and function in their respective companies, and review their chain of command from the fire team level to the battalion’s command element. The highlight of the training was the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), a teamwork-based confidence course all personnel from each battalion company.

While at Fort Custer, Seabees received 45 awards including NAMs, SCWs, letters of appreciation and letters of

NMCB 4 Shakes Up China Lake

By NMCB 4 Alfa Company Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 traveled 200 miles to Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake, Calif., this past spring to attend Naval Construction Training Center’s (NCTC’s) Blasting School, a six-week Blasting and Quarry Operations course covering the complete spectrum of quarry operations.

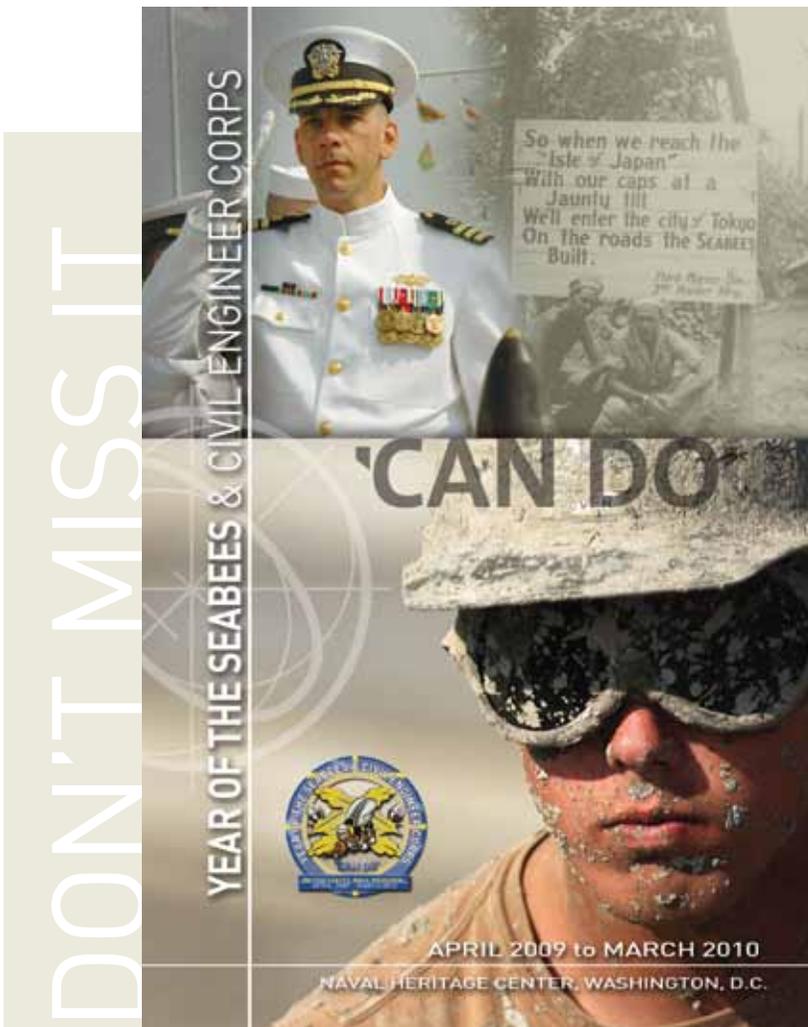
Preparing for the blast takes longer than the blast itself. First, the depth of all holes is checked for cave-ins and collapses. Each hole is then carefully loaded and primed with cast boosters and a mixture of diesel and ammonium nitrate fuel oil. Once all holes are filled with the explosive mixture, each is filled to the brim with steaming, 3/8-inch clear rock to confine the mixture. Each hole is tied together with shock tube in a very specific pattern to help ensure no two holes detonate simultaneously. The final piece to the equation is a long lead line running from the shot to the bunker.

After days spent preparing for a blast, the actual event takes only a few seconds. During that time the earth shakes and a shockwave washes across the barren landscape.



EO2(SCW) Bethany Pederson, NMCB 4, loads a bore hole with Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO) in preparation for blasting during NCTC Blasting School, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, Calif., April 29.

Photo by EO1(SCW/FMF) Glen Goodwin



Year of the Seabees & Civil Engineer Corps

on exhibit through
March 2010

Naval Heritage Center
Washington, D.C.
www.navymemorial.org

Heritage Park Bee Gets a Facelift

By Katie Bartlett, NCTC Port Hueneme, Calif.

For 23 years he has stood the watch over Heritage Park on board Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Port Hueneme, Calif. He is a symbol of the Seabees' proud heritage – “We Build, We Fight.” Known as the Fighting Bee, the bee at Heritage Park was originally constructed by two Seabees assigned to Naval Air Station Adak, Alaska.

