

SEPTEMBER 2025

EXTRA

# BEE NEWS



Official Newsletter of the Navy Seabee Foundation

**NMCB 133**  
**Homeport Operations**  
*Pgs 9-10*

Seabee earns highest  
non-combat award  
pg 6

Last Chance for Seabee  
Celebration  
pg 17

Navy 250 Year Celebration  
Seabee Museum  
pg 22

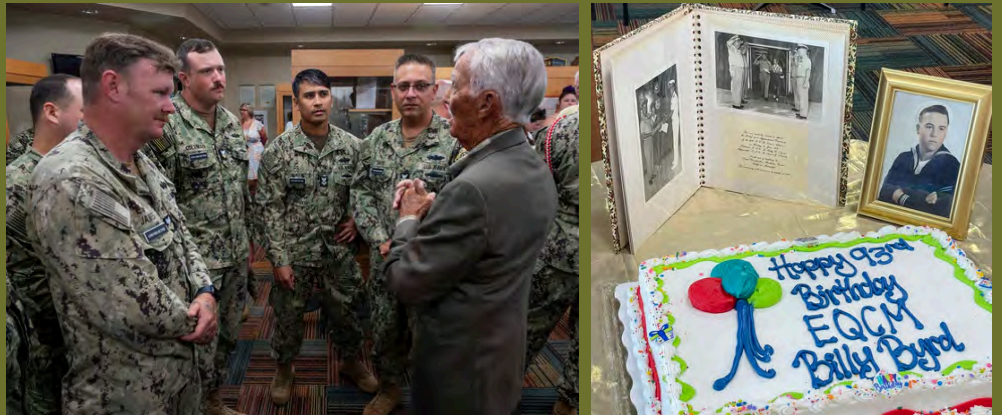
OktoBEEfest  
pgs 23-24

# BEE NEWS EXTRA

## Table of Contents

6, 26	...Always a Seabee
3-5	NMCB 11
5	ACB 1
6	Seabee receives highest non-combat award
7-8	EXWC
9-10	NMCB 133
11-13	NMCB 5
14-15	This month in Seabee history
16-17	NMCB 4
18	NAVFAC HQ Change of Command
19	Seabee Museum Cold War artifact
20-21	NCB 18
22-24	US Navy Seabee Museum and NSF Events
25	Nonprofit in the spotlight
26	Reunions & events
27-30	NSF Connection & support
29-32	NSF Connection & support

## Seabee celebrates 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the CBC Heritage Center



Equipmentman Master Chief (Ret.) Billy G. Byrd celebrated his 93rd birthday with Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport Commanding Officer Capt. Ana Franco, Command Master Chief Charlie Luna and area Chief Selects during a cake cutting ceremony at the NCBC Seabee Heritage Center.

Byrd served 20 years in the Seabees, including two tours in Vietnam and is the oldest living Seabee in the Gulfport area. Please join us in wishing this Seabee a happy birthday!



Follow Navy Seabee Foundation on social media!

# Navy Expeditionary Units run port repair experiment

Story and photos by Petty Officer 1st Class James Hong  
 Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11

GULFPORT, Miss.—Navy expeditionary combat units concluded an experimental port damage repair exercise in Gulfport, Miss., Aug. 15, 2025.

The limited objective experiment (LOE), organized by the Navy Expeditionary Warfighting Development Center (NEXWDC), brought together elements of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 and Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 2.

The combined goal of these units was to identify the construction and security requirements needed when repairing and opening a pier in a hostile environment.

UCT 1 used sonar equipment and underwater remote-operated vehicles to collect hydrographic data and locate submerged obstacles to ensure safe navigations for vessels moving in and out of the harbor.

MSRON-2 was responsible for providing security to all military personnel and assets on the pier. In addition to foot patrols and static defenses on land, MSRON-2 deployed patrol boats and mines to secure the waters surrounding the project site.

NMCB-11 led the construction portion of the experiment by establishing a tent camp and constructing a concrete boat ramp. They also generated 3D pier damage assessments using their newly acquired survey drones.

Back on base in NCBC Gulfport, NMCB-11's headquarters company established a watch floor to manage command and signal for the units involved.

