

UNITED STATES NAVY

SEABEE

SPRING 2009

READINESS IN ACTION

ALSO INSIDE:

Seabees in Afghanistan
CEC Officer Killed on IA Assignment

NMCBs 1, 5, 14, 15 Earn 'E' for Efficiency

Naval Heritage Center Kicks Off
Year of the Seabees/CEC



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FEATURES



3 Readiness in Action

Small unit inspections, exercises, operations and simulations prepare Seabees for the real world on U.S. soil, allied territories and foreign lands.



ON THE COVER

SWCA Isaiah Halverson, NMCB 5, scans the tree line during an enemy small arms assault on his position at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 11. During this field training exercise, NMCB 5 Seabees faced simulated chemical, biological and radiological missile attacks, as well as guerilla warfare, to prepare the battalion for upcoming missions.

Photo by
MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

21 Seabees in Afghanistan

As battalions build forward operating bases in support of the 20,000-plus troop surge into southern Afghanistan, a CEC officer is killed during Individual Augmentee (IA) assignment.



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SPRING09



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NMCBs 1, 5, 14 and 15 earn the Battle Efficiency Award for overall readiness of the command to carry out its assigned wartime tasks.



32 Seabees/CEC Begin a "New Year"

Naval Heritage Center in Washington, D.C. kicks off "Year of the Seabees/Civil Engineer Corps" on April 4.

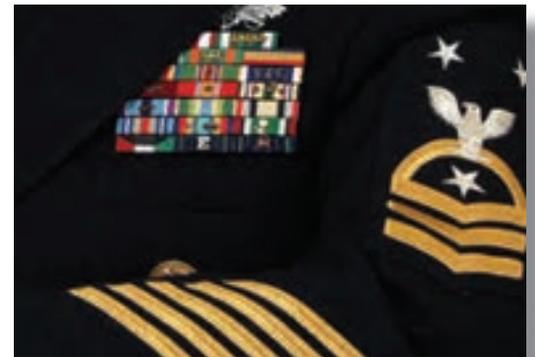
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FINAL WORD

NAVFAC's FORCM(SCW) Mike Holdcraft reminds Seabees to live the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment, understand the Navy Ethos and never forget the "Can Do!" spirit of leadership and professionalism.

We must instill in our uniformed and civilian force a focus on mission and individual readiness that is underpinned by our Navy ethos.

ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations
CNO Guidance for 2009 – Executing our Maritime Strategy

Our first issue of the new year highlights readiness, from small unit tactics to larger-scale exercises and operations to combat simulations – all in preparation for real-world military, humanitarian and disaster relief scenarios. A constant state of readiness – sustainment of a well-manned, trained and equipped force for effective employment – has facilitated the redeployment of Seabee battalions to Afghanistan. In the past year, Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 3, 4, 5, 7, 11 and 14 have built forward operating bases in support of the 20,000-plus troop surge into the southern part of the country.

Following the cover feature, you may also notice a few changes throughout Seabee Magazine. In addition to several new design elements we've created three sections which correspond to capabilities in the Maritime Strategy: Forward Presence, Humanitarian and Disaster Relief.

We salute NMCBs 1, 5, 14 and 15 for coming out on top as Battle 'E' recipients for 2008. Read about their secrets to success in Awards & Commendations. Seabees in World War II are spotlighted in Heritage as they crossed the Rhine River with General George Patton, and even helped deliver a baby named "Sea Bee" a month after D-Day in France.

FORCM(SCW) Mike Holdcraft writes about 'Leadership' in the Final Word. Mentor, counsel, advise, inspire, guide – all qualities of successful leaders. Knowing your chain of command is the first step in developing professional relationships with leaders. "Your Enlisted Leadership at a Glance" will help Seabees connect with command master chiefs.

The Naval Heritage Center kicked off the "Year of the Seabees/CEC" April 4 at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The year-long celebration features exhibits, book signings, films, discussion panels and Seabee construction equipment. Through both interactive and static displays at the museum, the public will learn more about the history and mission of the Seabees, CEC and NAVFAC.

On a somber note, we pay tribute to one of our fallen comrades in this issue. LTJG Francis L. Toner IV, NAVFAC Hawaii, died March 27 in Afghanistan while serving as an Individual Augmentee (IA) through the Civil Engineer Corps.

Sincerely,



George L. Markfelder, USN (Ret.)
Team Leader, Seabee Magazine

UNITED STATES NAVY

SEABEE

MAGAZINE

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

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Current subscription prices are \$25 per year or \$7 per issue FPO/APO/domestic and \$36 per year or \$9.80 per issue to foreign destinations.

Paid-subscriber address changes or corrections may be sent via instructions above.

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EDITORIAL

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

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Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5065

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READINESS IN ACTION

Readiness and the Maritime Strategy

Source – A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower, October 2007

Preventing wars is as important as winning wars. However, balancing the requirements for continued peacetime engagement and proficiency in the critical skills necessary to fighting and winning in combat is not a perfect science.

U.S. maritime forces continue to enhance our ability to prevent war, win the long struggle against terrorist networks, positively influence world events and ease the impact of disasters. Of course, these critical tasks are carried out by our people – the key to success in any military strategy. And, training, education and tools are continually provided to our Seabees and Sailors to ensure their readiness to promote peace and prevail in conflict.

The basics of readiness begin in the small unit with inspections, and moves forward with exercises, operations and simulations – all in preparation for the real world as we protect our vital interests both on U.S. soil, allied territories and foreign lands.

SWCA Isaiah Halverson, NMCB 5, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 11.
Photo by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

Readiness Begins: 1NCD Fleet Response Plan Paves Training Roadmap

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

Used for all Seabee training efforts, the First Naval Construction Division's (1NCD's) Fleet Response Training Plan (F RTP) ensures the right numbers of Seabee units are available to deploy within 30 days, with additional units available within 45-90 days to support urgent requirements. The F RTP aligns with the Fleet Response Plan (FRP), a deliberate process to ensure continuous availability of trained, ready Navy forces capable of a surge response forward on short notice while meeting forward presence requirements. It is designed to optimize the return on training and ensure units and forces are trained and certified in defined, progressive levels.

The F RTP consists of four phases: Maintenance, Basic, Integrated and Sustainment:

MAINTENANCE – Begins soon after the unit completes deployment. Focuses on individual/team training and manning of personnel.

BASIC – Focuses on completion of Unit-Level Training (ULT) requirements, specialized schools, team training, unit-level exercises, unit work-ups, Field Training Exercise, unit assessments and certifications.

INTEGRATED/ADVANCE – Focuses on coordinated operations with other forces in challenging, multidimensional environments.

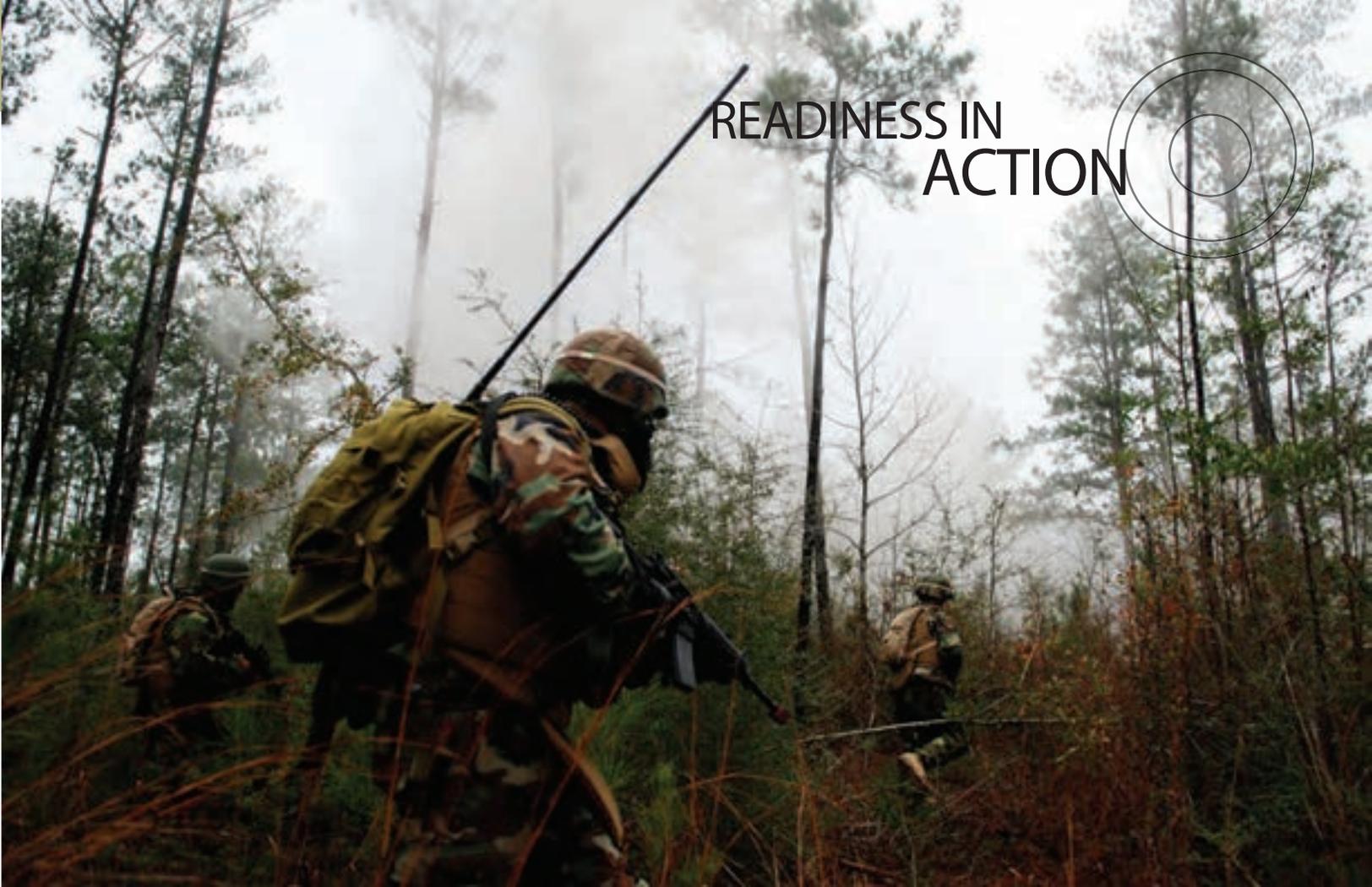
SUSTAINMENT – Focuses on executing a unit's full range of expeditionary capabilities.

These phases lead units progressively through individual, team and unit training evolutions to achieve the required unit warfighting capability. It is a flexible and scalable approach to training that is managed by the Force Commander during the Maintenance and Basic phases, and the numbered Fleet Commander during the Integrated and Sustainment phases.



Master Sgt. Lance May (right) discusses with RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, 1NCD, the advances of the 31st Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) in command operations center training. The SRG conducts training both through classes and field training exercises for Seabee battalions.

Photo by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte



NMCB 74 Perfects the Basics During Khaki FEX

By MC2 John Hulle,
NMCB 74

Chiefs and officers assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 completed a week-long field exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., Dec. 13-20.

