MrAPs Dig Into Iraq

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SUMMER 07

Seabee Magazine thanks the active duty, reserve officer and enlisted personnel, as well as the civilians, who provide content for the publication. We look forward to your ongoing contributions as we continue to tell the Seabee story.

Photo by MC2 (SW/AW) Ronald Gutridge

As the sun rises over Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala’s largest Pacific Ocean port, an Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) Causeway Ferry continues deployment in support of Exercise Humanitarian Support Over-the-Shore (HSOTS) 2007. ACB 1’s recent deployment in Guatemala for HSOTS 2007 represented the first time that NILS II had been deployed away from homeport in support of an exercise or operation.

Photo by YN3 Jessica Bidwell

(Cover) EO3 Jacob Blaha, a member of NMCB 4’s Convoy Security Element, prepares to mount out with the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Armored Vehicle at Camp Ramadi, Iraq. In May, The MRAP or ‘Cougar’ is currently being used in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The V-shaped hull nulls deflections of explosive blasts away from the vehicle’s cabin, while the ballistic glass with gun ports allows the passengers to engage insurgents’ ambush attempts without leaving the safety of the cab.

Photo by MC2 (AW/SW) Ronald Gutridge

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Photo by YN3 Jessica Bidwell

(End Citation)
The U.S. military’s newest response in the battle against roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs) is a state-of-the-art vehicle known by three names — Cougar, JERRV, and MRAP. Cougar was the commercial name given by the manufacturer. Although the Cougar is actually a specific vehicle, people often use the name relating to a variety of similar mine-resistant vehicles. Because its first use in Operation Iraqi Freedom was primarily for ordnance disposal missions, the military named them Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Rapid Response Vehicles (JERRVs). With expanded use in other types of missions by various services, and with a variety of specialized vehicles using the same type of protective features, the military began using the name MRAP — Mine Resistant Ambush Protected — Vehicle to refer to this entire class of vehicles and for consistency among all branches of the military. While known by three different names, all mean the same to our service members — unapplied protection.

Seabee Magazine:
I felt it was important to point out a technical error in the GQOF Update section in the Spring 07 issue of Seabee Magazine, in the article titled, “Seabees Repair Runway at Logistics Hub.”

In the cutline next to the photo, the word “cement” is used twice when the material being discussed is actually concrete. Portland cement is a powder that when combined with sand, aggregate and water produces concrete in its plastic or wet state. After the wet concrete sets and dries, it becomes solid, hard and durable. The word “cement” is used twice when the article is discussing concrete, not cement.

Seabees Magazine, [and have received] two issues — Summer and Fall 2006. Any chance of becoming bimonthly?

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Seabee Convoy Security Team (CST) in the Al Anbar province of Iraq has added a robust mechanical feline to its repertoire of vehicle types.

The Joint Explosive Ordinance Disposal Rapid Response Vehicle (JERRV), better known by CSTs as “Cougar,” is the U.S. military’s newest response in the battle against roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq.

Different variations of the Cougar began arriving in Iraq in the late fall of 2004 as part of an accelerated Department of Defense acquisition program. Reports from the war-torn region said the heavy-weight trucks had saved many American lives. The armored, wheeled trucks feature a V-shaped bottom designed to deflect the upward explosive power of roadside bombs that have accounted for the majority of U.S. casualties in Iraq.

Seabee CSTs traveling from Camp Fallujah were the first naval construction units to receive the new heavily armored vehicles, known to ward off fatal energy produced by the IEDs favored by insurgents.

“How can you not feel safer, but they feel safer,” said Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jesus Llamas, a member of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28, one of two Seabees chosen to accompany the first two JERRVs from Port Hueneme, Calif., to Camp Fallujah. “The Cougars will help us better accomplish missions because we feel safe in the states and the rest will be shipped within a few months,” said Chief Construction Mechanic Mark Lording, manager, 30th NCR Civil Engineer Support Equipment. “By August, we expect to have 10 JERRVs to replace our Hummers.”

According to Lording, the $700,000 machine seats up to eight plus one additional person in the turret. The plan is for the 40,000-pound JERRV to replace the low-to-the-ground, flat-bottom Hummer traditionally used as a convoy asset.

“This is another strong step in a direction to change the course of this war forever,” said Capt. Kate Gregory, commodore for the 30th NCR. Gregory is responsible for providing combat construction for the Second Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) in the Al Anbar Province.

“The first six Cougars are being flown in from the states and the rest will be shipped within a few months,” said Chief Construction Mechanic Mark Loring, manager, 30th NCR Civil Engineer Support Equipment. “By August, we expect to have 10 JERRVs to replace our Hummers.”

Keeping our forces safe so that we can complete missions quickly and efficiently is key to our winning here in Iraq,” Gregory said. “These vehicles are proven safer and better capable to ensure our success as we support operations in this province.”

Seabees who have operated the vehicles admit they are a welcomed addition to the CSTs.

“I felt extremely safer traveling in the Cougar,” said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Nicole Dippepe, NMCB 28. “When you’re operating a vehicle designed specifically to survive an IED blast, you don’t mind traveling three roads.”

“These vehicles provide unmatched protection capabilities for combat engineers and EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) teams by withstanding both armor-piercing and anti-tank mine blasts,” Maj. Gen. William D. Catto, then commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, told the House Armed Services Committee during a June 15, 2006 hearing in Washington, D.C.

The Seabees’ inaugural mission for the Cougar was a trip from Camp Fallujah to Al Taqaddum, providing security for tractor trailers hauling building materials. The mission was completed without incident and began a new era for the Seabees in Iraq.
ARMORED VEHICLES IMPROVE SEABEE SAFETY

Seabee Monster Garage Turns Marine Force Protection Idea into Reality

By EACS Jay Buermann, 30th NCR Public Affairs

What do you do when one extra order increases your scheduled workflow for one month by more than 71 percent?

You ‘get er done’ — that’s the Marine Maintenance Center Alaska (MCA) way of saying it. Their nimble, task-oriented approach was on full display when, in early February, the team was charged with a daunting challenge: armor up 55 Marine Corps MTVR trucks in the next 60 days for use in the CENTCOM AOR.

The 1st Marine Division (1MCD), working in conjunction with Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC), is aggressively pursuing more than $100 million (this fiscal year alone) in contracts and sourcing specific Civil Engineering Support Equipment (CESE), both tactical convoy vehicles and select construction equipment, for up-armor solutions.

MINE RESISTANT AMBUSH PROTECTED (MRAP) VEHICLE

With a V-shaped hull and raised chassis, this vehicle is specially designed to deflect bomb blasts, especially resulting from the current IED threat. It is both a Command and Control vehicle for Convoy Security Teams, as well as a Crew Transport vehicle.

1NCD has purchased over 100 MRAPs, of which 30 have been received in Iraq with an additional 30 in transit.

MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT (MTVR) TRUCK ARMOR

1NCD and NFELC have delivered 50 Level I armored MTVR variants (cargo trucks and tractor trailers) to theater.

Additional trucks are also being armored and are en-route to the CENTCOM AOR for Seabee use.

Include both the cargo-carrying variant and the dump truck configuration.

HIGH-MOBILITY MULTIPURPOSE WHEELED VEHICLE (HMMWV)

20 Level II Armored HMMWVs have been delivered to the Seabees Readiness Groups in Gulfport and Port Hueman for homeport training.