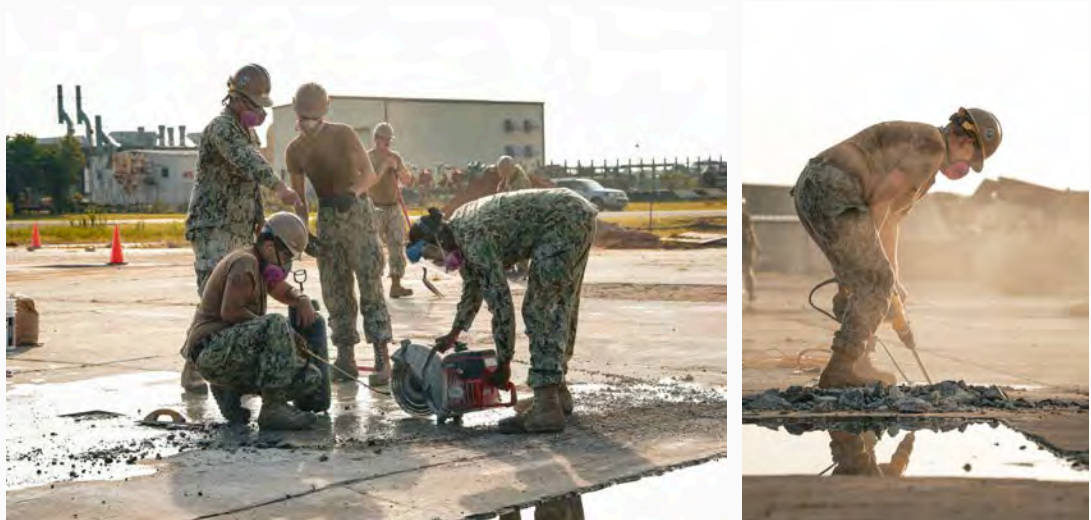
NMCB-11, assigned to Naval Construction Group (NCG) 2, is homeported in Gulfport, Miss. as part of the Naval Construction Force.

The mission of NCG 2 is to organize, man, train, maintain, and equip Naval Construction Regiments (NCRs), NMCBs, the Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU), and the Underwater Construction Team (UCT) to provide supported commanders with expeditionary engineering forces capable of general engineering and construction, and limited combat engineering across the full range of military operations.



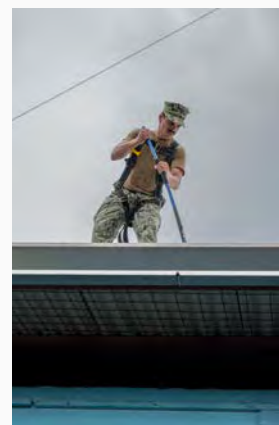
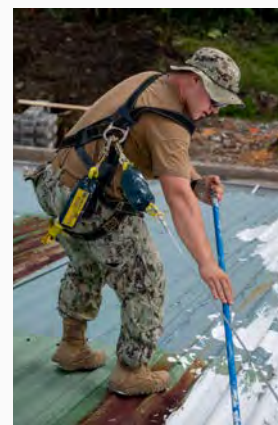
# NMCB 11 Conducts Airfield Damage Repair Assessment

U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 participate in an Airfield Damage Repair assessment on board Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., Aug. 22, 2025. The assessment was a graded exercise as part of the culmination of advanced phase to move into sustainment phase, in preparation for the upcoming deployment. NMCB 11, assigned to Naval Construction Group TWO, is homeported in Gulfport, Miss. as part of the Naval Construction Force. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alexa H. Trafton)



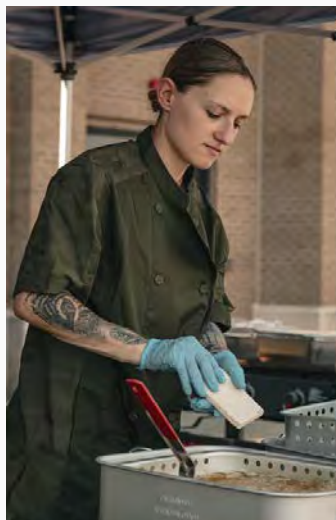
# NMCB 11 at Continuing Promise 2025 Limón, Consta Rica

LIMÓN, Costa Rica (July 30, 2025) Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, center, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet, poses with Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 and Continuing Promise 2025 leadership at Colegio de Limón Diurno in Limón, Costa Rica during Continuing Promise 2025, July 30, 2025. Continuing Promise 2025 is the 16th iteration of the U.S. 4th Fleet/U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command-led mission since 2007, which aims to foster goodwill, strengthen existing partnerships with partner nations, and form new partnerships between host nations, non-federal entities, and international organizations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Deven Fernandez)



### NMCB 11 Culinary Specialists fuel success

Welcome to Lucky's Grill! Where our Culinary Specialists turn field chow into five-star flavor. Fresh out of field mess training, they don't just cook... they seas-on every mission with success.



