

MAY 2025

EXTRA

BEE NEWS



Official Newsletter of the Navy Seabee Foundation



NMCB 133 on deployment

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Seabee Recruiter prepares for ultra marathon



*Story by Lainy Prescott
Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain*

WENDOVER, Utah (Apr. 17, 2025) – Petty Officer Deven Berthelson, a U.S. Navy Seabee with more than a decade of ultra-marathon experience, is preparing to tackle one of the nation's most grueling endurance events—the Salt Flats Ultra Marathon. Spanning up to 100 miles across the stark, unforgiving terrain of Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats, the race is a true test of physical and mental resilience. Berthelson is raising the stakes by running it in a full Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) bomb suit—an 85-pound ensemble built for blast protection, not desert distance.

But for Berthelson, the challenge is more than athletic. It's a call to action.

As the program lead for Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Rocky Mountain's Warrior Challenge Program, Berthelson plays a pivotal role in identifying and mentoring future Navy SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen (SWCC), Navy Divers, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians, and Hospital Corpsmen bound for the Advanced Technical Field (ATF). These elite paths demand extraordinary resilience, grit, and heart—the very traits he'll demonstrate step by grueling step on race day.

"This isn't about finishing fast—it's about showing what our candidates and our Navy are made of," said Berthelson. "The Warrior Challenge pipeline isn't easy. It's supposed to break you down and build you back stronger. I want the next generation to see what's possible when you refuse to quit."

Berthelson's journey across the Salt Flats is both a personal crucible and a public testament to the Navy's pursuit of excellence. His run reflects the unforgiving training and mission focus that define Naval Special Warfare and its supporting communities.

The Salt Flats Endurance Run begins at 7:00 a.m. on May 2, 2025. Berthelson won't be running for a medal—he'll be running to inspire the next wave of America's toughest warriors.

To learn more about the Navy's Warrior Challenge Program or to start your own journey, visit Navy.com.

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NMCB 133 CAT Palau Mentorship Program Empowers Palauans with In-Demand Trade Skills

KOROR, PALAU

04.18.2025

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class

Andrew Waters. Photos by Builder 2nd

Class Riley Cavalluzzo

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133

A long-standing partnership between the U.S. Armed Forces' Civic Action Team (CAT), currently manned by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, and Palau is providing life-changing opportunities for Palauans through a mentorship and apprenticeship program aimed at building employable skills in construction trades.

The program, which has been running for nearly two decades, is mentoring local apprentices in areas like welding, carpentry and heavy equipment operation.

One of the program's current apprentices, William Lewis, is training in welding under Steelworker 1st Class Darryl Dykstra, a member of the CAT. For Lewis, the program offers more than just technical training—it's a pathway to a better future.

"I get to learn new stuff and get certified," said Lewis. "It'll be way easier going back to the States to look for a job because I get certified from this program."

Though Lewis ultimately hopes to pursue heavy equipment operation, he sees welding as a valuable step along the way. He expressed deep gratitude for being accepted into the program, noting that he learns something new every day and appreciates the structure and sense of responsibility it brings. Among the skills he's gained are improved communication, adherence to safety protocols, and greater accountability.

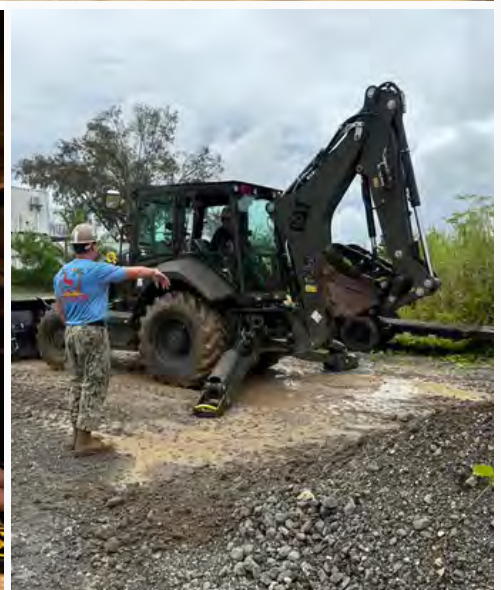
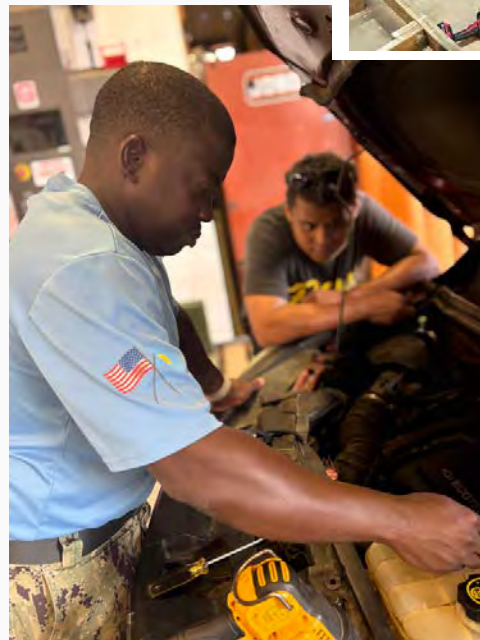
The program is coordinated in partnership with the Palau Community Action Agency, which handles the application process. Once applicants are screened, interviews are conducted by the Assistant Officer in Charge (AOIC) and the Project Manager, mirroring a typical job interview.

According to Chief Builder Aaron Liles, the AOIC for CAT Palau, up to ten apprentices are trained at a time. The ultimate goal is to equip Palauan participants with nationally recognized

certifications in construction trades, enabling them to secure employment both locally and internationally.

"This gives Palauans, upon completion, the opportunity for job growth here in Palau and also in many other countries around the world—including the U.S.—with a certificate as a tradesman," Liles explained.

For people like Lewis, the program is more than just a stepping stone—it's a bridge to a future filled with possibility, skill, and independence.