Seabees are expected to receive an additional 60 Level I Armored HMMWVs in the next 60 days for use in the CENTCOM AOR, as well as other locations as required by the current threat environment.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT (CME)

1NCD and NFELC are working to acquire armor kits for existing Seabee equipment to improve force protection for Seabees operating construction equipment outside of Forward Operating Bases in the CENTCOM theater.

NFELC has been tracking new armor solutions through three separate actions, which in total are providing installed armor solutions on more than 60 pieces of construction equipment.

To date, more than a dozen vehicle types have been completed, including excavators, front-end loaders, forklifts, water trucks and cranes; 15 of these vehicles are complete and due to arrive in theater immediately, and an additional 2 dozen are near completion or in the process of being delivered.

An existing Army armor facility in Arifjan, Kuwait, has been contracted to armor graders, rollers and bulldozers; this newly armored equipment has been or will soon be delivered to Seabees in the field.

Then it was off to the paint shop. The green paint on each of the massive vehicles had to be stripped by hand before the new tan paint could be applied. The armor/suspension work was performed in a shop with only one shift, so those workers put in 12-hour days to meet the need.

All Seabee vehicles required the armor/suspension upgrade, air conditioning and paint. Twenty-one were configured for cargo and two left MCA as troop carriers.

The relationship between the Marine Corps and the Navy is vitally important,” said Col. Kevin McCutcheon, commander, MCA. “This is well known [Department of Defense] wide. It has been embedded in the Navy leveraging our vehicle-armorining efforts to safeguard its construction battalions is simply another example of the vitality of the Navy/Marine Corps Team.”
Seabees Build Command Outpost in Al Anbar Province

By LT Jeffery Moore and LT James Barlow, NMCB 28 Public Affairs

Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 finished construction of a combat outpost for Marine Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 2 and Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines (W/1/2) in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province in late April.

When the Marines asked for help, NMCB 28 was ready to respond. These combat outposts, or COPs as they are better known, help bring stability to regions plagued by Iraqi insurgents. They serve as a staging point for regular patrols and weapons cache sweeps, and allow the Marines to respond quickly to any situation that might arise.

NMCB 28 pulled together a detachment of 39 personnel for the mission, led by LT Mike Wilkinson, CEC. Within those 48 hours they prepared a camp layout, pulled 12 truckloads of material together, staged 24 pieces of equipment and began the mission.

“A lot of planning goes into this type of operation,” said Wilkinson. “NMCB 28 personnel from all departments and companies pulled together to help get us out to the proper site.”

Arriving at the site, now called COP Timberwolf, Marines provided security and commenced offensive operations while the Seabees wasted no time getting to work establishing a camp perimeter and performing berming operations.

According to Wilkinson, the location was ideal from a security aspect, but gossand conditions made it difficult for construction.

“We had to change the camp layout a few times to adjust for rock deposits that made it impossible to excavate or do any grading and leveling,” he said.

As force protection construction was completed, the Seabees’ focus shifted to quality of life issues including berthing and other relative creature comforts. Marine Capt. Adam Maldano, RCT 2’s engineering officer, commented that NMCB 28 “provided the warfighter with what was needed to succeed, sometimes even before we anticipated that we needed it.”

NMCB 28’s Commanding Officer, CDR Craig Scharton, knows projects such as COP Timberwolf are a prime example of what Seabees were designed to do.

“The construction of combat outposts is a quintessential way in which our Seabees are supporting the warfighter,” Scharton said. “In the case of COP Timberwolf we have gone from basically a bare spot on the ground to a fortified and hardened base camp in a short time period.

“This allows the Marines to maintain a presence and help promote law and order in a forward area, while having a relatively secure place to live with at least a minimal amount of creature comforts for health and welfare,” he added.

While other branches of the military work with the Iraqis to eliminate the insurgency here, Seabees are in their midst repairing and rebuilding the country’s roads and buildings.

“We’re glad to be doing what we’re doing,” said Construction Electrician 2nd Class Sean Phelan. “The work gives us a great sense of pride, and it gives us a chance to hone our skills and bring the benefits home to our civilian jobs.”

LT Ivan Cavenall, officer in charge of NMCB 28 Delta Company at Camp Knott, was pleased with the leadership among all three branches involved.

“The opportunity to work with our fellow Marines and Soldiers has been great,” Cavenall said.

Seabees Build Quality of Life Improvements in Baharia

By EO2 (SCW) Lori Roberts, 30th NCR Public Affairs

Seabees built a quality of life improvements project at the Army camp in a short time period.

The job included more than construction. Building 1st Class DeWayne Ruff spent 12 days constructing SWA huts in 12 days.

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A Band of Sisters: Female Seabees Help Win the Hearts and Minds of Iraqi People
By YN2 Judith Ooren, NMCB 28 Public Affairs

T

hree female Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28, along with women from other branches of the military, have become the first to participate in a regional program named Lioness, perhaps an unconventional but necessary step to winning the war in Iraq.

The Lioness Program was born out of a need to help make Iraqi women feel more comfortable during check point searches. Searching the local women had proved difficult since the Muslim culture dictates that men are not to touch or look at women they don’t know.

The women have volunteered to execute this difficult mission because they recognize the importance of what the Lioness Program is trying to achieve,” said CAPT Kate Gregory, commodore for the Navy’s Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), who is responsible for all Seabee personnel in the Al Asad Province of Iraq. “Through their personal interaction with the people of Iraq, they help win the hearts and minds of the country. All of the women from each branch of service who volunteered for this program should feel proud that their accomplishments are contributing to our overall success in this fight.”

To strengthen the fight on the war, Lioness was implemented at tactical control points along the Iraqi borders and other strategic locations to stop insurgents from using female smugglers for transporting funds or weapons in support of actions against Coalition Forces. The program was designed to hinder those efforts by having female service members search Arab females.

Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Sandra Ersolf, a Lioness volunteer who served in the Haditha area of Iraq, said her experience with the Muslim women was usually very positive.

“I found the Iraqi women to be friendly and understanding of the circumstances,” Ersolf said. “Although some women were reserved, I exchanged greetings and smiles with the majority. Like mothers around the world, Iraqi women were receptive to my interaction with their children. I truly believe my presence had a positive effect on the female community of Haditha.”

Each Lioness Task Force consists of a 30- to 45-day rotation that provides female volunteers of different military branches and various occupations the opportunity to train and work with the Marine infantry force. The training curriculum consists of a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program refresher course, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) identification, Rules of Engagement, Cultural Familiarization, Search Techniques and other military instruction. In addition, the participants are familiarized with and afforded the opportunity to train with various weapons.

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Private 1st Class Brittany Cummins, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron (MWHS), understands the value, professionalism and caring female service members bring to this effort.

“This is definitely an extremely important mission,” Cummins said. “We can’t win the hearts and minds if we don’t show respect for the culture.”

“These women of NMCB 28 have stepped up to offer their skills and abilities to a critical part of the security mission,” said CDR Craig Ersoff, commanding officer of NMCB 28. “Their senior levels of experience and maturity were critical factors to ensuring success in a job that requires situational awareness, cultural sensitivity and keen judgment.”

The Lioness Program is facilitat-
ed by Marine Regimental Combat Team 2, deployed with the Secondary Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The regiment provided designs, Class IV materials and construction support, as well as comprehensive construction and repairs, and Iraqi Security Force bases along the Iraqi control. The 3rd NCR sets Milestones on Deployment During its second deployment to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, the regiment provided many of the key projects required to help the Iraqi Security Force (ISF) and Coalition Security Force camps, conducting repairs, simultaneous, completing convoy security escort missions, having routine and emergency repair responsibilities for the entire MNF-West area of operations, the regiment ensured these critical lines of communications remained open and serviceable.

