

WE BUILD • WE FIGHT

# SEABEE

UNITED STATES NAVY | SPRING 2012

## Gator-Bees Build, Fight on Land and Sea

ALSO INSIDE:

**NMCB 7 Completes  
Mescall Water Well**

**Shields, Stethem, Combs,  
Moreell Awards...and more**

**Centenarian Becomes  
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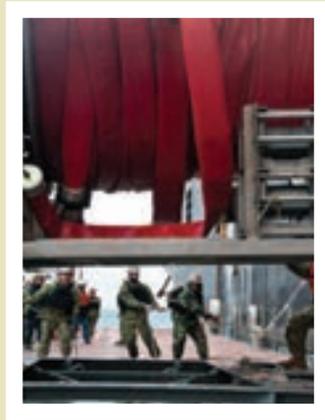
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Seabees attached to PHIBCB 2's Bravo Company guide an Amphibious Bulk Liquid Transfer System (ABLTS) hose reel lowered from Maritime Prepositioning Force ship USNS *PFC Eugene A. Obregon* (T-AK-3006) onto an INLS Intermediate Module during Exercise *Bold Alligator*. *Bold Alligator*, the largest naval amphibious exercise in the past 10 years, took place afloat and ashore in and around Virginia and North Carolina during January and February.

Photo by MC3(SW/AW) Jonathan Pankau

# SPRING12



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Seabees assigned to NMCB 74's Convoy Security Element attack a simulated insurgent compound, Camp Shelby, Miss.  
*Photo by MC2 Michael Lindsey*

## CAN DO.

The ageless battle cry of Seabees past and present symbolizes much more than a positive attitude – it is a commitment to succeed and make a difference to the mission. And sometimes that mission is both on land and at sea.

Seabee contributions to Exercise *Bold Alligator 2012*, the largest naval amphibious exercise in the past 10 years, is a great example of the behind-the-scenes influence Seabees have on a variety of missions, including those of the amphibious nature, as three Seabee units – Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, Amphibious Construction Battalion (PHIBCB) 2 and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 – combined resources, talent and effort to empower the Navy and Marine Corps revitalization of the full range of amphibious operations.

While many Seabees were hard at work off the coast of North Carolina and Virginia, even more 'Bees continued to spread American goodwill in Peru and Haiti, the final stops on the Southern Partnership Station mission. Using hammers, nails and Seabee ingenuity, NMCB 23 Seabees helped build hope for people who need a hand living their own CAN DO dreams.

Elsewhere in the world, Seabees continue to empower the Afghan people as they emerge from the tyrannical rule of the Taliban.

Good men and women, too many for sure, have given their lives for CAN DO and their spirit lives on in every Seabee. It inspires us. It comforts us. It heals us.

The power of CAN DO isn't exclusive to the uniform. In fact, its greatest influence is often on those who have never worn a hard hat, placed concrete or chanted a cadence on a five-mile battalion run. Such is the case with 15-year-old Brandi Anderson, daughter of fallen Seabee Builder 2nd Class Michael Anderson. We have her inspirational story for you as she continues to embody her father's



MCC(SCW/EXW/SW/AW/SG)  
James G. Pinsky

CAN DO spirit nearly eight years after his death.

Being a Seabee has many unspoken rewards. The countless handshakes from villagers who get a roof over their head, the hearty gratitude from military units who can use new roads and reinforced structures to sustain their mission, and the constant flow of love and admiration from fellow Americans both at home and abroad. Still, our job is a taxing one which can take its toll physically, mentally and emotionally on even the hardest CAN DO Seabee. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is a real threat to the safety and well-being of our Seabees and we have some useful information for you and your family.

*Seabee Magazine Online* continues to generate enthusiasm and interest. The summer issue will be our final in print, after which you will receive the most up-to-date news, features and information delivered to your laptop, desktop, tablet, smartphone – virtually anywhere you are – via *Seabee Online*.

This is my last edition of *Seabee Magazine* as your editor. I am retiring after more than 20 years of service to our country. Thank you all for allowing me the immense honor to serve as the editor of *Seabee*.

I assure you it was the pinnacle of my career.

In my absence, the *Seabee Magazine* Team will continue to provide you with the best in Fighter-Builder news throughout the Seabee Nation.

CAN DO!

MCC(SCW/EXW/SW/AW/SG) James G. Pinsky  
Editor-in-Chief, *Seabee Magazine*

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**SEABEE**  
UNITED STATES NAVY

## EDITORIAL

*SEABEE Magazine* is published 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 [seabeeemagazine@navy.mil](mailto:seabeeemagazine@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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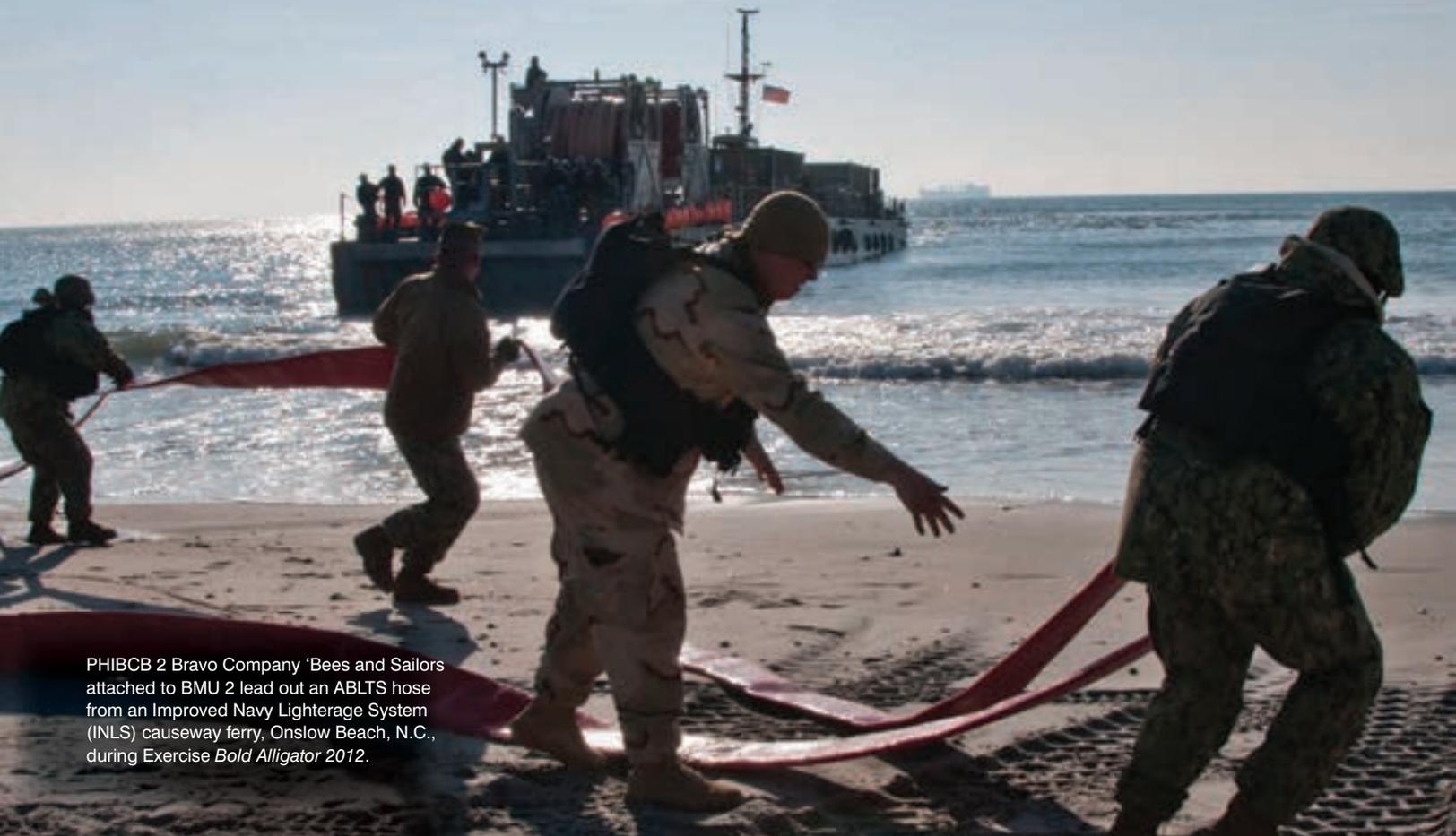
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# BOLD ALLIGATOR

## BUILDING AND FIGHTING ON LAND AND SEA

### PHIBCB 2 Gator-Bees Train with Marines for Amphibious Assault

Story and photos by MC3(SW/AW) Jonathan Pankau, ACB 2 Public Affairs



PHIBCB 2 Bravo Company 'Bees and Sailors attached to BMU 2 lead out an ABLTS hose from an Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) causeway ferry, Onslow Beach, N.C., during Exercise *Bold Alligator 2012*.

Seabees attached to Amphibious Construction Battalion (PHIBCB) 2 stood watch on an Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) Intermediate Module 13,000 feet away from the shore of Onslow Bay, N.C. A jet black bay stretched out to meet an equally dark sky, slightly illuminated by the lights from the Maritime Prepositioning Force ship, USNS PFC *Eugene A. Obregon* (T-AK-3006). Loud reports from the engines of the Riverine squadron boats patrolling the waters, sometimes accompanied by spotlights slicing through the distant night sky or automatic gunfire

from their mounted machine guns, were the only signs of a presence patrolling the bay. Despite the conditions, PHIBCB 2 Seabees still stood the watch on their Amphibious Bulk Liquid Transfer System (ABLTS) pumping water to the forces ashore.

This was the scene at Exercise *Bold Alligator 2012*, Jan. 30 - Feb. 12, off the coast of Camp Lejeune, N.C. Seabees from PHIBCB 2 were training for an all-out amphibious assault, and though it was only water being pumped through the ABLTS system for the exercise, it could just as easily pump fuel in a real-world combat scenario.

(Continued on page 6)



For outstanding contributions to the Spring issue, we present the Seabee Magazine Challenge Coin to MC3(SW/AW) Jonathan Pankau, ACB 2 Public Affairs. MC3 Pankau provided start-to-finish coverage – story and photos – of PHIBCB 2's involvement in Exercise *Bold Alligator 2012*, as well as our Profile featuring Capt. James R. Mims (Ret), "Seabee Centenarian Becomes Honorary ACB 2 Fighter-BUILDER." Can Do!