NMCB 133 Deployment Operations

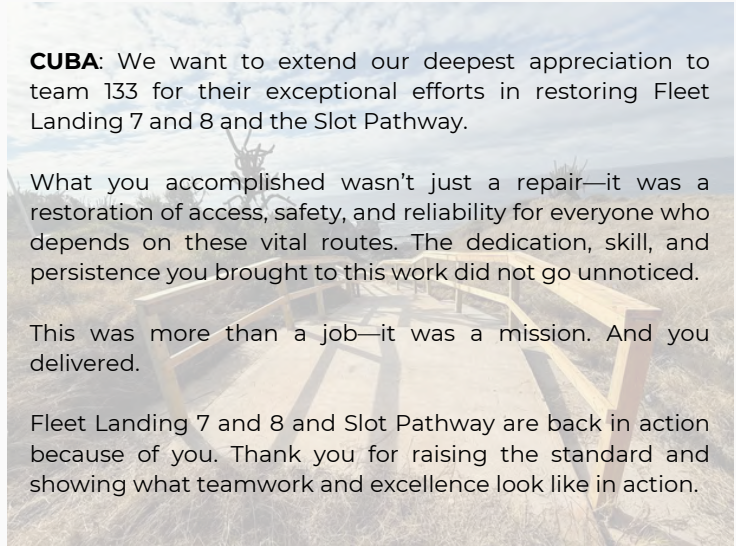


CUBA: We want to extend our deepest appreciation to team 133 for their exceptional efforts in restoring Fleet Landing 7 and 8 and the Slot Pathway.

What you accomplished wasn't just a repair—it was a restoration of access, safety, and reliability for everyone who depends on these vital routes. The dedication, skill, and persistence you brought to this work did not go unnoticed.

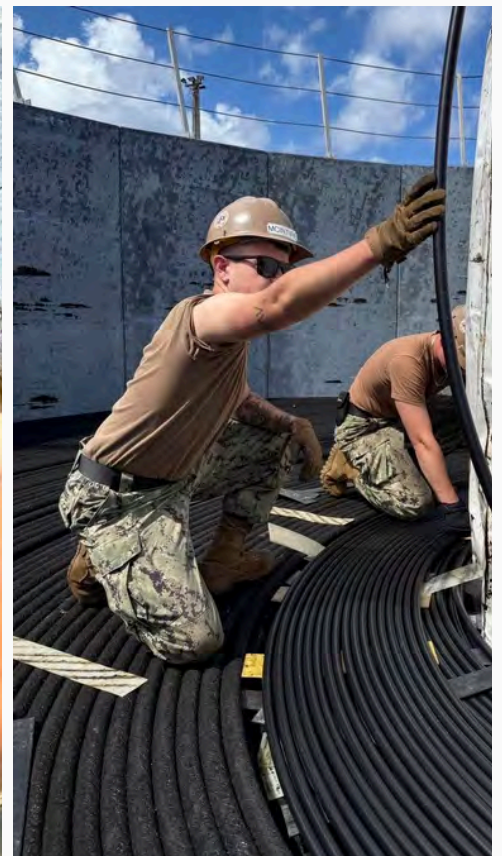
This was more than a job—it was a mission. And you delivered.

Fleet Landing 7 and 8 and Slot Pathway are back in action because of you. Thank you for raising the standard and showing what teamwork and excellence look like in action.



Global Sentinel

NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos are assisting the cable-laying ship Global Sentinel by meticulously placing cables in a storage drum to enable the ship to more easily carry out its mission. This is just one of many ways our Seabees are enabling Fleet maneuverability through high-quality construction.



NMCB 133 Deployment Operations (cont)

Mount Out Exercise: NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos in Guam (complete) their mount out exercise.

This Mount-out Exercise is part of a sustainment exercise to ensure our personnel are ready to deploy equipment around the world in support of fleet requirements. We are also taking the opportunity to prepare equipment for shipping to support upcoming real-world operations.



Guam: Silver Flag Exercise

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, and Airmen, assigned to the 554th Red Horse Squadron, participate in the Silver Flag airfield damage repair exercise in Yigo, Guam, April 22, 2025. NCMB 133 is deployed under Commander, Task Force 75, which executes command and control of assigned Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces across the 7th Fleet area of operations to defend U.S., allied, and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Waters)



NMCB 133 deployment operations (cont)

Guam: NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos deployed to Guam are enabling Fleet maneuverability through high-quality construction. They are conducting earthwork on the Polaris Point access road construction project to allow contractors better access to the piers to provide services. They are also providing support to other commands with the crane crew conducting a lift to help Underwater Construction Team 2 move one of their boats encouraging interoperability between units.

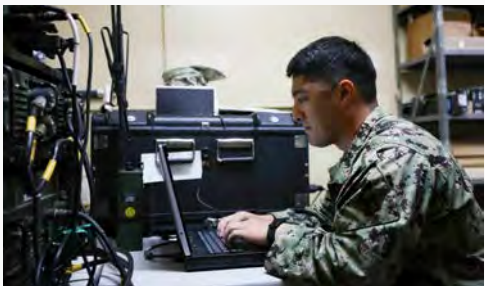


NMCB 133 deployment operations (cont.)

Crane lift: Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, conduct a crane lift on a pier in Santa Rita, Guam, April 16, 2025.



Sustainment Exercise: Construction Electrician 2nd Class Shiquita Jenkins (top), Steelworker 2nd Class Christopher Vaughn (middle), Construction Electrician 1st Class Jonathan Ritschard (bottom), assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, tracks updates during a sustainment exercise in Santa Rita, Guam, April 21, 2025. NMCB 133 is deployed under Commander, Task Force 75, which executes command and control of assigned Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces across the 7th Fleet area of operations to defend U.S., allied, and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Waters)



SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT
E02 JESUS CISNEROSLEMUS
 SEABEES
 PROJECT SUPERVISOR BU1 SIKES SAFETY SUPERVISOR BU2 KLEMISH
SAFETY IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 2ND CLASS JESUS CISNEROSLEMUS IS NMCB 133'S JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR FOR 2024. HE IS FROM VISALIA, CALIFORNIA AND HAS BEEN WITH NMCB 133 FOR FIVE YEARS. HE IS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED TO GUAM WHERE HE IS THE ASSISTANT CREW LEADER FOR OUR POLARIS POINT ACCESS ROAD PROJECT. HIS FAVORITE PART OF HIS JOB IS TEACHING INCOMING TROOPS MORE ABOUT THEIR JOB AND GETTING TO WORK ON UNIQUE PROJECTS. HE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MASTER SERGEANT NORRIS FOR BEING A MAJOR ROLE MODEL FOR HIM DURING HIS NAVAL CAREER.