GENERAL ENGINEER SUPPORT
Through quality construction and project management, the regiment performed more than 220 missions, including concrete maintenance pads, force protection, Entry Control Point (ECP) improvements, guard towers, electrical system assessments and repairs, and clam shelter construction.

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What had been large lakes of mud due to a recent rainstorm are now gravel parking lots for the Camp Ramadi dining facility and exchange, thanks to the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4, who completed the work in late April.

Five Seabees graded the parking lots. A slope was made between the lots to create a drainage ditch which would move running water into collection ponds dug out at either end. Two culverts were placed to assist with the runoff. Before placing the gravel, the crew, with help from the Army’s 1-3 Brigade Troops Battalion (1-3 BTR), rolled barriers across the lots to keep the gravel from sinking into the mud during future rainstorms.

As dump trucks full of gravel rolled in, NMCB 4 Seabees worked quickly to spread the gravel and complete the project.

“It’s always a pleasure working with the Seabees. They work too hard for their own good,” said Staff Sgt. Julian Nicholson, 1-3 BTR, who oversees all projects on base for the Camp Ramadi Mayor’s Cell. “NMCB 4 has come on board ready to roll. We’re glad to have their help.”

A line of Humvees sat parked on the gravel the day after NMCB 4 finished the lots, and Soldiers and Marines walked to and from the dining facility and exchange without worrying about keeping the mud off their boots. NMCB 4 is definitely improving the quality of life at Camp Ramadi.

“I’m glad to be out of homeport and actually doing my job,” said Equipment Operator Constructionman Cordello Jordan, who helped complete the project for NMCB 4. “This is what I get paid for. I’m loving it!”
NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic CEC Officer Receives Purple Heart

By Robin Willis, Public Affairs Officer, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic

Charles V. Komppa Wing Dedicated at Navy Operational Support Center Billings

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 18 saluted as Delisa Komppa (center right), wife of fallen Electrician’s Mate 1st Class Charles V. Komppa, escorted by Utilitiesman 1st Class J. Williamson (center left), enters Navy Operational Support Center Billings, Mont., for the first time after the dedication ceremony. Komppa was killed in action on October 25, 2006, serving in Iraq’s western Al Anbar Province. Williamson was with Komppa when he died, and volunteered to return and finish the mission the pair had started.

U.S. Navy photo by John Land

Seabee Museum Groundbreaking Shows “Can Do” Spirit

In a valiant effort to preserve the Seabee “Can Do!” legacy, retired RADM Benjamin Montoya led the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation in a $12 million capital fundraising campaign in 2001 to construct a new, state-of-the-art museum facility complete with appropriate storage and updated exhibitions.

The new museum will feature comprehensive exhibits, as well as a retail shop, meeting space, memorial garden, and an archive which will house all of the operational records of the Seabees since World War II. There are also plans to develop extensive outreach programs to educate students and the public about the Builder Warriors.

In addition, the new facility will be located outside the gate in Ventura County, Calif., making it more easily accessible to all members of the community.

“The Seabee Museum is a true gem among the Navy’s museums, with a great collection of artifacts, and an expert and knowledgeable staff,” said CDR Jeremy Gillespie, director of Navy Museums. “The new U.S. Navy Seabee Museum facility will allow the Navy to showcase the Seabee story as it deserves to be told for the education and benefit of both our Sailors and the American public.”
**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

**RADM Cellon Relieves RADM Phillips**

**By Daryl Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD**

Rear Admiral Richard E. Cellon, CEC, USN, relieved Rear Admiral Robert L. Phillips, CEC, USN, as commander, 1st Naval Construction Division on June 29 at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Va., following 32 years of service with the U.S. Navy.

RADM Cellon previously served as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Pacific on June 8 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Giorgione was NAVFAC Pacific’s vice commander from 2003 to 2004.

A native of Gainesville, Fla., RADM Cellon is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He holds master’s degrees from the University of Florida (Civil Engineering), and the Naval War College (National Security and Strategic Studies).

Note: A detailed article on the change of command will appear in the next issue of Seabee Magazine.

**CAPT Giorgione Selected for Flag**

In April, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced that President George W. Bush nominated CAPT Michael A. Giorgione, CEC, USN, for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Following Senate confirmation, Giorgione will receive his first star in an official ceremony later this year.

CAPT Giorgione recently relieved RADM Christopher J. Mossey as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific on June 8 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Giorgione was NAVFAC Pacific’s vice commander from 2003 to 2004.

**RDML Garcia Tapped for Second Star**

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced in March that President George W. Bush has nominated RDML Albert Garcia III, CEC, USN, for appointment to the grade of rear admiral. Following Senate confirmation, Garcia will receive his second star in an official ceremony later this year.

RDML Garcia has served as deputy commander, 1st Naval Construction Division, Norfolk, Va., since August 2005. Prior to this assignment, Garcia was recalled in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he commanded Task Force Charlie of the MEF Engineering Group and later served as the deputy commander of the MEF Engineering Group in Iraq. In 2004, he assumed responsibility for consolidating several reserve augmentation units into a new command, NAVFAC Contingency OICC.

RDML Garcia III, CEC, USN has nominated that President George W. Bush nominate RDML Garcia as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic on August 31, 2004. Prior to this assignment, Garcia was recalled in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he assumed responsibility for consolidating several reserve augmentation units into a new command, NAVFAC Contingency OICC.

**SUMMER 2007**

August 31, 1942

Bureau of Yards and Docks (BuDocks) established, Washington, D.C.

1867

Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) established

Late 1896

Naval architects developed the Pacific Coast at Mare Island, Calif., and Puget Sound, Wash.

Treaty following Spanish-American War led to naval stations in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines; Navy yards at Boston, Norfolk and Philadelphia soon modernized; new yard built at Charleston, S.C.

1911

U.S. Congress places design and construction of all naval shore stations under BuDocks control

1916-1918

BuDocks expends $174 million for public works related to World War I efforts, including 35 naval training stations, submarine bases and naval air stations

1920s-30s

Shore establishment shrinks, CEC numbers greatly reduced

1930-1945

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), Navy’s military construction program explodes to global proportions, expanding far beyond continental United States and pioneer possessions to Europe, North Africa, Asia and the Pacific

n August 31, 1842, the Bureau of Yards and Docks (BuDocks); under the leadership of Captain Lewis Evans, six civil engineer officers, administered public works at seven Navy yards along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

Fast forward 165 years as BuDocks is now the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), one of five Navy Systems Commands reporting to the Chief of Naval Operations. Under the leadership of Rear Admiral Greg Shear, Chief of Civil Engineers, NAVFAC has more than 75 locations worldwide on installations throughout the United States, Europe, Southwest Asia and the Far East. NAVFAC is comprised of a team of 15,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel — planners, engineers, architects, contract specialists and many others highly trained professionals — along with unified Commands and Department of Defense agencies. Strategic partners include the Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC), Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) and United States Marine Corps (USMC).

Marking its 165th anniversary on August 31, 2007, NAVFAC’s role in our country’s defense of freedom continues to stand as a beacon of pride for people around the globe. Take a few moments and step into NAVFAC’s history. This proud legacy not only strengthens commitment and resolve, it paves the way for an even greater and more dynamic future.

