



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN SAILOR AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

Roll up your sleeves! Creating an elite naval force, and everything that goes along with it, takes time, perseverance, and creative minds. In the Navy, the labor of the Seabees supports sailors and Marines around the world. At the museum, staff and volunteers bring the muscle to create new galleries and exciting educational events. Stop by this month to discover renovated museum spaces. Bring the kids for "Bricks and Bluejackets: A LEGO® Event," where they can construct Navy-inspired LEGO® designs. And check out the latest episode of *Scuttlebutt and a Cup o' Joe* to go behind the scenes of Naval Station Great Lakes with Executive Officer, Captain Kenneth Williams.

"The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes - eh - a little bit longer."

- WORLD WAR II ERA SEABEES MOTTO

Sailor Spotlight: Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin Shields



Image courtesy of National Archives

In February 1965, CM3 Marvin Shields deployed with his Seabee battalion to Saigon. While constructing a runway for a camp of Green Berets, Shields' team was suddenly attacked. Shields was wounded within the first strike, but ignored his wounds to carry ammunition to comrades. The Green Berets and Seabees repulsed attacks throughout the day. Shields was wounded a second time before joining Special Forces 2nd LT Charles Williams in a seemingly deadly mission to knock out the enemy's machine gun. The men survived to fight on. However, by morning, Shields was among the men killed in the attack. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson posthumously awarded Shields the Medal of Honor.

Who are the Seabees? In 1941, the Navy officially established the naval construction battalions, or CBs. Later named the Seabees, this hardworking group is responsible for building shore establishments all over the world and for aiding amphibious operations. Discover more with the [U.S. Navy Seabee Museum](#).

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