NMCB 133 deployment operations (cont.)

Storage Facility Project

NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos are continuing work on a storage facility project for Naval Construction Group TWO. Last week, our Seabees placed 63 cubic yards of concrete for the foundation of the structure. Projects like this allow us to support other commands and encourage interoperability as well as keeping the skill sets of our Seabees sharp and fresh while in home port.



Honoring the Best! EXWC Sailors Sweep NAVFAC Headquarters Sailor of the Year Awards!

Congratulations to Construction Electrician 1st Class Gregory Lewis, who was honored as NAVFAC Sailor of the Year (Shore); and Construction Electrician 1st Class Michael Johnson, who won NAVFAC Sailor of the Year (Sea)!

"This incredible honor is a testament to the remarkable work and accomplishments of these exemplary sailors. We are extremely proud of this prestigious recognition for their superior performance, professionalism, and dedication!" EXWC Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen said.

"Their contributions are invaluable to EXWC's mission to support the warfighter with cutting-edge technology and technical solutions, with their efforts directly enabling Fleet lethality. These sailors are leaders who exemplify the best of the best. BZ!" Capt. Allen continued.

CE1 Lewis is with the EXWC Dive Locker, where he conducts complex dive operations to support the Command and Navy with research, development, testing, and evaluation of state-of-the-art underwater technology for worldwide application.

CE1 Johnson is with the Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) team, considered the Navy's foremost experts in electrical power, offering specialized, transportable equipment for the temporary support of utility and critical power systems.

Rear Adm. Dean VanderLey, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) commander and chief of Civil Engineers, recognized these two exceptional sailors at a Washington Navy Yard ceremony April 9.



NAVFAC Shore Sailor of the Year CE1 Lewis

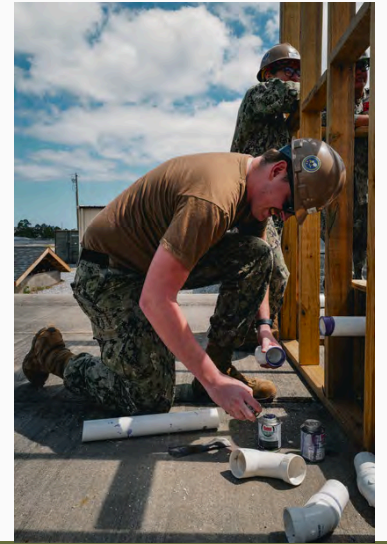
NAVFAC Sea Sailor of the Year CE1 Johnson

NMCB 11 deployment preparations



Mission Ready! Continuing Promise 2025 is on the horizon, and preparation starts now!

This week, members of detachment CP25 held training to brush up their skills on plumbing so they are ready to head out!



Embark

Finalize the staging area!

On the last day of our embark training exercise (recently), the whole crew worked to ensure that all 15 vehicles and 8 pallets were ready for graded inspection. CAN DO!



NMCB 4 homeport operations

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4, build a pedestal for a future statue at the entrance of the Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School on Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, California, April 21, 2025. The statue has historical significance to the Seabees. NMCB 4 is implementing a robust construction skill training plan to prepare for a dynamic mission set throughout the Indo-Pacific in support of Combatant Commander strategic objectives. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Dakota Rayburn)



Seabee camaraderie lives long after the uniform retires



SW Idaho

The Greater Southwest Idaho Seabee Swarm met last Saturday at Nathan's Greenleaf Cafe. Good food, Great friends. May's Swarm scheduled for May 17 between Mountain Home and Glenn's Ferry.

Seabee Olympics, Hawaii style

Seabees assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 303 and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii Public Works along with Airmen assigned to the 647 Civil Engineering Squadron participate in the 2025 Seabee Olympics at Quick Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii March 28, 2025. The purpose of the event is to celebrate and build camaraderie among the Seabees, Navy, and joint engineering teams through competition.



NAVFAC Public Works, Hawaii

Seabees assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 303 and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii Public Works along with Airmen assigned to the 647 Civil Engineering Squadron participate in the 2025 Seabee Olympics at Quick Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii March 28, 2025. The purpose of the event is to celebrate and build camaraderie among the Seabees, Navy, and joint engineering teams through competition.



Seabee camaraderie lives long after the uniform retires



South Central PA

April 12th 2025 South Central PA Seabee Swarm held at Hoss's in Chambersburg, Pa. Left to right Larry Kunkle, Jim (USAF ret.), John Byrne, Joshua Billet, Paul S. Barnett Jr., Tom Goodwin, Dave Weddle, Dan Herrick, Jerry Wolfe.

Louisiana

Great Swarm meeting today. Met a couple of new Seabee brothers and enjoyed swapping stories. The next Louisiana Seabee Meeting will be in Prairieville on Saturday, 10th, followed by the next on Saturday, June 14th, in the Lafayette area. Picture, L to R: AM3/SW2/MA2/UTI Noal "Shewy" Shewcraft, our Chief, CEC Pat Hodges, BU3 Ralph King and SW1 Jason Pontell.



NAVFAC Northwest Reflects on Seabee Legacy, Calls for Innovation to Meet Growing Mission Demands

*Courtesy Story
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems
Command Northwest*

With facilities spanning multiple installations across Washington State, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Northwest rarely has the opportunity to bring large groups of personnel together. However, during a recent tour across NAVFAC Northwest's area of responsibility, Capt. Preston Taylor, commanding officer, seized the opportunity to not only connect with employees but to inspire them, invoking the legacy of the Seabees to reinforce the importance of their work and the values that carry the NAVFAC mission forward.

"This year marks the 83rd birthday of the Seabees," said Taylor, referencing the storied construction force. "Their spirit lives on in every project we face. Every time we need to find a way to adapt, build smarter, and support the warfighter in a dynamic environment, we embody the Seabee legacy."

The Seabees were born out of necessity during World War II, when civilian contractors building defense infrastructure overseas came under fire and were unable to defend themselves under the rules of war. In response, the Navy called for tradesman—carpenters, electricians, heavy equipment operators, steelworkers—to don the uniform and serve as both builders and defenders. The result was the formation of the Naval Construction Force.