The Khaki FEX was an opportunity for Seabees and Sailors based aboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., to gain camaraderie and prepare for an upcoming battalion-wide field training exercise.

"In order to appreciate what the junior Seabees go through, it's important that the senior leaders understand the same frustrations," said NMCB 74 Command Master Chief Brian Farricy.

Whether it's sitting in the mud on a defensive line or dealing with adverse weather conditions, CMC Farricy said, "It's important for senior leadership to get an initial experience," especially for junior officers and chiefs who may be experiencing a field exercise for the first time.

"We are putting people in positions they might not be familiar with," Farricy added.

"This is absolutely a new experience," said Navy Career Counselor Chief Surgann Coker-Bello, NMCB 74, while waist deep in mud, digging a fighting position with an E-tool. "There is nothing from the fleet side that I can compare to this type of training."

After setting up a tent camp and communications, Seabees spent the first four days of the exercise split into four squads, focusing on a different evolution such as digging and reinforcing defensive positions, driving HMMWVs in convoys, walking patrols, and command and control in combat operations centers.

The culmination of the week was a Seabee Challenge, with squads competing against each other in several stations along a six-mile course. Stations ranged from mounting crew serve weapons on a vehicle to land navigation.

NMCB 74 Commanding Officer Commander Bruce Nevel said he was proud of the effort and success of the exercise, closing with "so goes Khaki FEX, so goes FTX, so goes deployment."

(Above) Seabees assigned to NMCB 74 patrol the woods of Camp Shelby, Miss., Dec. 15, during a week-long Khaki FEX. Photo by MC2 John Hulle

NMCB 21 Seabees Refine Small-Unit Skills During Operation Cool Breeze

By MC2 Ron Kuzlik, NMCB 21 Public Affairs

Neither freezing temperatures nor an overnight snowfall could stop more than 100 Seabees from Alfa Company of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21 from successful completion of Operation Cool Breeze aboard Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 4-7.

Operation Cool Breeze was designed to develop and train the Alfa Company command element and small unit leaders at the squad and fire team levels. The exercise also stressed effective company-level command and control and communications in accordance with NMCB 21 tactical standards and operating procedures.

"The importance of small unit leadership cannot be overemphasized," NMCB 21 Commanding Officer CDR George Steffen said. "When Seabees are forward deployed, often there aren't chiefs or officers available, and much of the decisionmaking lies with the squad leaders and fire team leaders."

As part of the simulated scenario, a fuel and ammunition resupply point was damaged during combat operations. NMCB 21 was responsible for conducting a battle damage assessment in order to complete rapid runway repair, or 'Triple R,' and provide construction engineer support for all aspects of general, expeditionary and contingency construction.

Seabees from the Blackjack Battalion received training in infantry skills, patrol techniques, convoy operations, chemical biological and radiological warfare, and communications procedures.

According to Equipment Operator 3rd Class Darnella Smith, her first field exercise was a very valuable experience.

"This gave me an opportunity to add to the skills that I learned in 'A' school, and in the six months since I joined '21 [NMCB 21]," EO3 Smith said. "I learned about setting up camp, convoy security patrols, and a variety of other things that will help prepare me for the full-scale field exercise and eventual deployment."



Seabees from NMCB 21 Alfa Company move out from the forward operating base during Operation Cool Breeze, aboard Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 4-7.



NMCB 21 Seabees inspect and clean their M-16 rifles during Operation Cool Breeze aboard Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 4-7.

Photos by MC2 Ron Kuzlik

NMCB 1 Seabees Bridge Gap to Success During FTX/FEP

By MC1(SCW) Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Bridge Detachment (Det.) completed their third and final mission during a three-week field training exercise (FTX) and final evaluation problem (FEP) Operation: Desert Justice held at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 15.

The Bridge Det. was tasked with moving into an area, setting up a medium girder bridge (MGB), defending it overnight and then breaking it down the following morning.

"The bridge went up well, and the [security] sweep went really well," said Builder 1st Class (SCW) Nathan Jacobs, Bridge Det. bridgemaster. "We held our perimeter, and the enemy couldn't infiltrate our defense."

The security sweep proved vital to the bridge crew mission by providing maximum protection for quality production.

"The first priority once arriving at the site was initiating the security sweep," said Marine Corps Capt. Nathan Knowles, Bridge Det. officer in charge. "The site's got to be secured, and it takes a lot of coordination." During the FTX/FEP when the Seabees move from place to place, they're escorted by one of the battalion's two convoy security elements. The convoy, comprised of six joint explosive ordnance disposal rapid response vehicles (JERRVs), each armed with two .50-caliber Browning machine guns and four M-240B machine guns, ensures the Seabees arrive at their destinations safely.

The Seabees move forward of the JERRVs during a sweep, so it's important for them to have solid ground leadership. Builder 3rd Class Yeraldy Ramos, one of the squad leaders, helped provide a structured defense while the bridge crew began setting up during the Det.'s third mission.

"We checked out the surrounding area and set up a 360 [degree defense]," said BU3 Ramos. "It ensured that whomever was in charge of setting up the bridge was secure. We then set up fire positions so we could keep watch on any aggressors."

The Seabees were successful in completing their third MGB, but their reward came the following morning after a long night of sniper fire, indirect fire, and chemical, biological and radiological warfare attacks – the FTX evaluators from the 20th Seabee Readiness Group relieved the Bridge Det. of their fourth bridge mission.

"Those 2nd and 3rd class petty officers took the initiative and didn't let a single person get through the wire," Capt. Knowles said. "They knew they were coming from 600 meters away. They communicated, they were aggressive, and they took care of themselves and their people."

"I couldn't have asked for a better team," Ramos said. "I think overall we pulled our weight. We took care of each other. If someone needed help, another person stepped in and there was no animosity. We were all there for each other."

BU3 Alex Eneix, NMCB 1 Bridge Det., becomes a simulated casualty during a security sweep of the Seabees' third bridge site during a three-week FTX at Camp Shelby, Miss., in November.
Photo by MC1(SCW) Demetrius Kennon

“Professionals” Participate in Operation Bearing Duel

By MC2(SCW/AW) Patrick W. Mullen III, NMCB 5 Public Affairs



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 traveled to Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., to participate in the annual field training exercise (FTX) Operation Bearing Duel, Dec. 1.

“The Professionals” were tasked with mounting out an Air Detachment, building a medium girder bridge, erecting a timber tower, and establishing and protecting forward operation bases.

An FTX is intended to test the battalion’s mission readiness and small unit leadership by using real-time training, including chemical, biological and radiological attacks, improvised explosive devices and the use of guerilla tactics during attacks on the battalion.

For many Seabees, this was their first FTX.

“FTX was a drastic change of pace for me,” said Engineering Aide Constructionman Larry Winer. “Since I joined the battalion all training was conducted in a classroom. Everything on FTX was fast paced and there were so many moving parts. It was a great learning experience.”

NMCB 5 finished up the FTX after being hit by one final all out attack on their lines, where the battalion successfully defended themselves.

BU3 Steven Estrada watches the battalion lines through a pair of binoculars while BU2 Shaun Pederson, both assigned to NMCB 5, keeps his M-16 rifle sights fixed on a suspicious target during the battalion’s annual FTX Operation Bearing Duel, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 1.

Photo by MC2(SCW/AW) Patrick W. Mullen III



Seabees from NMCB 5’s reactionary force guard camp lines from their fighting position during a field training exercise on Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 11.

Photo by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

Camp Gonsalves Welcomes Seabees to the Jungle

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 completed the jungle skills training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center (JWTC) on Camp Gonsalves in Okinawa, Japan, as part of a field training exercise (FTX) that began in late October.

The FTX was packed with high-speed instruction and practical exercises that included a “Basic Jungle Skills Course,” force-on-force combat training with simulated munitions rounds in a mock-up of a country-style jungle village, and weapons training and qualification course.

The basic skills course was taught by U.S. Marines stationed at JWTC on Camp Gonsalves. The course included instruction and practical application on hasty rappelling, land navigation and military patrols.

The Seabees were given an extensive safety brief that covered mishap prevention and techniques needed to safely use the M-16 machine guns to fire ‘lipstick rounds’ at the simulated hostile forces posing as villagers.

By MCC Ryan C. Delcore, Public Affairs Officer, NMCB 133

NMCB 133 was also given minimal intelligence on the layout of the jungle village before the patrol leaders set up an assault plan. Once they entered the village and came in contact with non-hostile and hostile villagers, they quickly learned how to deal with changes in the situation and the proper actions to take while under fire.

The training forced many Seabees into leadership positions when their fellow ‘Bees were hit by lipstick rounds resulting in a simulated death or major wound. They had to figure out what to do to adapt and overcome while taking and returning fire in this hostile situation.

(Above) Seabees from NMCB 133 use M-16s loaded with simulated munitions while participating in realistic force-on-force combat training in a simulated jungle village at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 28.

Photo by MCC Ryan C. Delcore

31st SRG Tests NMCB 5 for Emergency Readiness



Seabees from NMCB 5 react when a simulated improvised explosive attack destroys a vehicle in their convoy during a Field Exercise (FEX) at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 11. As the battalion responds to the emergency, an evaluator (second from left) from the 31st Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) inspects and certifies the battalion's response.



After setting off smoke grenades, CM1(SCW/SW) Marvin E. Irby (left), 31st SRG, watches NMCB 5's response to a mass casualty drill during a battalion FEX at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 10. Irby is an evaluator for the 31st SRG, the unit which tests and certifies the battalion for deployment.

Photos by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

READINESS IN ACTION



A Seabee from NMCB 5 takes cover and sights a target during a simulated Vehicle Improvised Explosive Device attack at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 10. Seabees from NMCB 5's Air Detachment faced numerous simulated guerilla warfare attacks during the battalion's FEX.



CM2(SCW) Christopher Reinholdt (left) and EOCN D'Anthony Catron, NMCB 5, stand guard in their two-man fighting position during NMCB 5's FEX at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Dec. 9. Photos by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

20th SRG Unveils Convoy Combat Simulator

Seabees assigned to the 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) unveiled a new training aid aboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 31.

The Convoy Combat Simulator incorporates six vehicles – four HMMWVs and two MTRVs – in six rooms, each immersed within a 360-degree digital environment.

“If you are in vehicle one you should be able to look in your screen and see vehicle three behind you,” said LCDR Andre Coleman, training officer, 20th SRG.

“The system incorporates weapons handling, IED identification and engagement, medivac procedures, call for fire, target and engagement, and small arms proficiencies. It brings a number of things into play, but the biggest part is understanding the basics.”

With tetherless, air-powered M-16s and 50-caliber machine guns, the students can practice entering and exiting the vehicles, and feel the recoil of rounds fired.

During each mission, vehicle commanders and crews up to four are presented with realistic

By MC2 John Hulle, NMCB 74 Public Affairs
terrain, weather and threat environments focused on a variety of warfare scenarios.

Convoy security elements from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 74 and 11 demonstrated the new system.

After completing a simulated mission through Northern Iraq, Builder 2nd Class Stephen Leguillow, convoy security element vehicle commander assigned to NMCB 74, watched as his teammates exited the training vehicle.

BU2 Leguillow’s convoy experience includes more than 100 missions while serving in the Army as military police in Kosovo in 2003 and 2004.

