

UNITED STATES NAVY

SEABEE

WINTER 2008

First Naval
Construction
Division

SHAPING THE STRATEGIC FOCUS

ALSO INSIDE:

**NFELC Deploys
'SMART' TOA**

**Expeditionary Skills
Combat Deadly Force**

**Navy Remembers
CEC Polar Explorer**

**Builder Warrior
'New Bees' Learn
the Ropes**

WE BUILD ★ WE FIGHT

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FEATURES



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1NCD Strategic Plan, 2008-2011, sets the stage to view a global, adapting and transforming Seabee Force

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ON THE COVER

EO1 Aaron Nagel and EO1 Steven Barczak, NMCB 74, CJTF-HOA, assemble a rig during a well drilling project in Shaba, Kenya, April 21, 2008.

DoD photo by
Tech. Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock, USAF

WINTER08



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New packing system for latest equipment and technology is part of 1NCD transformation



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FINAL WORD

First Naval Construction Division's CMDCM (SCW) Wade C. Howk encourages all Seabees to review 1NCD's Strategic Plan, a road map for leaders, units and troops

WE BUILD ★ WE FIGHT

“All Seabees must understand where the Force is headed and dedicate themselves to being a positive influence, while continuing to build upon the long-standing heritage and legacy of Seabees who have come before us.”

RADM Richard Cellon, Commander, 1NCD, *First Naval Construction Division Strategic Plan, Foreword, 2008-2011*

Using the newly published *1NCD Strategic Plan, 2008-2011*, as our guide, *Seabee Magazine* highlights the achievements and accomplishments of regiments and battalions in three areas: Readiness, Operational Employment and Supported Commander Relationships. In this issue, our intention is to provide a birds-eye view on how Seabees are at the forefront in support of Navy and Marine Corps warfighters, and our Maritime Strategy. 1NCD Command Master Chief Wade Howk also discusses the road map detailed in the new Strategic Plan for 1NCD Seabee leaders, units and troops in the *Final Word*.

As part of 1NCD's 'transformation' to a more modern, agile force, the Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC) has deployed a new TOA with a reduced footprint and capability sets to support ease of use in the field. Named the "SMART P25," it includes the latest equipment and technology, and provides Seabees with maximum flexibility and mobility when setting up or moving camp.

In our *Training* section, we feature the Expeditionary Combat Skills course, a four-week program held at NCBC

Gulfport, Miss. Providing basic, individual combat skills training to all expeditionary personnel assigned to NECC, students experience classes and exercises designed to prepare them for a contingency environment.

Potential 'Bees of the future – Sea Cadets – partner with Seabee battalions to learn about Navy life during their younger years. Cadets get a taste for life as a Builder Warrior through various Seabee training programs and boot camp experiences, as well as master-at-arms, medical and SCUBA training.

Finally, we pay tribute to RADM Robert E. Peary, known to many as the most famous Civil Engineer Corps officer to date. Not only an Arctic explorer and first to reach the North Pole, Peary was a first-rate civil engineer and a leader in his chosen fields. April 6, 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of his discovery of the northernmost point of the world.

Sincerely,



George L. Markfelder
Team Leader, *Seabee Magazine*



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EDITORIAL

SEABEE Magazine is scheduled quarterly (except for combined or other special issues) 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 seabeesmagazine@navy.mil. Film or digital 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, postal address, 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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- 1 READINESS
- 2 OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT
- 3 SUPPORTED COMMANDER RELATIONSHIPS

focus
areas

The Naval Construction Force

is meeting – and exceeding – the challenges of a changing global situation, an adapting military strategy and a transforming Seabee force with traditional “Can Do” spirit. These critical elements that shape the Seabees now and in the future are the foundation for the *First Naval Construction Division Strategic Plan, 2008-2011*, charting the “course and speed” intended to achieve unity of effort across the Force.

All 16,000 men and women in the Naval Construction Force are engaged in a myriad of initiatives to respond to continual operational and training challenges, focused on three areas: Readiness, Operational Employment and Supported Commander Relationships. In the following pages, *Seabee Magazine* shares how organizational alignment, small unit leadership and renewed focus on quality construction is defining the Force of the future.

Clockwise from top left:

BU2 Ian M. Seiler, NMCB 3 Det. 4, works with Afghani nationals to unload a shipment of sheet metal to be used as roofing material on berthing spaces built for Afghan military personnel at Fire Base Salerno, June 30, 2008. Photo by MC2 Eli J. Medellin

Seabees from NMCB 5 and Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel build an elementary school for the community of Kadingilan, Feb. 22, 2008, during one of the 24th annual Balikatan humanitarian assistance programs in the Republic of the Philippines. Photo by MC2 Brett Cody

Seabees assigned to NMCB 7 move through a simulated insurgent compound during a Basic Urban Skills Training course conducted by the 20th Seabee Readiness Group at Camp Shelby, Miss., May 15, 2008. Photo by MC2 Michael B. Lavender



1 NCD
STRATEGIC
FOCUS

1

READINESS

Sustain a well-manned, trained and equipped force for effective employment.



1 NCD STRATEGIC FOCUS



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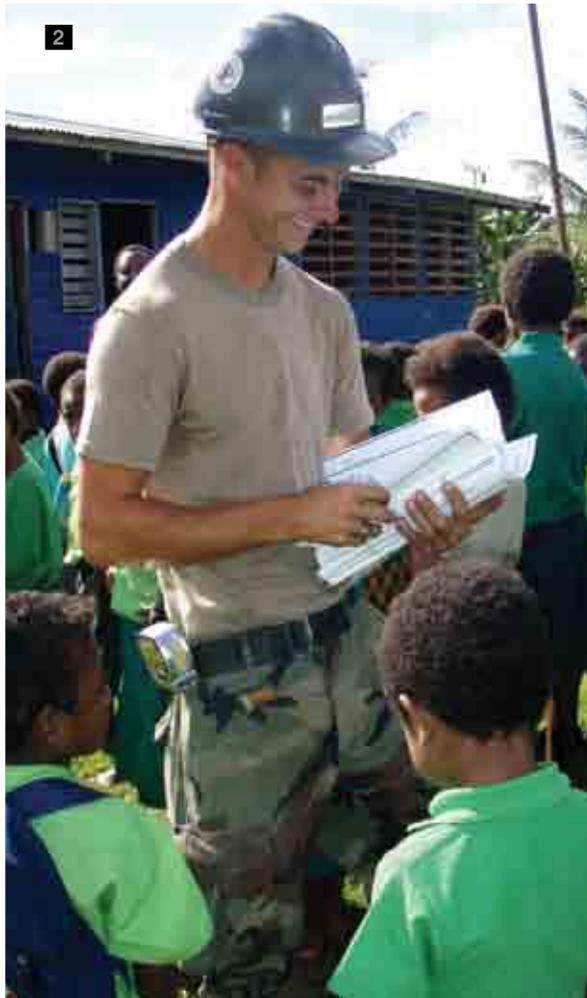
- 1** SW1 Greg Laney, NMCB 11, monitors the battalion's convoy security elements from the command operations center during a field exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., June 23, 2008.
Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon
- 2** NMCB 5 Seabees participate in weapons familiarization training in Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 26, 2008.
Photo by MC1 Palmer Pinckney II
- 3** Seabees attached to NMCB 3 spring into action after hearing the alarm for an 'intruder.' Seabees from NMCBs 3 and 17 conducted a three-week field exercise, *Operation Bearing Duel*, at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in late 2007.
Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yopez
- 4** NMCB 5 Seabees help each other scale a 12-foot wall during a 3.4-mile endurance course at the U.S. Marine Corps Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonslaves, Okinawa, Japan, April 25, 2008.
Photo by CE1 Charles S. Zook
- 5** CM2 Tim Plummer (right), UCT 2, receives the final ready checks from CE3 Daniel Lehne, UCT 2, before beginning a salvage diving mission as part of *Operation Bearing Duel* at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Aug. 23, 2008.
Photo by MCSA Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

2 OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Maintain the capability and capacity to deploy and employ Seabees in support of our nation's current and future global requirements.



1NCD STRATEGIC FOCUS



Numerical from top left:

- 1** PC1 Monica Adams, NMCB 3, makes her final leg to Iraq aboard a C-17 Globemaster cargo plane at Ali Al Salim Air Force Base, Kuwait, April 14, 2008, to Al Taqaddum, Iraq.
Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yopez
- 2** SW3 Michael Featherston, NMCB 133, hands out coloring books, crayons and frisbees to children at Uni Elementary School, Popondetta, Papua New Guinea, July 30, 2008.
U.S. Navy photo
- 3** NMCB 27 Seabees exit a U.S. Air Force transport aircraft at a Western Iraq airfield to begin support operations in the Al Anbar province area of responsibility, Sept. 22, 2008.
Photo by MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson
- 4** CM2 Aaron Heldreth, UCT 2, inspects a patrol boat propeller with a member of the Saint Kitts Coast Guard during a port visit by the Military Sealift Command rescue and salvage ship USNS *Grasp* (T-ARS 51) to Zante, Saint Kitts and Nevis, July 24, 2008. Members of UCT 2 embarked aboard *Grasp* supporting *Navy Diver-Global Fleet Station 2008*.
Photo by MCCA Andrew McKaskle
- 5** U.S. Marine Maj. Gen. John F. Kelly crosses the just-completed Baghdadi bridge with local Iraqi civilians, Seabees from NMCB 17 and the 22nd NCR, and Soldiers from U.S. Army 814 Corps of Engineers in late May 2008.
Photo by MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson



3 SUPPORTED COMMANDER RELATIONSHIPS

Engage and align with our Supported Commanders and be responsive to their requirements.