On March 24, Seabees from the NCTC Port Hueneme Chief Petty Officers Association loosened his bolts and took him down from where he has flown for 23 years. Paint peeling, his tools and weapon worn from years of exposure to the elements, it was time to restore him to his original beauty. His face is now rejuvenated, tools refreshed and is ready once again to face the elements and “stand the watch” over Heritage Park.

The Fighting Bee was originally designed in 1942 by Frank Iafrate, a civilian file clerk, who later joined the Navy as a carpenter's mate. Since its creation the famous Fighting Bee has been the subject of countless alterations, including many different versions by Walt Disney animators.

BUC(SCW) Joe Pruis (left) and UTCS(SCW) Fred Martinez mount the Fighting Bee to continue his watch over Heritage Park, NCTC Port Hueneme, Calif.

U.S. Navy photo by Katie Bartlett, NCTC





CMCS(SCW) Thomas Palmer (far right) and EO1(SCW) Deanna Robison lead members of NMCB 3's Alfa Company during the 23rd Annual Seabee Days Parade, NBVC Port Hueneme, Calif., June 13.



Seabees of NMCB 3's Convoy Security Element fire blank rounds during a demonstration at the 23rd Annual Seabee Days Parade, NBVC Port Hueneme, Calif., June 13.

Photos by CM3 Martina Goad

Naval Base Ventura County Hosts Seabee Days 2009

More than 700 Seabees paraded onto the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) field to kick off the 23rd annual Seabee Days event, June 13-14, Port Hueneme, Calif.

Open to the military and public, the Seabee Days celebration offers a military parade, ceremony, displays, car shows, carnival rides and live music. This year's parade included two Mine Resistant Armored Protected (MRAP) vehicles made to protect Seabees from IED attacks, and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's convoy security element which manned the vehicles in tactical gear.

"When I go out and talk about my job people usually have a lot of questions," said Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Christopher Carson, convoy security element member, NMCB 3. "People don't really know what we do and how we overcome the dangers we face."

Besides marching in the parade, the event also gave the Pacific Seabees a chance to show the local civilian community the training and operational capabilities of the construction men and women through military displays.

"This is a great opportunity to show the community how we operate in the 'Bees," said Steelworker 1st Class Eugene Burston, NMCB 4. "Basically we want to thank the community for their support by spending time and talking to them."

Other displays included crew serve weapons, a timber tower with ropes for rappelling, and various tents with construction-related themes and activities. The displays were hosted by the 31st Seabee Readiness Group, Naval Construction Training Command, and NMCBs 3 and 4.



A Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman, assigned to Special Boat Team 22 (SBT-22), demonstrates a .50-caliber machine gun during Seabee Day 2009, NCBC Gulfport, Miss., May 9.

Photo by MC1 (SW) Terry Spain

Record Crowd Turns Out for Gulfport Seabee Day 2009

By Bonnie Lindley-McGerr, NCBC Gulfport Public Affairs

More than 10,000 people attended Seabee Day on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., May 9. This year's celebration attracted a record crowd of military families, civilian employees and Gulf Coast residents – all joining to celebrate the contributions made by the men and women of the Naval Construction Force.

With the presentation of Colors, the National Anthem was sung by Equipment Operator 1st Class Jennifer Briley. CAPT Ed Brown, commanding officer of NCBC/Commander, 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG), welcomed the crowd and introduced the guest speaker, CDR John Adametz, commanding officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7.

CDR Adametz spoke about the battalion's most recent deployment, which transitioned from Iraq to Afghanistan and involved moving 60 panelloads of equipment to the new operational site. He gave credit to civilian employees, communicators and trainers who ensured the deployment's success through advanced planning and hard work.

The reading and presentation of Old Glory by Builder 3rd Class Vasti Plaza-Velez, along with six service members, served



A Navy diver from UCT 1 plays tic-tac-toe with a child from inside a water tank during Seabee Day 2009 at NCBC Gulfport, Miss., May 9.

Photo By MC1(SW) Terry Spain

as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices the military provides in service to our country.

Seabee Day attendees viewed convoy demonstrations, climbed aboard military equipment and tried on Seabee gear. 'Bees were on hand to demonstrate bridge-building skills, while Navy divers from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) One and Panama City, Fla., spoke about

their job beneath the sea.

A Super Squad competition featuring Seabees from homeported battalions and students from Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) drew a big crowd of spectators who cheered the competitors as they crawled, climbed, hefted and ran their way through the course during the heat of the day.

Symposium Encourages Leadership through Knowledge

By EAC(SCW) Majellen Quezon, NMCB 133

More than 600 women and a handful of men from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard attended the 22nd Annual Women's Leadership Symposium in Washington, D.C., June 18-19. Sponsored by the Navy, the symposium encourages Sailors and other military members to gain leadership and knowledge about the expanding roles of women in the service.

Nine female leaders from Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., attended the event, along with their counterparts from Port Hueneme, Calif., and other Naval Construction Force units across the nation.

The conference featured a variety of topics, including leadership challenges, increasing operational positions, the growing balance between professional and personal life, and childcare services.

(Right) Seabees from NMCB 133 and other commands at NCBC Gulfport, Miss., take time for a group photo at the Seabee Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery during the 22nd Annual Women's Leadership Symposium in Washington, D.C., June 18-19.



U.S. Navy photo

2009-2010 SEABEE REUNIONS

OCTOBER

OCT 47 Newport, RI
33rd NCB

Mrs. Paula Ogden
147 Cobble Hill Rd.
Lincoln, RI 02865
401-722-5208
pogden@massbay.edu

OCT 17-18 Gulfport, MS
NMCB 3

(Blue and Gold Teams)
Jeff Teeters
510 Michigan St.
Mount Dora, FL 32757
archives@nmc3.org

NOVEMBER

NOV 58 Orange Park, FL
NMCB 14

Alumni Assoc.
Also invited to attend:
14th NCB (WWII)
& CBHU 14
Fred S. Bossard
4005 Crest View Dr.
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-992-2030
bossarf@mac.com
www.nmc14alumni.com

FEBRUARY 2010

FEB. 26 - 28 Hampton, VA

East Coast ALL SEABEE Reunion
Bruce MacDougall 804-921-4753
SeabeeMacD40@comcast.net

NMCB 1
Peter Dowd
nmc1reunion@
verizon.net
781-837-0393

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609-410-5969

3rd NCB +
30th, 31st &
32nd NCRs
Dan Stuart
stuart8824@
bellsouth.net

APRIL 2010

APR 2010
Nashville, TN
NMCB 40
Ed Holston
NMCBFighting40@
aol.com
856-358-2009

For a complete list
of reunions, visit
www.allseabees.com
or the Seabee
Historical Foundation
at www.seabeehf.org.

“Can Do” Spirit is Foundation for CSFE Mission Success

By CMDRCM(SCW) John F. Mulholland, Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering



U.S. Navy photo

Hello from the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE). I could go on forever about the Sailors assigned to our command, but would rather discuss what it is we do.

We build Seabees. And in doing so, foster a culture and uphold a tradition of leadership, mentorship and professionalism that allows the Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) to meet any challenge when ordered to complete a mission. Our staff at CSFE accomplishes this through a cadre of seasoned Seabee and CEC staff, supported by government civilians and contractors, delivering training at our learning sites and headquarters.

We are a force multiplier. Seabees demonstrate this everyday with their ability to go anywhere in the world and accomplish their mission, even if that mission is right here at

home. This issue’s feature about Hurricane Katrina and the Seabees’ response to the damage it caused is proof positive. Whether recent graduates of our training program or veterans nearing retirement from active duty or the reserves, their journey began in a culture fostering the Navy’s Core Values, our esteemed Seabee history, and the professionalism and technical expertise that permeates today’s Navy.

Obviously, the “buck” doesn’t stop with us though. We all contribute to the success of our endeavors in the fleet, just as we share the responsibility of being at our best, always, both on and off duty. To that end, as I move throughout the fleet interacting with Sailors on the deckplate, I wonder how many realize the significance of our organization and structure at CSFE. We are where the rubber meets the road, interacting with the fleet type commanders and systems commands to provide resources to the learning sites so they may accomplish their mission. We support and are fully aligned with the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, FIRST Naval Construction Division and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command to provide the right training at the right time to the Sailor in support of our Global Maritime Mission.

Right now, Seabees are deployed around the world. They are supporting diplomacy, warfighters and impoverished peoples with dedication, professionalism and Seabee “Can Do” spirit.

They are renewing hope, fostering new relationships and laying the foundations for future success. They embody the Navy’s Core Values and serve as examples to everyone they touch. They support missions anytime and anywhere, responding to challenges with a twinkle in their eye. And they were instilled with that drive from day one by our staff here at CSFE.

Thanks for what you do.

“ [Seabees] are renewing hope, fostering new relationships and laying the foundation for future success. They embody the Navy’s Core Values and serve as examples to everyone they touch. ”

Construimus ☆ Batuimus



CDR Bill Sloan, chief staff officer, 20th SRG, aims a water hose at the finalist of the first-ever NCBC Gulfport Bee Wash, Gulfport, Miss., May 7. The approximately \$1,000 raised at the event will be donated to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

Photo by MC1(SW) Terry Spain