“I think it’s good especially for the guys who haven’t done it before,” he said. Leguillow commented from personal experience, it’s the little things that add up to successful missions. “It takes time to get into the groove of things, especially communication,” he said.

“This training is better – just the level of exposure they will receive from this will raise [their] confidence,” said Senior Chief Steelworker Joseph Yott, convoy commander, NMCB 74.

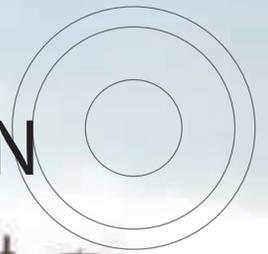


EO3 Nicholas Paci, NMCB 74, drives a HMMWV in the Convoy Combat Simulator at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 31.

The simulator allows convoys to train in realistic warfare scenarios.

Photo by MC2 John Hulle

READINESS IN ACTION



NMCB 133 Preps to Build Mock Landing Strip

(Above) Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) 21 from USS Harper's Ferry (LSD 49) approaches a U.S. bombing range off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, Dec. 1, to deliver Seabees and heavy equipment from NMCB 133. Seabees manned two D5 front loaders and a D5 dozer to construct a mock landing strip for U.S. pilots to use during bombing practice and an access road for the U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team to get inland from the beach.



Seabees from NMCB 133 offload their gear from Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) 21 on a small and remote island used as a U.S. bombing range approximately 35 nautical miles off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, Dec. 1. Photo by MCC Ryan C. Delcore



Battle 'E' G NMCBs 1, 5, 1

RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, 1NCD, announced the selection of the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Naval Construction Force Battle 'E' battalions: Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 (Active) and NMCB 14 (Reserve), Atlantic Fleet; and NMCB 5 (Active) and NMCB 15 (Reserve), Pacific Fleet.

Atlantic Fleet – Active

NMCB 1, "The First and The Finest"

By MC1(SCW) Chad Runge,
NMCB 1

NMCB 1 returned to its Gulfport, Miss., homeport in April 2008 after a successful six-month deployment to 16 sites in the Central Command Area of Responsibility (CENTCOM AOR) in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Guam and San Nicolas Island, Calif.

"People always say that to win the Battle 'E' you have to be in the right place at the right time," said NMCB 1's Commanding Officer CDR Stan Wiles. "That is partially true – having the opportunity to perform is half of the equation. The other half, and most important, is that you have to perform when given the opportunity.

While deployed, NMCB 1 completed 65,000 man-days of labor and 300 successful convoys, and maintained one of the highest deployment safety records in recent history.

After returning to homeport, "The First and The Finest" continued its exemplary performance, paving the way for other battalions by being the first to participate in a new fleet response training plan cycle, while maintaining fire team training integrity.

Atlantic Fleet – Reserve

NMCB 14, "Southern Pride"

By LTJG Jeffery Depiazza,
NMCB 14

Homeported in Jacksonville, Fla., NMCB 14 successfully mobilized, deployed and safely retrograded 169 members of a Reinforced Air Detachment and various Individual Augmentees. From administrative tasking in Gulfport, Miss., Okinawa and Guam, to various locations in the CENTCOM Theater, including Camps Virginia, Moreell, Buehring and Arifjan, to the African nation of Djibouti, NMCB 14 Seabees excelled in all assignments.

NMCB 14 Seabees set the standard in safety, quality and accountability, completing more than 30,000 man-days on 20 high-visibility construction projects.

"Your efforts have accomplished this," said CDR Joseph Hinson, commanding officer, NMCB 14. "Each nail that you drove, each drop of oil you changed, each yard of dirt that you pushed, each form filled out correctly and on time, and each time you guided and mentored a junior, YOU contributed to the body of evidence that led our division commander to the inevitable conclusion."

Accomplishments during deployment were not overshadowed by those from Seabees who remained stateside. NMCB 14 delivered nearly 20,000 total man-days of construction support and training that resulted in an overall readiness of 76 percent in 2008.

Pacific Fleet – Active

NMCB 5, "The Professionals"

By MC2(SCW/AW) Patrick W.
Mullen III, NMCB 5 Public Affairs

Beginning the year combat ready, NMCB 5 executed command and control across 11 details and five TSCP missions in support of the Navy's base infrastructure programs and PACOM's Theater Engagement Strategy. NMCB 5 was the first battalion to solely cover the entire Pacific AOR, and this accomplishment serves as the benchmark for all future battalions as they deploy to this area. Seabees performed in support of JSOTF-P, Balikpapan, Key Resolve, Cobra Gold, Freedom Banner and Continuing Promise exercises, demonstrating the Naval Construction Force's ability to operate in austere environments as members of joint and combined task forces.

Through deckplate leadership, NMCB 5 maintained two mainbody camps, two P-25 TOAs and successfully integrated reserve construction mechanics into a comprehensive inactive equipment maintenance plan. Upon returning to homeport, the battalion maximized training opportunities with a strong focus on fire team integrity and homeport construction projects.

CDR L.S. Hurst, commanding officer, NMCB 5, said "Every day I am truly proud to serve with each and every one of you."

oes to 4 and 15

The criterion for the Battle Efficiency Award is the overall readiness of the command to carry out its assigned wartime tasks, and is based on a year-long evaluation.

Pacific Fleet – Reserve

NMCB 15, “Bat Out of Hell”

By LT Grant Herndon, NMCB 15

NMCB 15 teamwork and “Can Do” spirit advanced the mission in direct support of the Marines and Special Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The battalion pulled together Seabees from 54 geographic locations and formed a cohesive team whose accomplishments began in homeport and continued through deployment in 2008.

NMCB 15 completed more than 26,000 man-days of training in the pre-deployment phase to ensure readiness for deployment; in the Al Anbar province, the battalion completed 96 projects with 80,900-plus man-days of support for the warfighters. Alfa Company dispatched more than 180 pieces of Civil Engineer Support Equipment and traveled more than 106,000 vehicle miles to transport critical materials to complete the battalion’s and adjacent engineering units’ efforts. At peak levels, 97 percent of Delta personnel were outside the wire on construction missions.

“The Bat out of Hell’s performance this year has been nothing less than spectacular and fully demonstrates the depth of professionalism and commitment to excellence this battalion possesses,” said NMCB 15 Commanding Officer CDR D. S. Cox.

NMCB 28 Receives Marine Corps Engineering Award

By LTJG Jason M. Constantine, CHC, NMCB 28

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 rose to the top of the engineering ranks at the Marine Corps Engineering Association’s (MCEA’s) Annual Awards Banquet at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in October. NMCB 28 received the MCEA 2008 Seabee Award for the Naval Construction Force Unit of the Year for its service in support of the Marine Corps while deployed to Iraq.

NMCB 28 deployed more than 500 Seabees in support of two missions while in Iraq from April to September 2007. The battalion’s main

force engaged in construction projects in the Al Anbar province in support of II Marine Expeditionary Force. This force provided 35,137 man-days of direct construction support to more than 27 forward operating bases (FOBs), combat outposts (COPs) and battle positions. In support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Surge, NMCB 28 constructed 11 FOBs and COPs from the ground up in remote locations.

The second force supported Special Operations Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Task Force provided 12,777 man-days of construction support on projects such as Southwest Asia Huts, K-span buildings, pre-engineered buildings, road repairs, barrier placement, and electrical and plumbing repair and installation.

NMCB 28 also provided support for day-to-day maintenance of camp facilities and support of outlying battle positions, including the drilling of a 515-foot deep water well to alleviate fresh water demands on the supply system for support of Al Asad Airbase and surrounding outposts. The convoy security element teams traveled more than 26,000 tactical miles to escort 285 logistic convoys.



Accepting the MCEA 2008 Seabee Award for the Naval Construction Force Unit of the Year for service in support of the Marine Corps while deployed to Iraq are CDR Michael R. Merino (left), operations officer, 9th NCR, and UCCM Barry S. Fletcher, command master chief, NMCB 28.

U.S. Navy photo

NECC Commander Congratulates UCT 2 Sailor of the Year



RADM Carol Pottenger (left), commander, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, presents a Command Coin to CE1 Lynn Rodriguez, UCT 2’s Sailor of the Year, during a visit to Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, Calif. Photo by CMCN Martina E. Goad

NMCB 4 Seabees Win Retention Award

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

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4, during a six-month deployment to Arifjan, Kuwait, was awarded the annual Commander, Pacific Fleet Retention Excellence Award for exceeding annual retention benchmarks.

During fiscal year 2008, 100 people reenlisted to stay Navy, marking the fifth time NMCB 4 has been awarded the 'Golden Anchor.'

In a message from ADM Robert F. Willard, commander, Pacific Fleet, he wrote, "Your dedication and commitment to career motivation and excellence not only exemplifies your superb performance, but also attests to your concern for the personal and professional needs of our Sailors. Every member of your command can be justifiably proud of this achievement."



LCDR Kermit Spears (left), executive officer, NMCB 4, congratulates EO1(SCW) Grayden Hollister following his reenlistment in Kuwait in late 2008. This marks the fifth time NMCB 4 has received the Golden Anchor for retention.

Photo by MCC(SCW/SW/AW) Steve Bansbach

To qualify for the Retention Excellence Award commands must, in the same fiscal year, make the retention honor roll, which is meeting or exceeding the CNO's retention goal, for a minimum of two quarters or at the end of the fiscal year meeting or exceeding the CNO's goal. NMCB 4 accomplished this goal for three of the four quarters missing the sweep by only five percent.

"NMCB 4 is the best battalion in the Naval Construction Force," said NMCB 4's Command Master Chief Austin Leedom. "People reenlist just to stay in this battalion."

Navy Counselor 1st Class (SCW/SW) Sandra Sanchez, the battalion's command career counselor, guides Seabees through the reenlistment process, helps them with their paperwork and assists with requirements for special programs. However, she insists personnel won this award.

"We did what the CNO wanted us to do," said NC1 Sanchez, "and that is retaining good Sailors."

Tour "Can Do" Seabees, Officers of the Civil Engineer Corps, and Civilians of Naval Facilities Engineering Command stationed around the world, it is my honor and privilege to wish you a Happy Birthday and thank you for your selfless and distinctive service to our country, our Navy and our supported commanders. There has never been a better time to be a Seabee, CEC Officer or member of NAVFAC — and I could not be more proud of your tremendous accomplishments and achievements around the globe. Wherever you may be assigned, know that your superb efforts in support of our nation's war fighters and their families are greatly appreciated.

*Happy Birthday,
 Seabees!*

This month we celebrate the 67th anniversary of the proud heritage of our legendary Seabees, the 142nd anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps and the 167th anniversary of NAVFAC. Ours is a history rich in tradition, seeped in courage and forged with comradeship and countless accomplishments. Let us take time not only to reflect upon the legacy of our proud history, but also to focus on the many challenges we face today and the significant advancements and achievements we will accomplish in the future.

As members of our nation's great military and as public servants, our responsibilities and unique skills have never been more important — from contingency construction in Iraq and Afghanistan, to high-performance green and sustainable shore facilities for our bases, to humanitarian assistance and disaster response in such places as Ghana, Philippines, Vietnam, Kenya and Thailand. Today, Seabees and CEC Officers are deployed to all corners of the world, many in harm's way, doing what we've trained for and living up to our legacy of "The Difficult We Do At Once, The Impossible Takes A Little Longer." As our Navy forges ahead with Maritime Strategy to build partnerships and ensure security and stability internationally, we will answer the call for support in the manner that has always been our hallmark — with responsiveness, agility, steadfast devotion to duty and our "Can Do" spirit.

As we celebrate our history, traditions and service this month, it is fitting that we remember our United States Navy Ethos. Specifically: "We are patriots, forged by the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment. In times of war and peace, our actions reflect our proud heritage and tradition."

Whether stationed at one of our bases around the world or deployed to some remote location, the skills you bring are in high demand. Our supported commanders count on you every day and every day you deliver and exceed their expectations.

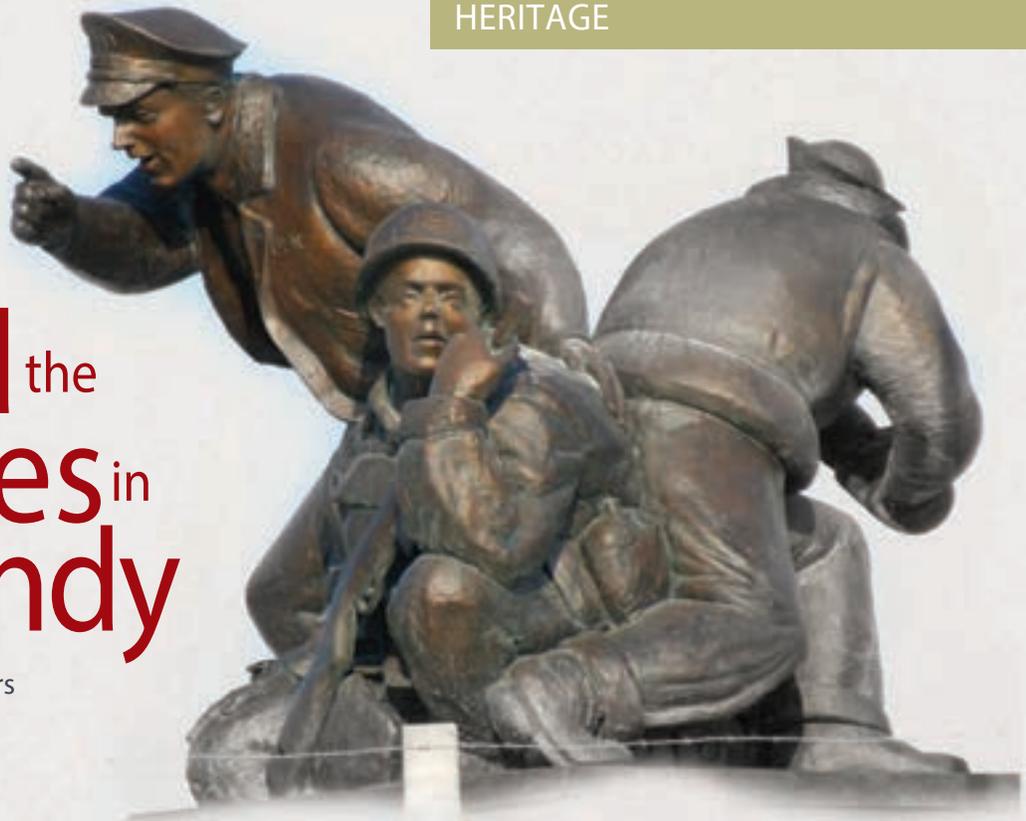
Finally, to our deployed Seabees, CEC Officers and civilians serving as Individual Augmentees in places like Iraq and Afghanistan — we hold you and your families in our thoughts and prayers, and look forward to your safe return home.

Thank you for what you do, for your patriotism and for your many sacrifices. I congratulate you on your successes and look forward to the future and the challenges we will face together as we continue to build on our proud legacy. God bless each of you, your families and the United States of America.

RADM Greg Shear, Commander,
 Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and Chief of Civil Engineers

Seabees Behind the Scenes in Normandy

By Kelly Burdick, Public Affairs
Officer, NAVFAC EURSWA



The monument, designed and sculpted by Stephen Spears, features three men each representing an element of the D-Day operation: planning, implementation and aftermath. Spears donated all design, labor and materials in creating the monument.

Photo by BU1 David C. Choice

At a ceremony held in Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, France, in September, the Naval Order of the United States presented its memorial statue to commemorate the brave Sailors who fought in the Normandy Invasion.

The U.S. Naval Attaché to France had called on the Seabees from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Europe and Southwest Asia's (NAVFAC EURSWA's) Naples Public Works Department to construct a seven-by-three meter stage and assemble the seating area for the Utah Beach ceremony. Now, these young men had the honor of unveiling the memorial statue.

"We were honored by the request and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this service for our honored veterans who fought this battle that shaped our country. We appreciate the hard work, respect and hospitality of the people of Caen and St. Marie Du Mont," said LTJG Jo Vaughn Ewing, Naples Public Works Seabee Division officer.

Project Officer in Charge Construction Electrician 1st Class (SCW) Jonathan Nelson was moved by the overwhelming affection and respect the Seabees received from the local French government and citizens of St. Marie-du-Mont. "For me, being able to interact with citizens who had either experienced the

war themselves, or [who] had heard stories passed down in their families, was one of the highlights of the mission," said CE1 Nelson. "They genuinely appreciate what our ancestors had done for them, and passed that respect on to us. Seeing the emotion on the faces of the D-Day veterans and their families is something that I will always keep with me and will never be able to describe."

The Seabees designed and constructed the stage, complete with stairs and two podiums, as well as a VIP entrance with carpeting and ceremonial wooden bullets, and organized seating for 500. While they were there, the Seabees also enhanced the already-pristine museum grounds.

In addition to Ewing and Nelson, members of the Seabee crew included Assistant OIC Builder 1st Class (SCW) David Choice, Steel Worker 2nd Class Jean-luc Pelchat, Crew Leader Builder 2nd Class (SCW) John Stevens and Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Cole Tankersley.

The Seabees also worked directly with the sculptor, Stephen Spears, during the monument assembly.

"It was a privilege to work with the Seabees on Utah Beach," said Spears. "They had a huge impact on the preparations for enabling a spectacular dedication ceremony of the monument to the Navy heroes at Normandy. Their confident "get it done" attitude and commitment to the task was an honor to witness. I am very proud to know these men."



Sculptor Stephen Spears (third from left) poses with the Seabee crew (from left) SW2 Jean-Luc Pelchat, BU1(SCW) David Choice, CE1(SCW) Jonathan Nelson, BU2(SCW) John Stevens and CM2(SCW) Cole Tankersley.

Photo by Stephen Spears

Seabees Crossing the

By Lara Godbille, Director, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum

The Real Story

During World War II, more than 50,000 Seabees served in the Atlantic Theater where they participated in all the European amphibious landings, including Anzio, Salerno and Normandy. In addition, the Seabees supported the Allied troops' march across Europe. While the most celebrated Seabee story recalls how they ferried General George Patton's armored units during his famous crossing of the Rhine River in March 1945, the Seabees also experienced some relatively unknown adventures.

In November 1944, three Construction Battalion Maintenance Units (CBMUs) -- CBMUs 627, 628 and 629 -- were commissioned for assignment to an enemy location in a future operation. While all three CBMUs participated in the crossing of the Rhine River, only CBMU 629 was involved in front-line activities while the other two were with the rear echelon.

On Nov. 17, 1944, four pontoon training crew detachments were formed from CBMU 629, consisting of one officer and six enlisted Seabees, and deployed forward.

The first detachment moved through Belgium and joined other small boat units attached to General Omar Bradley's First Army Division in Aachen, Germany. They became the first Seabees to enter Germany on Dec. 26, 1944, and later played a significant role in the repair of the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen.

Prior to the war, 47 road and railway bridges spanned the Rhine. By 1945, only the Ludendorff Bridge remained standing. On March 7, 1945, the U.S. 9th Armored Division captured the Ludendorff Bridge as part of Operation Lumberjack. One week later, Seabees moved forward to start working on pontoon barges to support the bridge. Working without rest and under fierce enemy fire, the Seabees completed one barge in less than 24 hours and a second the next day. Despite their best efforts, on March 17, 1945, the bridge collapsed taking with it the lives of 28 U.S. soldiers.

The second detachment served under the command of Gen. Patton in the Third Army Division. This detachment supervised the construction of a pontoon pile-driver barge by the Army Engineers to build a bridge across the Mosell River at Toul, France. The barge was later disassembled and transported overland to the Rhine River, where it was reassembled in preparation for Patton's famous crossing in March 1945.

The third detachment also served with Patton's Third Army Division, and in early 1945 assembled Army sea mule barges and built pontoon pile-driver barges on the Meuse River near Maastricht in the Netherlands. This detachment also made "procurement trips" into Germany in search of tools, supplies and coal. These missions resulted in Seabees being among the first Allied troops to cross the Siegfried Line, a defensive barrier of bunkers, tunnels and tank traps built by Germany, stretching nearly 400 miles along the German border.

The fourth detachment functioned as the faculty of the "River Rat Finishing School," an Army school for barge and small boat assembly and operation on the Meuse River.

Sources: Records of CBMU 629, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum Archive and Building the Navy's Bases in World War II, v.2



(Above) Although they came from different branches of the armed services, Seabees of CBMU 629 serving with Gen. George Patton's Third Army Division did the job as a team, checking and loading weapons and supplies before making the Rhine River crossing in March 1945.

(Opposite, background) Seabees assisted Gen. Patton's famous crossing of the Rhine River, March 25, 1945. Although the boats are designated part of the U.S. Navy, Seabee boat crews wore the Army uniform of the unit with which they were serving.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Port Hueneme, Calif.

Rhine River



(Above) Seabees from CBMU 629 dig a trench for out-fall near Paris, France, June 30, 1945.



(Left) Seabees construct the CMBU 629 motor pool administration building near La Havre, France, March 1945. Seabees assigned to CBMUs 627, 628 and 629 transferred from the 114th NCB stationed at La Havre after their participation in the D-Day invasion at Normandy and Omaha beaches.



Seabees assist in pushing a portion of an Army bridge into place by LCVP on the Rhine River near the Remagen bridgehead in April 1945.



A History-making "Sea Bee"



Less than a month after D-Day in France, while the Normandy invasion was still underway, the Seabees were staked out near the French town of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont waiting for the U.S. Army to push the Germans out of a close small village. Amidst the gunfire and mortar shelling, an Army policeman breathlessly ran up to the battalion medical officer, stuttering some unexpected news. "In the village up ahead, sir!" he panted, "A young woman is having a baby!"

It turns out this young woman had fled from the German-held village and sought refuge nearby in the home of one of her relatives. The house was in the line of fire of the German troops who were resisting the efforts of the Americans to dislodge them. The young woman was about to deliver a child and desperately needed a doctor. There were no French doctors, nurses or midwives available because they had fled the battle zone.

The battalion commander acted immediately. He assured the policeman that the Seabees would take care of the matter, and then ordered the battalion's executive medical officer to go forward and assist the young woman. The officer, LT Douglas Butman, quickly selected a medical team of Seabees, grabbed his field surgical bag, and took off for the house and delivered a new baby girl, as if all in a day's work.

Finally, it came time to Christen the baby and several of the Seabees attended the ceremony. The mother asked the battalion commander if the baby could bear a part of his wife's name. He suggested the initials of his wife's maiden name, "C.B.," as this would serve a two-fold purpose, to honor his wife and also honor the battalion as "Sea Bee."

On July 2, 1944, Sea Bee Paule Fouchard probably became the only baby in history to be named for the Seabees.

Dan Urish, a former Seabee commander and University of Rhode Island professor added to the story. "Several years ago I was fortunate to locate 'baby Sea Bee' who proudly carries the name her father gave her in gratitude to the Americans," said Urish. "Since then, she and her husband have visited America and the camp site of the Seabee unit in [Davisville] Rhode Island that was part of her history. Her story of compassion and friendship, in the midst of war, has been a strong bond in hearts of all those who were there."

Reprint permission granted by Jim Davidson, syndicated columnist.
Source – Log Cabin Democrat, The Cabin.net, Conway, Ark., Oct. 2008.

Update: U.S. Navy Seabee Museum

By Lara Godbille, Director
U.S. Navy Seabee Museum

After nearly a decade, the dream of a new U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, Calif., is becoming a reality.

Established in 1947, the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum is the second oldest of the official U.S. Navy museums, and is owned and operated by the Navy as part of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

In June 2008, the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation gifted \$10 million to the U.S. Navy for the purpose of building the facility. NAVFAC Southwest will award the contract and oversee construction of the new museum which is scheduled to start in the summer of 2009.

The new museum will provide adequate environmental controls and physical security for both the exhibitions and collection storage areas. The museum will be located outside the perimeter fence line of Naval Base Ventura County to allow visitors easy access to the facility.

The Foundation has contracted with an exhibit design firm to design, fabricate and install the exhibitions. The design firm has already begun working with the museum staff to identify key stories, artifacts and photographs. Although the new museum will be approximately the same size as the former facility, approximately 35,000 square feet, because it will be a planned, purpose-built facility, it will allow for a much richer and comprehensive telling of the Seabee story. The new museum will also better utilize the diversity of the museum's collections since only 10 percent of the collection has been displayed.

The mission of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum is to stand watch over the legacy of the "Can Do!" spirit of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps for the Navy, veterans and the public. To reach as many Seabees as possible with news on your museum, updates on the construction will be provided in upcoming issues of Seabee Magazine. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the museum director at lara.godbille@navy.mil.

NMCB 5 Relieves NMCB 7 to Provides Contingency Engineering and Construction Support in Afghanistan

By MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender, NMCB 7

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 are the latest Fighter Builders to arrive in Afghanistan to provide contingency engineering, construction and security to alliance forces in support of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). NMCB 7 transferred authority of the main deployment site to NMCB 5 in a ceremony on March 13.

NMCB 5 now has detachments throughout U.S. Forces Central Command, including sites in Kuwait, Iraq and mainly throughout Afghanistan. Throughout Helmand Province, 'Bees are building forward operating bases (FOBs) and providing security for additional U.S. forces flowing into southern Afghanistan to reinforce the NATO-led ISAF.

Prior to NMCB 5's arrival, NMCB 7 had redeployed from Iraq to Afghanistan in February. "We had a very important mission in Iraq supporting the First Marine Expeditionary Force, but there was a larger demand signal here in Afghanistan," said LCDR James

Continued on following page



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 man an M-240B crew served weapon while providing security at a forward operating base project site in Afghanistan. Seabees provide their own security while conducting construction operations.

Photo by MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender



The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

NAVFAC Hawaii CEC Officer Killed in Afghanistan

By NAVFAC HQ and Hawaii Public Affairs



U.S. Navy photo

LTJG Francis L. Toner IV, NAVFAC Hawaii, died March 27 when an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier opened fire on U. S. Navy personnel assigned to Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A) at Camp Shaheen, in Mazar-E-Sharif, Afghanistan.

Another Navy officer also died, LT Florence B. Choe, Medical Service Corps, and a third was wounded. The ANA soldier killed himself immediately after the incident.

At the time of the incident, LTJG Toner was halfway through a year-long Individual Augmentation (IA) assignment at Camp Shaheen with the Afghan Regional Security Integration Command (ARSIC) North. He began training for the IA assignment in June 2008 and was expected to return October 2009.

In a statement to the Honolulu Star Bulletin, Commanding Officer CAPT Bret J. Muilenburg, NAVFAC Hawaii, said Toner was "an exceptional young man and naval officer. He made a great difference while in Afghanistan just as he did while serving in Hawaii. Those he touched during his life will never forget his smile, sense of humor, competitive spirit, outstanding work ethic and love of country."

Toner, 26, was born in Panorama City, Calif., and later moved to Narragansett, R.I. He earned his bachelor of science degree in Marine Engineering and Ship Yard Management at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. Upon graduation, he was directly commissioned into the U.S. Navy.

After gaining experience on five vessels with the Merchant Marines, Toner graduated from the Civil Engineer Corps Officers School in November 2006. He reported to his first duty assignment at NAVFAC Hawaii and became the Officer in Charge of Self Help (a Seabee unit). His last assignment at the command prior to deploying to Afghanistan was as assistant Public Works officer for West Oahu.

Toner is survived by his wife, Brooke, parents and three siblings.

Continued from previous page

Brown, NMCB 7's operations officer. "Our unique capabilities to not only build, but to build in hostile areas, and defend ourselves and the new areas we create made Seabees the logical and necessary choice."

While NMCB 7's main effort focused on quickly building the necessary force protection emplacements for the FOB the battalion will occupy, some Seabees focused on providing service to the U.K.-run base and other deployed units.

"The first real evidence of the U.S.'s surge into Southern Afghanistan became apparent when the Seabees arrived," said British Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. John Bawer, deputy chief of staff, Bastion for Supply, Logistics and Real Life Support.

"The U.S. Marines arrived first, but the Seabees are what really captured our attention. We describe them as the 'enablers to the enablers.' In the [United Kingdom], we have nothing like them," Lt. Cmdr. Bawer said. "The Seabees are a self-contained unit who not just arrived, but asked not 'what the base could do for us' but rather 'what can we do for you?' Their efforts greatly

impressed us as they were eager to help with an amazing attitude to back it.

"We in the [United Kingdom] like to align with U.S. forces when we go forward in countries and the Seabees of NMCB 7 are a great example of why we do," Bawer added.

"When we first got into this theater, everyone had praise about the work NMCB 7 had accomplished this deployment," said CDR Scott Hurst, commanding officer, NMCB 5. "One warrant officer went so far as to say in simple words that, 'What they're doing over here makes me proud to be a Seabee.' Congratulations NMCB 7 on a fine deployment. To my Seabees, it looks like we've found some work to do. Let's get to it."

MA1 Alex Roelofs (left) and CE3 Brandon Taylor, NMCB 5, hoist their battalion colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at a forward operating base in Afghanistan. This was the first main-body transfer ceremony held for Seabee units in Afghanistan.

Photo by MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender



NMCB 11 Takes Historic First Steps ... Again

By MC1 Nicholas Lingo, NMCB 11

This isn't the first deployment for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11. Re-commissioned September 14, 2007, the battalion traces its heritage back to World War II where it served on Tutuila, American Samoa, New Caledonia, Auckland, Banika, Los Negros and Luzon, Philippines.

NMCB 11 is now once again pushing its detachments out to more than 33 locations in 24 countries in support of several conflicts and humanitarian missions.

"There is much anticipation...it has been 16 months since the commission date," said LCDR Brian Lindoerfer, executive officer, NMCB 11. "Our Seabees have worked extremely hard preparing for this first deployment. They met and often exceeded expectations during every training evolution; I expect they will do the same on deployment... ready, willing and able!"

Seabees from NMCB 11 board a plane in Gulfport, Miss., headed for Kuwait. The Seabees aboard split into several detachments and deployed further to several areas of operation, including Afghanistan. NMCB 11 is currently deployed to Horn of Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo



NMCB 7 Provides Construction Support for Coalition Forces

BUCN Prince Anumah, NMCB 7, drills holes in lumber for concrete forms for a military working dog kennel facility in Baharia, Iraq, in November. The forms are molds erected for concrete pours and built to withstand the weight of the concrete until it cures.

Photo by MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender



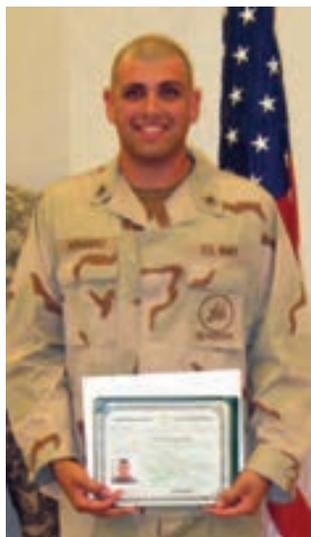
NMCB 4 Seabee Realizes the American Dream

By NMCB 4 Alfa Company Public Affairs

Last May, Equipment Operator 2nd Class Luis Hernandez began his long journey in hopes of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen. As a Seabee deployed to Arifjan, Kuwait, with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4, EO2 Hernandez's drive and commitment to the process was instilled in him by his strong family values and his desire to "do my part and to serve a country that had given me so much."

In 1989, Hernandez's father, a legal resident from Mexico, petitioned for his wife and son to come to the United States in hopes of giving them a better life. When Hernandez was five years old, his family immigrated from Mexico to the United States where they were placed on a long waiting list to become legal residents. At first it was difficult to adjust to his new life in America. His inability to speak fluent English created a challenging school experience.

"The kids would make fun of me and tell me to go back to Mexico," recounts Hernandez, but by the third grade



EO2 Luis Hernandez, NMCB 4
U.S. Navy photo

he became fluent and his schooling became more rewarding.

During this time, they were allowed to stay in the United States, but were not allowed to work or have social security numbers. Without a social security number, Hernandez wasn't able to attend college, so after graduating high school he attended college in Mexico for two years.

Finally in 2003, the wait was over.

"One day my mother called me and told me... we were finally legal U.S. residents," he said. He and his mother had to wait for 15 years and pay more than \$6,000 in processing fees to come to the United States. "I still have my receipt to remind me of what we went through," Hernandez proudly states.

Five years later, after having served four years as a Seabee, he took the extra step to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. On November 6, 2008, Hernandez was sworn in as a new citizen of the United States of America while deployed to Kuwait.

"I am proud of my heritage, but becoming a United States citizen means the world to me and my family," Hernandez said.

'The Gunny' Visits Kuwait, Promotes 'Bee

By CE3 Rostislav Fridhaim, NMCB 4

R. Lee Ermey, 'Gunny Hartman' in Full Metal Jacket, visited Camp Moreell, Kuwait, and took part in a milestone event for one Seabee of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4. On November 30, along with NMCB 4 Commanding Officer Dean A. VanderLey, Ermey proudly promoted Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Gregorio Hueramo to Builder 1st Class. "I am extremely honored the Seabees asked me to take part in this promotion ceremony," Ermey said.

Ermey was visiting troops in Camp Moreell as part of a morale and welfare program, making various stops in the Middle East and Southwest Asia. When 'The Gunny' arrived he gave his famous introductory speech from the movie Full Metal Jacket in front of the troops in formation which had gathered to



R. Lee Ermey (right) presents BU1(SCW) Gregorio Hueramo his appointment letter to First Class Petty Officer at Camp Moreell, Kuwait, Nov. 30. Ermey served 11 years' active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, medically retiring in 1971.

Photo by UTC(SCW) Lonnie Cospier

greet him. He proceeded to praise the contributions and daily sacrifices the troops make in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. While onboard, he visited the renovated Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) center and other departments, and had conversations with troops in smaller groups.

"The Seabees have done a great job – these facilities are great," he said.

Ermey also signed autographs, posed for pictures and handed out ball-caps with his 'Gunny approved' logo. He enjoys spending his time with deployed troops and feels it is an honor to be in their presence. "I always enjoy the trips in support of our military, and consider this my minute contribution to the overall national effort in the fight against terrorism around the world," Ermey said.

NMCB 11 Builds Relationships with Brazilian Army

By LT Jason Lockhart, Public Affairs Officer, NMCB 11



A crew from the Brazilian Army Corps of Engineers' 2nd Construction Engineering Battalion places the lean mix rolled concrete base layer along Lot 5 of the Brazilian Route 101 Highway project in October 2008.

Photo by LT Jason Lockhart

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 returned from Brazil after a month-long evolution in October 2008, referred to as a military-to-military exchange, with the Brazilian Army Corps of Engineers (BACE). During the exchange, Seabees observed BACE construction techniques and management methods, discussed differences and similarities, and spent time working with Brazilian Army personnel to build relations for future missions.

NMCB 11 Seabees worked on two of the major BACE projects: construction of the runway and taxiways at the new Natal International Airport; and the expansion of the Brazilian Route 101 Highway.

'King Bee' Briefs Seabees at Camp Arifjan

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



RADM Greg Shear, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Chief of Civil Engineers, signs the visitor log while visiting the Warrior Return Unit project at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. RADM Shear stopped in Arifjan in December before heading to Afghanistan to assess engineering requirements in theater.

U.S. Navy photo

During a brief stop on his way to Afghanistan, RADM Greg Shear, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Chief of Civil Engineers, addressed Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4's Wardroom and Chiefs Mess at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in December.

While at Camp Arifjan, RADM Shear toured some of the projects and spoke with Seabees at the project sites, including the Warrior Return Unit Charlie Company.

"It felt good to have him on the project," Builder 2nd Class (SW) Bayardo Molina said. "Once we completed our brief, he talked to us about the deployment and our Navy background. It was great to have the 'King Bee' take not only an interest in our product, but also an interest in us."

NMCB 133 Rolls with Maintenance Needs in Guam

(Right) SW3 Kirk Stammer, NMCB 133's Guam Detail, uses a TIG welder to repair a cracked drain plug on a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) transmission on Camp Covington, Guam, Dec. 11.

(Below) EOCN Justin Barney, NMCB 133's Guam Detail, lubes a tire on a Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle on Camp Covington in December.

Photos by CM2 Adam Hartung





UT2(SCW) Sammy German, NMCB 4 Det. Horn of Africa, applies primer to a pipe fitting prior to assembling the plumbing on the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit water filters in November.

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

NMCB 4 Seabees Construct Water Purification Unit in Djibouti

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

A Seabee crew attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 constructed a second Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU), onboard Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, in November, to provide additional potable water to meet local demand.

Water treatment is necessary to prevent various waterborne diseases, such as typhoid and dysentery. The function of the ROWPU is not only to make water safe for human consumption, but to also make water less scale forming and more suitable for use in laundries, shower and dining facilities, and various other places.

With the help of contract employees, Seabees are installing three water filters, called reverse osmosis (RO) elements, mounted on a concrete founda-

tion. These elements are the backbone of the ROWPU system and are critical to the purification of untreated water.

"This particular project is providing this crew valuable training on the ROWPUs," said Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SCW) Sammy German, project crew leader. "Being deployed to a part of the world where clean water is almost impossible to access, this system improves the quality of life for not only service members but to everybody who lives or works on this camp."

The ROWPU can produce potable water from a variety of raw water sources such as wells, lakes, rivers and oceans. The water for Camp Lemonier's ROWPUs is supplied by six wells located in the surrounding Djibouti area and one well on

camp. The camp currently uses an estimated 190,000 gallons of water per day produced by the main ROWPU. Once complete, the second ROWPU will produce an additional 350,000 gallons of potable water per day. Not only will it produce the additional water, it will also act as a backup system when the main ROWPU is being cleaned or serviced.

Because of the strict quality control guidelines, the water is tested for purity on a daily basis, and meets or exceeds all required standards, according to the Camp Lemonier Medical Department.

The camp's new drinking water supply will potentially save the military more than \$3 million per year in bottled water needed for the camp personnel's daily needs.

NMCB 4 Rescues Camels at Derailed Train Crash Site

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

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 responded to a call for help when a train derailed just outside Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in mid-October.

However, when the Seabees approached the train, to their surprise, they discovered that most of the cars contained live cargo – namely camels.

A Seabee crew equipped with tool kits, skill saws and plywood proceeded to the crash site via the detachment's maintenance truck and the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) wrecker. When they arrived, it was a chaotic scene. The Seabees saw that the train's engine had derailed pulling two other cars off the tracks.

"It was just like a scene out of the movies," said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Justin South. "There was a lot of confusion, but I could tell right away when we [Seabees] arrived that this was still a very dangerous situation."

Immediately, Alfa Company went into action, evaluating the situation and planning a rescue. First and foremost, they had to make the scene safe. The two cars that the engine pulled off the tracks were still very unstable. The crew disconnected the cars from the rest of the train to safely rescue the camels. The Seabees constructed and placed shoring to stabilize the engine and keep the first two cars from rolling over while disconnecting them from the rest of the train. Once disconnected, the Seabees used the MTVR wrecker to tow the remaining cars away from the derailed cars and engine.

Then it was time to rescue the live cargo. Seabees are experienced at loading and unloading machinery, vehicles and supplies – but not uncooperative camels.

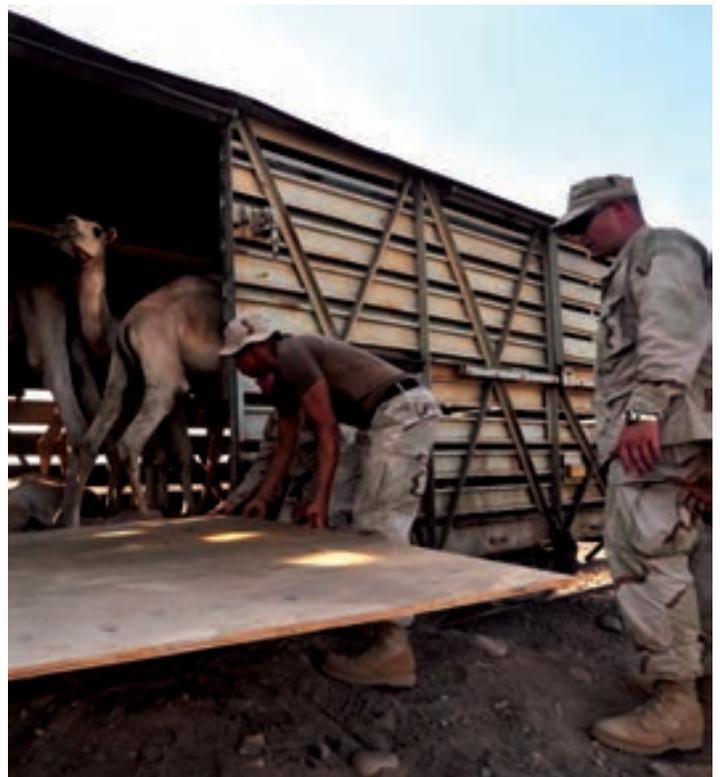
The eight disconnected cars each had 20 camels and no one knew what shape the camels were in. Some of the cars were so severely damaged that the doors would not open. With the help of the base contractors, the doors were removed using cutting torches. Once inside, the Seabees discovered that many of the camels were severely injured or did not survive the crash. The surviving camels were very distraught and tried to jump out of the cars.

CM2(SCW) Justin South and Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Sean Kelly once again hooked up the MTVR wrecker and towed the cars to a nearby ramp. However, the extent of damage to the cars still made it too high for the camels to jump. With the famous "Can Do" Seabee spirit, this problem was quickly resolved. Temporary ramps were constructed from plywood and put in place, making the offloading of the camels quick and safe. The severely injured camels were removed with a forklift and taken care of by the local people.

"This rescue consisted of a lot of teamwork from both the Seabees and the locals," said Builder 3rd Class (SCW) Devin Arndt, NMCB 4's Material Liaison Office. "It just goes to show that when and where tragedy strikes, it is possible for everybody to work together to save lives, whether it be humans or animals."



CM2(SCW) Justin South, NMCB 4, maneuvers an MTVR wrecker into position to stabilize boxcars from a derailed train to rescue several camels onboard outside Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in mid-October.



NMCB 4 Seabees construct a ramp on a derailed boxcar to rescue camels onboard the train in Djibouti.

U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Stanley Parker

NMCB 133 Readiness and Training : Missions Accomplished

By ET3 Andrew Brieno, NMCB 133



As part of NMCB 133's Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Detachment, BU3 Ricky Sims (center) is thanked by local residents for construction work on the island of Java in Indonesia.

Photo by ET3 Andrew Brieno

With a healthy dose of "Can Do," the "Bees" of NMCB 133 made a difference in the lives of thousands of people across four nations as part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) in 2008. CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises between the United States and Southeast Asian countries designed to promote regional cooperation and operation readiness.

Embarked aboard the USS Tortuga (LSD-46), the Seabees visited four countries which benefited from Engineering Civil Action Projects (ENCAPs) – the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The heat was searing and the elements often worked against NMCB 133 and their native counterparts, but they flourished and never failed to complete their tasks ahead of schedule.

"This is my 10th deployment, but easily the most rewarding" said Equipment Operator 2nd Class Chad Lancaster, NMCB 133.

NMCB 1 Hosts Korean Navy Counterpart in Gulfport



The Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) Capt. Jaelig Park (left) visits with CDR Stan Wiles (center), commanding officer, NMCB 1, and CAPT William E. Finn, P.E., assistant chief of staff, SIM/Engineering COMNAVFORKOREA, during a tour on board Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 15. Park, chief of Planning Section, Facilities Engineering at ROKN Headquarters, has visited various U.S. Naval Construction Force commands as the Korean Navy works to develop a similar military construction force.

Photo by MC1(SCW) Demetrius Kennon

'Bees Build School, Goodwill in Bulgaria

By Spc. Jerry Wilson, Joint Task Force-East Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 Seabees were not only hard at work renovating a kindergarten in the city of Sliven, Bulgaria, in October, but also making new friends.