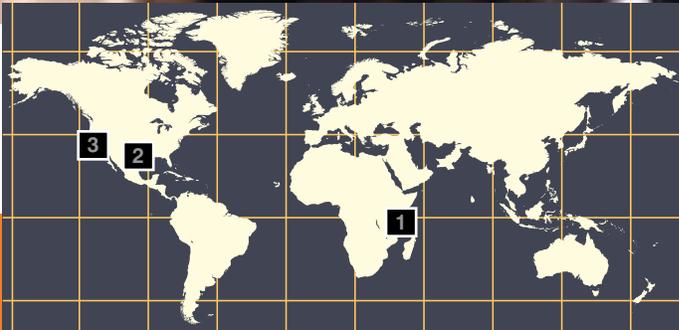
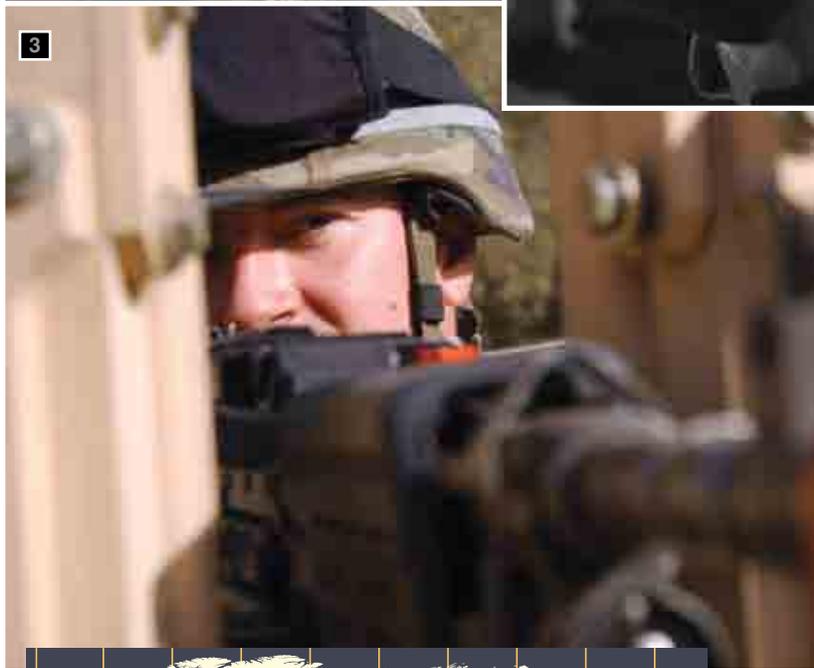
1NCD STRATEGIC FOCUS



Numerical from top left:

- 1** BU2 Matthew Homer, NMCB 74, gives a site tour to RADM Philip Greene Jr., commander, CJTF-HOA, during a site visit at Abadir Primary School, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 20, 2008. Seabees refurbished the school's ceilings, bathrooms, classrooms and the administration building as part of a CJTF-HOA community service project.
U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock
- 2** BU1 Michael Woodall, NMCB 17, reviews construction plans for a command outpost with an officer from the Iraqi Army's 7th Division Engineers in Iraq, May 1, 2008.
Photo by MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson
- 3** Marine Brig. Gen. J.A. Kessler, commanding general of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), holds the signed Beneficial Occupancy Date letter, officially opening the newly renovated runway at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, Jan. 8, 2008. The airfield is operating at full capacity for the first time in two years after NMCB 1 Seabees worked for three months to repair the runway.
Photo by MC2 Chad Runge
- 4** CM3 Brian Linnell, NMCB 4, greets Gen. William Ward, commander, U.S. Africa Command, at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Sept. 23, 2008.
Photo by MC2 (SCW/SW/AW) Ronald Guttridge
- 5** A U.S. Marine Corps CH46 helicopter transports NMCB 133 Seabees to a bombing range off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 21, 2008. During the trip, NMCB 133 generated a plan to make the site more usable for U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force personnel.
Photo by EO2 Jason Cummings

WE BUILD ★ WE FIGHT FOR PEACE WITH FREEDOM



Numerical from top left:

- 1** SW3 Timothy Hemphill, NMCB 74, removes air bubbles from the form for a concrete foundation at the Hamramba Primary School in Moroni, Comoros, July 7, 2008.
Photo by MC2 John Hulle
- 2** BUC Landan Henson, NMCB 1, holds his son close after returning home from a six-month deployment, NCTC Gulfport, Miss., April 22, 2008.
Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon
- 3** BU2 Joseph Milauckas, NMCB 3, mans a 240-machine gun on the turret of a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., during Operation *Bearing Duel*, November 2007.
Photo by MC2 Dustin Coveny

Seabee Battalion "SMART" Table of Allowance Tracks with Agile, Mobile Mission

By Linda Wadley, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center

A new Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Table of Allowance (TOA), the "SMART (Scalable, Modular, Agile, Responsive) TOA P25," deployed this fall to its first destination, Okinawa, Japan, with a reduced footprint and functionally packed capability sets to support ease of use in the field. The SMART P25 replaces the older Modular P25 in use since 2000.

The containerized footprint of the SMART P25 has been reduced by more than 45,000 cubic feet. The new packing system – capability sets – replaces the older system where all containers were packed full. The new shipping container, the eight by six and a half foot tricon, which can be moved by a standard forklift, replaces the 20-foot shipping container. Dual doors on opposite ends of the tricons make it easier to unload and repack.

The SMART P25 represents the first TOA to be approved as part of the First Naval Construction Division's (1NCD's) 'transformation' to a more modern, agile force. The change includes a redesign of all NCF TOAs to include the latest equipment and

New capability sets will be a major asset when Seabees set up or move a camp giving them the flexibility and mobility that is needed... Ruben Frutos, TOA division director, NFELC

technology, and complements the transformation of the force structure from 812- to 581-man NMCBs, and the addition of one NMCB and one Naval Construction Regiment to the Active Duty Component.

"The new TOA was designed to be lighter, more mobile and agile to move. New capability sets will be a major asset when Seabees set up or move a camp giving them the flexibility and mobility that is needed," said Ruben Frutos, TOA division director, Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC).

The SMART P25 capability sets include three Seabee Construction Modules, one Seabee Sustainment Module (medical and laundry), one Equipment Maintenance Module,



An open tricon showing storage and transport frames, one of the upgraded features of the new SMART P25, sits among the containers staged at Port Hueneme, Calif., awaiting shipment to Seabees in Okinawa, Japan. U.S. Navy photo by Linda Wadley, NFELC

and one Command and Control Module. The TOA has also been updated with new technology, such as cordless power tools. A Just in Time capability set consisting of armory, communication gear and supplies, which is not prepacked, completes the TOA. The SMART P25 is self-sustained for 30-60 days and is designed to support initial mission requirements. Heavy or specialized equipment that would have been part of the previous TOA is now supplied from globally positioned assets as a reachback capability.

"The new tricons make a big impact on mobility and loading and off-loading contents from an embark standpoint," said Chief Construction Mechanic (SCW) Cirilo Macatiag, NFELC armor action officer. "The capability of using small cargo trucks and 11,000-pound forklifts, instead of tractor trailers and the 50,000-pound RTCH [Rough Terrain Container Handler] definitely make this a more agile P25 that can immediately respond to the changing operational requirements in the field."

The NMCB TOA was developed by the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, 1NCD and NFELC to ensure Naval Construction Force consistency with current tactical, operational and strategic requirements in support of the U.S. Marine Corps Marine Air-Ground Task Force and Navy Expeditionary Forces ashore.

The NMCB SMART P25s will be deployed over the next six years through the Integrated Logistics Overhaul process replacing the older Modular P25 TOAs at Seabee deployment sites, on prepositioned ships and at Seabee homeports at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Miss., and Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, Calif.



'Alfa Dawgs' Tackle Contingency Construction Operations

Submitted by LT Jeff Bartlett and CM2 Laurence Clayton,
NMCB 3 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 3 and 17 Task Force Sierra, Detail Main Body, an integrated active/reserve team, deployed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, earlier this year to tackle six months of contingency construction, engineering support, vehicle repair and maintenance of a 10-acre Joint Task Force (JTF) advanced camp.

Equipment operators from Alfa Company kept numerous power generators constantly running, dispensing more than 112,650 gallons of diesel fuel. Alfa Company also maintained 94 pieces of civil engineering support equipment (CESE) and tracked it across 39,000 square miles of Iraqi battle space.

Bravo Company managed the detail's largest project – a massive power grid complete with miles of electrical cabling and power generation equipment large enough to power a town of 2,000 people. Charlie Company Seabees built vehicle entry control points and Southwest Asia huts, adding 18,400 square feet of operational, administrative and berthing support construction to the JTF.

NMCB 4

'Bees Support CENTCOM

Carlton Torres, NMCB 4, rips a floor joice on a Super B-Hut while on deployment at a forward operating base in the eastern province of Ghazni, Afghanistan. The huts will house Polish soldiers throughout the harsh winter as international troops support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by CECS (SCW) John Smith



EO Guillermo Celaya (left) and EO2 Parick Kaffar, NMCB 17, fill 500-gallon fuel tanks used for distribution to generators at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, earlier this year.

Photo by UT1 (SCW/SS) Bryan Gornet

NMCB 3

NMCB 3 Supports Construction of Longest Floating Bridge in Iraq

By CM3 Christopher Carson, NMCB 3

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 is now part of bridge-building history in Iraq. The Seabees supported the construction of a 1,063-foot-long floating bridge, the longest of its kind in Iraq, across the Euphrates River in the town of Habbiniyah late this year.

Even though the Euphrates supports large swaths of the populations of Turkey, Syria and Iraq, the river has been an obstacle for both coalition and Iraqi vehicle and troop movements in the strategically important al Anbar province.

NMCB 3's Detachment al Taqqadum served as the subcontractor for the project, supporting the 341st Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC), a reserve unit specializing in contingency bridge construction.

Marines from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment and Iraqi police provided on-site security, while Seabees and reservists from the 341st MRBC assembled the prefabricated Mabey

Johnson Bridge out of hundreds of steel components. The bridge uses a series of pontoons as a flotation system and supplements a barge, currently the only means of moving vehicles across the river in the Habbiniyah area.