1942

Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, creates the Naval Construction Force, better known as the Seabees; led by Rear Admiral officers, 325,000 Seabees build bases on six continents and at locations throughout the Pacific during World War II; at war’s end, shore establishment is worth at least $6.5 billion

1950s

During the Korean conflict, CEC officers and Seabees build bases throughout the Pacific to support United Nations troops

Mid-1960s

BuDocks is formally designated as the contract construction agent in Southeast Asia for the Vietnam War

Mar 1966

The Bureau of Yards and Docks renamed Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC)

1970s

NAVFAC consolidates 13 engineering field divisions into six, and improves personnel facilities and mission readiness

1980s

NAVFAC develops comprehensive infrastructure plan for support all volunteer Navy, environmental protection and energy conservation

1988-1995

Navy Fleet increases lead to more shore facilities for the new ships, translating to more construction

1990s

NAVFAC consolidates 15 engineering field divisions into six, and improves personnel facilities and mission readiness

1994

NAVFAC transitions its organizational structure to better support the Navy and Marine Corps, and other federal clients

1995-2003

Numerous installations are slated for disestablishment through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program; NAVFAC manages BRAC Program for the Navy and Marine Corps

2003

The U.S. invasion of Iraq, along with Coalition Forces, signals the start of the Global War on Terror, and marks yet another chapter in NAVFAC’s rich history of military support

October 2005

Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC) is established

2004

NAVFAC transforms its organizational structure to better support the Navy and Marine Corps, and other federal clients

2005

NAVFAC provides extensive support following Hurricane Katrina, the worst U.S. natural disaster to date, taking close to 1,800 lives and causing more than $81 billion in damage along the U.S. Gulf Coast

August 31, 2007

NAVFAC celebrates its 165th Anniversary
If you ask a Navy Seabee serving in Joint Task Force Horn of Africa [or on any humanitarian mission] what it is he or she is building, the answer might surprise you…the Seabees would tell you they are building friendships. They are building trust…Trust is essential…to all our missions all around the globe. In the Navy, it’s a big part of who we are. It’s what we do.”

— ADM Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations

“Sailors Building Trust, One Person At A Time,” The Hill, May 23, 2007

Earlier this year, Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 1 participated in Humanitarian Support Over The Shore (HSOTS) 2007, a simulated disaster relief assistance response involving transportation of equipment from two engineer task forces over-the-sea to Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala. Approximately 1,300 U.S. servicemen and women, representing the Navy, Army, National Guard and Reserve forces, participated in HSOTS.

As a complement to HSOTS, Project Handclasp provided humanitarian outreach efforts in the region. Seabees from ACB 1, along with service members from Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron 4, Naval Beach Group 1, Assault Craft Unit 1, Beach Master Unit 1, and the 548th Army Battalion, collected and delivered materials and supplies to Guatemalan schools, orphanages and clinics. Seabees performed their trademark construction services in local villages and surrounding areas benefiting much of the population, and winning the hearts, minds and trust of the people of Guatemala.
Battalion Updates: SEABEES AROUND THE WORLD

Seabees in Kuwait

Brothers in Arms
By MC3 Jessica A. McIver, NMCB 133

MCMB 26 - Imagine having your family’s support every day you serve in the Navy. Though many Sailors have that, few enjoy that support in close quarters while deployed. Equipment Operator 2nd Class Robert Conner and his brother, Equipment Operator 1st Class Jonathan Conner, share the experience during their recent six-month deployment to Camp Virginia, Kuwait. The brothers from Alliance, Ohio, are assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 26. Since NMCB 26 is a reserve battalion where assignments are based on geography, it was easy for both to be assigned to the same unit. Robert served on active duty in the Navy from 1999 to 2003 as a Gunner’s Mate striker, and participated in Operation Desert Shield. “It has been a dream of ours to deploy together since I left for Desert Shield,” Robert said. “I was joined by my younger brother to join a reserve battalion with him in 2000. “Joining gave me a good reason to visit him [Robert],” Jonathan said who lives 160 miles away from his brother when they aren’t mobilized. “It’s awesome [having my brother with me on deployment],” Robert said. “Other than my wife, John is my best friend.”

This is the first time the Conner brothers deployed at the same time to the same location. The siblings previously traveled separately to Spain, with Jonathan mobilizing in 2001 and Robert following in 2002. “I think having my brother around for deployment makes it easier,” John commented. “You always have someone who is there for you.” Robert is ready to be there for his brother whenever Jonathan might need him. “He’s better looking,” Robert joked, “but I’ve got the brains.”

EO1 Jonathan Conner (left) and his brother, EO2 Robert Conner, are both assigned to NMCB 26, and are deployed together at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Photo by MC3 Jessica A. McIver

Tragedy Turns Trainers into Heroes

SEABEES AROUND THE WORLD

By MC3 Jessica A. McIver, NMCB 133

On a cold morning at approximately 3:50 a.m. on March 14, five members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 were en route to the Udairi range in Kuwait for a training exercise when they came upon the scene of a horrific traffic accident. The accident, involving two 29-passenger vans and a four-door Nissan truck, happened only moments before the Seabees’ arrival.

“The air was still full of dust,” said Gunnery Sgt. Tom McCarty, Military Advisor to NMCB 133. Led by McCarty, NMCB 133 personnel responded immediately with medical and on-scene organization. McCarty proudly stated, “Everywhere you looked, NMCB 133 folks were there. They were cutting bandages, hooking up IVs and bringing in MEDEVAC choppers to get the seriously injured to the hospitals.”

While McCarty ensured emergency services were contacted, Hospitalman 1st Class Charlotte Bethea immediately began assessing casualties and creating a Casualty Collection Point. With assistance from Utilitiesman 2nd Class Kelly Caponigro, Bethea began bandaging the injured and administering IVs as needed. “I was helping Doc [Bethea] as best I could with bandages and helping cut clothing away from the injured,” Caponigro said. “We were moving from body to body so fast, that I had to go back and retrieve supplies we may have left at the last [patient].” I was staying so busy that I couldn’t react to what was truly going on.”

The number of casualties was beyond the medical supply capabilities of the fire responders, but as Seabees “Can Do,” they adapted to the situation. Bethea recalls how appreciative the victims were of their efforts. “I remember one of the men saying, ‘Thank you, Soldier, thank you, Soldier.’ Even with our lack of supplies, he was thankful that we were doing what we could for him,” Bethea said.

When McCarty discovered two men pinned beneath one of the passenger vans, he directed the uninjured survivors to lift the van, allowing Morgan, Condon and McCarty to pull the two severely injured men to safety. Once the victims were clear of the wreckage, Bethea and Caponigro immediately began applying bandages and tourniquets.

At this point, a third victim was discovered and Medical Rescue Team arrived. Even with the rescue team present, Bethea, Caponigro and McCarty continued to assist, directly treating the injured, as well as providing medical supplies to the rescue team.

“When they [the rescue team] showed up, they were kind of standing aside because they thought we were medics,” McCarty said. “This was because we were all so calm and collected. I was really proud of them.”

Reflecting on Seabee readiness and the team effort so evident during the rescue, Bethea commented, “More than anything else, I am so proud of the Seabees who were there. They stepped up and did whatever was asked of them without a second thought or hesitation.”

Colonel John S. Alexander (far right), USA, Commander, ASD Kuwait, presents the Army Commendation Medal to five NMCB 133 Seabees stationed at Camp Morell, Kuwait, for their efforts in providing emergency medical assistance to civilian workers who were severely injured in an automobile accident. (Photo taken from left to right) are Gunnery Sgt. Tom McCarty, HM1 Charlotte Bethea, UT2 Kelly Caponigro, BU2 Tyler Morgan and BUCN Nicholas Condon. Photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo
**Seabees and Belize Soldiers Build a Better Future**

In two remote villages in Belize, Seabees from NMCB 133 are working hand-in-hand with combat engineers assigned to the Belize Defense Force (BDF). The Joint Task Force (JTF) operation provides humanitarian aid to economically challenged areas of Belize, specifically building six schools, and conducting dental and medical exercises for local communities.