BMSN Eric Morfis, PHIBCB 2 Bravo Company, hauls an ABLTS hose out of a Landing Auxiliary Rescue Craft (LARC) during Exercise *Bold Alligator 2012*.

**"We call ourselves 'Gator-Bees' here at PHIBCB 2, but that same Gator-Bee can go to an NMCB and get it done there, too. We'll build and fight wherever our country asks us to."**

– Command Master Chief(SCW)  
Johnny J. DeSarro, PHIBCB 2

(Continued from page 5)

Once fuel is thrown into the equation, PHIBCB 2's status as a key component in a training exercise becomes an essential and vital service in a combat situation...and a high priority target for enemy forces.

"ABLTS is directly related to our ability to sustain forces ashore," said Rear Adm. Dennis E. FitzPatrick, Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic. "So as we look at *Bold Alligator*, we begin to reacquaint ourselves with the amphibious mission and our partnership with our Marine Corps brethren."

Command Master Chief (SCW) Johnny J. DeSarro said that supporting the amphibious forces by moving resources and supplies from ship to shore is PHIBCB 2's main mission.

"We supply the Marine Corps and other ground pounders with the fuel and equipment they need to do their mission," CMDCM DeSarro said. "PHIBCB 2 is a part of Naval Beach Group 2, who reports to Expeditionary Strike Group 2. The Seabees here are very much a part of the surface Navy but we provide support for our forces ashore just like every Seabee at a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion [NMCB], Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit [CBMU] and so on."

Every Seabee's legacy begins in World

War II when the Fighter Builders stormed beaches alongside ground forces. Amphibious transportation carried these Seabees to do their mission. But as the times changed so did our military and so did the military's methods of getting their troops to the fight.

"If I had to come up with a difference between PHIBCB 2 and the other Seabee battalions, the only major difference I can really think of is our method of transportation to the mission...to the fight," DeSarro said. "The things we build are different but we're still building. We fight from seabase positions on the beach, but we're still fighting."

Alfa Company, Charlie Company and Hotel Company perform the same basic functions at PHIBCB 2 as they would anywhere else. Alfa operates and maintains the vehicles and construction equipment with their equipment operators and construction mechanics. Charlie is home to the builders, steelworkers, utilitiesmen, engineering aides and construction electricians who provide a valuable support role for every operation. Hotel, or Headquarters Company, provides the necessary administrative functions as well as staff training, medical and supply personnel.

There are a few different capabilities that

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# BOLD ALLIGATOR

SR Joshua Williams, PHIBCB 2, climbs off a utility boat onto Maritime Prepositioning Force ship USNS PFC Eugene A. Obregon (T-AK-3006) to assist with the set up and operation of the ABLTS during *Bold Alligator*.



(Continued from page 6)

make PHIBCB 2 a unique command. Once a year, Seabees from active duty and reserve components from PHIBCB 1 in Coronado, Calif., and PHIBCB 2 get together to build the Elevated Causeway System-Modular (ELCAS-M). ELCAS-M is the only expeditionary pier system in the world and can be constructed to support ship-to-shore cargo movement where a useable seaport may be damaged or unavailable.

Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Lance Miller, PHIBCB 2 Alfa Company, said the battalion boasts the largest crane program in the Naval Construction Force (NCF) to assemble ELCAS-M.

“Our Crawler cranes and hydraulic cranes are the largest in the NCF, and we maintain more [of them] than any other Seabee battalion,” EO1 Miller said.

Charlie Company also participates in the ELCAS-M build from their engineering aides who provide valuable survey data, to the steelworkers who weld together the piles.

Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Andrew Kraus, PHIBCB 2 Charlie Company, said that Charlie also establishes and maintains all the necessary camp functions. Charlie Company personnel set up showers, operation tents and the tent camp itself where the Seabees rest for the night.

“We’re the behind-the-scenes guys who make everyday living and working conditions bearable out in the field,” BU2 Kraus said.

PHIBCB 2 is Kraus’s fifth duty station after serving with NMCB 4, Public Works Hawaii, and the 1st and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Forces. He is also the highest-ranking builder in PHIBCB 2’s Charlie Company builder shop. Kraus said he’s able to flex his leadership abilities more at PHIBCB 2 than at any other command.

“We’re not a large command and this makes it possible for me to lead the training of younger troops,” Kraus said. “I’m taking full advantage of the opportunity.”

Bravo Company at PHIBCB 2 is the anomaly compared to other Seabee battalions. It is comprised mainly of boatswain’s mates, electrician’s mates and enginemen. These are not Navy rates associated with the OF-7 construction ratings.

“Whether we’re deploying and operating ABLTS or pre-staging gear and equipment for the ELCAS-M, Bravo Company is essential to everything PHIBCB 2 does,” said Chief Boatswain’s Mate (EXW/SW) Scott Hinnant, PHIBCB 2 Bravo Company training chief. “My guys train with everyone else at the field training exercises and sleep in the same tents next to the equipment operators and builders during operations. I’d say we’re just as much Seabees as everyone else at the command.”

Boatswain’s mates at PHIBCB 2 are provided unique leadership opportunities related to maintaining and operating INLS craft. Chiefs, commissioned officers and limited duty officers are normally called upon to be Craft Masters at other commands. At PHIBCB 2, junior enlisted are able to step up and take charge of the craft by earning their Craft Master qualification.

“As a second class petty officer we can be in charge of a whole crew onboard an INLS vessel,” said Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class (SW) Jesse Gazur. “Especially during operations it’s just you and your boat crew out there, so we’re held to a higher standard of responsibility.”

DeSarro stressed that, no matter the differences, Seabees are everywhere and do everything. He was part of the Seabee Combat

Warfare Personnel Qualification Standard revision for the common core and unit specific for NMCBs and PHIBCBs and was stationed at NMCBs 74, 1 and 5, 1st Naval Construction Division (1NCD), Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 2 and the Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss.

“I’ve been stationed at a lot of commands and I don’t see the difference between a PHIBCB Seabee, an NMCB Seabee or any other battalion Seabee,” DeSarro said. “Every Seabee I’ve ever worked with has that ‘Can Do’ attitude necessary to accomplish any mission. Seabees support just about every command in the Navy. We call ourselves ‘Gator-Bees’ here at PHIBCB 2, but that same Gator-Bee can go to an NMCB and get it done there, too. We’ll build and fight wherever our country asks us to.” **SB**



BM1 (SW/AW) Kevin Greene, PHIBCB 2 Bravo Company, attaches two ABLTS hoses together during Exercise *Bold Alligator*, the Navy and Marine Corps’ revitalization of the full range of amphibious operations.



## NMCB 23 Seabees, Marines and Indonesian Engineers Refurbish School and Clinic in

# HAITI

A Seabee (center) assigned to NMCB 23, embarked aboard High Speed Vessel (HSV 2) *Swift*, and U.N. soldiers from the Indonesian Military Engineering Contingent carry a generator from a classroom at the National School of Caracol, Haiti.

*U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Alan B. Owens*

By Lt. Matthew Comer, Southern Partnership Station Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 Seabees and U.S. Marines from High Speed Vessel (HSV) 2 *Swift* partnered with an Indonesian army, navy and air force construction company to complete improvements on a school and dispensary in Caracol, Haiti, Feb. 29, as part of HSV Southern Partnership Station 2012.

“We are working with the Indonesians to make the school and dispensary better places for the community to learn and receive medical care,” said Staff Sgt. Garival Perez, Caracol dispensary project lead. “The work we are doing will really have an impact on the community here.”

The work at the National School of Caracol includes a roof replacement, structural repair to the support beams, a new concrete sidewalk and cosmetic improvements. The work is in conjunction with several UNICEF projects, increasing the school’s capacity for future use and improving current learning conditions for the 7th-9th grade students.

At the Caracol dispensary, the work consists of a new secured storage shed, demolition and replacement of cabinets and shelving, installation of an incendiary pit and security wire, and painting the building. The improvements will increase the dispensary’s ability to store and maintain supplies, and provide sanitary medical care to the community.

“The entire mission of HSV-SPS 12 is to build partnerships,” said Lt. j.g. J.P. Henry, Seabee officer-in-charge. “With every stop, I am amazed at the impact Seabees, Marines, Sailors and partner engineers, like the Indonesians, can have on the community.”

The projects were budgeted for \$43,000 and all supplies for the sites were purchased in Haiti, impacting a community of 14,000 people. The three-week construction ended with a closing ceremony attended by the U.S. and Indonesian engineers, and Haitian community members.

“Our work in Haiti demonstrates the need for strong, seamless partnerships,” said Cmdr. Garry Wright, HVS-SPS 12 mission commander. “This is the first visit by a U.S. ship to the northern side of Haiti, and the relationships we build will shape the way we work together in the future.”

Haiti is the last stop of the HSV-SPS 12 four-month mission, which included port visits in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama and Peru.

Southern Partnership Station is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) area of responsibility in the Caribbean, Central and South America. The mission’s primary goal is information sharing with partner nation service members and civilians in the region.

# AFGHANISTAN

## NMCB 11 on Target

Seabees assigned to NMCB 11 approach their targets at a water-logged firing range to check for shooting accuracy, Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 19.

*Photo by MC1 Jonathan Carmichael*



(At right) CM3 Bryan Cantu, NMCB 7's Water Well Detachment, guides a cement mixer as it is lowered from a well-tender at a drill site at Forward Operating Base Mescall, Zabul province, Afghanistan, Feb. 29.  
Photo by MCC Yan Kennon



## NMCB 7 Water Well Detachment Completes Mescall Water Well

By MCC Yan Kennon, NMCB 7 Public Affairs

**A**fter five weeks of around-the-clock operations, Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 Water Well Detachment successfully completed drilling their first fresh water well at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Mescall, Zabul province, Afghanistan.

The Seabee detachment departed the battalion's mainbody site at Kandahar Airfield in early February, and began base camp setup the next day at FOB Mescall, located 4,595 feet above sea level in the Shah Joy District of Zabul province.

Detachment personnel were divided into three separate crews (Towers), led by Equipment Operator 1st Class Michal Shafer, Equipment Operator 2nd Class Mark Palmer and Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Scott Klausner. Each crew worked eight-hour shifts, through snow, high winds and single-digit temperatures to keep the drilling operations going 24 hours a day.

The crews were prepared to drill in excess of 1,200 feet for their projected water table, but hit their mark after drilling through 903 feet of sand, stone and clay.

However, the Seabees' success did not come without minor setbacks including delays in obtaining needed fuel and water due to a two-day snow storm.