"This was a big project which required a lot of material," said Chief Equipment Operator Adam Ward, mission commander for the project. "We hauled enough soil for the embankment to cover three entire football fields three feet high."

NMCB 3 was responsible for the construction of the near- and far-side approaches to the bridge. 'Bees also constructed a launch site where the 341st MRBC assembled the bridge and launched it onto the pontoons out across the river.

"It was challenging at times," said Equipment Operator 1st Class Michael Moreno, project supervisor. "But for every challenge we faced, we were able to overcome it. I take pride in everything we accomplished, because it will provide a safe route for future military convoys and for the Iraqi police."



U.S. Marines from Task Force 1/2 cross the Euphrates River on rafts operated by the Army's 341st Multi-Role Bridge Company near the city of Habbaniyah, Iraq, Sept. 16. NMCB 3 Seabees constructed the far side approach for a Mabey Johnson Float Bridge, while TF 1/2 Marines and Iraqi police provided on-site security.

Photo by CM3 Christopher Carson

NMCB 4 Shares Expertise on Middle East Oil Terminals

NMCB 4

By NMCB 4 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 traveled to two oil terminals located off the coasts of Iran and Iraq in August, working to improve safety standards, living conditions and operational efficiency.

Few Seabees have worked on oil terminals which are huge suppliers of exported oil. Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal is located approximately 16 nautical miles offshore of Iraq and Al Basrah Oil Terminal is approximately 12 nautical miles offshore of Iran. Approximately 90 percent of Iraq's oil exports are transferred to ships via these two platforms.

"It's kind of cool knowing that we are working on something that is so important to the world's economy," said Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SCW) Jason Grubbs.

NMCB 4 also trained the contractors to handle repairs and trouble calls on their own.

(Right) Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal, Persian Gulf, Feb. 2008

Photo by MC2 Kirk Worley



Family Affair at Seabee Reenlistment

NMCB 3

By LT Martin Ranalli, NMCB 3 Public Affairs

Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Barry Grimm, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3, reenlisted at a forward operating base (FOB) in Afghanistan on June 8 – joined by his brother-in-law and cousin.

“I found out through e-mail with my brother-in-law, Spc. Benjamin Swearingen, who is with the U.S. Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade at Bamberg, Germany, that his unit might be located at the same FOB as our detail,” Grimm said. “Neither of us had mentioned specifically where we were located, but the details of the FOB seemed all too familiar.”

Grimm also discovered his brother-in-law’s cousin, Sgt. Craig Swearingen, was located at a nearby outpost.

“I had not seen them for more than two years,” Grimm said, explaining how they all grew up near Oakwood, a small town on the eastern edge of Illinois. “With a population of almost 4,000, it is not everyday that such a small town has three service members deployed to the same remote location in Afghanistan.”

So, his brother-in-law and cousin became invited guests to his reenlistment ceremony.

“What better reason to gather these three fine service members than to reenlist Petty Officer Grimm,” said Builder Chief Jermaine Wade, Detail 3 assistant officer in charge.

Spc. Swearingen said he was glad that he and his cousin were able to attend the ceremony.

“It is an important step in his career,” Spc. Swearingen said. “I am glad I could be here to congratulate him.”

To top it off, Grimm received a reenlistment bonus of nearly \$18,000.

“Oh this will be a reenlistment to remember,” said Grimm. “I will always remember it, not so much because of the big bonus check, but because two of my family members were able to attend.”

CM2 Barry Grimm, NMCB 3, flanked by family members Sgt. Craig Swearingen (left) and Spc. Benjamin Swearingen, after reenlisting at a forward operating base in Afghanistan, June 8.

Photo by BU1 Joseph McFadden



NMCB 7

'Bees Motor to Support Coalition Forces

Seabees from NMCB 7's Alfa Company completed a new motor pool in the al Anbar province of Iraq in October.

(Right) NMCB 7 Seabees use an armored crane to move concrete barriers.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Michael B. Lavender



NMCB 3

Rockin' and Rollin' at Ramadi

By MC1 Carmichael Yezep.
NMCB 3 Public Affairs

It's another weekend at Camp Ramadi...and the NMCB 3 'Bees take the stage to rock out to their inner Aerosmith and Led Zeppelin.

"It's pretty much what we all look forward to," said Utilitiesman 3rd Class Jory Wasmund. "It's Saturday night, so we can play *Rock Band*."

However, it wasn't always like this. For several months, there was not much for Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 to do for entertainment in their off hours during their six-month deployment to Iraq.

But now, every weekend Seabees gather to play *Rock Band* at the camp's Seabee Theater. The video game was donated by Brush County Bank in Freer, Texas, home to LCDR Jeffrey Deviney, NMCB 3's executive officer. And his dad happens to be president of the bank – and former Navy.



UT3 Jory Wasmund (left) and YN3 John Gerhouser keep the beat while playing *Rock Band* during their off hours at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yezep

When Storekeeper Seaman (SCW) Mark Rutherford, Yeoman 3rd Class John Gerhouser and Wasmund first took on the game, they lit up the stage.

"Those guys really get into the game and make us laugh a lot," said Storekeeper Travis Clanton. "Rutherford is the funniest. He's very animated and really gets into the songs. He dances around and plays the guitar as if he were a real rock star."

According to Rutherford, it does not matter if people know how to sing or play the drums or guitar. "We start off slow and then when we play a song that everyone knows it really gets going," said Rutherford. "It reminds us of home."



Seabees from NMCB 3's Delta Company place a concrete pad at an entry control point at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, Oct 5. The battalion completed security measures such as these to prevent insurgents from burying improvised explosive devices close to military installations in the area.

Photo by LT Earl Chow

Security Upgraded at Iraqi Camp

NMCB 3

By LT Earl Chow, NMCB 3

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's Delta Company completed construction of a concrete pad to upgrade security measures at an entry control point at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, Oct. 5.

The project was just outside the secure confines of the camp, and Seabees worked in Kevlar helmets and body armor due to insurgent threat levels.

"Walking around with an extra 45 pounds [and] having to do concrete work is not an easy task," said Builder 3rd Class Nicole Frost. "We had to walk on the rebar (reinforcing steel bar) and spread concrete with rakes and shovels, which was a lot more difficult wearing our body armor."

Most of the work was conducted at night to keep the Seabees safe, mitigate effects of the heat and take advantage of decreased traffic on one of the major roadways in Iraq.

"I've worked on many projects during the day and it is much nicer to work during the cooler nights as opposed to working in 115-degree heat," said Frost.

The Seabees overcame one setback after hitting an unmarked water main, which they had to repair before continuing work with the concrete pad.

"The water leak set us back a few days," said Builder 1st Class Jeffrey Hood, project supervisor. "We had to contact the Iraqi utilities ministry and could not continue work until they repaired the leak a few days later. Once the problem was resolved, we were able finish the project pretty quickly."



RADM Carol M. Pottenger is piped aboard during the change of command for NECC, at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., Sept. 12. Pottenger assumed command of NECC from RADM Michael P. Tillotson.

Photo by MC2 Paul D. Williams

Pottenger Takes Command of NECC

By LCDR Susan Henson, NECC Public Affairs

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) changed hands during a ceremony at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., Sept. 12, as RADM Carol M. Pottenger relieved RADM Michael P. Tillotson as commanding officer. RADM Tillotson served as interim commander of NECC since January 2008. He now serves with the U.S. Central Command..

ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, gave the ceremony's keynote address.

"Valor determination and persistence – the qualities this command has found in their leader who will transition today, Mike Tillotson," said Greenert. "Carol comes to us with a vast portfolio of capabilities and she is well prepared...and that's exactly the type of leader we need in this community."

Prior to arriving at NECC, RADM Pottenger commanded Expeditionary Strike Group 7/Amphibious Force 7th Fleet Okinawa aboard USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49), becoming the first female admiral to lead a forward deployed operational command.



CMDCM Austin Leedom (right), NMCB 4, flips over the battalion sign, symbolizing the Transfer of Authority from NMCB 74 to NMCB 4 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Aug. 9.

U.S. Navy photo

NMCB 4 Conducts Change of Charge

By NMCB 4 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 4 and 74 completed turnover of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, during a change of charge ceremony, Aug. 9.

NMCB 4 arrived with more than 150 Seabees from its homeport in Port Hueneme, Calif., to begin a six-month deployment, relieving NMCB 74.

"NMCB 74 did a great job," LTJG Jonathan Horner, assistant operations officer, NMCB 4, said. "We had constant communication before we arrived...were available whenever we needed them and provided unlimited support answering any question we had."

While deployed to Arifjan, NMCB 4 will be tasked with completing several projects in support of the camp's construction requirements involving new living spaces and upgrades of several preexisting sites.