### ACB 1 participates in Pacific Partnership 2025

where multinational service members construct a ramp in Lae, Papua New Guinea



Service Members attached to Amphibious Construction Battalion 1 (ACB 1), assists with construction of a ramp during Pacific Partnership 2025 in Lae, Papua New Guinea, Aug. 5, 2025. Now in its 21st iteration, the Pacific Partnership series is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster management preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Pacific Partnership works collaboratively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Alexander Bussman)



## Maryland Seabee Awarded Navy's Highest Non-Combat Medal For Saving Fellow Sailor

by Tony Ciarleglio  
The Bay Net

LUSBY, Md. — A Navy Utilitiesman from Lusby, Maryland, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on June 27 for heroic actions that saved a fellow sailor following a maritime training accident off the coast of Southern California.

Utilitiesman 1st Class Steven Schumacher, currently stationed in Coronado, California, with the Naval Construction Force, received the medal during a ceremony at the Silver Strand Training Complex in San Diego. The Navy and Marine Corps Medal is the highest non-combat decoration

awarded by the Department of the Navy, recognizing acts of heroism in situations not involving armed conflict.

The incident occurred as Schumacher and his team were returning to Naval Amphibious Base Coronado after nighttime maritime training. Their vessel struck a submerged jetty, injuring several crew members, including one sailor who was thrown into the water, unconscious and facedown.

Despite being injured himself, Schumacher rescued the sailor, bringing him back to the vessel where medical personnel were able to provide care.

Schumacher's actions, the Navy said, demonstrated exceptional bravery, quick decision-making and selfless dedication — qualities that reflect the core values of the U.S. Navy and Naval Special Warfare.

Schumacher, a graduate of Patuxent High School and an Eagle Scout from Lusby, Md., serves with the Naval Construction Force, also known as the Seabees, who provide essential construction support to military operations worldwide. Their missions include building roads, airfields, bridges and bases, as well as supporting disaster recovery and humanitarian efforts.

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alex Perlman.



### Louisiana:

We had a great Swarm meeting/lunch today! L to R: BU3 Ralph King, CEC Pat Hodges, and YN3 James Dietz. Note: Next Swarm meeting will be held September 13<sup>th</sup>. We are moving our meeting/lunch to the Cracker Barrel at 10250 Plaza Americana Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 70816. Hope to see you there! Watch for the posted notice on Facebook page Seabee Swarms Across America for details.

### ...Always a Seabee



### South Central PA:

August 9th 2025 South Central PA Seabee Swarm held at Hoss's in Chambersburg, Pa. Left to right Skip Martin, Mike Sage, Gary Turnbaugh, Jerry Wolfe, John Grubic (son), John Grubic (father), Paul S. Barnett Jr., Marvin Peck, Michael Carter, Wayne D. Smith, Joshua Billet, Larry Kunkle. Good food, Good friends and Good conversations!!!!

# Solutions for the Field: NAVFAC EXWC, Army Develop Versatile Expeditionary Field Kitchen

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

Courtesy Story

Naval Facilities Engineering and  
Expeditionary Warfare Center

By Kelsey Pauxtis

Expeditionary Technical Department  
(EX021)

The Navy Expeditionary Field Kitchen (NEFK) is a vital logistical asset designed to provide fresh, hot meals to personnel operating in remote or austere environments. Built with mobility in mind, these field kitchens are often transported via ships, aircraft, and ground vehicles, enabling rapid deployment to support expeditionary missions worldwide.

A challenge, however, is the kitchen's size, making it bulky and difficult to transport, which can be problematic in expeditionary locations where flexibility and agility are paramount.

The Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) worked with the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center to create a new kitchen to meet the requirements provided by Naval Special Warfare Command (NSW), Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), and Naval Surface Forces (COMNAVSURFPAC/LANT).

"It is a scalable solution, so you can serve 50 meals three times a day, or you can ramp up all the way to 600 with this kitchen. If you have a larger group size out in the field, you can have two kitchens and have the capacity of up to 1,200 meals three times a day," explained one of the project leads, EXWC Engineer James Pilkington, with the Expeditionary Technical Department (EX511).

Equipped with state-of-the-art cooking appliances, this NEFK can ensure service members receive sustenance regardless of location, which helps boost morale and operational effectiveness in challenging conditions, he noted.

Designed for versatility and efficiency, the kitchen features modular components that can be assembled quickly in various terrains and climates. The NEFK features multiple cooking methods including

convection, steaming, boiling, braising, and a flat top griddle. This flexibility makes the NEFK an essential component of Navy and Marine Corps expeditionary operations, where logistics and supply chains may face disruptions or limitations.

The previous kitchen solution was a 20-foot container that had a meal production capacity for 500 people. EXWC took that 20-foot container model, shrunk it by 66% to fit inside a 8-foot by 6.5-foot container (TRICON), and increased meal capacity. EXWC refined a prototype to a fieldable solution, implementing feedback from the Army and working with the vendor on design improvements to ensure the kitchen could meet expeditionary needs.

In March 2025, Pilkington and fellow project leads Terry Benham and Kelsey Pauxtis (EX021), James Triplett (EX21), along with NAVFAC Training Support Agency (TSA) and contractors, conducted New Equipment Training with members from Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 1.

"We came to EXWC asking for a more compact kitchen that would be easier in the field, but at the same time produce the amount of food required for our battalion," ACB 1 Construction Electrician Second Class Jacob Raines said. "This new kitchen system is going to be much more versatile in the field, compared to the other systems that were larger and complex to move."

Held at NAVFAC EXWC Headquarters at Naval Base Ventura County, the New Equipment Training demonstrated to Expeditionary Forces how to operate these advanced field kitchens effectively. The training included instruction on the safe and efficient use of the kitchen's appliances, sanitation procedures, and troubleshooting techniques. The objective was to ensure personnel are well-trained in operating the NEFK to enhance mission readiness and allow for seamless meal delivery during deployment.

This innovative solution and the comprehensive training underscore EXWC's and the Department of Defense's commitment to supporting the Fleet and warfighters and maintaining operational excellence and logistical resilience in even the most challenging environments.



# NAVFAC EXWC Tests Underwater Sonar, to Advance Capabilities of Fleet, Warfighter!

The testing with the NAVFAC EXWC Expeditionary Systems Engineering Department (EX5) and the NAVFAC EXWC Dive Locker is aimed at putting cutting-edge technologies into the hands of Fleet divers, ensuring the Fleet and warfighters have the most advanced tools and equipment to carry out complex and rigorous underwater operations.

Headquartered at Naval Base Ventura County, NAVFAC EXWC conducts research, development, test and evaluation to bring unique, agile solutions to the Fleet and warfighter.



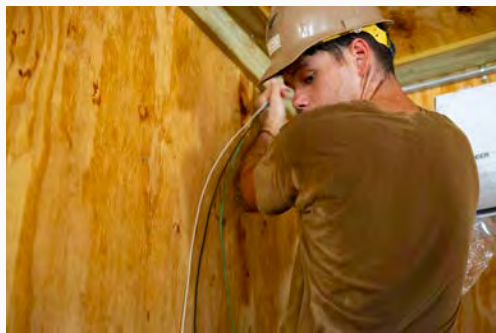
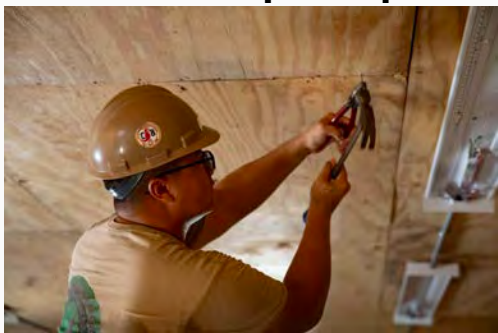
# EXWC Supporting the Engineers of Tomorrow!

Thank you to the NAVFAC EXWC staff who shared their expertise and time providing valuable mentorship and support to high school students in the weeklong Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Navy Engineering and Construction Camp at Naval Base Ventura County!

"While it is incredibly rewarding to support and mentor the campers, this program also serves as a wonderfully enriching experience for young people to demonstrate just how exciting a career supporting Military Engineering can be, while highlighting the extraordinary contributions you can make as a STEM civilian for the Department of the U.S. Navy," NAVFAC EXWC Chief Technology Officer Cody Reese, who served as the camp Curriculum Director, said.



### NMCB 133 homeport operations



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, run conduit for a B-hut on Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, August 25, 2025. NMCB 133 is conducting homeport operations as part of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command on Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport during the advanced phase of the force readiness training plan (F RTP). (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Waters)

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, mixes concrete for fence anchors on Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, July 28, 2025. NMCB 133 is conducting homeport operations as part of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command on Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport during the advanced phase of the force readiness training plan (F RTP). (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Waters)



### NMCB 133 homeport operations

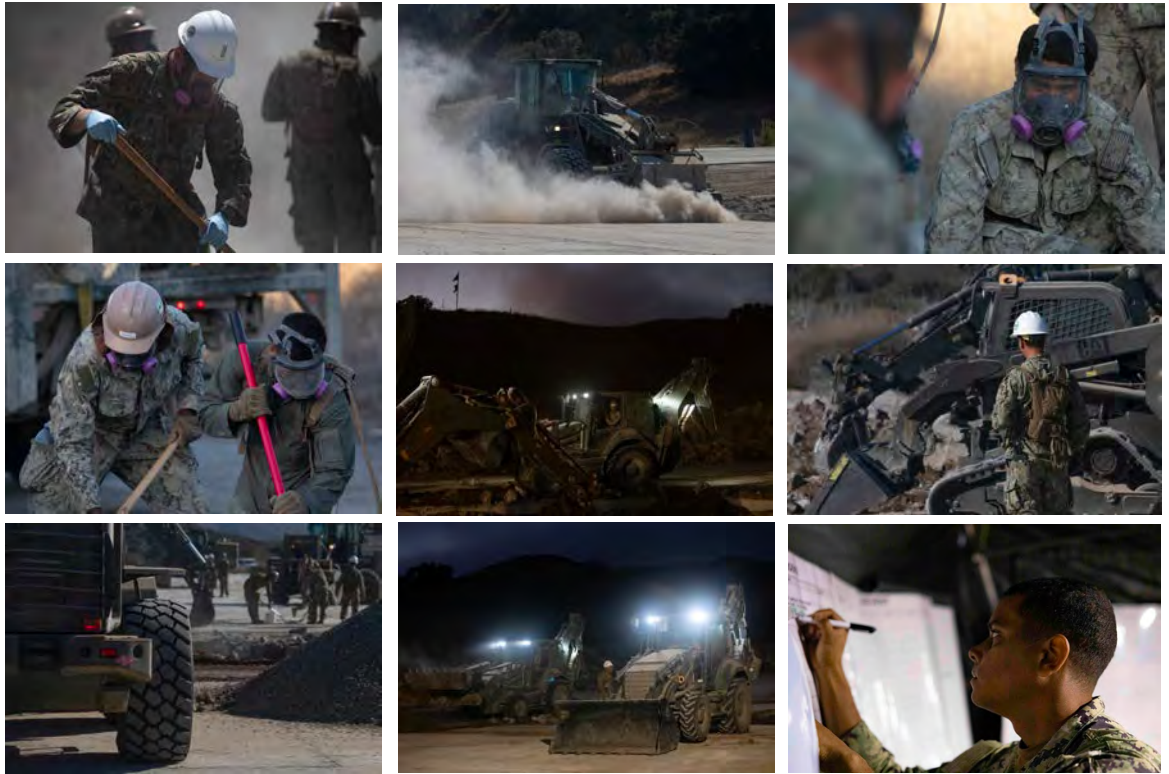
Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, build a concrete pad on Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, August 21, 2025. NMCB 133 is conducting homeport operations as part of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command on Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport during the advanced phase of the force readiness training plan (F RTP). (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Waters)



# NMCB 5 homeport operations

## Resilient Spear

Seabees with Airfield Construction Company Bravo, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Naval Construction Force, cuts concrete on an airfield during Exercise Resilient Spear at Vandenberg Space Force Base, Aug. 12, 2025. Exercise Resilient Spear is an opportunity for Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 372, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Air Wing, to integrate and train with NMCB-5 through Base Recovery After Attack and Airfield Damage Repair Training to increase interoperability between Marine Corps engineers and Navy Seabees. (U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Alexander Vaughn)



## FTX

Executing our mission and building readiness with the Seabees of NMCB-5 during our field training exercise. We are sharpening our skills and strengthening our resolve.



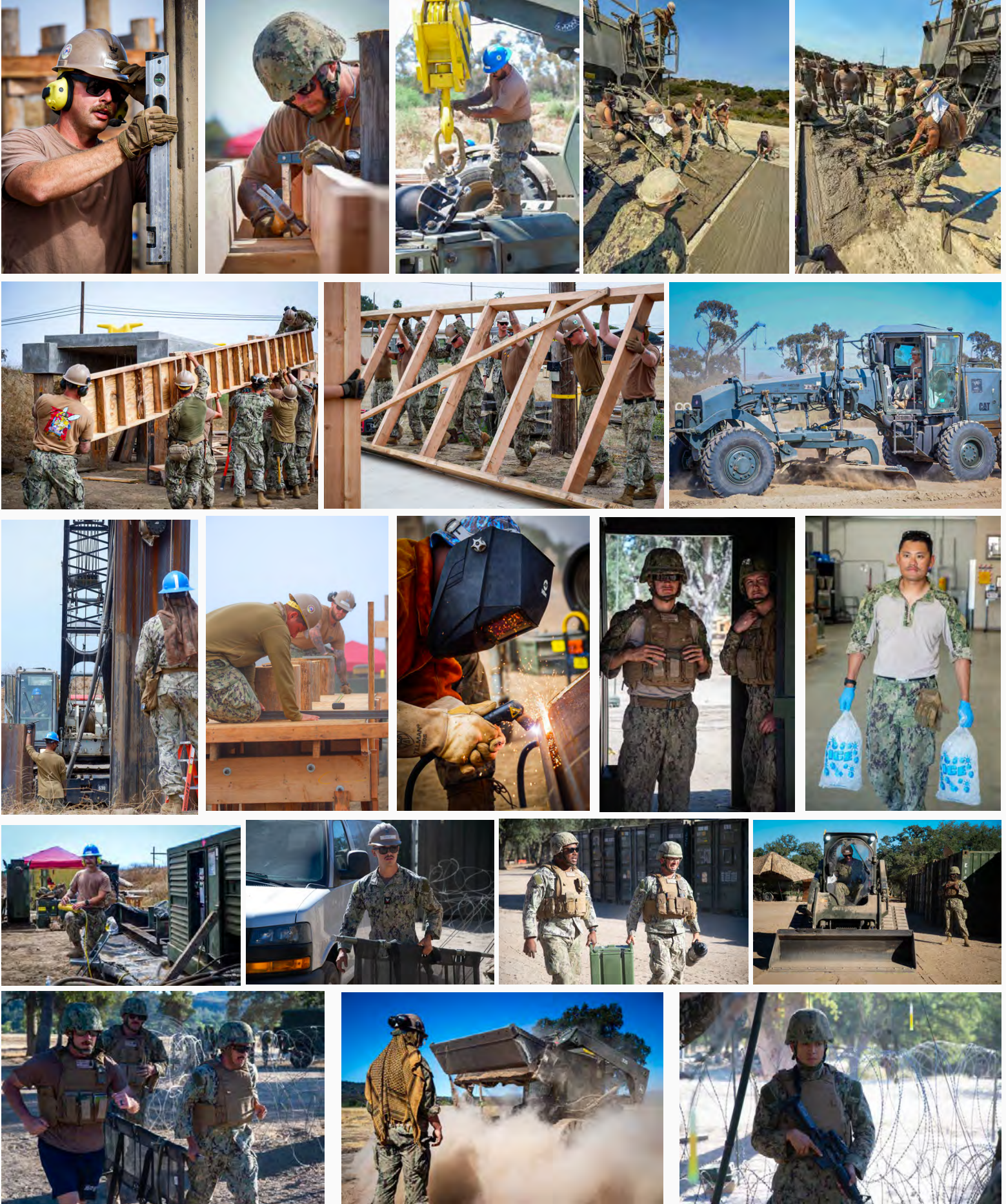
# NMCB 5 homeport operations

FTX (cont.)



# NMCB 5 homeport operations

FTX (cont.)



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**01 September 1942:** Officers and men of the 6th NCB landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomons. These were the first Seabees to land on any enemy held island in World War II and the first to engage the enemy in combat. The 6th Seabees tackled their most important job: repairing the airstrip then named Henderson Field. It was a never-ending job, for as fast as the builders leveled the strip and put down Marston matting, the Japanese would send bombers overhead to drop high explosive bombs on the strip. As the fighting around the island increased, the Seabees developed a system of repairing the damaged airstrip in minutes. Less than 40 minutes after Japanese bombers swooped down and strafed the field, the Seabees, waiting with previously-loaded trucks, would dart out on the strip and completely fill in the bomb holes. Many times the Seabees worked furiously to repair the field while crippled U.S. Marine interceptors circled overhead waiting to land. Several times while ducking bullets, the Seabees worked on one end of the field making repairs as the Japanese infantry fought with U.S. Marine defenders at the other end. On several occasions the Seabees fought beside the U.S. Marines in hand-to-hand combat against the Japanese troops.

**01 September 1969:** The First Reserve Naval Construction Brigade was established under the command of Rear Admiral George Reider, CEC, USNR.

**01 September 2008:** Responsibility for security in Anbar Province was transferred from the United States to Iraqi civilian authorities, marking the return of the 11th of 18 provinces to provincial Iraqi control. Iraqi forces are now taking the lead in security operations in Anbar, with American troops moving into an overwatch role. Formerly one of the most dangerous provinces in Iraq, Anbar has been transformed and reclaimed by the Iraqi people.

**02 September 1969:** Typhoon Doris severely damaged the Quang Tri Camp of NMCB 74 and various other camps and civilian communities in the Republic of Vietnam. A quirk of fate some might say, because half of the battalion's main body was still at home port in Gulfport, Mississippi when the Gulf coast was hit by Hurricane Camille on August 19, 1969. After Camille, this half joined the other half already in Vietnam just in time to encounter Typhoon Doris. Thus, nearly half of the Seabees of the battalion suffered through two severe tropical storms within two weeks, each storm on a different side of the world.

**03 September 1967:** At Dong Ha, 5 miles south of the DMZ, a combined Viet Cong – NVA rocket attack detonated 20,000 tons of ammunition and 40,000 gallons of aviation fuel near NMCB 11's camp. The explosions rocked the base for eight hours, and this represented the largest ammunition disaster in recorded history. Miraculously, no Americans or South Vietnamese were killed.

**04 September 2004:** Steelworker 3rd Class Eric Lyle Knott killed in Fallujah, Iraq in an indirect fire attack on the base. Knott was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. CUCM Marty Yingling, CMC Darren Williams, and SW3 Justin Sasser were injured in the attack that killed Eric Knott and were also awarded Purple Hearts.

**05 September 2012:** NMCB 7's commanding officer, Cmdr. Gordie Meyer, cased the battalion's colors for the third time in its history in a decommissioning ceremony on board the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Mississippi.

**05 September 2014:** Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 Detachment was disestablished during a ceremony on Naval Submarine Base (NSB) Kings Bay, Georgia. The Seabees have been an integral part of the Kings Bay mission to support the warfighter for almost 20 years. CEC Nicholas Whitbeck, assistant officer in charge, CBMU 202, handed the unit's banner to BUCS Timothy Gridley, officer in charge, CBMU 202, during the ceremony to disestablish the unit.

**09 September 1943:** Before dawn on this day, initial Allied landings took place at Salerno, Italy. For these landings, the 12-mile beach was divided into two parts. The north section was invaded by the 46th British Division that landed from tank landing ships with the

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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.

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

(cont.) aid of the 1006th Seabee Causeway Detachment (CBD 1006). The south section was invaded by the American forces that also landed on causeways laid down by Seabee pontoon crews. The Germans, however, were ready at Salerno. The landing ships carrying the Seabees and their pontoons took a frightful beating. Many pontoon strings were sent ashore and were blown up on the mined beaches. Allied ships guarding the beaches were bombed by German guided missiles and dive bombers and torpedoes and shelled by German submarines and patrol craft. During the first ten days of the battle, the Seabees bivouacked on the Salerno beaches while they unloaded ships, built unloading-slips and roadways, and cleared traffic, and did it all while under constant fire. The 1006th Detachment suffered 28 percent casualties. LT Carl M. Olson, CEC, USNR, the Officer in Charge of the 1006th Detachment, and seven of his men were killed in action. The Allies won the battle at Salerno, and Seabee operations were invaluable in the great victory.

**10 September 1943:** First Civil Engineer Corps officer killed in action, LT Carl M. Olson at Salerno, Italy.

**11 September 2012:** Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 conducted an assessment of the chains holding the dock next to the USS Arizona Memorial on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Sept. 11. This is the first time UCT 2 has been able to dive the memorial, a moment they shared on the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

**12 September 1944:** Underwater demolition teams, led by Civil Engineer Corps officers and composed of mostly Seabees, began clearing the approaches to Peleliu for an amphibious assault. Three days later U.S. Marines of the First Division came ashore accompanied by Seabees of the 33rd and 73rd NCBs and CDB 1054. Initially, the CBD 1054 Seabees operated pontoon barges and causeways to assist in the landing of supplies and vehicles, while the Seabees of the 33rd and 73rd worked on the beach unloading cargo. On 19 September, however, when the airfield was captured, they began clearing debris from the airstrips. The following day their construction equipment was brought ashore and the Seabees began making rapid repairs. Only 72 hours later three squadrons of fighter aircraft were able to land and begin operations. On 23 September the Seabees began constructing a bomber base which, despite land mines and mortar fire, they made operational in seven days.

**12 September 1966:** The facility containing the two NMCB camps and the 30th NCR headquarters at Red Beach, RVN, was named Camp Haskins in memory of BUL2 Donald Dean Haskins of NMCB 9 who was killed in action on 28 October 1965 when Camp Adenir, Da Nang, RVN, came under Viet Cong attack.