"Fuel and water shortages really compressed our drilling timelines," said EO1 Shafer, assistant officer in charge. "But I had very high confidence in our crew that we would finish this mission on schedule. That's what Seabees do, complete their mission and prepare for the next."

The Seabees began the exploratory drilling using a six-inch pilot hole, sampling the earth at predetermined depths. They hit their first water formation at 500 feet. After testing water samples, they continued drilling until they hit another water table and their ultimate stopping point at 903 feet. Then, the crew widened the borehole and installed casings, screens and gravel pack to allow water to flow into the well and keep unwanted materials, such as sand and dirt, out.

Next the crew mixed and pumped cement between the casing and borehole wall, a method often referred to as "grouting the well," to make a sanitary seal to prevent any downward leakage of contaminants from the surface. This also prevents intermixing of ground water between water-bearing zones encountered while drilling.

The Seabees then developed the well, the final step before declaring it operational. Development is a procedure used to maximize the well yield. The two main reasons for well development are to clean the filter cake from the borehole wall and to remove unwanted sediments and particles from the pipe so that water will flow more freely into the well.

The well completion at FOB Mescall, named after U.S. Army Maj. Brian Mescall who was killed January 2009 when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated near his vehicle in Jaldak while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), allows the Romanian Army-controlled FOB to be completely self-sufficient without concern for cost-consuming water contracts.

"This is our team's first official drill down range," said Chief Equipment Operator Jerry Greer, the detachment's officer in charge. "Drilling this well provided a lot of good training for our crew, which will make the next drill easier for us. We're very happy with the results and are looking forward to our next assignment."





(Above) NMCB 5 'Bees play futbol with Djiboutian youth outside Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

# AFRICOM / EUCOM



SWCN Daniel Buskeness, NMCB 5, and an Ethiopian youth work together to repair a swing at the Gende-Gerard Playground, Dire-Dawa, Ethiopia.

*Photos by LT Greg Uvila, CHC*

## Marked for Good: Hearts and Minds Across Africa and Europe

By Lt. Greg Uvila, CHC, NMCB 5

As NMCB 5's AFRICOM/EUCOM deployment draws down, as the evening sun sets, we recall the many gorgeous sunrises and enthralling sunsets we witnessed across the continents of Africa and Europe; emblematic of our positive contribution to America's global "Hearts and Minds" campaign.

However, the daily world of a Seabee is too real: endless training, demanding project deadlines, monotonous repetitive labor, the sweat, the angst and yes, even tears. These stormy fronts cause one to really question...How positive was our presence overseas?

Seabees wonder within and occasionally question out loud...

- Are we making a difference in this abstractly defined Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)?
- Does the water well we just drilled make a difference when the villagers break it two weeks after it is installed?
- Will the local citizens utilize the modern maternity ward we are constructing or will it remain vacant as they stubbornly hold to thousands of years of customs regarding childbirth?
- And the schools, who will teach here when we leave? What will they be taught inside these walls? How will these chalkboards be marked, what politic will they speak?

In the chaplain world we speak of marking individuals for good, sharing compliments, speaking words of life and encouragement, spiritual speak-blessing. Seabees speak the language of hammer and saw, loader and roller. Their "marking for good" of our global friends and allies is seen in placing concrete, building bridges, drilling wells, cutting roads and engineering airstrips.

Each NMCB long ago was proudly marked. Navy Seabees wear and swear by their battalion's number. It is this battalion's pride that appears on every project, every pour, every bridge constructed across the globe. Our global neighbors in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Turkey and Sicily wear their marking – a simple knowing smile; NMCB 5 Seabees have marked them and their community for good!

Marked for good, the barren countryside of Ethiopia, we have brought fresh water to an impoverished village. Think desert, think hot, think fresh drinking water for the first time in this locale. The community is so taken by the new reality that guards from within the region are being hired to help keep the well...well...functioning well!

Marked for good, outside of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, we reached out to a nearby orphanage through the simplicity of soccer matches, offering our hearts through our futbol skills with the hope that Djiboutian and Somalian minds will see that Americans are a worthy ally in the global community.

Marked for good, close to Dikhil, Djibouti, we completed a solar-powered school and laid the foundation for a medical facility; main mission, the safe delivery of newborn children. When you tie the two endeavors together one observes that our Seabees are part of a

holistic effort to nurture health and education among African youth. Estimates are, every year, 500 Ethiopian, Somalian and Nomadic women will benefit from the maternity ward.

Marked for good, beyond Sigonella in Acitrezza, Sicily, we reached out with assistance, extending helpful hands into a fishing village with much-needed building repair of a Catholic church. Behind the COMREL effort is the conviction that the Sicilian partnership will enhance the view of America's military presence in Europe.

Marked for good, in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, we modeled a dual passion for learning and playing. As we completed the Gende Gerade schoolhouse we also finished the renovation of their playground, making it a safer and cleaner place to recreate. Our Seabees' hard work reminds us that schools and playgrounds are where children's innocent dreams are born and precious passions discovered.

Marked for good, near Negele, Ethiopia, we provided critical electrical support for a regional hospital, a local high school and an orphanage. Shelving was installed, kitchen tables built and bed slats repaired for a dormitory. A temporary footbridge was conceived and placed near the existing Buru Urii River ford to mitigate the impact of the coming rainy season on pedestrians. "The Professionals" built a couple of soccer goals and games with local kids routinely took place during downtime. Finally, in Negele community interaction was great as volunteers labored alongside Seabees for several weeks building gabion earthworks – placing 775,000 pounds of rock into baskets for



NMCB 5 'Bees worked 593 hours during their downtime to renovate Gende Gerade Playground, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, providing a safer place for local children to play.

Photos by SW1 Keith Lockwood

erosion protection to preserve the newly constructed bridge.

As NMCB 5's last jet whisks west, the sun disappears and the moon takes its post and tips its hat to another day well done. Darkness envelopes the Ethiopian deserts as nearby hyenas howl in approval. Their laughter creates chuckles, simple belly laughs, giggles of Seabee satisfaction within our newly found friends. Onboard the plane our GWOT questions are laid to rest. Our own quiet laughter agrees with the hyenas below. We have marked two continents, dozens of communities and hundreds of newfound friends for good. **SB**

# A Seabee's Road to First Female Construction Mechanic Master Chief

By MCC Leslie Shively, Regional Command Southwest

Master Chief Equipmentman (SCW) Kathy Keith chuckles at the idea she has a soft side; and laughs out loud if someone mentions her iron foot.

EQCM Keith claims the title of first female construction mechanic master chief and is a Seabee, a double-down rarity. Though she's reached the top of the food chain – master chief is the highest rank an enlisted person can achieve in the Navy – it's been a winding road full of potholes.

During her years at Fort Zumwalt High School in her hometown of O'Fallon, Mo., she toyed with the idea of studying psychiatry, but chose to operate and repair trucks instead of sorting out another person's mind. She became interested in the Navy while attending trade school for diesel mechanics so she could drive big rigs cross country.

"I decided I didn't want to deal with everybody's problems because psychiatrists usually drive themselves nuts," Keith explained with a slight grin. "But I didn't want to drive a truck without knowing how to fix it. I'd always worked on equipment – doing cars and stuff with my dad."



EQCM(SCW) Kathy Keith, NMCB 4, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

A friend from trade school enlisted into the Seabees and Keith "got stuck" telling her recruiter it was construction mechanic or nothing. She enlisted and in 1984 entered boot camp. Afterward, she was assigned to Public Works in Bahrain and several other duty stations until she finally landed a Seabee battalion. She became part of the Alfa Company nicknamed "Alfa Dawgs" – a traditionally male association. Females were banned from ground combat units until 1994 by Congress, so battalions were off limits to her until then.

Checking into her fourth command she was told, "We don't need a Seabee here, so I don't know why you're checking in; and we definitely don't need a female Seabee." Her less than warm welcome was commonplace.

"How many challenges do you want?" Keith asks. "I spent my whole career trying not to be a female Seabee – just a good Seabee. My name was always highlighted, bolded, something. I understand for berthing that you need to remember that 'Kathy' is a girl, but for everything? Do I really need to stand out for everything? It used to torque me to no end."

Keith stuck with it. "Yeah," she said matter-of-factly, adding that

sometimes she stayed out of spite. "Don't tell me I can't, 'cause I will."

Her biggest hurdle was credibility. She knew she could do the job. But convincing her male counterparts took patience and timing. For example, at her third command as a second class petty officer, no one spoke to her for the first few months. So, if another Seabee was changing out "dualies," the double wheels on a large vehicle, she would stop what she was doing to help without saying a word. Eventually her fellow Seabees figured out she was an asset to the shop.

This current deployment is Keith's second in Afghanistan. She's been to Bahrain, Scotland, Guam and Japan. She's off-loaded ships using ship-board cranes with Navy Cargo Handling Port Group, while deployed to Korea, Thailand and Florida.

Keith has always been the take-charge type. At her first command in Bahrain, she led the reactionary force. In Thurso, Scotland, she served as fire chief for the base and taught structural fire fighting. As a platoon commander, she took misfit Sailors others found too difficult.

"They were considered street rats," Keith said. "Once somebody wanted them to be part of the group they just blossomed. Our platoon was locked on, especially when we went to the field. Those kids were really good at thinking on their feet and with survival skills."

At Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Port Hueneme, Calif., she mentored hardcore teens and young adults. A program through the California Youth Authority in Ventura, Calif., gave parolees the chance to attend the Navy Construction Mechanics Apprentice School.

"Those kids might have been in for murder, assault, drugs – whatever," Keith explains. Again her "kids" far exceeded expectations. "They studied all night – they were serious about it." According to an article in the Dec. 19, 1998, edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, the program was so successful, the Navy wanted to expand it.

Keith continues mentoring Seabees in her battalion. She laughs softly when Chief Equipment Operator Jason Phillips, NMCB 4, calls her Mom. What's the joke? Although she chose to fix vehicles throughout her career, Keith has always fixed others.

"She takes care of everybody," EOC Phillips said. "When I was out on a remote patrol base and I needed something, I sent her an email. Two days later I had it...She will get it done. It's very much like family."

"She cares more about her troops than anybody I've ever worked for," said Equipment Operator 2nd Class Daniel Sullivan. But he warns that Keith has a tough love side.

"Whether you like it or not, she's going to make sure you're squared away," EO2 Sullivan said, adding that she "cured" him of not performing at his capabilities.