Weikert Named Deputy Commander, 1NCD

By Daryl C. Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD



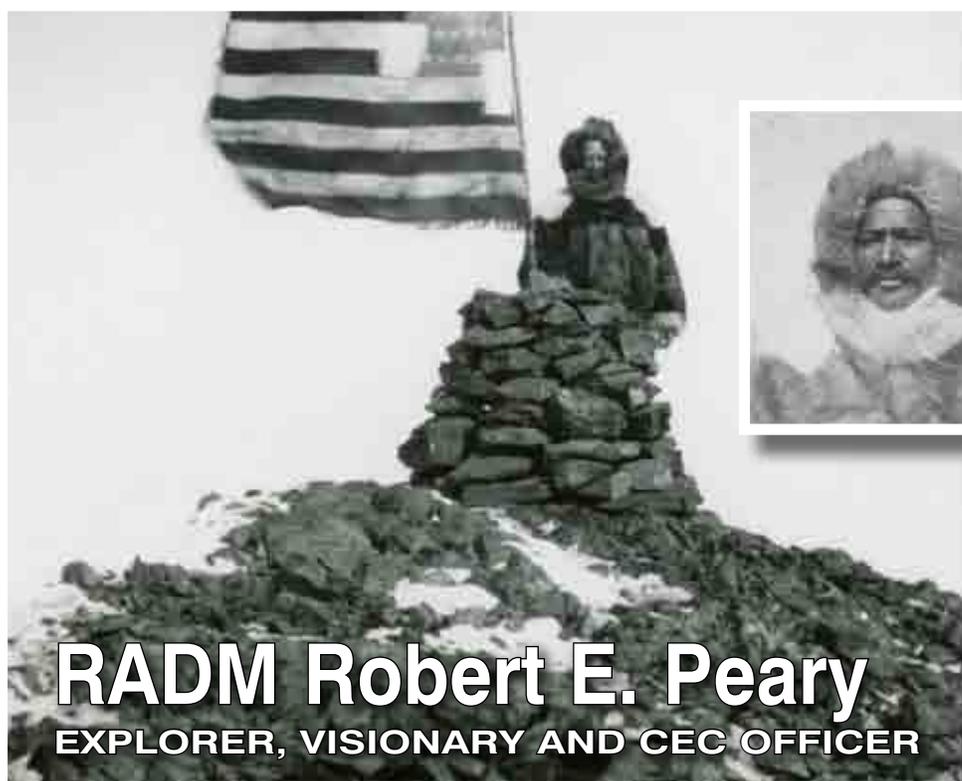
RDML Scott A. Weikert

U.S. Navy photo

RDML Scott A. Weikert assumed the duties of deputy commander, First Naval Construction Division (1NCD), Naval Amphibious Little Creek, Va., Oct. 1, from RADM Albert Garcia III who held the position since August 2005. RADM Garcia is now deputy commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Washington, D.C.

Most recently, RDML Weikert commanded Naval Engineer Forces Korea, supporting the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea.

Source: "Rear Adm. Robert E. Peary, CEC, USN, Isthmian Canal Surveyor, Arctic Explorer, and Early Air Advocate," by Dr. Vincent Transano, historian, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the admiral's discovery of the North Pole, April 6, 1909.



RADM Robert E. Peary

EXPLORER, VISIONARY AND CEC OFFICER



(Left to right) CDR Robert E. Peary raising the American Flag at the North Pole, ca. April 1909; Matthew Henson, ca. early 1900s; Peary in furskins, ca. early 1900s.

100 YEARS AGO

Compiled by MC1 (SW) Kurt Riggs, NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs and Communications

The most famous Civil Engineer Corps officer to date remains RADM Robert Edwin Peary, a talented man of tremendous drive who achieved his greatest fame as an Arctic explorer. Peary was not just an explorer trying to reach the North Pole; he was a first-rate civil engineer who performed his Navy assignments in a meticulous manner.

Peary was born in Cresson, Pa., in 1856. His parents moved to Maine when he was three and he was educated in the local public schools. He entered Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and graduated in 1877 with a degree in civil engineering.

Commissioned in 1881, Peary's first assignment was in Key West, Fla., as inspector for a new iron pier built by a civilian contractor. It was not until 1886 that he first began exploring the Arctic regions.

After reading a paper about the inland ice of Greenland, he obtained a six-month leave and sailed as supercargo aboard a steam whaler bound for Greenland, accompanied by a young Danish official. Upon their arrival, Peary carried out a three-week long reconnaissance of the Greenland icecap. As a result of this trip, Arctic exploration would dominate Peary's interest for much of the rest of his life.

One individual who greatly approved of Peary's devotion to Arctic exploration was Vice President Theodore Roosevelt; and when Roosevelt became President following William McKinley's

assassination in 1901, Peary's future was assured. President Roosevelt's keen interest fully supported Peary's efforts. In September 1903, Peary was given three years' leave to pursue another attempt on the pole. Peary's Arctic Club raised \$100,000 for the expedition and built a ship, the *Roosevelt*, from the keel up as an icebreaker. This time the explorers would use Eskimo methods and clothing, and travel in individual dog sleds.

In July 1908, Peary left on his last attempt to conquer the North Pole. The *Roosevelt* made it to latitude 82° 30' north, the farthest north for a ship under its own power. On March 1, 1909, Peary set off from Cape Columbia with his close associate, Matthew Henson, seven other companions, 17 Eskimos, 133 dogs and 19 sledges [sleds]. By the end of March, the expedition reached the 88th parallel.

On April 6, Peary made observations indicating he had reached 90° latitude north – the North Pole. He raised the Stars and Stripes and made scientific observations, remaining at the pole for some 30 hours. On September 5, the *Roosevelt* arrived at Indian Harbor, Labrador, and Peary cabled the news to the world that he had reached his final destination.

In early 1910, a bill was introduced in Congress to recognize Peary's achievement by promoting him to rear admiral and placing him on the retired list with the highest possible retirement pay under existing law. In March 1911, Congress passed the legislation giving our nation's thanks to RADM Peary, and cementing his place in history.



RADM Robert E. Peary, ca. 1912

TRAINING



Squad Leaders Course Covers Classroom and 'Real Life'

By MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 completed the two-week Squad Leaders Course starting at Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., and wrapping up with a field exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Aug. 22.

During the course, military and civilian instructors from the 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) taught patrol techniques, day and night land navigation, enemy engagement tactics, calls for adjacent support, communications and medical evacuation procedures.

After passing an exam on these topics, Seabees moved into the field at Camp Shelby to apply what they learned to real-life scenarios. They also spent a day at the Leadership Reaction Course where they performed missions in three- or four-person fire teams at various stations.

As part of their final patrol, the squads were required to successfully perform danger crossings at all roads, complete a reconnaissance mission and set up a 360-degree perimeter at an objective rally point, all while being aggressed.

The Seabees literally ended their field training with a 'bang' as they placed and detonated M18A1 Claymore mines at an explosive arms range aboard Camp Shelby.

Seabees assigned to NMCB 1 carry full ruck sacks during a three-mile force march just before sunrise aboard NCBC, Gulfport, Miss., in August.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon

EXPEDITIONARY COMB



Fulfilling the promise not to send Sailors into a hostile environment without the training they need to succeed, the Navy provides the Expeditionary Combat Skills (ECS) course.

This four-week course, held at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport Miss., provides basic, individual combat skills training to all expeditionary personnel assigned to Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC).

According to Senior Chief Chris Moore, senior enlisted leader for the ECS course, the average class size ranges from 80 to 85 students, but the staff can accommodate up to 100 students per class. With 24 courses offered each year, as many as 2,400 students can graduate annually.

During the month of instruction, students experience a myriad of classes and practical exercises designed to prepare them for what they might encounter in a contingency environment. Classes include operational risk management, basic expeditionary first aid, land navigation, pistol and rifle combat shooting and marksmanship, vehicle emergency egress, basic communications and counter-IED recognition, CBRN

(chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) defense, and Judgment-based Engagement Training (JET). Students must pass four written exams to graduate.

Staff instructors represent a variety of backgrounds, including all military branches. CAPT Alan Hollingsworth, director, Center for Security Forces Learning Site, home of the ECS course, believes the background and experience of the instructors is one of the keys to the training's success.

“Because we teach combat-focused skills beyond traditional first aid and competition-style shooting, we need instructors who have advanced tactical combat skills,” CAPT Hollingsworth said. “Nearly all are military veterans – the few exceptions have extensive backgrounds as law enforcement weapons instructors. Military backgrounds include Seabees, SEALs, Coast Guard security and boarding teams, ground combat and infantry forces, as well as Special Operations and Special Forces.”

In nine months of existence, the course graduated its

AT SKILLS COURSE

PREPARES SOLDIERS TO FACE DEADLY FORCE

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

(Left) Reaction time is everything during Judgment-based Engagement Training (JET), an important phase of the ECS course. Through JET at NCBC Gulfport, Miss., students obtain a better understanding of how quickly an armed assailant can cover 30 feet on foot, and whether or not there is hostile intent.

(Right) An ECS student is slow to react and is hit by several paint rounds before she can make her weapon ready to fire.
Photos by MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce

1,000th student last September. “The principles of combat are driven home and we dispel many Hollywood gun battle myths,” Hollingsworth said. “I want these Sailors to be as prepared as possible to face a deadly force confrontation, succeed and come back home to their loved ones.”

During the last week of instruction, students go through JET. The class teaches students about the effects of combat stress on the mind and body, and how to limit the negative impact. During this particular training, students confront several potential combat situations.

According to ECS Instructor Curtis Parsons, the negative effects of stress cannot be fully eliminated, but can be minimized through training, practice and experience.

“The whole course is designed to prepare individuals for a combat environment,” Parsons said. “But even those who have been in a combat environment before tell us they feel more confident when they graduate from this course.”



NMCB 40

'Fighting Forty' Knocks Out Operation Bearing Duel

By MC2 Ian Lundy, NMCB 40 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 completed their battalion-level Field Training Exercise (FTX), *Operation Bearing Duel*, at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in late August.

The FTX spanned two weeks, beginning with set-up of a Logistic Support Area, security perimeter and camp in preparation for the arrival of Fighting Forty's Main Body on August 16.

Bearing Duel is a test of Seabee proficiency in all disciplines of operation, from civil engineering tasks to defensive combat measures.

"It's the only opportunity during homeport that the battalion has to exercise all of its skills in a combined effort," said CDR Glenn Hubbard, commanding officer, NMCB 40.

Seabees tested Chemical Biological Radiological (CBR) readiness through Mission Oriented Protective Posture drills. Evaluators from the 31st Seabee Readiness Group lit off tear gas, and battalion members were expected to don their gear in a timely manner for mission success. The battalion was also evaluated on its ability to manage the scenario through its Combat Operations Center and CBR teams.

In addition, NMCB 40's Air Detachment and the Air Force's 517th Air Lift Squadron out of Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, loaded a C-17 Load Master cargo plane during *Bearing Duel*. This marked approximately six years since one of Port Hueneme's NMCBs used a C-17 as part of its mount out during an exercise.