"Our footprint is vast, and so are our responsibilities," said Taylor. "That's why it is important we take moments like these to connect, to reflect, and refocus on what we are here to do. I'm here to emphasize the importance of your work and remind you that the resilience and ingenuity of those who came before us serve as an example of how we continue to meet mission demands despite increasing complexities."

The visits come at a time of growing military construction (MILCON) demands, especially at the U.S. Navy's public shipyards and strategic weapons installations. As the Navy continues to expand its capabilities in the Pacific, the demand for robust infrastructure—dry docks and piers to shore power and facilities that support submarines, aircraft, and fleet operations—grows.

"We are not just building projects. We are enabling warfighter capability," said Taylor. "Our Navy needs modern, resilient infrastructure to sustain forward presence, and NAVFAC delivers that."

To underscore the message, Taylor referenced a display of historical photographs shown at the recent Seabee Ball; black-and-white images of Seabees working across the Pacific and Atlantic during World War II—building airstrips, landing causeways, and facilities under extreme conditions.

"These images tell the story of a force that built under fire, innovated with limited resources, and never lost sight of the mission," said Taylor. "They are a reminder that determination, adaptability, and teamwork are timeless."

As the photos circulated among the staff, Taylor asked everyone to consider the attributes visible in the photos. Qualities like perseverance, resourcefulness, and camaraderie were voiced—attributes that still define NAVFAC personnel today.

"Like the Seabees of the past, we too face constraints. Growing demands, limited resources, and a complex global environment," said Taylor. "But with the same grit and ingenuity, we will adapt and innovate to get the job done."

Taylor's message resonates directly with current Department of Defense (DoD) priorities. In his message to the force immediately following his confirmation in January, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth outlined his vision, calling for the DoD to achieve "peace through strength" by rebuilding the military, restoring warrior ethos, and reestablishing deterrence.

"We are the closest to the problems and the solutions," said Taylor. "As we look towards mission growth, especially in areas like (Naval Base Kitsap) Bremerton and Bangor, we must remain focused on how to streamline our work and eliminate inefficiencies. It's not just about building infrastructure—it's about ensuring our warfighters have the tools to succeed in the face of evolving threats."

NAVFAC Northwest's strength, Taylor noted, lies in its authorities—particularly in acquisition and construction—and in the talent and creativity of its people. Through a commitment to the Navy's Get Real Get Better initiative, Taylor urged staff to stay engaged, own risk, and push innovation forward from the ground up.

"This is about competence, confidence, and commitment," said Taylor. "Just like the Seabees, we create order out of disorder. We figure it out, and we deliver for our Navy and for our nation."



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FROM	NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION	TO	INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
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01 May 1966: NMCB 4 at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, began hiring and training of local Vietnamese laborers in the trades of carpenter, riggers, welder, mason, and automotive mechanics.

01 May 1966: By orders of the Secretary of the Navy, the Bureau of Yards and Docks was reconstituted as the Naval Facilities Engineering Command as a component of the Office of Naval Material.

01 May 1971: Headquarters of the 32nd were moved from Vietnam to Roosevelt Road, Puerto Rico.

02 May 1944: 31st Special NCB commissioned at NCTC Camp Endicott, Davisville, RI.

02 May 2004: A mortar attack at Camp Ramadi, Al-Ramadi, Al Anbar Province, Iraq killed five members of NMCB 14, one U.S. Army soldiers, and wounded 28 other personnel. This represented the deadliest day for the Seabees since the Vietnam War.

05 May 1945: Seabees of the 30th NCR completed the last runway of the four-field B-29 airdrome on Tinian in the Mariana Islands from which Superfortresses mounted the atomic bombing of the Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in August 1945.

07 May 1965: Assisted by ACB 1 manning pontoon causeways, NMCB 10 landed on the beaches at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, together with United States Marine units. The landing was the first deployment of a full Seabee battalion to Vietnam. NMCB 10 commenced construction of the Chu Lai expeditionary airfield and advance base.

07 May 1971: CBU 201 received the Navy Unit Commendation for meritorious service from June 1966 to March 1971 for providing construction support to Operation Deep Freeze in the Antarctic. The award was presented at the unit's disestablishment ceremony held at Davisville, Rhode Island. At the time, Lieutenant John E. Perry, Jr., the Officer in Charge, accepted the award on behalf of the officers and men who had served with the unit.

08 May 1967: A detachment of Seabees from NMCB 4 was assigned the task of building underground bunkers, defense positions, and galley and storage facilities for a United States Army Special Forces unit at Con Thien, Republic of Vietnam. Con Thien was located approximately two kilometers south of the Demilitarized Zone. At first, the Seabees conducted their construction work on a nearly normal daily routine and were able to complete the initial portion of their projects without harassment. On May 8, however, Con Thien came under attack by an estimated two reinforced North Vietnamese Army battalions. The enemy fired an estimated 600 to 1,000 rounds of mortar at the camp. The assault on the camp was successfully repelled by Seabee, Marine, and Special Forces personnel. After the attack, the Seabees returned to their construction work, but the camp continued to be harassed by enemy mortar and small artillery fire. From the time of the first attack to the time the entire detachment of 25 Seabees was evacuated on May 13, eleven of the Seabees had been wounded. The construction work for the Special Forces camp was later completed by another detachment of Seabees from the same battalion.

08 May 1967: UTI Lloyd C. O'Banion was awarded a Silver Star for his actions during an attack at Con Thien, RVN.

09 May 1969: Seabees of NMCB 40 came under 122mm rocket attack at Camp Campbell, Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. Although this was the battalion's third Vietnam deployment, it was the first time their camp had received fire. As a result of this attack, two Seabees were hospitalized and thirteen Seabees were treated and returned to duty.

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FROM	NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION		TO	INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS	

13 May 1967: One Navy man was killed and seven were wounded at the NMCB 8 compound located at Chu Lai, Vietnam, following a nighttime mortar and recoilless rifle attack on the faint Naval Support Activity.

13 May 1968: Due to the augmentation of the Naval Construction Force required for the war in Vietnam, Reserve NMCB 12 and 22 were ordered to active duty at Gulfport, MS, effective this date. This is the first time reserve Seabee units were called to active duty. The last C-130 flight of NMCB 10 personnel departed Quang Tri for CONUS.

14 May 1943: Seabees from Camp Peary, VA (six CEC officers, 18 enlisted men) report to Amphibious Training Base Solomons, MD and begin four-week training course for what became the Naval Combat Demolition Units.

16 May 2006: CAPT Katherine Gregory assumed command of the 30th NCR, the first female active duty regimental commander in the history of the Naval Construction Force.

18 May 1969: Team 1013 compound and Xuan Loc City came under heavy enemy rocket, mortar, and small arms fire. CE2 Phillip Lee Grieser was killed by shrapnel.

22 May 1964: A team of 33 Navy Seabees and 271 tons of heavy equipment was airlifted to Costa Rica to carry out emergency flood control measures in the Mount Irazu Volcano area and along the Reventado River. The assistance was requested by the government of Costa Rica.

22 May 1966: NMCB 8 camp dedicated Camp Faulkner in memory of Arnold J. Faulkner, EOH3. Faulkner, who was attached to NMCB 4, was killed in a construction accident while rehabilitating the Special Forces air strip at Kham Duc.

23 May 2012: The primary hub for Seabee deployments to and from Iraq and Afghanistan was closed during a ceremony held on Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. For 10 years, Camp Moreell served as the main Seabee ground base and assembly point for all 'Bees and many Sailors who deployed across Southwest Asia, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

24 May 1945: Approximately 50 Seabees of the 87th NCB were working the night shift at the Yontan Airfield on Okinawa when the airfield was bombed and then subjected to an attack by airborne enemy demolition squads. This was the debut of the Giretsu, Japanese suicide warriors. At the first enemy aircraft screeched along the coral airstrip, the Japanese soldiers within it leaped for the ground, tumbling head-over-heels. They quickly recovered themselves and sprinted off into the darkness. Immediately thereafter from all directions, blinding flashes illuminated the hardstands. Gas tanks exploded and parked planes became flaming infernos. The enemy soldiers were destroying United States planes with magnesium grenades and phosphorous bombs. Seabees and Marines grabbed their guns and began firing at the Japanese, who, by now, were silhouetted around the burning planes. When the action was over, all of the invading saboteurs were dead. However, twenty United States planes were completely destroyed and a fuel dump was in flames.

25 May 2009: CDR Duane G. Wolfe, CEC, USNR of Los Osos, CA was killed along with three other people by a roadside bomb in Fallujah, Iraq. Wolfe was serving as officer-in-charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division's Al Anbar Area Office. He is the highest ranking CEC officer ever killed in action.

27 May 1974: On Memorial Day, the Seabee Memorial Monument, located on Memorial Drive leading to Arlington National Cemetery, was dedicated. It depicts the Seabee as builder, fighter, and ambassador of good will. The larger-than-life-size figure of a Seabee on the monument stands in front of a semicircular bronze bas-relief on which is portrayed a panorama of Seabees at their various construction trades.

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Disclaimer: There is much more Seabee history each month than the two pages captured here and the goal is to share a little from each era.

NMCB 3 deployment operations

NMCB-3 Seabees participate in Rapid Airfield Damage Repair (RADR) training with 439th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 171, and Seabees from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS) at MCAS Iwakuni. The two-week training led by 439th CES successfully bolstered interoperability, creating a more cohesive and effective force. Through classes, walkthroughs, and events, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen honed their combined capabilities to maintain a "Ready Now" fighting force and aid MCAS Iwakuni in Base Defense Readiness. NMCB-3 serves as the stand-in engineering force for Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, executing high-quality construction operations and supporting major combat operations in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photos by Engineering Aide Constructionman Juan Nacpil)



Seabee camaraderie lives long after the uniform retires



Pacific Northwest

PNW Seabees met at the Homestead Restaurant in Tacoma, WA for our monthly get-together. We love to meet at new places, so let us know your favorite spot in your town at PNW Seabees Can Do on Facebook and we just may be seeing you sometime soon!

NMCB 3 deployment operations (cont.)

KOROR, Palau (April 1, 2025) – Lt. Nahum Melendez, left, chaplain for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3, performs a baptism for Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Braden Hembd, right. Seabees assigned to Detail Palau witnessed the ceremony, strengthening the unit’s sense of unity and camaraderie. (U.S. Navy photo by Builder 3rd Class Austin Maddox)



YAP, Federated States of Micronesia (Apr. 8, 2025)

(Left) Lt. Nahum Melendez, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 chaplain speaks with Builder 1st Class Jorowen Vinluan, right, and Steel Worker Constructionman Dylan Devlin, left, before their baptism. (U.S. Navy photos by Equipment Operator 3rd Class Luis Sanchez)

Detail Palau wrapped up CMDR Brinkman’s site visit with a group photo, celebrating the team’s accomplishments and the great progress made so far. (U.S. Navy photos by Builder 3rd Class Austin Maddox)

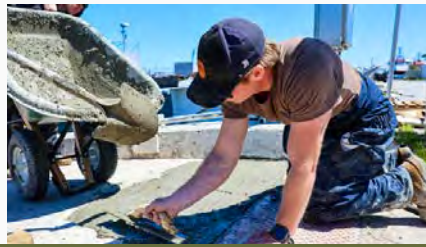


UCT 1 is getting after it at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story!

Our Underwater Construction Team 1 put in the work to repair and reinforce the expeditionary piers—replacing and restoring 21 timber piles that support critical base infrastructure.

This isn't just about maintenance—it's about mission readiness. Expeditionary pier and port damage repairs ensure the U.S. Navy can arrive and stay in the fight in environments around the world.

Bravo Zulu to UCT 1 for leading from the front and staying mission-ready!



UCT 2 in action

Built, not born — UCT toughness in action.

Seabee divers from UCT-2 and NMCB-4 putting in work on the waterfront during a joint exercise. From the pier to the deep, every bolt, weld, and breath counts.

Seabee camaraderie lives long after the uniform retires



SW Florida

Seabees of southwest Florida had our monthly swarm at the I-Hop in Port Charlotte. We had 16 Bees and one guest. Our next swarm is on May 10th at 10 am at the I-Hop in Port Charlotte.

NCB-18 Equipment Operators in Crane School in Port Hueneme



After a 6-week training at Crane School, where we got hands-on experience with two types of cranes: the 40-ton Extended Boom and the 50-ton Crawler.

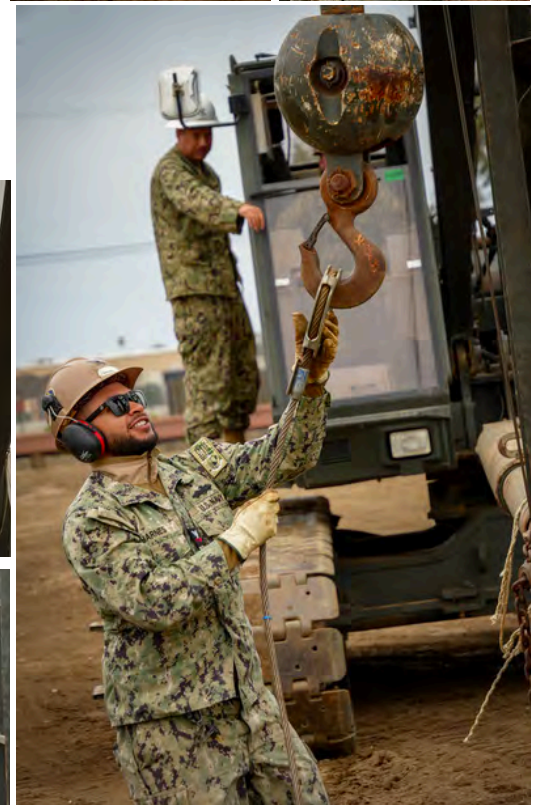
You can see the Crawler in action, equipped with two different attachments: the Dragline and the Pile Driver. The Pile Driver is particularly challenging because of the detailed sequence of steps involved, but once the operator and riggers get into a rhythm, they can drive multiple limber piles into the ground in a single day!

It takes a solid team to make this work:

- * 3 Riggers – Fuel Control, Flying H (hammer latch), and Lead Ground Guide
- * The Operator slowly lowers the hammer until the Fuel Controller cuts the power

EO1 Samaduroff "It was a great experience and an excellent opportunity to be apart of. Selection for this course is highly selective, as it is designed for individuals who prioritize safety above all else. Success in crane operations depends on a combination of teamwork, skill and strict adherence to safety protocols. Given the inherent risks of crane operations, camaraderie is essential. When everyone works together safely, we succeed."

EO1 Gross "I had an great time out here. It was a completely different experience compared to what most EOs are used to. Hydraulics, cables, and so many factors to consider. Grateful for the opportunity to expand my skill set and walk away with a whole new perspective."



Operation Clean Sweep II delivers major improvements to West Coast barracks

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA,
UNITED STATES

04.15.2025

Story by Lance Cpl. Jordan Searls
I Marine Expeditionary Force

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – U.S. Marines and Sailors with I Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations West joined forces with U.S. Navy Seabees and civilian contractors across several West Coast installations to conduct Operation Clean Sweep II from March 24 to April 11, 2025.

OCS II, the second deliberate maintenance stand down since the Barracks 360 Reset initiative began last year, built upon the success of the first iteration by investing additional time, training, and resources into sustaining improved barracks conditions and expanding improvements to additional locations.

“This isn’t a quality-of-life issue. It’s a matter of operational readiness,” said Lt. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm, commanding general of I MEF. “What we do and the demands we place on our uniformed Marines and Sailors each day is incredible. They need quality barracks to reset, refit and get ready to do it all again tomorrow.”

Service members assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms conducted a multitude of self-help projects and repairs to improve operational readiness through enhancing living conditions. Across the installations, a total of 4,189 barracks rooms have been restored to approved habitability standards since the start of OCS I through the completion of OCS II. Approximately \$10.3 million was allocated for OCS II, enabling the execution of these improvements across the installations.

In total, Marines and Sailors completed 4,079 self-help projects as part of OCS II, improving the overall condition and functionality of their living spaces. Notably, Marines and Sailors installed 6,177 new air conditioning units ahead of

rising summer temperatures to ensure living spaces meet habitability standards and the Marines and Sailors are well rested and refit for future training, exercises and operations.

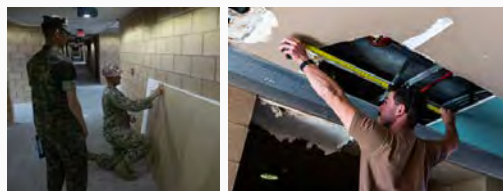
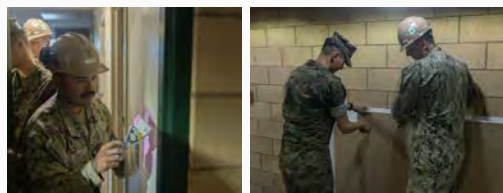
“Listening to our Marines and acting on their feedback remains central to this effort,” said Lt. Col. Robert Hillary, I MEF G-4 deputy. “The installation of new air conditioning units directly reflects what they told us they needed most.”

Marines and Sailors also worked hand-in-hand with the Home Depot Foundation and 365 Connect volunteers to revitalize an outdoor recreational area with new grills, refurbish a gazebo and freshly paint a basketball court. The collaboration highlighted the importance of teamwork between military and civilian communities.

“By creating enjoyable gathering spaces outside official training for bonding and recreation, we were honored to contribute in this small way to those who work so hard every day in service to our country,” said Teresa Miller, chief executive officer and founder of 365 Connect. “It is not often that civilians have the privilege to work alongside young Marines, gaining insight into this remarkable community of dedicated, resilient individuals.”

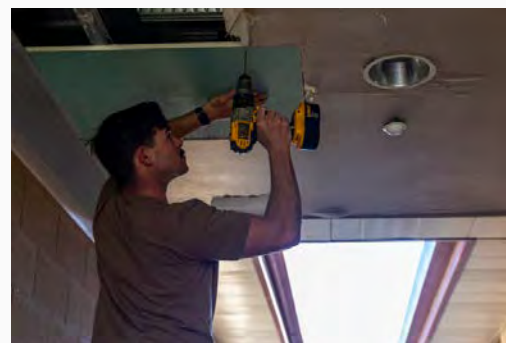
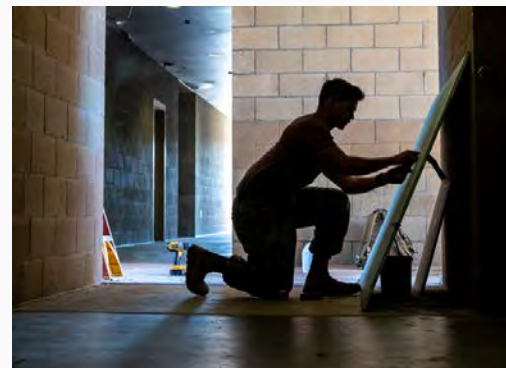
U.S. Navy Seabees with Amphibious Construction Battalion 1 and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 also lent their expertise, aiding in drywall repairs, paint touch-ups, and other carpentry-related upgrades, underscoring the fortitude of the Navy-Marine Corps team.

“My team has worked hard to support these Marines and help improve the quality of life in their barracks,” said Lt. j.g. Griffin Gebler, a detachment officer in charge at Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4. “We’re not just doing repairs—we’re teaching Marines to be able to do these repairs themselves.”



OCS efforts are scheduled to continue as units complete exercises and deployments, with Marine Corps Air Station Yuma set to take part in the next wave of barracks improvements following the successful completion of Weapons and Tactics Instructor course. I MEF and MCI-West plan to hold maintenance stand-downs semi-annually. By proactively addressing maintenance requests, I MEF is reinforcing the Marine Corps’ commitment to ensure every Marine and Sailor inhabits a living space on par with the caliber of their service so that they can be ready for crisis or contingency.

Media interested in more information on Operation Clean Sweep II, or the larger Barracks 360 Reset initiative, should contact the I MEF Communication Strategy and Operations office at imef_commstrat@usmc.mil or 760-763-7047.



Honoring Fleet Terrell: A Legacy of Leadership, Service, and Seabee Strength

By Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea

As he concludes his distinguished tour as Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of Naval Personnel, we recognize Fleet Master Chief Delbert Terrell Jr. for his unwavering dedication to Sailors, families, and the mission.

As a proud Navy Seabee, Fleet Terrell carried the "Can Do" spirit through every stage of his career, building connections, breaking down barriers, and reinforcing the foundation of Fleet readiness through communication, mentorship, and policy engagement. Whether on camera or on deckplates, his presence represented the heart of the enlisted force while championing readiness through every message.

He played a critical role in elevating the mission of MyNavy HR, ensuring Sailors had access to timely information, support resources, and the tools they need to thrive, both in uniform and beyond. His leadership has left a lasting mark on both the enlisted force and the MyNavy HR enterprise.

As we wish him fair winds and following seas, we welcome Master Chief John H. Walker to the role. With a passion for leadership and a deep understanding of today's Fleet, Master Chief Walker is ready to continue championing the needs of our people and preparing the Navy for what's next.

Join us in celebrating Fleet Terrell's legacy and in welcoming Fleet Walker aboard!



Doug Heiner, NSF Vice Chairman (SEL) presented FLTCM Terrell with a certificate of appreciation from the NSF.



NSF presents the 2024 Combs and Stethem Awards

The RADM Lewis B. Combs Award is presented to the individual who has made the most outstanding contribution in perpetuating the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps.

The SW2 Robert D. Stethem Award recognizes outstanding individual moral courage in support of the traditions of the Seabees while in the course of actual operations.

2024 RADM Lewis B. Combs

The winner of the 2024 RADM Lewis B. Combs award is LT Peter Schmillen from underwater construction team (UCT) two. As operations officer for UCT two, LT Schmillen led 54 personnel in the readiness and deployment of three construction dive detachments supporting the U.S. Pacific fleet, managing a \$60m table of allowance and \$2m in annual project funds. His leadership was vital during valiant shield 2024, where he commanded an expeditionary port damage repair and opening task unit supporting an advanced naval base in Palau. Lt Schmillen's strategic planning and expertise in naval construction forces and navy expeditionary combat forces led to the successful completion of 15 missions across 11 locations in the USINDOPACOM area, including harbor improvements in Palau, hydrographic surveys, and a multinational underwater repair engagement with the republic of Korea. He worked closely with the 30th naval construction regiment, 7th fleet, pacific fleet, NAVFAC, and allied forces to plan and execute critical projects, ensuring the seamless execution of fleet infrastructure priorities.

2024 SW2 Robert Stethem

The winner of the 2024 SW2 Robert Stethem award is BU1(SCW/EXW/DV) Aaron Brown from UCT2. Serving as the expeditionary warfare center Port Hueneme dive locker leading Chief Petty Officer and UCT 2, construction dive detachment bravo operations petty officer, BU1 Brown displayed exceptional leadership, technical expertise, and decisiveness during numerous underwater construction projects in austere environments. His heroic actions in saving a fellow sailor's life during a diving operation demonstrated unparalleled moral courage and commitment to the Seabee mission. When a diver displayed symptoms of decreased consciousness, BU1 immediately initiated emergency procedures, placed the diver on 100% oxygen, and led the team in administering hyperbaric treatment, resulting in a full recovery. BU1's leadership also led to a 60% increase in operational readiness, successful supervision of high-stakes underwater construction projects and training exercises, and the management of over \$4 million in assets. His meticulous oversight ensured safe, mishap-free operations and directly supported U.S. and allied military objectives. BU1 Brown's technical expertise and leadership in executing eight high-risk subsea projects in hazardous conditions exemplified the highest standards of professionalism, sacrifice, and dedication to duty, reflecting the ideals of the Seabee community.



Dave Fleisch, USN, CEC (Ret) and Heather Deviney represented the Navy Seabee Foundation as the awards were given out at UCT-2 today by CDRE Angel Santiago, CO NCG-1, and LCDR Matthew Evans, CO of UCT-2.



Registration Open!

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JULY 1-13 | www.Seabee5K.org

Join us this summer for the Seabee Virtual 5K 2025, July 1-13. Run, walk, ride, ruck, or roll a 5K at your convenience during this period and share your experiences on social media using the hashtags #seabee5k and #NavySeabeeFoundation. Registration is now open at Seabee5K.org. By donating or raising \$35 or more, participants will receive a red, white or blue Seabee 5K t-shirt, with shipments beginning on June 1. Proceeds support the Navy Seabee Foundation and its mission to assist Seabees and their families.