Does she deliver her medicine with a spoon full of sugar? "She could deliver it with her foot," Sullivan offered with a laugh. He credits Keith for his work ethic and initiative.

In her off time, Keith earned a bachelor of science degree in criminology with a heavy dose of psychology on the side. She said the combination fits perfectly with her job, and trying to understand others hasn't driven her crazy yet.

After this deployment, Keith plans to retire to her ranch in Missouri, work for one of the vets in her hometown, drive for the grain elevator during harvest season and train horses during the day. She is thinking about getting a grooming license.

"I have my fingers in a few pots – we'll see what happens." **SB**

NMCB 3 and 31st SRG Seabees arrive on the scene of a disastrous wreck with an extendable-boom forklift, operated by CM2(SCW) Michael McCracken, NMCB 3, Highway 101, Buellton, Calif.



## Seabee 'Hero' Efforts Recognized by City of Buellton

By Shane Montgomery, Public Affairs Officer, 31st SRG

Seabees from the 31st Seabee Readiness Group and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 were recognized by Mayor Holly Sierra, City of Buellton, Calif., in a Proclamation of Thanks, Feb. 29, for their support in the rescue of a mother and her two children from a mangled BMW on Highway 101, Jan. 12.

The rescue occurred after a semi diesel truck collided with the BMW nearly pushing it off a bridge and into a 100-foot ravine. Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Frankie Cruz, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Michael McCracken and Equipment Operator Constructionman Clinton Roberts from NMCB 3, along with Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Shawn Legg, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Benjamin Mead and Construction Mechanic 3rd Class (SCW) James Winters from the 31st SRG, were returning from a training exercise up north and were the second responders on the scene.

The highway was full of smoke and debris, so the group pulled over to see if they could assist. The Seabees were able to help both the California Highway Patrol and Santa Barbara County Fire Department by securing the vehicle with an extendable boom forklift the group was bringing back to Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme.

The Seabees held the forklift into position under the vehicle long enough so rescuers could extract a 10-year-old girl, a 10-week-old baby and their mother.

Mayor Sierra's proclamation to rescuers was delivered at the annual State of the City of Buellton Luncheon. Also receiving the proclamation were the firefighters, police, highway patrol and a Santa Maria City tow truck driver, who was first on the scene and managed to secure his tow-line to the vehicle until the first responders arrived. All of the rescuers were called to the stage one group at a time. When the Seabees were called to join them, more than 100 people in attendance rose to their feet and cheered.

"You expect rescue agencies to be there for us when we are in trouble," said Sierra, who started her term as Mayor of Buellton Dec. 8, 2011. "But to also be fortunate to have Navy Seabees come by when you need them most is amazing."

With NMCB 3 currently deployed to Europe and Africa, the Seabees from that unit who participated in the rescue were unable to be at the ceremony; however, their 31st SRG counterparts accepted the proclamation on their behalf.

Following the proclamation, the attorney for the rescued family thanked all of the rescuers. He explained that while the family was not medically able to travel, they were looking forward to thanking them all in person as soon as possible.

The family did send plaques for the rescuers that showed a picture of the family and was engraved with comments of their gratitude. **SB**

"...to have Navy Seabees come by when you need them most is amazing."

— Mayor Holly Sierra,  
City of Buellton, Calif.



Seabees from the 31st SRG and NMCB 3 received a Proclamation of Thanks from Mayor Holly Sierra, City of Buellton, Calif., Feb. 29. Pictured above are (left to right) CM3 James Winters, CM2 Benjamin Mead and CM2 Shawn Legg, 31st SRG. NMCB 3 'Bees who participated in the rescue were not able to attend the ceremony since they had recently deployed to Europe and Africa. Photo by Shane Montgomery, 31st SRG Public Affairs



As Navy Seabee Veterans salute, Brandi Anderson, 8, pauses after raising an American flag and a Seabee flag in memory of her father, BU2 Michael Anderson, who was killed in action in Iraq, May 2, 2004. Today, Brandi is a high school freshman at Warner Christian Academy in South Daytona.

A [SEABEE]  
DAUGHTER'S  
STORY

# "I know what the price of

BY Audrey Parente, Staff Writer, *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*

She was a first-grader when a uniformed military chaplain and a Navy chief came to the door to report her father had been killed in Iraq.

Navy Seabee Builder 2nd Class Michael C. Anderson of Daytona Beach was a reservist based out of Jacksonville, a builder called by his country to serve in a desert across the world. He was there little more than a month when he died on May 2, 2004.

His daughter Brandi Anderson, 15, is now a high school freshman at Warner Christian Academy in South Daytona.

"He had told me he would be home by my birthday," said the soft-spoken blonde in a recent interview at home in Daytona Beach. "One of my first thoughts, after everything was told that day, I was really sad that he wasn't going to be there for my birthday."

With the Iraq War over and troops headed home, official numbers put the cost at more than \$800 billion and more than 4,400 American military dead.

Brandi wrote about the cost last year in a Freedom Alliance award-winning essay.

"I know what the price of freedom is. It does not come without a very high cost," she wrote, saying every man, woman and child who lays their head down each night in peace, "does so because some other American, at some time," laid down his or her life.

"It's my dad, being part of a whole, that accomplished getting that country to have freedoms as we do here in America," Brandi said.

Her life is a combination of "good and difficult," hinging daily on thoughts of a dad she loved but only knew for seven years.

"If I thought he died in vain, I pretty much wouldn't get through day by day," she said.

Her dynamic mom, Karen, is a stabilizing force. Brandi's half sister Ashley, 26, and adopted brother Christian, 6, help fill life with love. But family videos of playground outings, birthday parties and everyday antics reveal Brandi was the apple of Dad's eye.

"He used to do (Navy Reserve) weekends once a month, and I would be a little bit sad because we couldn't spend Sunday together," Brandi said. "And then I understood he was leaving-leaving, not just for a weekend."

Karen Anderson said her husband wasn't a political man, but he enjoyed the camaraderie of the Navy Seabees.

"Honest to goodness he didn't believe for a second he would go to Iraq. Why would they send him to the desert?" Karen said. "He told my dad he was going to build schools."

"Most of my sorrow is for Brandi. The worst part of it is watching your child grow up without her dad. She really has to keep a stiff upper lip."

Karen is afraid her daughter won't have peace and told her: "I will never allow this to define who you are." He will stay immortalized in pictures and videos, and "we participate in lots of essay contests respecting the military," she said.

But Karen also has exposed Brandi to other sides of the story. In 2005, she took her daughter to an event where 50 people, some opposed to the war in Iraq, gathered at the corner of Nova Road and International Speedway Boulevard to read the names of American war

dead through a megaphone.

During the reading, Karen hugged Christian while Brandi, then 9, held a candle.

"All the kids should read about this," Brandi told a *News-Journal* reporter. "People aren't numbers, and every 'one' has a family member or a friend, and all their lives are destroyed when one person dies."

The future offers Brandi a difficult emotional road.

"I feel sometimes sad and think about who's going to walk me down the aisle some day? He won't be at my graduation and things like that," Brandi said.

But day-to-day life has moved forward for the teen who is good at math and Bible study in school. "My mom plans some amazing trips and things to keep me busy every second of the day," she said.

Life is so busy that mom and the siblings sometimes pinch hit for Brandi at affairs, like attending an upcoming Christmas party thrown by former Hawaiian Tropic owner Ron Rice, because of a conflicting event.

"I have a daughter myself," Rice said in a phone interview from Ormond Beach. "I raised her from zero to 11, and then she moved up to Portland with her mother at the horse breeding farm. After being so close to my daughter, I felt so sad for Brandi that she lost her dad at 7."

At the time of Michael Anderson's death, Rice arranged for Hawaiian Tropic suppliers to help establish a trust fund. He also hosted a fundraising event to boost the total to more than \$84,000 for Brandi's future.

## freedom is."

Bill Jennings, chief financial officer of Product Quest Manufacturing in Daytona Beach, oversees the trust. He said interest has pushed the total to about \$91,000.

"Originally it was to go to pay for my college when I grow older, but then (Rice) found out I had already gotten prepaid college from Gov. Jeb Bush," Brandi said. The trust will be hers when she turns 18.

While her family attends Rice's party, this week she will be at a Texas charity event given by Snowball Express. That group hosts activities intended to create new memories for children of fallen heroes, such as Six Flags park outings and rodeos.

"At a rodeo I met Gary Sinise ("CSI: NY"), who played Lt. Dan in 'Forrest Gump,'" Brandi said. Sinise has a rock band that performs hundreds of fallen-hero concerts and USO tours.

Brandi has a photo wall of fame of celebrities she's met, including Tim McGraw, Toby Keith, Trace Adkins, Charlie Daniels, the Lynyrd Skynyrd band and Taylor Swift.

The whole family attended the Country Music Awards in Nashville and an Academy of Country Music CBS live broadcast, where they were on stage with other families of fallen heroes.

"I went to the Freedom Alliance, an organization with (talk show host) Sean Hannity and Oliver North to help raise money for kids' college. Sean Hannity invited me onstage," Brandi said.

She realizes many of these exciting opportunities happen because of her dad's death.

"I would trade them all to get him back," she said.

*Reprint permission from The Daytona Beach News-Journal, Copyright © 2012.*

## Freedom is Not Free By Brandi Anderson

*President Obama has called an end to the war in Iraq. For almost 10 years, every American was touched in some way. The war had a profound effect on my life, though. My dad, Michael Charles Anderson, left for Iraq on April 1, 2004. One month later, on May 2, he was killed, when his camp was mortared. He was the first casualty in Volusia County. I was 7 at the time, and my destiny was about to be forever changed.*

Fearlessly my Navy Seabee dad answered his nation's call.

Respect is what I feel for every troop who has ever put their life at risk for our great country.

Everlasting is the love I feel for my father, who I lost at such a young age.

Eternity will pass, so it seems.

My prayer is that we will meet again someday.

Daddy, everyone says I am so much like you in so many ways.

One parent will celebrate my triumphs and victories.

One parent will console my heartbreaks.

Miss you, dad, every day of my life.

I understand, now, why you had to leave us and fight for our country.

Sunday was our day to hang out together.

Now it just seems like another day.

Not a day goes by that my heart is not filled with happy memories of you.

Out of love of country, you sacrificed your life.

Out of love for you, I'll live my life to make you proud.

Terrific people, from all walks of life, have reached out and befriended my family throughout the years.

Family photos are incomplete because you are no longer in them.