While constantly being aggressed and evaluated, Fighting Forty completed civil engineering tasking at Forward Operating Base Eagle, including the construction of two timber towers the Army at Fort Hunter Liggett will use for future evolutions.

"Building is one thing, but doing it while being fired at is a whole new ball game," said Constructionman Christopher Lynch, one of the crew members on the timber tower project. "I know it was just practice, but it really makes you think. It also helped me understand what I would be up against if this were real."



(Top) NMCB 40 Seabees build a girder bridge during *Operation Bearing Duel* at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in August. The FTX tested Seabee proficiency in all disciplines of operation, from civil engineering tasks to defensive combat measures.

(Above) SW3 Jon Calcagno, NMCB 40, raises his rifle in the direction of possible enemy targets during a patrol on the battalion's FTX in August.

Photos by MC2 Ian Lundy

BU3 Mark Lindsey, NMCB 40, walks through a field with his patrol at dusk on his way back to the entry control point during *Operation Bearing Duel* at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in August. Lindsey served as the communications member during his patrol, responsible for reporting all activity encountered to the Combat Operations Center.

Photo by MC2 Ian Lundy



NMCB 1

Khaki FTX Preps Chiefs, Officers

(Left) LT Adam Perrins, NMCB 1, keeps watch as his squad advances over a simulated dangerous crossing during Khaki Field Training Exercise (FTX) for chiefs and officers at Camp Shelby, Miss., in September. The week-long FTX is held to ready NMCB 1 senior leaders for contingency operations in a field environment.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon

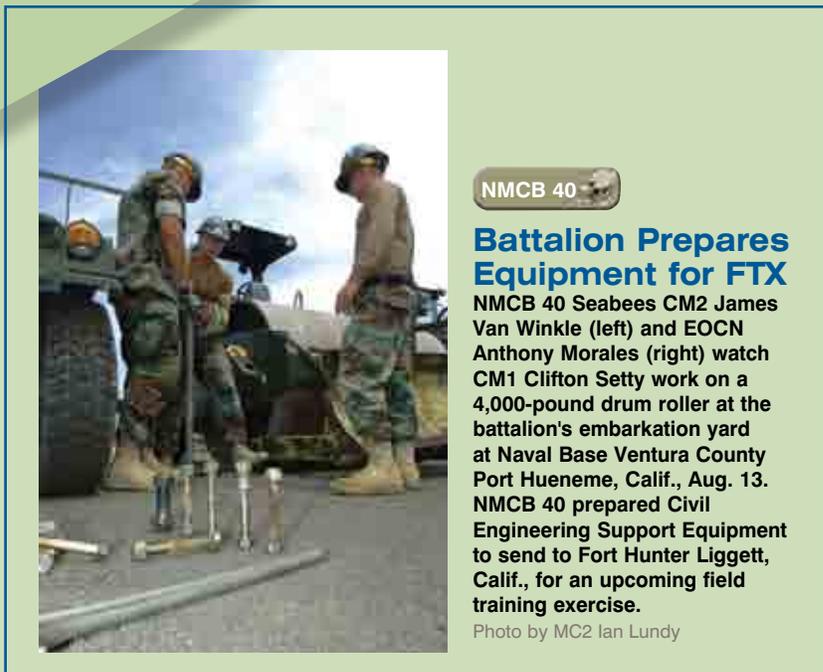
NMCB 11



H₂O Relief After Gas Mask Demo

LCDR Stephen Legg, commander, NMCB 11 Air Detachment Company, washes his face after exiting a gas-filled confidence chamber at NCBC Gulfport, Miss., in August. During Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) qualifications for an upcoming deployment, Legg removed his mask in the chamber to demonstrate the air-tight seal the masks provide when worn properly.

Photo by MC2 Erick S. Holmes



NMCB 40

Battalion Prepares Equipment for FTX

NMCB 40 Seabees CM2 James Van Winkle (left) and EOCN Anthony Morales (right) watch CM1 Clifton Setty work on a 4,000-pound drum roller at the battalion's embarkation yard at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., Aug. 13. NMCB 40 prepared Civil Engineering Support Equipment to send to Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., for an upcoming field training exercise.

Photo by MC2 Ian Lundy

NMCB 11, ACB 2 Sail Through Operation *Sea Dragon*

By ENS Matt King, ACB 2, and LT Cort Stringham, NMCB 11



During September's Operation *Sea Dragon*, an INLS Causeway Ferry and two INLS Warring Tugs assist in the positioning of the RO/RO platform during the lowering of the stern ramp on USNS *Sisler* (T-AKR 311). NMCB 11 and ACB 2 helped complete the training exercise off the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Coast, designed to display the MPF capability to conduct in-stream sea basing operations using INLS.

U.S. Navy photo

In September, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 Seabees found themselves in an unusual situation: shipped out to sea off the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. Marine Forces Command, together with Naval Beach Group 2 and the Coast Guard, completed Operation *Sea Dragon*, an exercise to display the Maritime Preposition Force (MPF) capability to conduct in-stream sea basing operations using the Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) and a Roll-on/Roll-off (RO/RO) Discharge Facility (RRDF).

Operation *Sea Dragon* incorporated all sea basing elements of an MPF Offload, including lighterage operations led by Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2 and an Offload Preparation Party (OPP) comprised of NMCB 11 Seabees and Marines from the Second Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF). The OPP included 16 Seabees from NMCB 11 who boarded the USNS *Sisler* (T-AKR 311) at Blount Island Command, Jacksonville, Fla., and sailed to Fort Story, Va., where they met up with the USS *Bataan* (LHD 5) and eight combat cargo handlers, also from NMCB 11.

NMCB 11 construction mechanics and equipment operators prepared and operated the civil engineering support equipment (CESE) onto the RRDF and INLS for movement, while the combat cargo handlers provided critical operational skills. The Coast Guard provided seaward Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection during the offload process.

Over two days, using the RO/RO and Lift-on/Lift-off methods, 11 pieces of CESE were rolled off the stern ramp and three Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements were craned directly onto the causeway ferries to test the capability and versatility of the RRDF and lighterage.

The exercise proved the capability to move Principle End Items from ship to shore via the RRDF and INLS. By using these floating facilities, the Navy and Marine Corps are capable of projecting forward in areas where geography or political climate does not allow for an extensive shore-based infrastructure.

NMCB 11

ACB 2

Editor's Note: The Fall 08 issue of Seabee Magazine featured JLOTS 2008, a Pacific version of Operation Sea Dragon.



NMCB 1

'Bees Gear Up for CBR Warfare Drill

Seabees assigned to NMCB 1 participate in a chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) warfare drill aboard NCBC Gulfport, Miss., in October. The CBR drill helps acclimate the battalion to mission oriented protective posture suits as the members prepare for field exercises, including Operation *Desert Justice*.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon



Navy corpsmen from NCBC Gulfport, Miss., train during the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course held aboard the base, Aug. 1. The course is designed to better prepare corpsman for the rigors of duty in combat situations.

Photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo

Hospital Corpsmen Stay on Top of War-time Life-saving Techniques

NMCB 133

By HMC Beverly Malm, 25th NCR

Corpsmen from Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., completed a comprehensive Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course (TCCC) conducted aboard the base, Aug. 1. The course is designed to provide up-to-date training skills based on real-life scenarios experienced during current global conflicts.

The course satisfies training required by the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) for all corpsmen deploying to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. Course completion results in official TCCC certification. The course encompasses a wide range of training, including shock management, wound care and suturing methods, as well as many other life-saving techniques.

Corpsmen tested their classroom training on simulated patients, in stifling heat and persistent rainfall. The 'patients' were volunteers from the Naval Construction Training Center's holding company, dressed with open wounds, fractures and spurring blood from life-threatening wounds. They were also coached on how to act to more realistically simulate warfare casualties. Each scenario was derived from recent instructor experiences while serving with Special Operations Forces overseas. During the real-life scenarios, corpsmen learned the most current techniques to treat immediate life-threatening injuries, as well as how to manage patients after they have been stabilized.



Seabees in Romania

NMCB 4 

NMCB 4 Detachment Leaves Its Mark In Romania

Submitted by CN Sherry Clark, CE2 (SCW) Neal Walker and Public Affairs Office, NMCB 4

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 recently completed several diverse missions with wide-ranging counterparts throughout Romania, further strengthening partnerships with Black Sea nations.

current passed through his chest, causing his heart to stop. The worker fell to the floor, unconscious and not breathing. HM2 Vanderley was the first responder and within seconds he started to perform CPR. During the aid, he performed chest



BU3 Yimi Serna, NMCB 4, works on the interior framing of a local Romanian medical facility. Seabees conducted major renovations throughout the facility to offer better health care to local townspeople in Sinoe, Romania.

U.S. Navy photo

RAILHEAD REPAIR

NMCB 4 Det. Romania began demolition of a critical railhead located a few kilometers from the Mihail Kogliniceanu Airbase, Romania, Aug. 28.

The railhead is used to load and unload military vehicles for the annual Joint Task Force East exercises. NMCB 4 will replace the existing railhead with a new reinforced concrete ramp, and attach steel angle iron plates on the vertical reinforced concrete walls to prevent deterioration of concrete corners.

“I am excited to be a part of a project in Europe,” said Builder 3rd Class Justin Keller. “I’ve already done projects in Asia and the Middle East. This is a great opportunity.”

LIFESAVING CPR

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Joshua Vanderley, NMCB 4, helped save the life of a Romanian national in Sinoe by performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in September.

In the morning hours, a local civilian worker was performing maintenance on an air conditioning unit on the Romanian Seabee camp. He was injured when a 320-volt

compressions while an Army physician intubated the patient and began ventilations. Vanderley and the Army physician worked nonstop for more than 15 minutes, performing chest compressions, ventilations and shocking the patient using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) until they were able to get his heart beating again.

“It was a team effort...to help save this man’s life,” Vanderley said. “I believe that my years of training instinctively took over and I just did my job.”

The patient was transported via ambulance to a local hospital where he recovered from the accident.