The Seabees worked alongside their Bulgarian counterparts to replace tile flooring, sinks and plumbing in the Zdravets school. They demolished two concrete sinks in the school's kitchen and replaced them with stainless steel, as well as painted and grouted floors and walls.

In addition to giving the school a fresh new look, the Seabees played with the children and made many new friends. One such goodwill ambassador was Builder Constructionman Jeremy Shannon.

"Jeremy has become like a son to me and most of the ladies here," said Maria Deneva, a staff member at the school.

"The boys worked very hard and sometimes late into the night. We love them all like our kids," she said. "We will always have nice memories of our American sons."

The children of Zdravets expressed their thanks to the Seabees through song and dance during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. They sang about their beloved Sliven and shared a taste of Bulgarian culture by performing traditional dances.



NMCB 4 Seabees cut the ribbon, marking the end of renovations at the Zdravets Kindergarten in Sliven, Bulgaria, in October.

U.S. Navy photo

Seabee Goes 'Home' For Deployment

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

One Seabee in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4, Steel Worker 3rd Class Yohannes Adane Nigusie, did not say any goodbyes when his battalion departed for a six-month deployment to the Horn of Africa in August 2008. Instead, he anxiously waited to say hello to his family upon arriving in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

SW3 Nigusie was born and raised in Konne, Ethiopia, just minutes away from Addis Ababa. He graduated from Bole Senior Secondary School, Addis Ababa, and then studied civil engineering at Bahir Dar University, graduating in 2004.

Still wanting to further his engineering career, he moved to the United States and joined the Navy in 2005.

"I am very fortunate to be a part of the Seabees of NMCB 4,"

Nigusie said, whose last deployment was to Iraq. "The 'hands-on' experience and knowledge I have gained will last a lifetime."

He and his fellow Seabees deployed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa to help make a difference for the local population. Their mission consisted of refurbishing schools for children in Addis Ababa.

But the Seabees are doing more than 'school work' – they are helping the locals learn English, teaching them construction skills and playing soccer with the children.

During this time, Nigusie has seen the relationship between the two countries grow stronger day by day.

When Nigusie was not working at the jobsite, he spent time with his wife, Almaz Yarga Shumet, and their new daughter, Herani. He also

invited his fellow Seabees to his home to experience the many types of traditional African food and coffee.



SW3 Yohannes Adane Nigusie, NMCB 4 Det. Addis, constructs a concrete form for a water distribution system in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in mid-October.

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



'Bees on "Discovery"

By MC3 Jeffrey R. Militzer, 25th NCR Public Affairs

UCT 1 DIVERS TAKE PLUNGE FOR THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Years ago, Seabee divers from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., helped solve a 1997 murder mystery, leading to a 2003 conviction in the case.

Late last year, a six-man SCUBA team from UCT 1 was approached by The Discovery Channel to perform a reenactment of their part in the investigation. This took place in a tidal canal located behind the Navy Brig on Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va.

UCT 1 divers entered the canal and conducted a thorough search of the bottom, using a methodical back and forth pattern, and feeling as they went along until they found a machete that was believed to be used in the

disposal of the body. The weapon had been tossed into the canal by the murderer.

"Air Detachment Alfa was happy to accommodate the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and The Discovery Channel in the reenactment of the murder investigation that took place five years ago," said Builder 1st Class (SCW/DV) Brian Strantz, one of the divers who participated in the reenactment. "The producers and NCIS agents were a pleasure to work with and made it enjoyable."

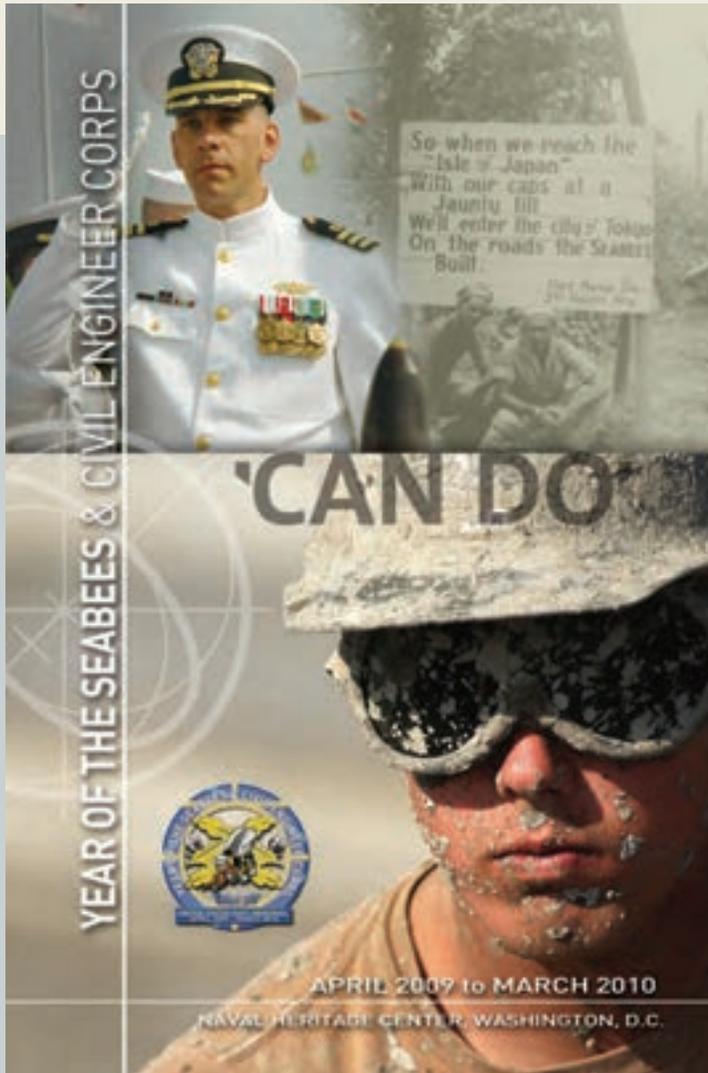
Both The Discovery Channel producers and participating NCIS agents gave a glowing review of the pride and professionalism displayed by UCT 1 during the reenactment. The Discovery Channel plans on airing the episode in the spring of 2009.

(Above) UT2(SCW/DV) Joshua Dresson (left) and SW2(DV) Christopher Michael, UCT 1, display a machete they located after conducting a methodical search of the murky waters of a canal on Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va. The search was performed for The Discovery Channel as part of an investigation reenactment of a 1997 murder that took place in the area.

Photo by BU1(SCW/DV) Brian Strantz

Naval Heritage Center Kicks Off Year of the Seabees/Civil Engineer Corps

By NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs
and Communications



The United States Navy Memorial, Washington, D.C., has designated this year as the "Year of the Seabees/Civil Engineer Corps." After an April 4 kickoff at the Navy Memorial, graphic displays, book signings, films, discussion panels and Seabee equipment will be showcased through March 10, 2010 to help the public learn more about the history and mission of the Seabees, CEC and NAVFAC.

The Memorial is open to the public and located at 701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004 (Archives/Navy Memorial Metro stop.) Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days.)

For more information about the Naval Heritage Center's Year of the Seabees/CEC, visit www.navy memorial.org.

(Below) CDR John Nesius, action officer, Commander, Navy Installations Command, observes past and present Seabee and Civil Engineer Corps uniforms at the Naval Heritage Center's "Year of the Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps: Can Do" exhibit April 4 in Washington, D.C. U.S. Navy photo by Mason Lowery, NAVFAC Public Affairs





Seabees (wearing yellow shirts) from NMCB 133 accompany their athletes during the 100-meter sprint at the Special Olympics at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 8.
Photo by MCC Ryan C. Delcore

“Runnin’ Roos” Cheer on Special Olympians in Okinawa

By MCC Ryan C. Delcore, NMCB 133 Public Affairs

More than 250 Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 “Runnin’ Roos” pitched in and helped out with the Special Olympics at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 8.

Along with others from the local area, NMCB 133 ‘Bees assisted the Olympians with preparations for their events and cheered them on as they competed.

Electronics Technician 2nd Class Lavar Weber and Yeoman 3rd Class Rashad Murray, NMCB 133, were all smiles as they watched their Olympian, Atsuzi, take first place in the 30-meter sprint. This was Weber’s fifth time helping with Special Olympics.

The amount of time the Olympians actually spent participating in the events was small compared to the time spent just hanging out and having a good time with the Seabees of NMCB 133.

“It was a very rewarding and fulfilling experience for all of our troops, and you could see the athletes really appreciated us being out there,” said LT Andrew Wong, NMCB 133.



‘A’ School Students Give Back to Oxnard Community

CMCR Gerrett Meyer (center, left) and CMCR Scotty Williams (center, right) work with students from Cesar Chavez Middle School during a community project at Del Sol Park in Oxnard, Calif., Nov. 22. Meyer and Williams are both students at Construction Mechanic ‘A’ School in Port Hueneme, Calif. The goal of the project for the Seabees was to give back to the Oxnard community while showing military presence.

Photo by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

Seabees Aid Salvation Army



MASN James Arias, NMCB 1, loads a box of food onto a truck at a Salvation Army location in Biloxi, Miss., in December. NMCB 1 Seabees and Air Force Airmen assigned to Keesler Air Force Base volunteered to help the Salvation Army distribute food and toys to the local community.



Seabees assigned to NMCB 1 and Air Force Airmen organize toys at a Salvation Army location in Biloxi, Miss.

Photos by MC1 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon

SELF-HELP SEABEES RESTORE REVERED MASCOT

By Rick Saltzman, NAVFAC Pacific Public Affairs

Symbols of Seabee pride and patriotism come in many forms, but perhaps none are as recognizable as the "Fighting Seabee" mascot that stands guard at Seabee facilities around the world. And now the cherished sentinel guarding the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific and First Naval Construction Division (1NCD) Pacific headquarters is back on its pedestal after being refurbished by NAVFAC Hawaii's Self-Help Seabees.

The Self-Help Seabees partnered with the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, Calif., which purchased the mold for \$15,000 and paid half the cost of a monument identical to the statue at NAVFAC Pacific. The museum will loan the mold to other commands that have always wanted their own bee, but did not have the means to assemble a copy of the 1NCD Pacific prototype. In addition to providing a service to the greater Seabee community, the museum will use the mold to fabricate a new bee as its icon for the front of the new museum, scheduled to open in March 2011.



U.S. Navy photo

CECOS OFFERS JOINT ENGINEERS OPERATIONS COURSE

The Civil Engineer Corps Officer School (CECOS) Joint Engineers Operations Course (JEOC) brings together engineers from all Services – using what they learn in the current operational environment, as well as for future applications, to meet the challenges faced by engineer forces of the 21st century.

The JEOC is a two-phase course designed for selected engineer officers

(senior 0-3s and junior 0-4s), senior non-commissioned officers, warrant officers and government civilians who may serve on a joint staff. The major focus of the course is to introduce students to joint doctrine, planning and operations (specifically engineer operations), and the type of engineer staff positions and associated products engineers are required to develop.

Register soon for May/June courses. For additional information, contact LCDR Russell Rang, CECOS, (805) 982-2873, DSN prefix 551, or russell.rang@navy.mil, or visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/cecos/>.

KEEP ON ROCKIN' WITH SECOND CD "FOR THE TROOPS"

By Kristen Ward, TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Top musical acts – including Five for Fighting, Daughtry, Keith Urban, Gretchen Wilson, Maroon 5 and Trace Adkins – are showing their appreciation for our military through song with the release of a new "For the Troops" CD, available now for free download at the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) website, www.aafes.com. For active duty service members or veterans, just use your valid military ID to log on to the site.

Check out www.cdforthetroops.com for information.

NMCB 1 SEABEES HELP CLEAN UP MISSISSIPPI COAST

By MC1(SCW) Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1



Seabees from NMCB 1 gather debris off the beach, likely washed ashore by Hurricane Gustav. A group of 40 Seabees from NMCB 1 took part in the annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup project in October.

Photo by MC1 Chad Runge

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 hit the Gulfport, Miss., beaches to participate in the 20th Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Cleanup, Oct. 18.

“A majority of the tasks included removing plastics and metals...that could potentially be harmful to people, marine life and the environment,” said Personnel Specialist 1st Class Nathaniel Godfrey, NMCB 1.

The cleanup not only benefited the community, but was also an opportunity for Seabees to bond and greet new faces in the battalion.

“The Seabees’ attitudes were very positive and uplifting,” said Godfrey. “I had a chance to meet new Seabees who were veteran volunteers and looking forward to the next opportunity.”

The Seabees continue to provide a military presence in the local community while maintaining their “Can Do” spirit.

“As ambassadors of the U.S. Navy, it’s important for the community to know that we care about our homefront as well as our [overseas] missions,” Godfrey said.

NMCB 4 SEABEES RECEIVE EDUCATION WHILE ON ROTA DEPLOYMENT

By BU3 David Madmon,
NMCB 4 Rota Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4, while on a six-month deployment to NAVSTA Rota, Spain, took full advantage of the military’s educational benefits through Tuition Assistance (T.A.).

During deployment, Seabees used T.A. to cover 100 percent of their tuition and fees while attending classes (both online and in the classroom) through Central Texas College or University of Maryland University College.

Constructionman Ryan Patterson is attending college at NAVSTA Rota, Spain. He has taken two classes online and recently signed up for two more courses.

“I think it’s great that I can accomplish my academic goals while in the United States, but it’s incredible to be able to receive college credits while I’m deployed overseas,” CN Patterson said.



NMCB 4 Seabees attended online classes and participated in classroom instruction during deployment to NAVSTA Rota, Spain, with help from military tuition assistance.

U.S. Navy photo

2009 SEABEE REUNIONS

MAY

MAY 1-3 Hudson, OH
75th NCB (WWII), NMCB 20 (Reserve), NSVA Dept. of Ohio (State Convention)
Patrick A. Leiher
330-296-8020
3556 Longfield Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266

MAY 1-3 Biloxi, MS
Retired Seabee Reunion
EQCM Daniel Huffman
228-831-3177
12380 Simpson Rd.
Gulfport, MS 39503
dlhuffman1957@yahoo.com

MAY 31 – JUN 5 Deadwood, SD
NNPU PM-3A
CECS Jerry Schloredt
307-283-1448
P.O. Box 1064
Sundance, WY 82729

JUNE

JUN 2-4 Madison, WI
Antarctic Deep Freeze
Association
Dr. Ed Ehrlich
608-826-0477
6416 Clovernook Rd.
Middleton, WI 53562
eehrlich@facstaff.wisc.edu

JUN 11-14 Port Hueneme, CA
PORT HUENEME
ALL SEABEE REUNION
(Seabee Days, June 13-14)
Ed Kloster
626-280-9495
3815 Rio Hondo Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770
MCCB@earthlink.net
allseabees@charter.net

JULY

JUL 3-6 Hemlock, NY
NMCB 1 Mini Reunion
(All Eras)
Peter Dowd
781-837-0393
89 Edwards Rd.
Marshfield, MA 02050
mcb1reunion@verizon.net

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

YOUR ENLISTED LEADERSHIP AT A GLANCE



FORCM(SCW) Mike Holdcraft
Force Master Chief Petty Officer
of the Seabees, Naval Facilities
Engineering Command



CMDCM(SCW) Wade Hawk
Command Master Chief
First Naval Construction Division

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENTS



CMDCM(SCW)
Robert Marconi
1st Naval
Construction
Regiment



CMDCM(SCW)
Ronald Beard
3rd Naval
Construction
Regiment



CMDCM(SCW)
Charles D. Merritt III
7th Naval
Construction
Regiment



CMDCM(SCW)
Larry Heikkila
9th Naval
Construction
Regiment



CMDCM(SCW)
Joseph Perrone
22nd Naval
Construction
Regiment



CMDCM(SCW)
Sean Libby
25th Naval
Construction
Regiment



CMDCM(SCW)
Thomas Cyr
30th Naval
Construction
Regiment

AMPHIBIOUS CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS



CMDCM(SW/AW)
Damon Anthony
Amphibious Construction
Battalion 1



CMDCM(SCW)
Michael Williamson
Amphibious Construction
Battalion 2

SEABEE READINESS GROUPS



CMDCM(SCW)
Robert Cuff
20th Seabee Readiness Group



CMDCM(SCW)
Douglas Dickey
31st Seabee Readiness Group

Naval Mobile Construction Battalions
 NMCB 1 CMDCM(SCW) Duane Sharp
 NMCB 3 CMDCM(SCW) Jeffrey Weigel
 NMCB 4 CMDCM(SCW) Austin Leedom
 NMCB 5 CMDCM(SCW) Mark Kraninger
 NMCB 7 CMDCM(SCW) Peter Grundy
 NMCB 11 CMDCM(SCW) Thane Halsey
 NMCB 14 CMDCM(SCW) William Travis
 NMCB 15 CMDCM(SCW) Carl Carder
 NMCB 17 CMDCM(SCW) Robert Griseto
 NMCB 18 CMDCM(SCW) Kelly Spittler
 NMCB 21 CMDCM(SCW) Michael Cassidy
 NMCB 22 CMDCM(SCW) Clarence Denis
 NMCB 23 CUCM(SCW) Curtis Stone
 NMCB 24 CMDCM(SCW) John Banaccorso
 NMCB 25 CMDCM(SCW) Dan Dolter
 NMCB 26 CMDCM(SCW) Daniel Murphy
 NMCB 27 CMDCM(SCW) Richard Heiland

NMCB 28 CMDCM(SCW) Barry Fletcher
 NMCB 40 CMDCM(SCW) Dean Joyce
 NMCB 74 CMDCM(SCW) Brian Farricy
 NMCB 133 CMDCM(SCW) Pamela Taylor

Construction Battalion
 Maintenance Units
 CBMU 202 UCCM(SCW) Michael Sigler
 CBMU 303 CUCM(SCW) Charles Thomas

Underwater Construction Teams
 UCT 1 CUCM(SCW/MDV)
 Jeffrey Moxley
 UCT 2 SWCS(SCW/MDV)
 Leonard Koelbel

NAVFAC Atlantic
 Europe/Southwest Asia
 CUCM(SCW) Scott Morris
 Mid-Atlantic BUC(SCW) Scott Niezgodza
 Midwest BUCS(SCW) Chris Lavender
 Northwest BUCS(SCW) Eric Davis
 Southwest BUCS(SCW) Arcadio Garcia
 Southeast EOCs(SCW) Bonnel Ray
 Washington, D.C.
 SWC(SCW) James Trumble

NAVFAC Pacific
 Far East EACS(SCW) Harry Canete
 Marianas - BUC(SCW) Boy Talero
 Pacific and Hawaii BUCS(SCW)
 Tony Chance

Other Units
 Naval Construction Force
 Support Unit 2
 UCCM(SCW) Keith Rousseve
 Camp David CUCM(SCW) Michael Dyer
 Naval Special Warfare
 Development Group
 EQCM(SCW/EXW) Ed Thomas
 Naval Support Unit State Department
 UTCS(SCW) Kevin Hartford
 Naval Facilities Engineering
 Service Center
 SWCS(SCW) Shane Jenkins
 Naval Facilities Expeditionary
 Logistics Center
 EQCM(SCW) Jonny Beane

By FORCM(SCW) Mike Holdcraft,
Force Master Chief Petty Officer of the Seabees,
Naval Facilities Engineering Command



U.S. Navy photo

UNITED STATES NAVY ETHOS

We are the United States Navy, our Nation's sea power – ready guardians of peace, victorious in war.

We are professional Sailors and Civilians – a diverse and agile force exemplifying the highest standards of service to our Nation, at home and abroad, at sea and ashore.

Integrity is the foundation of our conduct; respect for others is fundamental to our character; decisive leadership is crucial to our success.

We are a team, disciplined and well prepared, committed to mission accomplishment. We do not waiver in our dedication and accountability to our Shipmates and families.

We are patriots, forged by the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. In times of war and peace, our actions reflect our proud heritage and tradition.

We defend our Nation and prevail in the face of adversity with strength, determination, and dignity.

We are the United States Navy.

You are a leader. This is evident in the choice you made to serve your country. Many young people today are looking around them for inspiration; all they need to do is lay eyes on their peers in uniform.

Your simple act of choosing to serve our great nation is something that denotes you are willing to sacrifice yourself to something greater, to hold yourself and those around you to a higher standard, and take on responsibility that others may not be willing to bear.

Leaders do many things; they lift us up when needed, re-direct if necessary, inspire others to new achievements, and perhaps most importantly, clearly define their goals and responsibilities to their subordinates.

All of these are qualities of leadership; but being a leader is not easy. Leadership is not a path for the faint-hearted, for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek to make themselves famous. Leaders are risk-takers, doers and often, men and women who work in obscurity but serve as an example for others to follow.

Who are your mentors and examples for leadership? Do you know your chain of command? Do you know who you can go to for counsel, advice and mentorship on any issue that comes your way? Are you fully aware of the opportunities available to you in today's Navy and Seabee Force? If not, ask the Chief, your First Class Petty Officer or a fellow shipmate to get you squared away.

As a leader in the chain of command, you have a responsibility not only to yourself and your shipmates but to the Navy we all serve. It is up to all Sailors to maximize their potential, and become the best they can be in service to our Navy and to our country. In doing so, character is forged, skills are obtained and valuable experience is earned so that when the time comes, you are ready for any challenge, and you may say you've served your country, our Navy and your family admirably.

Know your chain of command, and your Sailors, shipmates and fellow Seabees. We all have a part to play in helping develop each other personally and professionally. Remember and live our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment; review and understand our Navy Ethos and never forget that Seabees "Can Do!" not just for those in need, but for ourselves as well.

Our Commander-in-Chief defined our tasks in his inaugural address. "What is required of us now," he said, "is a new era of responsibility – a recognition on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task."

We have our orders, Shipmates!

Leadership and Professionalism are your Responsibility.

You are a leader; I know you're up to our Commander-in-Chief's tasks!

You're a United States Navy "Can Do" Seabee!

Keep'em Safe Leaders, Mission First – Safety and Seabees Always.

OOH RAH!

Construimus o Batuimus



NMCB 11's Alfa Company conducts a Service Dress Blues inspection in preparation for the annual uniform switch in Gulfport, Miss., Nov. 13.
Photo by MC2 Erick S. Holmes