Regardless of your politics, we must all respect our military.

It is those who keep us safe.

Eternally grateful to be an American.

End of war. Welcome home heroes. Thank you for all your sacrifices.

All gave some, some gave all.

A picture of a younger Brandi and her father, BU2 Michael Anderson, who was killed in Iraq in 2004, held by high school freshman Brandi Anderson, 15, at her home in Daytona Beach, Fla.

*Photo by David Massey*



Seabees unloading concrete bucket at Cubi Point Naval Base, circa early 1950s.

Photo: 30th NCR



# 2012: Anniversary of 70 CAN DOs

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Port Hueneme, Calif., Naval History and Heritage Command



Presently, we celebrate the Seabee birthday on March 5, 1942. However, the “real” birthday was once a matter of conjecture. Several events, each providing a different date and supporting historical documentation, highlight a plausible “beginning” of the Fighter Builders. As a matter of fact, the original ‘Bee birthday was Dec. 28, but it was deemed too close to the Marine Corps birthday, as well as Christmas and New Year’s holidays. Here’s a recap of all contenders...

**October 31, 1941:** In response to a request by the Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation directed the formation of a Headquarters Construction Company of 99 men for duty in Iceland. These men, combined with four other companies, formed the core of what would be the Bobcats and the First Naval Construction Battalion.

**December 28, 1941:** The Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks sent a formal request to the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation outlining the creation of one Naval Construction Regiment of 3,300 officers and men.

**March 5, 1942:** The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation approved the designation of Construction Battalions as “Seabees” and authorized the use of the Seabee insignia on major items of equipment.

**March 19, 1942:** The Secretary of the Navy gave the Civil Engineer Corps Officer in Charge of a Construction Battalion authority over all officers and men assigned to his unit.

On the basis of the criteria established, March 5 was selected as the official birthdate since it was technically the date the Navy approved the “Seabee” name and insignia. It was also the anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps which allowed both to be celebrated simultaneously. The new birthday was celebrated for the first time on March 5, 1955.

*Construimus, Batuimus — “With compassion for others, we build, we fight, for peace with freedom.”*



Seabees installing a water well in Thailand, 1966.  
*Photo: U.S. Navy*



Seabees with NMCBs 4 and 40 constructed Camp Fourtuitous, part of Operation New Life, to house approximately 50,000 refugees fleeing South Vietnam, circa 1975.

*Photo: U.S. Navy*



(Background) The 36th NCB personnel repair the Piva bomber strip with Marston matting after a severe shelling, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, March 8, 1944.

*Photo: 36th NCB*



As part of Operation Joint Endeavor peacekeeping forces, Seabees of NMCB 133 construct wooden walkways north of Brka, Bosnia, 1995

*Photo: NMCB 133*



NMCB 23 Seabees patrol the streets of Fallujah one day prior to Iraq's historic democratic elections, Jan. 29, 2005.

*Photo: PH3 Todd Frantom*

On Dec. 2, Capt. James R. Mims (Ret) celebrated his 100th birthday with a party at the Oaks Country Club in Richmond, Va., a letter from the President of the United States and a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. And, as the icing on the cake, Command Master Chief Johnny J. DeSarro, ACB 2, inducted Capt. Mims as an honorary member of the battalion.

“No one deserves to be commended more than one of the world’s oldest living Seabees,” said CMDCM DeSarro. “Capt. Mims served at Okinawa during World War II, met Adm. Ben Moreell and swore in the first 25 frogmen, known today as Navy SEALs.”

In honor of the special occasion, Mims received a commemorative paddle, designed by Senior Chief Builder John Woolston, operations chief, ACB 2.

Following the birthday celebration, DeSarro and Mims got together at Joe’s Inn, a local restaurant in Richmond, Va., to share Seabee stories. Mims meets there with the Bon Air Rotary Club every Friday and currently maintains a 56-year perfect attendance record. It did not come as a surprise to DeSarro that the entire restaurant staff knew Mims by name.

Mims began with memories of the largest amphibious assault of World War II.

Mims was a Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) cargo officer during the mission and his task that day was to rendezvous with the main Seabee camp. But his ride to that camp placed him on a Landing Ship Tank – LST – with the 2nd Marine Battalion.

“We rode on an LST from Saipan to Okinawa in 1945 on an Easter Sunday morning. There were 1,400 ships in that operation and we had some Marines in an Army DUKW [a six-wheel-drive truck used for transporting goods and troops over land and water, and for approaching and crossing beaches in amphibious attacks] heading for the east side of the island,” said Mims.

Their mission was to trick the enemy by drawing fire to the location on the eastern coast of Okinawa and to delay Japanese reserve troops. The main landing force assaulted the beach on the western coast, supported by the 2nd Marine Battalion’s effective decoy tactics.

“About halfway to the shore we started drawing fire so the LST driver turned around to lay down a smoke screen,” said Mims. “We repeated this several times to draw the fire away from the west,” he said. “The Army guy driving the LST wouldn’t go all the way to the beach so we had to jump out and wade through the water while the enemy was laying down strafing fire by us.”

Exhaustion set in after two days of combat without sleep and Mims found an abandoned fox hole to take shelter in. As he looked up from his fox hole, a formation of Japanese fighter planes passed overhead.

“I don’t know whether they were kamikazes or what, but they flew so low I could see the first pilot’s face. I’ll never forget [his] smile,” he said.

Mims shared other stories after he was commissioned as a CEC officer, April 28, 1943. As the cargo officer for the 130th Naval Construction Battalion Mobile Unit Alpha Company, he oversaw much of the loading and unloading of LSTs and other ships. Mims emphasized that his Seabees were multitasking and they completed various military and humanitarian projects around Okinawa.

“We put in a lot of waterfront pilings, landing strips and airports. We actually built Route 1 in Okinawa running north and south,” he said.

Mims passionately described all the Seabees he knew as great human beings and constructionmen who just plain got things done and who cared about doing it right.

“And they did it right. Every time,” said Mims. “They could do anything and if you didn’t believe it you would ask them and they’d say, ‘I’ve never done that but I think I can.’ And they would.”

Mims also had the pleasure of seeing one of the more famous Seabee units in action. Known today as Navy SEALs, they began as a branch of the Seabees. Not only did Mims see them in action, but he was the enlisting officer for the first 25 frogmen – although he was not aware of the significance at the time.

“I was at Camp Perry and a lieutenant said to me, ‘I want you to go out there and swear in those frogmen.’ And so, as a junior lieutenant, I went out there and swore them in and then I said, ‘What’s a frogman?’ Turns out they were the beginning of the SEALs.”

After Mims served three years on active duty, he spent most of his remaining military career commanding Reserve Component Seabee units. At the 25th Seabee Anniversary Ball in Washington, D.C., Mims met Adm. Ben Moreell, known as the “Father of the Seabees.”

“I had the pleasure of shaking hands with the old gentleman, and I was impressed with the fact that he had an air about him that he always knew what he was doing,” said Mims.

Though Mims is a man with military experience, it was his childhood that defined him. Exposure to hard work, leadership and compassion for others prepared him for a long successful life.

Mims is a lifetime member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) with 80 years of service, and is active in the Richmond Navy League. He recites poetry and is passionate about America’s Blue Ridge Mountains. Last, but certainly not least, he speaks with great pride about being a father, grandfather, great-grandfather and even a great, great-grandfather. **SB**



CAPT. JAMES R. MIMS (RET)

## Seabee Centenarian Becomes Honorary ACB 2 Fighter Builder



BU1(SCW) Reno R. Perryman, NMCB 4

## CM3 Marvin Shields Award

### BU1(SCW) Reno R. Perryman, NMCB 4

Builder 1st Class (SCW) Reno R. Perryman distinguished himself through sustained superior performance as operations leading petty officer and officer-in-charge of Detachment Payne in Afghanistan. His operational expertise proved invaluable in planning and executing more than 20 mission-critical projects for 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in Regional Command Southwest, resulting in flawless execution of 2,400 man-days of construction valued at \$5 million. Hand-selected as officer-in-charge for Patrol Base 87 construction, BU1 Perryman displayed exceptional confidence and poise as he led a team of 16 Seabees to complete a 300m x 300m patrol base to include three bunkers, a 600-meter HESCO perimeter berm, four tent decks and a hasty command operations center structure to sustain kinetic operations in Helmand province. He was then selected to participate on the construction management training team for Regimental Combat Team 5, assessing more than 100 Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) projects valued at \$40 million across four Helmand province districts. Dedicated and innovative, Perryman successfully taught basic construction techniques to Civil Affairs Group Marines and Afghan contractors, contributing greatly to contracted construction safety and quality. Perryman's impressive performance and professional achievements merit the recognition afforded by this prestigious award. He exemplifies the Seabee "Can Do" spirit, for which Marvin Shields serves as the ultimate example.

*This award is presented for outstanding technical and leadership ability, and is given in honor of Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin Shields, a 26-year-old Seabee serving in Vietnam with NMCB 11 in 1965. Shields's unit, along with Army Special Forces and South Vietnam Defense personnel, came under attack by 2,000 Viet Cong and, although greatly outnumbered, withstood intense close-range combat for almost three hours. Shields and an Army lieutenant volunteered to man a rocket launcher, destroying an enemy machine gun position. Despite repeatedly being hit, Shields fought on until he was mortally wounded; he died the following day while being evacuated by helicopter. For these heroic actions that cost him his life, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor – becoming the first (and so far only) Seabee to receive the nation's highest award, and also the first Navy man to be so decorated for action in Vietnam.*

## SW2(DV) Robert D. Stethem Award

### BU1(SCW) Michael B. Hathaway, NMCB 1

Chief Builder (SCW) Michael Hathaway led a 15-person tactical infrastructure construction team in support of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (Task Force Forager) and the 25th Naval Construction Regiment (Task Force Overlord) executing engineering priorities of work for Regional Command South (RC-S) in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Chief Hathaway led the planning and execution of four construction projects with 1,100 man-days of direct labor valued at \$1 million across four locations throughout RC-S. His actions in support of 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry (4-4 Cav) at Strong Point Baran are especially noteworthy. Under constant attack from small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, he showed the courage to lead his team in constructing a 200' x 200' outpost in order to allow 4-4 Cav to cut off supply lines for insurgents. He led the initial push into the site by sending four D7 dozers to the front to cut in combat roads and push up berms to create fighting positions for 4-4 Cav MRAPs, providing 360-degree coverage of the site. Hathaway displayed great leadership and courage under fire while successfully directing the Medevac of one of his personnel shot by enemy fire, providing clear direction while giving the necessary focus to his team to treat the casualty, send the Medevac request and establish the landing zone. His clear and concise direction in the aftermath was critical in refocusing his team to successfully complete the strong point construction tasking to include mine raking, building tent decks and erecting Alaska tents, establishing an electrical distribution system, placing HESCO barriers around the perimeter and setting up an entry control point. Chief Hathaway demonstrated exceptional leadership and unwavering courage under fire, further perpetuating the legacy of SW2 Stethem and all Seabees past and present.