MEDICAL CLINIC

As the NMCB 4 Seabees walked through the dilapidated medical clinic to gather measurements, digital pictures and schematics in mid-September, local townspeople from the village of Sinoe

had high hopes for what these Americans could provide for their community.

Originally built during the 1940s, the structure had transformed over the years from a home to a post office and into its present-day clinic. Throughout the facility, stone heaters were the only means of warmth for doctor and patients during the harsh winters; the electrical system was far outdated, and power had since been shut off for more than 10 years. With no power, the clinic’s doctor had only been able to work twice a week during daylight hours.

Gheorghe Grameni, mayor of Sinoe, warmly welcomed the Seabees’ help by answering questions and volunteering his own workers at the town hall to help during the project.

Following the clinic’s renovations, Grameni hopes to offer Sinoe 24-hour emergency care.

LT Anthony Haverly, NMCB 4’s officer in charge, was glad to take on the work. “This is a very important project for the people of Sinoe with long-lasting effects,” he said. “Most importantly, residents can seek immediate care at all hours of the day or night.”



CMCA Bryan R. West (left) and other NMCB 11 construction mechanics from High Water Det. 1 perform maintenance on a High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle on Sept. 15, 2008. The battalion prepared to deploy from an Intermediate Support Base in Alexandria, La., to the area of impact caused by Hurricane Ike.

Photo by CM2 (SCW) Brando C. Trumbo

NMCB 11 Mobilizes for Hurricane Ike

NMCB 11

By ENS Andy Takach, NMCB 11 Bravo Company Commander, and CM2 Brandon Trumbo, NMCB 11 Public Affairs

As Hurricane Ike grew in intensity and threatened the U.S. Gulf Coast in September, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 prepared to mobilize from Gulfport, Miss., to the point of impact. Two days before the storm's landfall, the battalion was tasked to prepare a force capable of providing high-water rescue and humanitarian relief in the wake of the hurricane's possible destruction. The requirements to accomplish the mission consisted of more than 70 high-water vehicles and the ability to self-sustain throughout the operation.

Divided into two High Water Details (H/W Det. 1 and H/W Det. 2), NMCB 11 staged 91 vehicles, loaded with a 250-man tent camp (including power generation and utilities), various debris removal equipment, and enough food and water to last one week. Since a majority of the vehicles and equipment were not organic to NMCB 11, several units aboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport began 24-hour operations in support of the battalion's mission. By the morning of Sept. 13, new equipment had been pulled from the warehouse, inspected and signed over to NMCB 11 with all the required gear mobile-loaded and vehicles parked in a staging area.

During the afternoon of Sept. 13, NMCB 11 received an Execution Order to deploy H/W Det. 1 to a staging area, located at England Industrial Airpark in Alexandria, La. The team stepped off in a convoy consisting of 88 personnel and 44 vehicles en route to its destination. Several challenges involving breakdowns of the brand-new vehicles were met and overcome along the way. Vehicles were repaired and towed at several

locations, but only one of the 27 High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles did not make it to Alexandria. It was recovered and returned to NCBC Gulfport for maintenance. The detail received a great deal of support from an Army National Guard unit in Baton Rouge, La., where the convoy stopped to refuel.

The convoy finally arrived in the early morning hours of Sept. 14. Team members were given berthing aboard an Intermediate Support Base in the airpark. Upon arrival, they fell under the Operational Control of U.S. Army Task Force 52 (TF 52), and waited for further tasking. For

two days, while the Army and the state of Texas assessed damages, H/W Det. 1 continued preparations to move in and provide relief. Vehicle checks and maintenance were performed constantly, training was conducted and the Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration process was completed for the proposed Area of Operations.

On Sept. 16, however, damage assessments were nearing completion, and Texas had not yet requested federal assistance for the storm. TF 52 issued the order for the detail to re-deploy to Gulfport.

Even though NMCB 11 did not have the opportunity to execute the intended mission, the battalion and many other units aboard NCBC Gulfport gained valuable experience and knowledge through the preparation and movement phases. The lessons learned will better prepare the Seabees for future missions, including humanitarian relief, contingency operations and deployment.

Gulf Coast

Seabees on the



NMCB 4

Seabees Lend a Hand at Bahamas School

By LT Clinton Roy, NMCB 4 Det. Andros

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 deployed to Andros Islands, Bahamas, to support construction requirements for the Southern Command earlier this year. During their deployment they constructed a single-story housing facility with 10 private living areas, the 16th housing unit built by Seabees on Andros in support of the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEK) mission.

NMCB 4 Seabees also brought smiles to the faces of children after installing a new commercial playground at the AUTEK school on Andros in August.

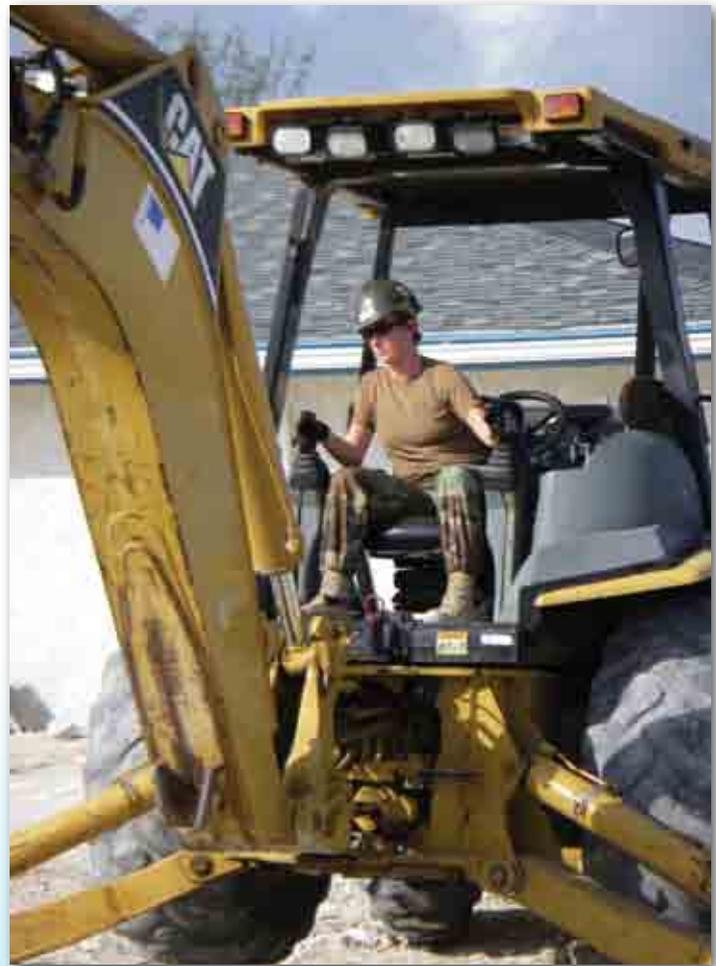
All the students were very thankful for NMCB 4's help. "I had the kids write five things they liked about the AUTEK school, and they all put the new playground equipment as number one or number two on the list," said Stephanie Chatham, principal.

NMCB 4 completed the installation in two days, culminating with a community fish fry at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Construction Electrician 3rd Class Trayvosier Roddy felt a real sense of accomplishment saying, "Seeing the little kids' faces at the ribbon cutting ceremony made it all worthwhile."

(Right) EO3 Paula Miller, NMCB 4, operates a backhoe during the trenching phase of underground utility placement as the battalion constructed a single-story housing facility on Andros Islands, Bahamas, in support of the AUTEK mission.

Photo by BU2 (SCW) Leeann Schott



WWII Veterans and CAT 133-24 Remember the Fallen

NMCB 133

By EA2 Keith Casey, NMCB 133

With the many solemn ceremonies marking the passing of Sept. 11, few people realize that just four days later is another day remembered by a much smaller and ever-dwindling group – America's World War II (WWII) veterans.

September 15, 1944 marked the beginning of combat operations on the island of Peleliu in WWII, and is now a day of somber remembrance for the few remaining U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Army veterans who participated in the battle. Peleliu, a small island in the western Pacific Ocean, is now part of the Republic of Palau.

Due to the passage of time, many survivors of the battle with the highest casualty rate in America's Pacific campaign are no longer with us. Thus, the Seabees of Civic Action Team (CAT)

133-24, a detachment from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, were especially honored to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Peleliu with two veterans of the battle, and the children of a third.

Seabees on

Peleliu

CAT 133-24 led a small ceremony at the 1st Marine Division Monument on Bloody Nose Ridge on Peleliu, Sept. 15. The Ridge was the scene of the fiercest Japanese resistance during the 73-day struggle for control of Peleliu. On the anniversary date, Seabees, Marine veterans and their families, and the Peleliu State Rangers gathered to honor the

thousands of young men who fought desperately for more than two months to control the rocky isle.

The veterans present at the ceremony, all members of the 7th Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division (Reinforced), included Pvt. 1st Class William Parish, 60 mm Mortar Platoon, E-Company, 27th Battalion; Sgt. Phillip Mayer, Combat Engineer, C-Company, 1st Engineering Battalion; and the family of Pvt. 1st Class Alfred Lomeli, L-Company, 3rd Battalion. Lomeli, who was not well enough to make the trip, was represented by his son and daughters.

After placing his memorial wreath at the 1st Marine Division Monument, Mayer related what he and his unit experienced during their time on Peleliu. "I am happy to be here in the shape I am in with my son on the 64th anniversary," he said. He

UCT 1

Divers Support U.S. Sub Force with Acoustic Measurement System at Andros

By EO1 Nicholas J. Gegg, UCT 1 Public Affairs

Seabees on Andros



UCT 1 divers attach a grip stopper to the cable on the ocean floor during a project on Andros Island, Bahamas, to perform work on an acoustic measurement system.