Choose from a RED, WHITE or NAVY BLUE shirt!

Nonprofit in the Spotlight

In supporting Seabees, our “Non-Profit in the Spotlight” page highlights additional resources available for Bees.

It is our goal to share as much information as we can for nonprofit organizations that support military and their families. If you are part of a nonprofit or have experience with a nonprofit that you have found helpful, we would like to share it with our fellow Seabees, please send us an email at info@seabee.org.



Military Spoused Advocacy Network (MSAN)

MSAN is a 501(3)c nonprofit organization with a mission to create stronger military families through education, empowerment, and support.

OUR FOCUS:

MSAN's Military Spouse Mentorship-HUB helps to bridge military families from every branch of the armed forces and their surrounding communities in locations around the world through a Virtual Education and Resource Center, Military Spouse Support Program, and Leadership Development Program.

MSAN's collaborations with official military installations, official resources, and trusted partner organizations provide a structured and personal approach through a one-of-a-kind peer-to-peer mentorship experience, building long-term connections to local and national resources expanding the military family sense of community. MSAN strives to improve morale and military retention, increased utilization of resources, and an ongoing investment in the communities that our leaders serve.

OUR VALUES:

Education: Guiding military spouses to resources and opportunities to help deepen their understanding of the new military lifestyle.

Empowerment: Providing military spouses with the knowledge, tools and support they need to advocate for themselves, their service member and their families.

Support: Facilitating mentorship and training to ensure no spouse is left behind.

Community: Building strong connections between military spouses across the world through a supportive mentorship program providing a sense of family and connectedness from day one.

Collaboration: Connecting military spouses with resources to educate and empower their communities.

For more information on how to support or receive these services, please visit:
<https://www.militaryspouseadvocacynetwork.org/>

REUNIONS & EVENTS

"If you never did, you should. These are fun and fun is good." -Dr. Seuss

MAY 2025

- 1-4 NSVA Island X-1 All-Seabee Reunion
May 1-4 - Gulfport, MS
- 1-4 NMCB-121 Reunion I
May 1-4 - Gulfport, MS
- 9 CECOS Basic Class #278 Graduation & 80th Anniversary
May 9, 2025 - Port Hueneme, CA.
- 20-23 MCB-12 All-Eras Reunion
May 20-23, 2025 - Bath, Maine
- 30 NAVFAC Seabee Ball Spring Golf Tournament
Tuesday, May 20, 2025 - Jacksonville, FL

JUNE 2025

- 10 **Washington DC Seabee Golf Tournament**
Tuesday, June 10 - SeabeeGolf.org

AUGUST 2025

- 11 **San Diego Seabee Golf Tournament**
Monday, Aug 11 - Rancho Santa Fe, CA / SeabeeGolf.org
- 20-24 NSVA National Convention
August 20-24 - Orlando, Florida

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 13 Navy Seabee Foundation Seabee Celebration
Saturday, Sep 13 - Kitsap, WA - Bremerton, WA
- 15 MCB11 & NMCB 8 Associations Joint Reunion
September 13-15 - Pensacola, FL
- 18 MCB7 Reunion
September 18-21 - Virginia Beach, VA
- 18 NMCB 3 Reunion All Era
September 18-21 - New Orleans, LA

OCTOBER 2025

- 1-30 2025 OktoBEEfests
www.OktoBEEfest.org
- 9 **Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Tournament**
Thursday, October 9 - Virginia Beach, VA
SeabeeGolf.org
- 20-23 MCB1 - MCB9 Reunion
October 20-23 - Branson, MO

Submit Your Event!
Reach out to the Navy Seabee Foundation at info@seabee.org to add your event.



More information about these events available at seabee.org.

Gulfport All Seabee Reunion 2025

Seabees from all eras represented at the All Seabee Reunion in Gulfport in April.

Westin College alumni group visits the Heritage Center at CBC Gulfport

A group from Westin College recently visited the Heritage Center on CBC Gulfport. One member's dad was a Seabee and some others had ties to other military services and they wanted to come see some Seabee heritage.



For more details about these events, go to www.seabee.org/events

5 Ways to Support the Navy Seabee Foundation:

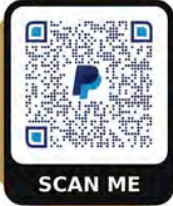


Donate Online

One-time or recurring gifts can be made at www.seabee.org



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

PayPal Giving

Scan the code with your smart phone to donate to Navy Seabee Foundation with PayPal.



Text to Give

Text "Seabee" to 44321 to donate from your phone

Venmo Donation

Scan the code with your smart phone to donate to @NavySeabeeFoundation with Venmo.



SCAN ME

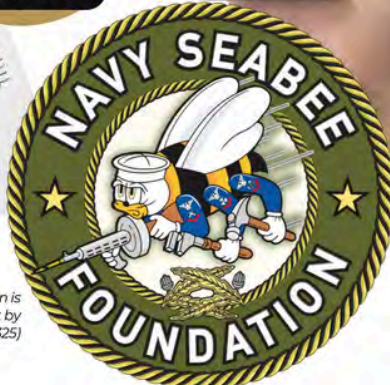
Donate by Mail

Mail a check to P.O. Box 657, Gulfport, MS 39502



MAIL A CHECK TO:
Navy Seabee Foundation
P.O. Box 657
Gulfport, MS 39502

Navy Seabee Foundation is designated a 501(c)3 nonprofit by the IRS (EIN #52-0910325)



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Click on the pictures to go directly to pages.

2025 SPRING SEABEE BRICK SALE!

PORT HUENEME, CA

MAY 5-JUNE 30

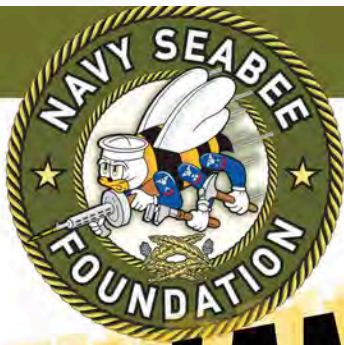
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\$100 (Reg. Price \$125)

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