*Named for Steelworker 2nd Class (DV) Robert Dean Stethem, this award recognizes outstanding individual moral courage in support of the traditions of the Seabees while in the course of actual operations. SW2 Stethem was a victim of the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in June 1985, after being singled out from passengers as a U.S. Navy Sailor and killed by members of the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah when their demands to release 766 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel were not met. He was returning home with fellow members of UCT 1 after completing a routine assignment in Greece. Stethem was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. In August 2010, he was frocked to the rank of honorary master chief petty officer.*



Rear Adm. Chris Mossey (far right), Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers, and retired Rear Adm. Ben Montoya (far left), Chairman of the Board of Trustees, CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation, present the SW2(DV) Robert D. Stethem Award to BUC(SCW) Michael B. Hathaway, NMCB 1, and his wife, Jennifer, at the 2012 Anniversary Ball, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Va., March 17.

## Rear Adm. Lewis B. Combs Award

### SWCS(SCW) Joshua J. Schlegel, NMCB 1

Senior Chief Schlegel displayed courageous leadership and exceptional foresight in leading his 23-person tactical infrastructure construction team in support of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (Task Force Forager) and the 25th Naval Construction Regiment (Task Force Overlord) executing engineering priorities of work for Regional Command South (RC-S) and West (RC-W) in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He planned and executed the safe relocation of his team 350 miles from Kandahar Airfield to a new RC-W construction site in a remote mountainous location along dangerous routes. Immediately upon arrival at the RC-W site, his team was redirected to complete an expeditionary gap crossing to replace a bridge that was blown up by insurgent forces. He developed an ingenious engineering solution that crossed the gap, allowing traffic to flow through a vital supply link in western Afghanistan. Working with a multinational force and integrating Afghan National Army (ANA) engineers, he completed the crossing in less than 48 hours. Schlegel and his team completed the construction of Combat Outpost (COP) Ludina while overcoming extreme logistical challenges and working through a complex contracting and funding situation with a multinational command to procure the required material and equipment for the project. Under sporadic small arms fire during construction, he ensured the safety of his personnel while still completing quality construction. He then provided the motivation and construction expertise for his team and ANA engineers to construct the 250' x 250' COP Golojirak, making adjustments to the build location to meet tactical objectives and engineering requirements. His work in the completion of COPs Ludina and Golojirak were vital in securing the bypass route in order to build the remaining link in the Afghanistan perimeter ring road, a vital coalition objective. Schlegel's combination of superior leadership, unwavering commitment to his duties and engineering knowledge have greatly contributed to the legacy of the Seabees and Rear Adm. Combs.

*This award is named in honor of Rear Adm. Lewis B. Combs, and is presented to an individual who has made the most outstanding contribution in perpetuating the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC). Combs served as chief deputy to Adm. Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees, and helped create the "fighter builders" and the CEC. He was active with the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association from its inception in 1970, first as Chairman of the Board of Directors and later as Chairman Emeritus, until his death at age 101.*



Rear Adm. Chris Mossey (far right), Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers, presents the Rear Adm. Lewis B. Combs Award to SWCS (SCW) Joshua J. Schlegel, NMCB 1, and his wife, Lisa, at the 2012 Anniversary Ball, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Va., March 17.



Lt. Cmdr. Joseph D. Harder III, CEC, NMCB 11

## Moreell Medal

### Lt. Cmdr. Joseph D. Harder III, CEC, NMCB 11

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Harder distinguished himself with superior performance in two different geographic combatant command areas of responsibility (AOR), and is an outstanding representative of the legacy of Adm. Ben Moreell. As NMCB 11 operations officer, he successfully planned and executed a \$30 million construction program, leading all efforts on 15 battalion sites throughout the vast PACOM AOR while completing construction ranging from minor renovations to complex overhead concrete placements. Lt. Cmdr. Harder's direct efforts significantly enhanced U.S. host nation relations in countries where his Seabees were operating. As the 30th Naval Construction Regiment operations officer, he led operations for Task Force Forager (TFF), the theater engineer command in Afghanistan responsible for South Engineer Region (SER) comprised of Regional Commands South, Southwest and West. He employed, directed and oversaw construction and mobility operations for a task force of more than 4,500 joint engineers. He expertly led his staff and subordinate units in providing timely and critical support to regional commands south, southwest and west with the construction of new forward operating bases (FOBs), combat outposts (COPs), FOB-COP expansions and deconstructions, critical route repair and improvements, surveillance and threat detection systems, and runway construction and repairs. On his watch, TFF completed 210,000 square meters of berthing, command and control, maintenance and intelligence space, 21,000 linear meters of new force protection berm and HESCO barriers, 115 kilometers of route construction and repair, and 661,800 square meters of earthwork. Harder's outstanding leadership, superb performance and exceptional skill as a military engineer clearly justify his selection and reflect great credit upon himself, the Naval Construction Force and the U.S. Navy.

*The Moreell Medal is presented annually by the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) to an officer of the Navy Civil Engineer Corps (CEC), active or reserve, or to a civilian employee of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in recognition of outstanding contributions to military engineering. The award is named in honor of Adm. Ben Moreell, CEC, who served as the chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks (later known as NAVFAC) and chief of the CEC from 1937 - 1945. Known as the "Father of the Seabees," Adm. Moreell established the Naval Construction Force in 1942.*

# Seabees Receive 2012 Navy Leadership Awards

By Ens. Amber Lynn Daniel, Diversity and Inclusion Public Affairs

The Navy honored four outstanding women, including two Seabees, at the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium's Leadership Awards Luncheon held at the Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, Md., March 5.

Chief Construction Electrician (SCW/DV) Lynn M. Rodriguez, Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC), Port Hueneme, Calif., received the Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award (senior enlisted category); and Cmdr. Regina G. Marengo, 7th Naval Construction Regiment, Newport, R.I., received the Captain Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award (senior officer category).

The Captain Joy Bright Hancock and Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Awards honor the visionary leadership of service members whose ideals and dedication foster a positive working environment for reinforcing and furthering the integration of women into the Navy. Established in 1987,

these leadership awards have been presented annually, recognizing the inspirational leadership of Navy officers and enlisted members on active or reserve duty.

"This year's [recipients] are mature leaders who have shown exceptional leadership and have persevered to overcome challenges while serving," said Cmdr. Elisabeth Gracia, senior awards board advisor. "This was the most competitive group we've ever seen, and each community should be proud of these leaders. They truly embody honor, courage and commitment on every level."

More than 120 nomination packages were submitted, and spanned every naval community. Nominations addressed the nominee's professional accomplishments, leadership style and community involvement. The awards are co-presented by the Sea Service Leadership Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

## NMCBs 40, 26 Receive Peltier, Perry Awards

On behalf of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Rear Adm. Chris Mossey, Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers, recognized Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 with the 2011 Rear Admiral Eugene J. Peltier Award and NMCB 26 with the Rear Admiral John R. Perry Award. Units selected for these prestigious awards are recognized leaders in the naval construction force in safety, overall performance, readiness, construction accomplishments, equipment management, logistics programs, retention and training.



**NMCB 40** is the recipient of the Peltier Award for the most outstanding active component during the previous fiscal year. Deploying personnel across 12 details, two operational commands and three countries, the battalion completed 136 projects and more than 60,000 man-days of construction tasking, security operations and readiness training in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. NMCB 40 flawlessly executed every mission with safety, quality and accountability despite the logistical and equipment challenges associated with an austere operating environment. Outstanding preparation and leadership was apparent in the battalion's exemplary performance, establishing and expanding numerous forward operating bases throughout north, south, southwest and eastern Afghanistan in support of U.S. Forces Afghanistan. NMCB 40's emphasis on personnel programs and small unit leadership throughout its homeport demonstrated the battalion's continuing pursuit of excellence.

*The Peltier Award is named for Rear Adm. Eugene J. Peltier, former Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks and Chief of Civil Engineers.*

(Left) Seabees assigned to NMCB 40 work with Afghani contractors to place concrete for helicopter landing pads at Forward Operating Base Khilaguy, Afghanistan.

*Photo by MCC Michael B. Watkins*



The recipient of the Perry Award for the most outstanding reserve component during the previous fiscal year is **NMCB 26**. These men and women demonstrated superior leadership and technical skill while mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, providing contingency construction and combat service support throughout Afghanistan. NMCB 26 completed more than 19,000 man-days of construction support across 64 locations, and brilliantly maintained twice the normal compliment of civil engineer equipment. These accomplishments were in spite of a change in mission from a southern command detachment to a full battalion CENTCOM deployment. NMCB 26's efforts demonstrated unparalleled competence throughout the execution of more than 80 projects valued in excess of \$34 million.

*The Perry Award is named for the legendary and distinguished Civil Engineer Corps/Seabee leader, Rear Adm. John R. Perry.*

(Left) EO2 Steve Johnson, NMCB 26, clears out bricks from a collapsed wall at Forward Operating Base Camp Nathan Smith, Kandahar City, Afghanistan.

*Photo by MC1(SCW) Kenny Ragland*

# PTSD

## and the



# HOW DOES PTSD AFFECT FAMILY MEMBERS?

Excerpts from the National Center for PTSD  
"PTSD and the Family Fact Sheet"

By Eve B. Carlson, Ph.D., and Joseph Ruzek, Ph.D.

Because PTSD and other trauma reactions change how a trauma survivor feels and acts, traumatic experiences that happen to one member of a family can affect everyone else in the family. When trauma reactions are severe and go on for some time without treatment, they can cause major problems in a family. Just as people have different reactions to traumatic experiences, families also react differently when a loved one is traumatized. Here are some common reactions in families who have had to deal with trauma.

### SYMPATHY

One of the first reactions many family members have is sympathy for their loved one. People feel very sorry that someone they care about has had to suffer through a terrifying experience. And they feel sorry when the person continues to suffer from symptoms of PTSD and other trauma responses. It can be helpful for the person who has experienced the trauma to know that his or her family members sympathize with him or her, especially just after the traumatic event occurs.