Photo by EO1 Nicholas Gegg

Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 Air Detachment Alfa joined forces with Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center (NFESC) and Motor Vessel (MV) *Richard L. Becker*, (a civilian salvage ship), to install a new acoustic measurement system at Andros Island, Bahamas. The project, key to supporting the U.S. Submarine Force, replaced a ship-deployed portable acoustic measurement system with a fixed cable array system.

“Stealth is the submarine’s most important tactical advantage,” said LT Li Sung, executive officer, UCT 1. “Force protection and mission success depend on how well the Navy maintains the quality of submarine stealth.”

STAFAC (South Tongue of the Ocean Acoustic Facility) provides specialized, quality assurance services for assessing the stealth of all existing submarine classes, as well as the planned SSGN, a nuclear-powered cruise missile class submarine.

“UCT 1’s work is essential to maintaining Navy submarine superiority and advancing under-sea warfare,” Sung said.

Air Detachment Alfa combined efforts with other teams to land the ground and trunk cable, starting two miles out at sea and ending at the Mesa Vault on Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center Site 1. Detachment Alfa divers executed all diving operations during the shore side of the project and also operated on a junction box from MV *Becker* approximately 90 nautical miles off the coast of Andros Island.

was followed by Parish, who recalled he knew that things weren’t going well when their battalion, originally to be held in reserve, was committed on the opening day of the battle. Lomeli’s family also shared the story of his experiences during the battle.

Once the service concluded, the group shifted to the 81st Infantry Division Memorial on Orange Beach for a second ceremony. The memorial marks the site of a former American military cemetery, as well as the location of one of the original invasion landing beaches.

After laying a wreath at the base of the lone remaining white cross in the former cemetery, Parish stated, “I did what I could do to the best of my ability. I was happy to be able to come back.”

Lomeli’s daughter, Rhonda Hammons, said, “I am here to honor my father and all the veterans who sacrificed so much. As a Marine, he taught us what commitment and honor really are.”



Members of Civic Action Team (CAT) 133-24 gather with two WWII veterans of the Battle of Peleliu at the former American military cemetery on Orange Beach, during a ceremony marking the anniversary of the battle, on Sept. 15. Orange Beach was one of the original landing sites of U.S. forces on the island of Peleliu, now the Republic of Palau, on Sept. 15, 1944.

U.S. Navy photo



Seabee Divers Ramp Up for Bridge Demo at Fort Hunter Liggett

By MCC Shane Montgomery (FMF/SW/AW), Public Affairs Officer, Pacific Fleet Seabees



Air Detachment Bravo divers from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 completed construction of a boat ramp at California’s Fort Hunter Liggett’s Hughes Reservoir, Aug. 21. Air Det Charlie divers completed demolition of a bridge on the Army Post on the same day.

Both projects were tasked as part of the unit’s two-week Field Training Exercise (FTX), where the divers supported a notional First Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) currently battling the forces of ‘Centralia’ as they attempted to take over the country of ‘Coastland.’

BOAT RAMP

“In the scenario we are playing, the boat ramp is being built for I MEF so they can launch assault craft to patrol over the water,” said Chief Steelworker Marvin Oliver, Air Detachment Bravo’s officer in charge. “The bonus to building for the exercise is that in reality, the boat ramp will be used for recreation as a quality-of-life upgrade for Fort Hunter Liggett.”

Seabees in

California



Before UCT 2 began construction, the ramp was a four-foot-wide dirt ramp. The team doubled its size and placed concrete and gravel to provide a more stable surface for launching water craft. The project included a rotating three-person crew and took three days to complete.

“Having someone use [what] we build is a good feeling,” said Equipment Operator 1st Class Manuel Torrero, excavator operator for the project. “I love what I do.”

BRIDGE DEMO

“The idea is that the enemy is using the route to put vehicles in this area and we are blowing this bridge to disable that capability,” said Steelworker 2nd Class Liam O’Brien, Charlie Detachment’s bridge demolition team leader. “Because of the nature of what we are doing out here, safety is the most important thing we do.”

The 11-person team rigged the bridge with C-4 explosives with oversight from two range safety officers and multiple evaluators.

“Teamwork is important with demolition,” said O’Brien. “We have to be able to trust each other. They need to know what I am thinking, so we rehearse multiple times before ever coming into the field.”

“The demolition was successful,” said LT Daniel Wall, UCT 2’s executive officer and evaluator for the demolition project. “The team got a lot out of the training and every small success like this one continues to make all of our teams better.”

UCT 2 plays out a notional bridge demolition scenario during a two-week FTX at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., in August. In a real-world situation, the destruction of the bridge would be performed to slow down the approach of enemy forces.

Photo by MCC (FMF/SW/AW) Shane Montgomery

Battalion Updates

SEABEES AROUND THE WORLD

Seabees in Texas

NMCB 22



U.S. Navy photo

'Professionals' Conduct Real-time Training on San Nicolas Island

By NMCB 5 Public Affairs

NMCB 5 (Above) Through on-the-job training, NMCB 5 Seabees finalized construction of a Butler Pre-Engineered Building (PEB) on San Nicolas Island, Calif., Sept. 25. The completed building serves as a storage facility for the island's Public Works Department.

With multiple home improvement stores just minutes away from Port Hueneme, it is difficult to emulate an isolated project site. However, NMCB 5 found San Nicolas Island, located roughly 60 miles off the California coast, the perfect spot for such a task. The island is used by the military to track and test weapons systems, and is vital to America's national defense.

The project gave junior troops the chance to polish their trade skills, as well as provided an early snapshot of how construction battalions function during overseas deployments. It also gave senior petty officers the opportunity to serve as officers in charge, which is vital to their development as future leaders in construction project management.



CM1 Jose Delgado (left) and EOCN Joanna Svensson, NMCB 22, dig out a eucalyptus stump as the battalion participated in a community service project to renovate three 20-foot by 75-foot greenhouses at the Dallas County Youth Village Facility, in mid-July. In addition to providing guidance and instruction during the project, Seabees served as positive role models for the program's youth.

U.S. Navy photo



Seabees in Cambodia

NMCB 40



(Above) SW3 Zachariah Francis (right), NMCB 40, shows rebar bending techniques to their counterparts from the Cambodian Royal Navy, in Cambodia's Sihanoukville Province in early September. Both U.S. and Cambodian navies worked side by side as part of the Engineering and Medical Civic Action Programs (EN/MEDCAP). During the mission, the team constructed and renovated three schools, and built a new in-patient medical ward.

(Below) BU3 Dan Jones and NMCB 40 colleagues work on putting up an overhead form for an in-patient clinic in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, during EN/MEDCAP.

Photos by MC2 Ian Lundy



Seabees in Africa

NMCB 4

Seabees Aid in Rescue of U.S. Ambassador

By SW3 Siamac Moghaddam, NMCB 4 Det. Sao Tome Public Affairs

In one of the worst downpours in recent Sao Tomean history, Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 answered the State Department's call for help on Oct. 25, rescuing several personnel, including the U.S. ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome. NMCB 4 is deployed to Sao Tome and Principe in support of African Partnership Station.

That day, the tiny island nation of Sao Tome and Principe was suddenly hit by a major tropical storm. The storm closed Route Nacional 1, the sole road connecting the capital city of Sao Tome with the southern half of the country, due to a heavy mudslide.

At the time, Ambassador Eunice Reddick, her staff and the mayor of the city of Angolares were returning from the southern end of Sao Tome when they encountered a mudslide that completely covered the road. The mudslide closed the only passage north, stranding the entourage for more than five hours in pouring rain and 30 meters of waist-high mud.

After evaluating the situation, the defense attaché contacted the Seabee team. Steelworker 1st Class (SCW) Eugene Burston, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW/FMF) Wade Pendley, Equipment Operator 2nd Class (SCW) Kenneth Hoffman and Constructionman Donald Guffey volunteered to help.

NMCB 4 personnel loaded up in two half-ton pick-ups and traveled approximately 30 kilometers at night down a winding mountain jungle road in the middle of a tropical storm with limited visibility. After discovering the mudslide, Seabees ran a chain from a truck and walked across the mud field with only the help of flashlights to provide a chain hold for people to cross.

"The Seabees personally came to our aid, and escorted and carried us across the mud field. Approximately 50 civilians were able to cross to safety," wrote Reddick in an e-mail. All the while, they disregarded their personal safety to ensure the safety of myself and my entourage in spite of a worsening storm and the real threat of another mudslide."

New Schoolhouse to Spark Learning for Comoros Island Town Students

By MC2 (SCW/SW/AW) Ronald Gutridge, NMCB 4 Det. HOA Public Affairs

“Winning the hearts and minds” is exactly what 14 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 are accomplishing as they build a new addition for the Hamramba School to benefit the children of the Comoros island town of Moroni.

Comoros consists of a group of seven islands in the Mozambique Channel, about two-thirds of the way between northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique. The capital is Moroni, located on Grande Comore, the largest of the islands.

Through the new schoolhouse, the Seabees will provide students age six through 16 with updated facilities more conducive to learning. Once completed in July 2009, Hamramba School will have two new buildings, each with two classrooms, a storage area and an office space. A separate bathroom facility will also be constructed.

The Seabees completed the excavation for all three buildings by hand, requiring the removal of massive amounts of lava rock. Once the excavation was complete, team members constructed steel reinforced concrete foundations. Due to space restrictions on school property, the use of heavy construction equipment was limited. As a result, all concrete for the foundation had to be hand-mixed and placed using buckets and wheelbarrows.

“This project is different from any other of its kind,” said Builder 1st Class (SCW) Adam Beardsley, project supervisor, NMCB 4’s Det. Comoros. “Since the earth we are working with is 90% lava rock, and with the limited space, the challenges are unlimited. However, it will provide my crew with the knowledge and experience to execute future projects of this nature.”



SW3 Troy Franklin (left) and CE3 Travis Yzenski, NMCB 4 Det. Comoros, assemble concrete rebar re-enforcement beams to be used on a school construction project in the Comoros island town of Moroni.