The BDF, headed by Brig. Gen. Lloyd Gillett, plays a key role in supporting the mission.

“At every project site we have eight BDF combat engineers assisting with the building program, but we also have BDF providing security at the different sites,” Gillett said. “In addition, we use it as an opportunity to train BDF soldiers in new building techniques.”

Seabees and the BDF exchange skills and construction techniques on the jobsite. The Seabees are able to teach BDF engineers how to operate certain pieces of equipment, while the BDF teaches the Seabees about Belizean culture. With this knowledge, the Seabees have built friendships with the local children who are always curious about the projects.

Builder Constructionman Curtis Phinisee, NMCB 133, commented on how the two elements of the JTF work together.

“The BDF has their techniques that they show us and we have our techniques that we show them, so the trade is pretty good,” Phinisee said. “We have our part, they have their part.”

The mission to build the schools will provide significant benefits to the children in the villages of Crotched Tree and Trial Farms. The Seabees are building a school in each village, where conditions are overcrowded at existing schoolhouses.

The overcrowding is preventing many families from sending their children to school, according to Onesimus Pech, one of the teachers. “We have run out of space. In other words, all the classrooms are filled,” Pech said.

With the buildings completed in May, the schools will also have the satisfaction of seeing the kids.

Battalion Updates: Seabees Around the World

Seabee Divers Return from the Philippines

By LTJG Paul McCord, NMCB 133

Seabees AROUND THE WORLD

**Battalion Updates:**

**Seabee Divers Return from the Philippines**

By UCT 2 Public Affairs

**2007**

By LTJG Paul McCord, NMCB 133

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Seabees and Belize Soldiers Build a Better Future

**NMCB 133**

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Seabees in Belize

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Seabees Support Local School's Science Fair

By MCC (SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, NMCB 4 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 had the privilege of serving as judges for the Harry S. Truman Elementary School Science Fair in Guam on April 20, further supporting the Seabee relationship with the local community.

Eager to help out, NMCB 4 Seabees wanted to show they are here not only to complete construction projects, but also to continue the strong bond Seabees have with the people of Guam.

“Seabees have provided services for us for several years,” said Elizabeth Reed, a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) teacher. “They have been a big help to the community, and are very gracious and willing to volunteer.”

More than 70 students entered this year’s science fair. Each project was graded on the originality of the concept, scientific method to prove the hypothesis, presentation clarity, conclusions, and the materials or methods used.

“I enjoyed doing these things,” Builder 1 Class (SCW) Bill Hillberg said. “This is a positive influence for the children of Guam.”

Fifth graders Britney Blou and Florentina Aguon worked on a project to see which contained more caffeine, Pepsi or Sprite. Both of them commented on how much the military helps at their school.

“It is really cool to have them here. They asked good questions and I had fun,” Blou said. “They are really helpful for our school because some of us can’t really afford much,” Aguon added.

Reed also believes the help Seabees provide isn’t just noticed at the school. “The military has a great impact not only here at the school, but in the community,” she said. “Seabees are playing a role in the community and doing their part to bring us all together.”

Seabees in Guam

At Naval Base Guam’s Orote Point Quarry, Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 4 and 74 conducted a joint blast in April as part of turnover requirements.

Placed in holes that were drilled in a 5 x 5’ staggered pattern, 1,000 pounds of explosive were detonated to create rock, gravel, and sand for construction projects Seabees are completing for the naval base.

Rock drills are used to create holes within the rock, boring to the next benchmark some 25 feet down. Explosive handlers, nick-named ‘Powder Monkeys,’ then safely place explosives inside the hole, preparing the rock formations for blasting.

“These joint blasts are used so we can see how the rock breaks down and know what we are getting,” Chief Equipment Operator (SCW) Scott Baker, head blaster, said.

More than 15 personnel were on hand for the blast. Each battalion had two head blasters, two assistant blasters and four explosive handlers. Safety personnel and Orote Point facility managers were also on site.

“The whole point of blasting is to train the younger troops,” Equipment Operator 2nd Class (SCW) Daniel Romero said. “Blasting is a huge part of the Naval Construction Force. It’s almost tradition.”

After the blast, front-end loaders and bulldozers push the huge rocks, also called ‘Volkswagens,’ down each benchmark until they hit the floor of the quarry. From there they are transported to the Rock Crusher where the rocks will be crushed into usable material. The quarry also has a wash plant used to create sand. In order to segregate rocks from sand, they are fed up a conveyer belt where they are washed and agitated as the sand is sifted out.

During NMCB 4’s homeport, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Audreux DuChesne attended blasting school to learn how to safely handle explosives during his first deployment as a blaster.

“I’m not really working in my rate this deployment, but it was pretty fun,” DuChesne said. “I get to blow stuff up. How cool is that!”
Navy Officer Has Personal Reasons for Working on Basrah Children’s Hospital

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

The very mention of the disease brings shudders of horror from parents of children two to five years old, who account for most of the disease’s victims. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) accounts for 80 percent of all childhood cancer, and also attacks adults over the age of 50.

Thirty years ago, the disease killed all but five percent of those who contracted it.

For Seabee LT Allen Willey, CEC, currently serving at NAVFAC Northwest, and his wife Shereen, the horror became a reality when their three-and-a-half year old son, Christian, received the devastating diagnosis.

Christian had been exhibiting excessive bruising and petechiae (tiny red spots from shattered blood vessels) on his chest.

“You don’t live your life thinking about these diseases,” said Willey, formerly the resident engineer for the Basrah Children’s Hospital project. “The impact never hits you until it happens to you. And then, at first, you don’t believe it.”

The nightmare began in December 2000, several days after Christmas, and it gave Willey a special motivation to see that the Basrah Children’s Hospital was built well.

Willey said Shereen had taken Christian to the doctor because they noticed the spots on his chest. Since it didn’t seem as if the child had chicken pox or measles, and Christian didn’t appear to be sick, they decided to wait until after the holiday to treat what they believed to be a benign condition.

“They took a blood sample from him, and the next thing I knew, I was riding in an ambulance to UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) Medical Center and my son had a platelet count of eight,” Willey said. “A normal platelet count ranges from 150,000 to 450,000. He could have fallen off of his bicycle, bumped his head, and started bleeding internally. He could have passed away in his sleep.”

The bone marrow manufactures platelets, which circulate in the blood, forming clots to stop excessive bleeding. Christian had virtually none.

The next few years tested the Willeys, with three Jordanian contractors taking care of everything from equipment to design and construction, the site boasts seven stories.

The hospital will be an important part of the hospital’s services — support for parents and families who have been shattered by the diagnoses.

“Support becomes a way of life for the parents and the family,” he said. “In the States, there are groups of people who have had a child or a grandchild struck by this disease.”

Willey noted that these groups are an important part of the treatment process, and he believes the hospital will generate the kind of spirit among the people of Basrah.

The hospital has been under construction for five years and has endured setbacks of funding and contractors. USACE continues the project after contractor Bechtel left the site, and Gulf Region South assumed oversight of the project.