Sympathy from family members can also have a negative effect, though. When family members' sympathy leads them to "baby" a trauma survivor and have low expectations of him or her, it may send a message that the family doesn't believe the trauma survivor is strong enough to overcome the ordeal. For example, if a wife has so much sympathy for her husband that she doesn't expect him to work after a traumatic experience, the husband may think that she doesn't have any confidence in his ability to recover and go back to work.

### DEPRESSION

One source of depression for family members can be the traumatic event itself. All traumas involve events where people suddenly find themselves in danger. When this happens in a situation or place where people are used to feeling safe, just knowing the event happened could cause a person to lose faith in the safety and predictability of life. For example, if a woman gets mugged in the parking lot of a neighborhood shopping center, her family may find they feel depressed by the idea that they are not really as safe as they thought they were, even in their own neighborhood.

It can also be very depressing when a traumatic event threatens a person's ideals about the world. For instance, if a man gets traumatized in combat by seeing someone tortured, it can be very depressing to know that people are capable of doing such cruel things to each other. Before the

man was faced with that event, he may have been able to believe that people are basically good and kind.

Depression is also common among family members when the traumatized person acts in a way that causes feelings of pain or loss. There may be changes in family life when a member has PTSD or other symptoms after trauma. The traumatized person may feel too anxious to go out on family outings as he or she did in the past. The traumatized person may not be able to work because of PTSD symptoms. As a result, the family income may decrease and the family may be unable to buy things and do things the way they did before the traumatic event. A husband may feel unloved or abandoned when, because of her depression, his traumatized wife withdraws emotionally and avoids being intimate or sexual. Children whose father can't be in crowds because of combat trauma may feel hurt that their father won't come to see them play sports. When PTSD lasts for a long time, family members can begin to lose hope that their loved one or their family will ever get "back to normal."

### FEAR AND WORRY

Knowing that something terrible can happen "out of the blue" can make people very fearful. This is especially true when a family member feels unsafe and often reminds others about possible dangers. Very often, trauma survivors feel "on edge" and become preoccupied with trying to stay safe. They may want to get a guard dog, or put up security lights, or have weapons in the house in order to protect themselves and their family members. When one person in a family is very worried about safety, it can make everyone else feel unsafe too. However, something that helps one person feel safe – like a loaded weapon under the bed – may make another person feel unsafe.

Family members can also experience fear when the trauma survivor is angry or aggressive. As described above, trauma survivors can become angry and aggressive automatically if they feel they are in danger. Trauma survivors may

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also become angry and aggressive because they are frustrated that they have trauma symptoms, or because they learned to be aggressive as a way to protect themselves in the trauma situation. No matter what the reason for the anger and aggression, it naturally makes family members fearful.

### **AVOIDANCE**

Just as trauma survivors are often afraid to address what happened to them, family members are frequently fearful of examining the traumatic event as well. Family members may want to avoid talking about the trauma or trauma-related problems, even with friends. People who have experienced trauma hope that if they don't talk about the problem, it will go away. People also don't wish to talk about the trauma with others because they are afraid that others won't understand or will judge them. Sometimes, if the traumatic event is one associated with shame, such as rape, family members may avoid talking about the event and its effects because of social "rules" that tell us it is inappropriate to talk about such things. Family members may also not discuss the trauma with others because they fear it will bring their loved one more shame.

Family members may avoid the things that the trauma survivor avoids because they want to spare the survivor further pain, or because they are afraid of his or her reaction. For example, the wife of a combat veteran who is anxious about going out in public may not make plans for family outings or vacations because she is afraid to upset her husband. Though she doesn't know what she can do to "fix" the problem, she does know that if the family goes to a public event, the husband will be anxious and irritable the whole time.

### **GUILT AND SHAME**

Family members can feel guilt or shame after a traumatic event for a number of reasons. A family member may experience these feelings if he or she feels responsible for the trauma. For instance, a husband whose wife is assaulted may feel guilt or shame because he was unable to protect her from the attack. A wife may feel responsible for her husband's car accident if she thinks she could have prevented it if she had gotten the car's brakes fixed. A family member may feel guilt and shame if he or she feels responsible for the trauma survivor's happiness or general well-being, but sees no improvement no matter how hard he or she tries to help. Sometimes, after years of trauma-related problems in a family, a family member may learn about PTSD and realize that this is the source of their family problems. The family member may then feel guilty that he or she was unsupportive during the years.

### **ANGER**

Anger is a very common problem in families that have survived a trauma. Family members may feel angry about the trauma and its effect on their lives. They may be angry at whoever they believe is responsible for the traumatic event (this includes being angry at God). They can also feel anger toward the trauma survivor. Family members may feel that the survivor should just "forget about it" and get on with life. They may be angry when their loved one continues to "dwell" on the trauma. A wife may be mad because her husband can't keep a job or because he drinks too much or won't go with her to social events or avoids being intimate

with her or doesn't take care of the kids. Family members may also feel angry and irritable in response to the anger and irritability the trauma survivor directs at them.

### **NEGATIVE FEELINGS**

Sometimes family members have surprisingly negative feelings about the traumatized family member. They may believe the trauma survivor no longer exhibits the qualities that they loved and admired. A person who was outgoing before a trauma may become withdrawn. A person who was fun-loving and easy-going before a trauma may become ill-tempered. It may be hard to feel good toward a person who seems to have changed in many ways. Family members may also respond negatively to behaviors that develop following a trauma. For instance, family members may be disgusted by a woman's excessive drinking in response to a trauma.

Family members may also have negative feelings about the survivor that are directly related to the traumatic event. For example, a wife may no longer respect her husband if she feels he didn't behave bravely during a traumatic event. Sometimes people have these negative feelings even when they know that their assessment of the situation is unfair.

### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE**

Drug and alcohol abuse can become a problem for the families of trauma survivors. Family members may try to escape from bad feelings by using drugs or drinking. A child or spouse may spend time drinking with friends to avoid having to go home and face an angry parent or spouse. On the other hand, spouses sometimes abuse drugs or alcohol to keep their loved ones "company" when the survivor is drinking or using drugs to avoid trauma-related feelings.

### **SLEEP AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

When family members of trauma survivors constantly feel anxious, worried, angry or depressed, they are more likely to develop a variety of health problems – which of course can lead to sleep deprivation. Sleep can also become a problem for family members, especially when it is a problem for the trauma survivor. In addition, coping with a loved one's trauma responses can initiate a wide spectrum of bad habits, such as drinking, smoking and not exercising, which may lead to health-related conditions.

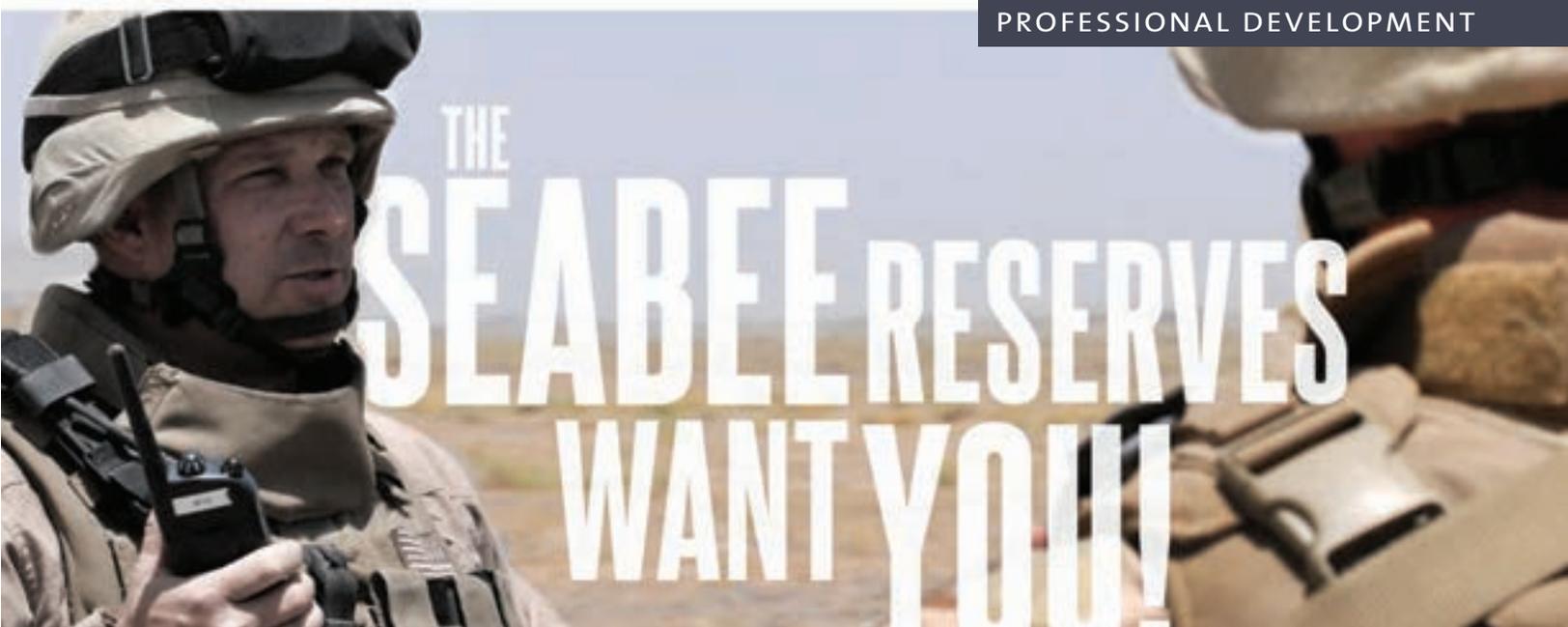
### **WHAT ELSE CAN FAMILY MEMBERS DO?**

Family members of a traumatized person should find out as much as they can about PTSD and get help for themselves, even if their loved one doesn't seek treatment. Family members can encourage the survivor to inquire about education and counseling, but they should not use pressure or force. Classes or treatment may also be useful for stress and anger management, addiction, couples communication or parenting.

**Veteran Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255,  
press 1, or [veteranocrisisline.net](http://veteranocrisisline.net)**

**Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-8255**

*Source - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for PTSD, [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov), 2012. Email: [ncptsd@va.gov](mailto:ncptsd@va.gov).  
Voicemail: PTSD Information Line, (802) 296-6300.*



By NC1(SCW) Robert A. Wetzel, NAVFAC HQ Command Career Counselor

**A**re you being separated by Perform to Serve (PTS) or Enlisted Retention Board (ERB), looking to use the Early Career Transition Program (ECTP) or wanting to continue serving the Navy – just not on active duty? Well the U.S. Navy Reserve (USNR) wants you! Converting from Active Component (AC) to the Reserve Component (RC) is simple, and here are some options if you are interested in joining the Navy Reserves.

If you have received a Final Denial on your PTS application and want to affiliate with the Reserves, then you should apply immediately in the Fleet RIDE system for a Selected Reserve (SELRES) PTS Quota. This provides the opportunity for a guaranteed spot in the Reserves. If for some reason this application is denied, you may still try to join the Reserves through a Reserve Recruiter. Seabees who were selected to separate through the ERB may also apply for a SELRES quota through Fleet RIDE.

Whether you are separating through the ECTP or just not wanting to continue your active military lifestyle, you can still sign up to join the Naval Reserve. You have several choices when you sign up. You can go SELRES where you drill one weekend a month and do two weeks of training during the year. Deployments may be required depending on the unit you're assigned to; but if you sign up from active duty you have the option of signing a deployment deferral for up to two years. Participation as a SELRES Seabee also entitles you to receive pay for drilling and annual training. Seabees will be considered for selection for promotion and advancement just like the Active Component.

Another available option is Inactive Ready Reserves, or IRR. These Reservists do not drill or deploy; and enlisted are not eligible to be considered for advancement. Though not actually drilling, Seabees must ensure they keep themselves and their uniforms up to standards in case they are called to serve. There are also opportunities to gain points toward a Reserve retirement while in the IRR.

The Retired Reserve (USNR-Retired) is for Seabees who have retired from the Reserves after 20 years or more. These Seabees may still be recalled to the Reserves when mandated by Congress. Retirement pay is received until age 60.

The benefits for all SELRES are commissary, exchange, MWR privileges, life insurance, retirement, Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) and an ID card. SELRES have added benefits such as medical and dental coverage, "Space A" travel, overseas opportunities, educational services and uniform entitlements. There is also a bonus for enlisting as a Seabee in the Navy Reserves for up to \$10,000 as per NAVADMIN 013/12.

If you are interested in continuing your service as a Seabee in the Reserves, then make sure you have these items: your DD 214, DD 2808/2807 (HIV test) and a copy of your last three evaluations/fitness reports. Remember, you may start your research and apply for the Reserves before your actual separation date. Contact your Command Career Counselor, the Career Transition Office (CTO) or your nearest Reserve Recruiter for more information.

**Career  
Transition  
Office**

NPC CTO site: <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/transition/Pages/default.aspx>

Email: [cto.officer@navy.mil](mailto:cto.officer@navy.mil) | [cto.enlisted@navy.mil](mailto:cto.enlisted@navy.mil)

Customer Service: 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672)

CTO Officer: 1-901-874-4192 | CTO Enlisted: 1-901-874-4108

CTO Fax: 1-901-874-2186 DSN 882

Navy Reserves: <http://www.navyreserve.com/>

Seabee Reserves: <http://www.navyreserve.com/careers/engineering-applied-science/construction.html>

## NAVFAC, Seabees Win CHINFO Awards

By NAVFAC HQ Public Affairs and Communications



NMCB 5 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Peter Maculan (left) and CMDDCM Delbert Terrell (right) stop by the Public Affairs Office, Port Hueneme, Calif., to congratulate MC2(SCW) Ace Rheume on being named the 2011 CHINFO Merit Awards Navy Print Journalist of the Year.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), as well as individual Seabees and battalions, recently won several awards as part of the U.S. Navy's 2011 Chief of Information (CHINFO) Merit Awards Competition. NAVFAC's *Seabee* Magazine won second place in the Magazine Format Publication category.



Our own *Seabee* contributor and Challenge Coin recipient MC2 (SCW) Ace M. Rheume, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, was named Navy Print Journalist of the Year. For this highly coveted honor, MC2 Rheume received a certificate of merit, trophy and letter of commendation from Chief of Information Rear Adm. Denny Moynihan.

Outstanding contributions by battalions were also recognized. NMCB 40 received a first place award in Cruisebooks (Small) for "Afghanistan Deployment – 2010-2011," and NMCB 11 won second place in the Outstanding Blog category.

Can Do!

### 2012 SEABEE REUNIONS

<p><b>MAY</b></p> <p><b>MAY 10-12</b> NSVA Dept. of FL State Convention &amp; Reunion Hosted by NSVA Island X-5, FL Fort Lauderdale, FL Cmdr. Sam Silver-Smith 954-474-7260 samthing@bellsouth.net</p> <p><b>MAY 18-20</b> NMCB 4 (All Eras) New Orleans, LA Dennis Theriot (Host) 504-460-7210 dennistheriot@cox.net Dean Jaeger (Coordinator) 402-499-5289</p> <p><b>JULY</b></p> <p><b>JULY 14</b> Nebraska Seabees Reunion Aurora, NE (Vets Club) Jim Miller 308-224-3314 millerjimjan@charter.net www.nebraska seabees.com</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p><b>SEPT 3-7</b> Seabee Team 0303 (Family and Friends of MCB 3) STAT 0301-0306 New Orleans, LA George Fowler 972-874-7308 gefnbkf@aol.com</p> <p><b>SEPT 21-23</b> NMCB 12 All Seabees Welcome Westport, MA Bill Napert Jr. 508-672-2737 bnapert@aol.com</p> <p><b>SEPT 23-27</b> 9th NCB (WWII), CBMU 624 Richmond, IN Ray Dickerson 765-960-5767 ray@thegadabout.com</p>	<p><b>SEPT 27-30</b> 22nd Annual MCB 7 Reunion San Diego, CA Denny Blaisdell 419-867-9371 dennybee@sbc-global.net</p> <p><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p><b>OCT 3-6</b> NMCB 71/71st NCB (All Deployments) Las Vegas, NV Jerry Montecupo 412-373-3096 jmontecupo@verizon.net</p> <p><b>OCT 5-8</b> NMCBs 1, 9, 10 Combined Reunion Nashville, TN Peter Dowd 781-837-0393 Mcb1reunion@verizon.net</p>	<p><b>OCT 6</b> NMCB 16/16th NCB Arcadia, CA (Arcadia Park) BUC Al Hegney 909-627-3461 hegneyhouse@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>OCT 9-12</b> All Seabee Reunion (X-1 Gulfport, MS; NMCB 62; PWD Edzell, Scotland) and 66th NSVA National Convention Gulfport, MS Danny Duval 228-324-2794 duval.danny@gmail.com Robert Smith 228-424-1185 smithrp@cableone.net Norm Hahn 715-834-4780 normhahnjr@yahoo.com www.nmcb62alumni.org</p>	<p><b>OCT 17-20</b> NMCB 74 (Vietnam Era) Gulfport, MS Dan Bower 810-938-8046 beatleboots1949@comcast.net</p> <p><b>OCT 26-28</b> CBMU 302 (All Eras) All Seabees Welcome Branson, MO Dave Schill 609-410-5969 dwschill@comcast.net</p> <p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p><b>NOV 8-11</b> NMCB 14/14th NCB Asheville, NC Fred S. Bossard 570-801-8901 bossarf@mac.com nmcb-14alumni.com</p>
<p>For a complete list of reunions, visit <a href="http://www.allseabees.com">www.allseabees.com</a> or the Seabee Historical Foundation at <a href="http://www.seabeehf.org">www.seabeehf.org</a>.</p>				

## “Can Do!” – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

By Cmdr. Joe Greeson, CEC, USN  
Chief Staff Officer, 25th Naval Construction Regiment

“With compassion for others, we build, we fight, for peace with freedom.”

It is a motto that is woven into the very fabric of every Seabee since March 5, 1942. It is a motto which gives people around the world much more than buildings, water wells and fresh water – it gives them hope.

It is this “compassion for others” which is the driving force of more than 70 years of humanitarian assistance delivered by Seabees worldwide.

Back in the summer of 1999, Seabees staged at Camp Wedge took on the mission of widening the mountain roads and paths between Kosovo and Albania, making them safe for travel by refugees fleeing the war-torn nation. During the mission, Seabees came upon a small town and its damaged schoolhouse. The school’s walls were crumbling. The roof had holes in it. The bathroom was inoperable and unsanitary, with large truck tires replacing toilets. The Seabees continued their road improvement mission, but not before diverting a small construction team to fix the roof, the walls and give the school running water. It wasn’t their mission, but it had to be done. When you’re a Seabee, CAN DO is never inconvenient.

In 2010, Seabees were in Haiti, repairing roads and ports and clearing debris following the most devastating earthquake in that country’s history. At the same time, Seabees were in the Republic of the Philippines building Lanao Agricultural College in Lumbatan barangay, Lanao Del Sur. The project turned a previously condemned area into a school providing a college education to more than 800 students. During six months of construction, the Seabees lived on site, working extensively with locals and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to make the project a success.

Early in March of this year, Seabees traveled to Africa to meet with Ugandan military engineers. They shared their disaster response plans in exchange for best practices in dealing with emergency crisis management. There were not any brick and mortar construction projects during this visit. Instead, the Seabees built a partnership between nations. After all, the Seabees were known through the world as the global force for good long before it became a slogan. Finding



Cmdr. Joe Greeson, CEC, USN

“Human suffering moves us to act, and the expeditionary character of maritime forces uniquely positions them to provide assistance.”

*A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower, October 2007*

hope, building dreams in the midst of overwhelming chaos is what CAN DO is all about.

Compassion has been the building block of the Seabees since birth. The Navy’s Maritime Strategy states, “Human suffering moves us to act, and the expeditionary character of maritime forces uniquely positions them to provide assistance.”

Seabees historically have swarmed to these kinds of missions where they empower people who want peace with freedom, people who want hope.

The Navy’s newest motto is “A Global Force for Good,” but it also happens to be the oldest – for Seabees. CAN DO. Yesterday, today and tomorrow.

*Construimus ☆ Batuimus*

# BEE CAM

## Hammer Time in Afghanistan

CE3 James K. Henley, NMCB 11, swings a sledge hammer during a project in the Lashkar Gah district where the battalion constructs a compound for Marine Advisor Teams who will prepare Afghan Uniformed Police for the eventual drawdown of U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan.

*Photo by MC1 Jonathan Carmichael*