Photo by MC2 (SCW/SW/AW) Ronald Gutridge



NMCB 4

Seabees Help Open Primary School in Ethiopia

(Left) Seabees of NMCB 4 Det. Addis Ababa attend the dedication ceremony of the Abadir Primary School, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Oct. 16. NMCB 4 continued the school refurbishing project after it was turned over by NMCB 74 in August.

Seabees upgraded all facilities at the Abadir school, including roof repair, electrical wiring and lights, and tile and plumbing fixtures. New paint was also applied to the school's interior, as well as a fresh surface for the exterior.

Photo by MC2 (SCW/SW/AW) Ronald Gutridge

SEA CADETS: 'BEEES IN TRAINING

Home at Last: NMCB 23 Adopts a Local Sea Cadet Unit

About two years ago, the Alexandria Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) was in a real predicament. Due to the expansion of U.S. Coast Guard operations after 9/11, the unit had to leave its home at the Telecommunications and Information Systems Command in Alexandria, Va.

Luckily, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 at Fort Belvoir, Va., took us in, clothed us, and even gave us our own office and supply shed. Instead of the U.S. Navy utility uniform, we are allowed to wear the Battle Dress Utilities (BDUs) since that is what the Seabees wear.

A while back, we were invited to join in the Seabee Rodeo. Thanks to the training NMCB 23 gave us, Alexandria Division's team beat some of the Seabee teams! They support us in our activities, too. NMCB 23's commanding officer, command master chief and chaplain attended our annual awards ceremony. Since they do so much for us, we try to give a little back in return. Sea Cadets stand watch at the quarterdeck, and do morning and afternoon colors.

We've now been with the Seabees for two years, and the relationship between Alexandria Division and NMCB 23 is definitely the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

*By PO2 Genevieve Bee,
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps*



Sea Cadets and Navy League Cadets at Camp Covington, Guam, receive TOA weapons familiarization during boot camp from GM2 Dillon Moore, NMCB 133's Guam Det. armory leading petty officer.

U.S. Navy photo

Young 'Recruits' Experience 'Bee Boot Camp

By LTJG Timothy N. Marinelli, NAVFAC Marianas

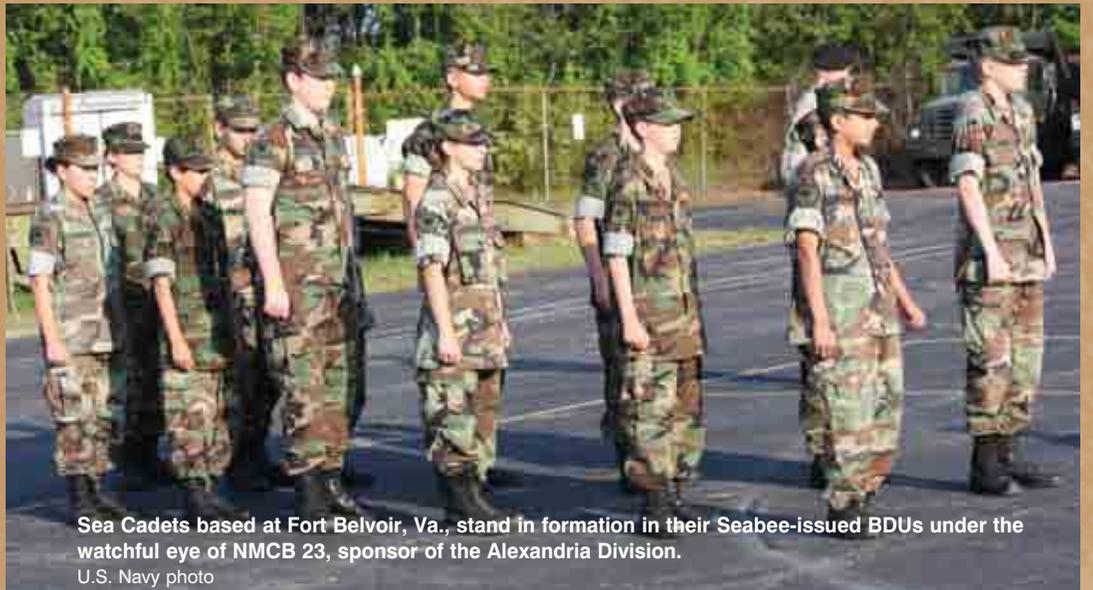
During two weeks in July, Camp Covington is the home of boot camp training for Guam's Naval Sea Cadets and Navy League Cadets. The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), a program for American youth ages 13 to 17, and the Navy League Cadet Corps, whose members range in age from 11 to 13, both give young people a chance to learn more about Navy life. NSCC was created in 1958.

Across the nation, cadets participate in various programs including seamanship, airman, medical and marksmanship; sailing and SCUBA schools; and, of course, Seabee training. Guam's Sea Cadets spent part of the summer at Camp Covington's boot camp. With the help of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion

(NMCB) 133, cadets learn about the Seabees, taking part in a variety of drills, NMCB Table of Allowance (TOA) weapons and tactical vehicle familiarization.

"The recruits [have] a great time, even though it's boot camp," said Instructor Robert Perez, operations officer, NSCC. "[This year] several even asked to stay an extra few weeks!"

According to LTJG Tim Marinelli, commanding officer for the summer training, "A big part of our success is due to support from NMCB 133. Boot camp would not be the same without living in the barracks, eating at a galley and being able to PT at 0500. The Seabees of NMCB 133 and Camp Covington have provided all of this and more."



Sea Cadets based at Fort Belvoir, Va., stand in formation in their Seabee-issued BDUs under the watchful eye of NMCB 23, sponsor of the Alexandria Division.

U.S. Navy photo

For more information about the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Navy League Cadet Corps, visit www.seacadets.org.

SEABEES BUILD WITH "BOB"



Bob the Builder™ is surrounded by NCTC "A" school students, staff members and young people during a community involvement project at a local discovery center in Gulfport, Miss., in late September.

U.S. Navy photo

By UT1 James Penney, NCTC Gulfport

Students and staff from Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Gulfport kicked off a community involvement project with children at a local discovery center with special guest, "Bob the Builder™," Sept. 27.

Twenty-four builder and steel-worker "A" school students, along with eight NCTC staff members, guided children through many activities at the center. Dozens of stations provided interactive play encouraging children to learn about science, culture, nature and art.

Bob the Builder's programs highlighted the day's events. Navy students joined the popular character on stage to talk to the children about building and serving in the military. Bob presented the kids with golden hammers for their "Can Do" spirit.

Navy Knowledge On-Line:

How are we doing?

While the Center for Seabees and Facilities & Engineering (CSFE) is one of the smaller learning centers, your participation and feedback to our Navy Knowledge On-Line (NKO) initiatives has established us as one of the top five centers for uploads, downloads and monthly page-hit counts.

Since August, the Knowledge Management (KM) team has created an even more robust Navy Knowledge On-Line (NKO) resource through feedback provided via "Ask the Chief" threaded discussions, post-deployment surveys, emails from the troops, end-of-course critiques and various other communication channels.

However, we still want to know how we're doing with content, communication responses, and any other ideas or suggestions you may have. Our goal is to improve our KM team and provide products that help you and your team accomplish your goals and achieve your mission.

Please take a few moments to complete a brief customer satisfaction survey so we can capture and incorporate your suggestions and ideas in 2009.

www.quia.com/sv/215077.html

Thanks for keeping CSFE on top!
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.



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Happy 233rd
Birthday!



United States Navy
10/10/1775 – 10/10/2008

United States Marine Corps
11/10/1775 – 11/10/2008

FEBRUARY

FEB 27 – MAR 1 Hampton, VA
**EAST COAST
ALL SEABEE REUNION**

MINI REUNIONS

ACB 1; NMCBs 1, 3, 5, 6,
10, 23, 62, 74, 133, 121;
CBMU 302; SEABEE TEAM
1024; 3RD NCB; 30TH, 31ST AND
32ND NCRs; NAVAL ADVISORY
GROUP - VIETNAM; NSA/NSF
DANANG SEABEES; NSA SAIGON
SEABEES; HEDSUPPACT –
SAIGON;
PWD EDZELL SCOTLAND
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For a complete list of reunions,
visit www.allseabees.com
or the Seabee Historical
Foundation at
www.seabeehf.org.

By CMDM (SCW) Wade C. Howk, First Naval Construction Division



U.S. Navy photo

1NCD Strategic Plan Creates Road Map for Leaders, Units and Troops

It is truly a great time to be a Seabee.

Over the last few years, the Seabees have been involved in some very important efforts around the world. From unconventional duties such as operating Convoy Security Elements in Iraq, to humanitarian missions in the Horn of Africa and Pacific region, Seabees have been intimately involved in carrying out a number of the Navy's most important global initiatives. We have also been called upon here at home on more than one occasion to help our families up and down the Gulf Coast. Seabees are writing new history every day and your performance has been recognized as nothing short of outstanding.

Now we will take time to focus our efforts. The leadership of the Naval Construction Force has completed our Strategic Plan which defines the goals and objectives for our Force over the next three years.

It is important that all Seabees understand we must constantly adapt and improve to meet the demands of the future. Remember that we never change our core values, our heritage and most of all our "Can Do" spirit. This plan is a road map designed to help ensure that we stay focused on the right things, and that we are properly aligned as we continue to progress in a forward direction.

Through 1NCD's Strategic Plan and with your support, all Seabees will know and understand where the Force is headed, and together we will build upon the legacy of the past as we march into the future.

So, take time to read over the Strategic Plan at www.seabee.navy.mil. A pocket-sized version of the plan will be distributed soon to all Seabees. Carry it with you as a reminder that everything we do is directly linked to our Force, our Navy and our national strategic efforts. Thanks for what you do, and have a great Seabee day.



1NCD Strategic Plan, 2008-2011

Construimus ☆ Batuimus



BEE CAM

A Seabee assigned to NMCB 1 pauses during construction on a forward operating base in Iraq, Feb. 22, 2008.
Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon