

**Archives Branch**  
**Naval History and Heritage Command**  
**805 Kidder Breese Street, SE**  
**Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060**

**Processor:** Updated March 2011 and original collection processed June 2003.

# **Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center**

## **1945-1991**

### **COLL/483**

**Creator:** Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center

**Extent:** Total boxes: 5  
Cubic feet: 2

**Inclusive Dates:** 1945-1991

**Access:** Open to the public.

**Classification:** The collection had an initial "Declassification Review" followed by a Kyl-Lott review in February 2003. All records were declassified in full.

#### **Scope and Content Notes**

##### **Historical Note**

The vast training camp built at Davisville, Rhode Island in 1942 provided more than 100,000 men of the U.S. Navy's Construction Battalions, better known as "Seabees," with construction training during World War II. During the Vietnam conflict, eight Naval Mobile Construction Battalions representing some 4,000 Seabees were homeported at Davisville, in addition to 1,200 civilians.

Named in honor of Rear Admiral Mordecai T. Endicott, the first Civil Engineer Corps Officer to be appointed Chief of the former Bureau of Yards and Docks, Camp Endicott (later established as the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Davisville) was also the birthplace of the Quonset Hut. These semi-cylindrically shaped, prefabricated, portable buildings were designed and produced at Davisville and shipped to various places throughout the world. Because of its design and worldwide dispersion, the Quonset Hut is considered one of the most universal structures in the world.

The Camp Endicott Historical District at Davisville was established to preserve some of these structures as well as a portion of the former Camp that played a vital role in World War II. The seven-acre District, located at the southern boundary of the Center, contains 17 huts that are currently used by the NCBC Supply Department and a Navy Tenant Activity.

**Scope and Content Note (continued)**

This collections contains items from Camp Endicott Naval Construction Battalion Center in Davisville, Rhode Island. These items are reports from the Camp during its operational years, an instruction on the base's public affairs program, information on Quonset huts, over three decades of the Center's newspaper, the *Yardarm*, and maps of the Center.

The collection is organized in four series. The first (Series I), Naval Construction Battalion Center contains the Annual Naval Report, the public affairs instruction, and a Bureau of Yards and Docks (BuDocks) conference report from 1956.

Series II holds information on Quonset huts. Included are news clippings and a history of the Quonset hut, compiled by Everett E. McEwen in November 1986.

The third series is made up of publications. It contains almost three decades of the Center's newspaper, *the Yardarm*, *Yankee Homes* magazine, and the April/May/June 1976 issue of NMCB 10's *Profile* newsletter.

Series four, Maps and Plans, contains the Naval Advance Base Depot Davisville, Rhode Island General Plot Plan; Camp Endicott Diagram; U.S. Naval Advance Base Depot General Plan Showing Land Takings, 6 November 1945; an existing conditions map of Quonset Point Naval Air Station and Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center, 1971; a map produced by the Rhode Island Port Authority and Economic Development Corporation 1991; and a plan of Camp Thomas.

### **Subject Headings (LCSH)**

Naval Construction Battalion Center (Davisville, R.I.)  
Buildings, Prefabricated.

## **Box and Folder List**

### **Box 1**

Series I: Naval Construction Battalion Center Davisville, RI	1956-1989
1. Annual Naval Report in Rhode Island	1988-1989
2. Public Affairs Program	1988
3. Report on Conferences in BuDocks	1956
Series II: Quonset Huts, 1962-1991	
4. Articles	1962-1991
5. History	1986
Series III : Publications, 1958-1990	
6. Profile	1976

### **Box 2**

Series III: Publications (Oversize), 1958-1990	
7. Yankee Homes	1987
8. Yardarm	1958
9. Yardarm	1959
10. Yardarm	1960
11. Yardarm	1961

12. Yardarm	1962
13. Yardarm	1963
14. Yardarm	1964

### **Box 3**

Series III: Publications (Oversize), 1958-1990

15. Yardarm	1965
16. Yardarm	1966
17. Yardarm	1967
18. Yardarm	1968
19. Yardarm	1969
20. Yardarm	1970

### **Box 4**

Series III: Publications (Oversize), 1958-1990

21. Yardarm	1971
22. Yardarm	1972
23. Yardarm	1973

### **Box 5**

Series III: Publications (Oversize), 1958-1990

24. Yardarm	1974
25. Yardarm	1980
26. Yardarm	1982
27. Yardarm	1984
28. Yardarm	1988
29. Yardarm	1989
30. Yardarm	1990

### **Mapcase 7, Drawer 8**

Series IV: Maps and Plans, 1945-1991

31. Naval Advance Base Depot Davisville, RI General Plot Plan, including Fire & Storage Zones, Air Raid Control Centers, Watch Towers, Emergency Telephones, Water Lines	
32. Camp Endicott Diagram	
33. U.S. Naval Advance Base Depot Davisville, RI General Plan Showing Land Takings	1945
34. Map of Naval Air Station Quonset Point, RI and Naval Construction Battalion Center Davisville showing existing conditions	1971
35. Rhode Island Port Authority and Economic Development Corporation	1991
36. Camp Thomas Diagram	