With three Jordanian contractors taking care of everything from equipment to design and construction, the site boasts from six to eight managers and a workforce that fluctuates between 400 and 550. The hospital should be completed by February 2009.

Willey emphasized that while on site what motivated him to make the project succeed is the empathy he feels for the parents who are enduring what he, his wife, and son and daughter experienced.

“I want to continue to share my knowledge,” he said. “I know what this can mean to a family going through a tragedy. I’m going to go the extra mile and make every effort to close the gap. We have a great construction team over there, and they will keep moving forward even though my tour there is finished.”

By Betsy Weiner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South District

LT Allen Willey displays the photo of his wife and children on the computer in his office with Gulf Region South District, where he was recently resident engineer for the Basrah Children’s Hospital project.
Navy MUSE Techs Ready Guam’s Emergency Backup Power

By Petty Officer 1st Class Doug Morgan, NFELC

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command’s (NAVFAC’s) Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) division tested and inspected emergency backup power critical to the disaster preparedness of many Department of Defense (DoD) facilities on Guam during a three-week project completed earlier this year.

“Guam goes through cycles of disasters and these units have been our lifelines,” said Mike Pangelinan, lead operator, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, on the value of the backup power during disasters such as Super Typhoon Pongsona in 2002.

Petty Officer 1st Class Cory Wright, detachment officer-in-charge, and his crew of three technicians set their goals high in order to complete a 512-man-day tasking that encompasses rigorous mechanical and electrical inspections of two 2,000 kilowatt power generation plants, two 1,300 kilowatt power generation plants and one 2,500 kilovolt-amp substation.

Through tasking as two separate teams, these well-trained technicians hit the pavement running determined to complete the recertification ahead of schedule.

Although the main power for the island originates from the Guam Power Authority, the MUSE power generation plants supply more than 6.6 megawatts of emergency backup critical load power to the many DoD facilities throughout the island.

These installations include the NAVFAC Marianas, US Navy Cable, Next-Generation Radar Weather Station and Commander Submarine Squadron 15.

Since 1992, the MUSE plants have proven reliable and trustworthy to restore power during outages of all kinds. Within minutes of being notified, trained operators of these massive machines can re-power the grid and bring life to all connected lines, from the piers of the Naval Station to the lights at the Nimitz Hill Golf Course — always remembering that critical loads come first.

Over the years, MUSE technicians have traveled in support of DoD activities, contingencies and natural disasters around the world. Their job is to inspect, troubleshoot and operate the Navy’s highly technical and portable power generation plants.

The MUSE goal is simple — to ensure that each piece of equipment in MUSE’s inventory, whether deployed or pre-staged at the MUSE yard, is ready to be deployed to any location around the world, whenever the need arises.

In order to meet that goal, MUSE teams are constantly on the move, ensuring that each piece of equipment receives the attention needed to preserve and prolong the life of these Navy assets.

Seabees Receive 3-Phase Training in Homeport

A homeported Seabee battalion completes three training phases as it prepares for its next deployment: technical, military and skills attainment. The technical training phase emphasizes skills training by rate or trade. The military training phase is focused on combat skills. Skills attainment training (SAT) is focused on refining and rehearsing expertise based on the upcoming mission requirements in preparation for deployment.

NMCB 133 Seabees received their homeport training in late April.
Seabees attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 completed a training exercise with the Raydan Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer at Camp Shelby, Miss., earlier this year to further develop their tactical skills for the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Although they just recently returned from deployment in the Pacific, NMCB 1 eagerly took advantage of the resources of an adjacent unit to prepare its Seabees to meet upcoming deployment challenges. Much like a video game, the trainer allows service members to step into a virtual environment where they are called upon to respond as if in a real-life situation.

Users are presented with various hazards, such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs), traffic problems and encounters with local nationals, where quickly distinguishing combatants from noncombatants is a life-saving skill. Equipped with a gun turret, crew serve weapon and M-16s, each Humvee in the four-vehicle convoy transports the Seabees into a very realistic virtual environment.

“It was a great eye opener,” said Chief Builder (SCW) Louis Pambianco, one of two convoy commanders. Seabee battalions are generally responsible for providing advance base construction, battle damage repair, contingency engineering, humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery to fleet and unified commanders. Combat security is vital, as civil engineer support equipment and construction materials are often required to be moved from one location to another.

The training gave younger troops the opportunity to get their first taste of what it takes for a convoy security mission to be successful.

“This training was a great tool for us,” said Pambianco. “For many of the troops who don’t have prior convoy experience, this provided an opportunity for them to learn what to expect – to learn where their training needs to go.”

NMCB 1 Officers, Chiefs Team up in Khaki FEX

By MC2 (SCW) Demetrious Kennon, NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Officers and chiefs from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 recently sharpened their contingency operations skills during the week-long khaki field exercise (FEX), held at joint training facility Camp Shelby, Miss., in late April.

“It puts the khakis in their troops’ positions,” said Utilitiesman Chief Tim Hittle, the R75 convoy security military operations urban terrain (MOUT) chief petty officer. “They set up wires, dig foxholes and do convoy operations so that they know what their troops go through.”

The rising heat and humidity made it a trying time for the NMCB 1 leadership early in the week; but with their ‘Can Do’ spirit, they pushed forward.

“It’s easy to dehydrate out here,” said Chief Construction Mechanic Ambrose Bowen, Guam Company Alpha Four. “With all this gear on, if you’re not taking in fluids, it makes you very susceptible to becoming a heat casualty.”

Before actually starting training operations, officers and chiefs received a refresher on the basics of weapons familiarization, first aid and medical evacuation procedures.

As training was underway, the competition was not only against the heat and humidity of Camp Shelby, but also the khakis against one another. The Seabees were divided into seven teams to compete in a 6.4-mile endurance course with each group performing specific tasks at different stations.

Some of the tasks included disassembling and reassembling weapons, mounting weapons on Humvees, entering radio frequencies and administering first aid.

Mid-week, the khakis polished up on their radio skills in a communications exercise and kept watch throughout the night in patrol and medical evacuation procedures.

“Shoners and thunderstorms cooled down the field a bit as some Seabees drove Humvees through the Mississippi mud in convoy operations, while others slogged through the leadership reaction course.”

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“We had different stations – traffic problems – it was a little bit of everything; but with our ‘Can Do’ spirit, we pushed through.”

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As training was underway, the competition was not only against the heat and humidity of Camp Shelby, but also the khakis against one another. The Seabees were divided into seven teams to compete in a 6.4-mile endurance course with each group performing specific tasks at different stations.

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Construction/Defensive Ops

Fighting 40 Executes Field Exercise

Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 participated in a three-week Field Exercise (FEX) at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., to conduct construction and defensive operations in April and May.

(This spread)

(Top row, left) Bravo Company personnel stand security as a Seabee hastily digs a fighting position during a three-week FEX at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in April and May.

(Top row, right) Seabees from NMCB 40’s Charlie Company place triple strand concertina wire while maintaining heightened security posture. The project was one of several permanent construction projects that NMCB 40 undertook as part of its battalion FEX.

(Middle row, left) NMCB 40 Seabees clean their weapons prior to returning to the armory.

(Middle row, center) NMCB 40 Seabees launch a Bailey Bridge into position, one of several construction projects during the battalion field exercise.

(Middle row, right) Seabees from Charlie Company, NMCB 40, reconstruct a 15-ft. timber tower after dismantling it for relocation.

(Bottom row, far left) EA3 Tewodros Seyoum, NMCB 40, conducts a land survey in preparation for Echo Company’s Bailey Bridge placement.

(Bottom row, near left) Seabees from NMCB 40 place bolted fabric sections together during a Rapid Runway Repair exercise. The training consisted of clearing the field of debris and simulated unexploded ordnance, and filling two simulated bomb craters.
Ship-to-Shore Cargo Transport

By MC2 Leslie Long, ACB 2

Little Creek-based Seabees Exercise Critical Mission Areas

By CDR Gerone

N aval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) South
west’s Commander Mark Gerone received the 2006 Moreell
Medal from the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).

As Public Works Operations Officer and Assistant Operations Officer, NAVFAC Southwest and Engineering
Directorate Planning Branch Chief, and at the Combined Security Transition Command in Kabul, Afghanistan, CDR Gerone demonstrated excep-
tional leadership, unmatchcd vision, boundless energy and superior technical expertise.

His trailblazing contributions spearheaded the very com-
xpansive, foundational planning that ensured the suc-
cessful establishment of a regionally aligned, integrated facili-
ties engineering command. His tenacious drive was critical to the successful integration of the former
installation Public Works Departments into NAVFAC
Southwest, the incorporation of more than $180 million
worth of new business across five business lines, and the
complex mapping of more than 500 personnel into

The recipients of the 2006 Peltier Award Recipients

Peltier and Perry Award

R ear Admiral Greg Shear, NAVFAC Commander and
Chief of Civil Engineers, named the winners of two major awards for 2006 — Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25, which
received the 2006 Peltier Award; and NMCB 25, which
received the 2006 Perry Award.

The recipients of the 2006 Peltier Award for the most outstanding active component NMCB are the ‘Runnin’ Roos’ of NMCB 133. The men and
women of NMCB 133 conducted disaster recovery operations following Hurricane Katrina, provided expedi-
tionary construction and combat service support in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as exercise-related construc-
tion as part of U.S. Pacific Command’s theater cooperation plan. In applying excellent small unit leadership, empha-
sizing safety and “every Seabee a leader,” as well as superbly complet-
ing all requested taskings, NMCB 133 exemplified the renowned ‘Can Do’ spirit of the Seabees.

The 2006 Perry Award recipients for the most outstanding reserve com-
ponent NMCB are the ‘Spades and Clubs’ of NMCB 25. The men and
women of NMCB 25 mobilized and deployed to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Providing contingency construction and combat service support, the bat-
talion deployed an unprecedented 503 Seabees throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Operating in a highly chal-
 lenging environment, superior small unit leadership, exceptional command and control, and thorough prepara-
tion ensured every assigned mission was a success. Severely tested in demanding and uncertain operating environments, NMCB 25 adapted and
overcame every obstacle it faced, clearly upholding the highest traditions of the Seabees.

Named for two legendary and distinguished CEC/Seabee leaders, the Peltier and Perry awards recognize the
distinguished CEC/Seabee leaders, the
awards are presented annually by SAME
to an officer of the Navy CEC, regular or reserve, on active or inactive duty or retired, or to a civilian employ-
ees of NAVFAC in recognition of outstanding contribution to military engineering. The award is named for Admiral
Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees in the early days of World War II.

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Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees in the early days of World War II.
Seabees from NMCC 1 and NMCC 4 Receive 2006 Stethem, Combs and Shields Awards

By NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs

NAVFAC Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers Rear Adm. Greg Shear announced the recipients of the 2006 Stethem, Combs and Shields awards. These awards are presented by the Civil Engineer Corps and Seabee Historical Foundation to recognize individual contributions to the legacy of the Seabees and to the Civil Engineer Corps.

STEWARDOKER 2nd CLASS ROBERT C. STETHEM

Chief Petty Officer (SCW) Philip W. Earhart, CEC, NMCC 1

Chief Petty Officer Philip Earhart served as detail operations officer for the Seabee augment force as assigned to the Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion Fort Suse and Camp Bucca, Iraq, with NMCC 1, and as the convoy commander for Task Force 26 operating in hostile regions throughout northern Iraq. His prior efforts in executing an aggressive internal training program were evidenced in the extremely high standards for operational readiness and training, tactics and procedures achieved during his mission. His take-charge leadership and decisiveness under fire were crucial while he coordinated more than 110 convoys, including the safe convoy transport of more than 1,400 detainees during the depopulation and closure of Fort Suse. Earhart also served as the assistant director for civil-military operations coordinator for Task Force 26, where he supervised the distribution of more than 3,000 pounds of tools and supplies, clothing and sports equipment to local Iraqi villages, winning hearts and minds, and greatly enhancing relationships among coalition forces and the local population.

Named for Stethem’s 2nd Class (DV) Robert C. Stethem, the award recognizes outstanding individual moral courage and support of the traditions of the Seabee while in the course of actual operations. Petty Officer Stethem was a veteran of the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in June 1985, after being stolen out of passangers as a U.S. Navy Sailor and killed when terrorist demands single out from passengers as a U.S. Navy Officer Stethem was a victim of the hijacking.

REAR ADMIRAL LEWIS B. COMBS AWARD

Builder 1st Class (SCW) Grant C. Glover, NMCC 4

But Glover Glover served as detachment operations chief, detail assistant officer-in-charge and command Seabee combat warfare program coordinator for NMCC 4 in 2006. He planned and executed deployment of a 37-Seabee team to northern Pakistan in support of Operation Lifeline to conduct cleanup and engineering, relief operations in response to the national call for aid following an earthquake that devastated the Kashmir region. While serving with the 37-Seabee team, Glover demonstrated both as the assistant officer-in-charge and operations chief of a construction detail in Alusii, Japan, he led the layout and placement of foundation and structural work for a new aircraft maintenance facility for Naval Air Forces Pacific, pushing production from 16 percent to four percent ahead of schedule. Glover accomplished a 45-day period, all while maintaining superior quality and job site safety, and with no safety hazards to the environment. Glover’s award was presented by the Civil Engineer Corps and Seabee Historical Foundation to recognize individual contributions to the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps. He was active with the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association from its inception in 1978, first as Chairman of the Board of Directors and later as Chairman Emeritus, until his death at age 101.

CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC 3rd CLASS MARVIN G. SHIELDS AWARD

Builder 1st Class (SCW) Jonathan D. Eisefelder, NMCC 4

Petty Officer Jonathan Eisefelder’s inspirational leadership and stalwart dedication have been instrumental to the success of the Navy’s first Provisional Detainee Battalion in Iraq, a major Navy initiative in the Global War on Terror and one of the Chief of Naval Operations’ highest priority missions. Serving as an detachment platoon commander, security platoon chief and the most junior tactical convoy commander in the region, Eisefelder ensured total success of every mission. A seasoned veteran of 150 convoy missions in Iraq, security operations at Forward Operating Base Suse, training operations during homeport, and extensive humanitarian outreach efforts at home and abroad, Eisefelder has clearly distinguished himself as a leader of leaders.

This award is presented for outstanding technical and leadership ability, and is given in memory of Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin Skolida, a 20-year Navy Seabee serving in Vietnam with NMCC 11 in 1965. Skolida’s unit, along with other Special Forces and South Vietnam Defense personnel, made an historic attack by 2,000 Viet Cong and, although greatly outnumbered, withstood intense close-range combat for almost three hours. Skolida and an Army lieutenant volunteered to man a rocket launcher, protecting an evacuation route from Vietnamese soldiers. Despite repeatedly being hit, Skolida fought on until he was mortally wounded; he died the following day while being evacuated by helicopter.

Editor’s Note: In addition to receiving the Combs Award, Eisefelder Glover can be selected in January as the 1st Naval Construction Battalion’s 2007 Seabee of the Year.

Seabees Named Fort Leonard Wood Joint Service NCO of the Year

By MC1 (SW/AW) John Osborne, Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

B uller 1st Class Jeffrey E. Owens, Eisefelder for Seabees and Facilities Engineering, Detachment Fort Leonard Wood

Tom Kirkle, Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering, Detachment Fort Leonard Wood

The Truman School had been collecting and saving aluminum cans for just over two weeks, and asked NMCC 4 to help transport the cans to a local recycling center. “The Seabees have been partners with the school for a long time,” said Rebecca North, a member of the recycling team. “They have always been there for us. Fixing things, painting and tutoring. They are there for us and we love it.”

Ready with a Large Tactical Cargo Truck, four Second Class Petty Officers headed out to the school. “The school had been collecting the cans for awhile,” Hospital Corporonan 2nd Class Angela Kennedy said. “We gathered up all the cans and loaded them up onto the truck, and took them to the recycling center.”

“The group was really a fun bunch,” North said. “They had fun helping us out.”

NMCC 4 transported more than 1,000 pounds of recyclable material, helping the school earn approximately $400. The money raised from this project will go toward school activities.

“We have a lot of respect and admiration for the Seabees. They are always willing to come out and help us do whatever we would not be able to accomplish on our own,” North noted.

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCC) 4 participated in a local aluminum can recycling drive with Harry S. Truman School in Guam during an aluminum can recycling drive in mid-May. Seabees who helped transport more than 1,000 pounds of aluminum to a local recycling plant included (from left to right) EO2 (SCW) Daniel Romero, EO2 (SCW) Karl Tischler, EO2 (SCW/AW) Francis Villareal, and HM2 Angela Kennedy.

U.S. Navy photo

NMCC 4 HELPS KEEP GUAM’S ENVIRONMENT CLEAN

By MCC (SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, NMCC 4

NMCC 4 assisted students at Harry S. Truman School in Guam during an aluminum can recycling drive in mid-May. Seabees who helped transport more than 1,000 pounds of aluminum to a local recycling plant included (from left to right) EO2 (SCW) Daniel Romero, EO2 (SCW) Karl Tischler, EO2 (SCW/AW) Francis Villareal, and HM2 Angela Kennedy.
BOY SCOUTS PARTNER WITH SEABEES IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By MC2 Ian P. Lundy, NMCB 40 Public Affairs

The Navy’s Core Values are quite similar to those of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts teach loyalty, honesty, perseverance, and helpfulness — just as the Navy does. So when Sailors from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 volunteered earlier this year at the Boy Scout Winter Camp at Three Falls in Camp Frazier, Calif., it wouldn’t be a surprise if the two groups hit it off well.

Over the weekend-long event, the Scouts participated in winter survival fire building, basic first aid, tower climbing and rappelling to name a few of the activities. At the fire building course, Chief Petty Officer (Ret.) Thomas Rolls taught the Scouts the trick to starting a fire. “Moss, horse hair, cattle hair — I carry horse hair. I find that works best,” said Rolls about his formula for starting a fire. Little nuances like this were exactly what Senior Chief Petty Officer Arthur Messer has a son in Troop 225 (one of the troops participating), so he’s been involved with the Boy Scouts for a while. He decided to take his involvement one step further by showing some of his fellow Sailors how easy it is to volunteer and give something special back to the community through the Scouts.

Senior Chief also mentioned that it gave the Seabees the opportunity to see how the children react to them; it let them see the wheels turn in the children’s heads about possible life/career choices for themselves.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Temple, NMCB 40, a volunteer at the camp, experienced this personally. “This was a lot of fun. The kids come around and ask you about being a Seabee, and they all have positive attitudes,” Temple said. “It’s great.”

CM3 Josh Philips (far left), NMCB 40, helps host a Boy Scout onto a climbing wall during a confidence building course at Camp Three Falls in Camp Frazier, Calif. Photo by MC2 Ian P. Lundy

NMCbs 26, 133 SEABEES GO THE DISTANCE

By MC3 Jessica A. McIver, NMCB 133

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 and their reserve counterparts with NMCB 26 competed in the Spirit of St. Louis Half Marathon in Kuwait. Cox and Gaskin were the top finishers from NMCB 133 at 22nd and 23rd, respectively, in their age group, both completing the race in 1:42:42.

Yeoman 1st Class Eric Anglikowski, NMCB 26, finished first in the walking portion of the race in 2:34:43.

Some participants ran alone, while others preferred to run with fellow competitors, citing additional morale and support as defining factors in their success.

Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Larry McVay ran by himself, preferring the company of music. “It helped to just drown out everything and keep a good rhythm,” McVay said.

Information Systems Technician Chief Disackeyr Evans ran alongside two fellow Seabees from start to finish. “I believe running in a group with shipmates was helpful because we were able to keep each other motivated,” said Evans. Running a half marathon requires a good deal of mental determination. “I would really like to train for a full marathon and up the challenge,” he said.

Struk to complete the full 13.1 miles. “I just thought, I can’t quit now. I’ve got to finish,” Struk said.

While completing the half marathon was a great achievement for most, others intend to reach even higher goals. McVay aspires to run an entire marathon someday. “Staying in shape is very important,” Evans said. “Not only while you’re in the Navy, but throughout life.”
Congratulations!

**NEWSELECTIONS**

**SEABEES WIN 2006 CHINO MERIT AWARDS**

By NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Engineering, NAVFAC presented the 2006 Merit Awards for exemplary achievements in internal media print and broadcast products by NAVFAC, NCBC and individuals. The following Seabees and battalions received awards in these categories:

- **Feature Article**
  - 2nd place: MC1 (SCW) Leslie A. Shively, NMCB 22
  - 1st place: MC2 Ja’lon A. Rhinehart, NMCB 1

- **Photожournalism**
  - 1st place: MC2 Ja’lon A. Rhinehart, NMCB 1

- **Familygram (Large Command)**
  - 1st place: Focus on Four, NMCB 4
  - 2nd place: The One and Only, NMCB 1

- **Cruisebook (Large Command)**
  - 1st place: NMCB 7
  - Honorable Mention: NMCB 4

- **Constitutional**

**6TH ANNUAL ALL SEABEE REUNION**

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2007

(Recommisioning of NMCB 11 on Sept. 14)

Gulfport, MS

Participating Battalions and Contacts

NMCB 11 - ALL ERAS
Larry Hagler
P.O.Box 4647
Lago Vista, TX 78645-0055
512-267-8973
mcbl1@earthlink.net

NMCB 11 - ALL ERAS
Fall River, MA 02720
Bill Napert
781-837-0393

**1ST ALL SEABEE REUNION - EAST COAST**

FEB. 22-24, 2008

Hampton, VA

Ed Kloster
mcbch@earthlink.net

For complete list of reunions, visit www.allseabees.com

**SEABEE MUSEUM**

By RADM Robert L. Phillips, CEC, USN

Commander, 1st Naval Construction Division

**Construeus Batimus.**
Commander, NMCB 1, CDR Dean A. Tufts (left) leads the battalion in a force march in late May in Gulfport, Miss., while in mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) four to help acclimate the Seabees with performing regular activities within a potentially contaminated environment. NMCB 1 prepared for an upcoming field exercise, Operation Desert Heat, designed to sharpen the battalion’s combat and contingency construction capabilities.

Photo by MC2 Ja’lon A. Rhinehart