**12 September 1968:** An NMCB 1 jeep carrying the Delta Company commander and company chief, LTJG Arthur D. Moscrip, Jr. and BUC W.W. McGinn, hit a mine while enroute to a job site at 2/1 Marines south of Da Nang, RVN. BUC McGinn was killed instantly and LTJG Moscrip died at 0120 the following morning.

**12 September 2012:** NMCB 40 was decommissioned after 46 years of active service. The battalion originally "stood up" in October 1942 in support of our country's efforts in WWII. In 1945, when the war was over, the battalion was decommissioned. The disestablishment lasted for more than 20 years until the unit was commissioned once again on Feb. 1, 1966, for Vietnam.

**15 September 1950:** Seabees of Naval Construction Battalion 104, later redesignated as Amphibious Construction Battalion One, participated in amphibious landings with the U.S. Marines at Inchon, Korea.

**18 September 1968:** BU2c Gary L. Murphy of New Albany, IN of NMCB 121 was traveling as part of a 30 truck unit of Seabees in a U.S. Marine Corps convoy on National Highway One, south of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam, when the unit was attacked. For his actions during the attack, Petty Officer Murphy was awarded the Silver Star Medal on January 23, 1969 during a ceremony at Camp Wilkinson, Gia Le, Republic of Vietnam.

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# NMCB 4 deployment operations

## Saikai/Sasebo, Japan

Our Seabees have been keeping busy in Sasebo, Japan.



## Iwakuni, Japan

NMCB4 Seabees move dirt in Iwakuni, Japan! They're working on capping a landfill with fresh dirt and making sure it's the correct elevation and grade. Capping a landfill allows the area to be used for other purposes and helps protect the local water supply from contamination! Great job, out there!

Photos by EOGR List.



# NMCB 4 deployment operations



Tonga NMCB4 Seabees in Tonga! Everywhere we go, we're putt'n that work in! Photos by CECN Martinez



## Okinawa, Japan

One of the many things that make NMCB4 Seabees deployable world-wide is our ability to supply our own potable water using light weight water purification systems (LWPS).



Don't miss this chance to celebrate and honor the Seabee spirit! For sponsorships and tickets, go to [www.seabee.org](http://www.seabee.org).

# SEABEE CELEBRATION

*A Celebration of Seabees and Supporters of the Navy Seabee Foundation*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 • 5-8PM

KITSAP CONFERENCE CENTER, BREMERTON, WA



SCAN ME

## Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Holds Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES

Story by Christopher Dunne  
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command HQ

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) held a change of command and retirement ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Aug. 15.

Rear Adm. Jeff Kilian relieved Rear Adm. Dean VanderLey to become the 47th commander of NAVFAC and the chief of Civil Engineers in a ceremony officiated by Acting Chief of Naval Operations Adm. James Kilby.

“Over the past three years, under Dean’s leadership, NAVFAC has delivered results at scale, across the globe, and across the mission spectrum. Rear Adm. VanderLey’s efforts were all focused on one thing – enhancing our warfighting readiness. In [fiscal year] 2024 alone, [NAVFAC] awarded \$7 billion in construction contracts, oversaw \$18 billion in design, and delivered \$6 billion in Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program projects to modernize nuclear fleet shipyards,” said Kilby.

“Together, this team strengthened NAVFAC’s ability to deliver for the Navy. NAVFAC’s results speak for themselves, and your legacy will continue to shape our infrastructure, our financial health, and our warfighting readiness for years to come.”

VanderLey, who retired after 34 years of service, received his commission 1991 and transferred to the Civil Engineer Corps in 1998 after tours aboard USS Michigan (SSBN 727) and at the Trident Training Facility. Prior to assuming command of NAVFAC in August 2021, he served as commander of NAVFAC Pacific and commander NAVFAC Atlantic in addition to serving in several significant operations roles in the Seabee and Submarine communities.

With the Seabees, VanderLey served as the operations officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 – deploying to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom – and Commanding Officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 – deploying to

Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“The people are what’s made this tour and my career special,” VanderLey said. “I think the world of your motivation, technical expertise, and can-do spirit. I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to lead the NAVFAC SYSCOM for the last three years. And many years before that at NAVFAC commands around the world.”

Kilian assumes command of NAVFAC after his most recent assignment as commander of NAVFAC Pacific and the Fleet Civilian Engineer for U.S. Pacific Fleet. He has also commanded Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, the 30th Naval Construction Regiment, and NAVFAC Europe Africa Central.

Kilian’s operational tours include assignments with Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 3 and 74, Construction Battalion Unit 427, and the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment. He has served facilities and staff tours at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and the NAVFAC Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center.

Prior to joining his commissioning in the Navy, Kilian served four years as a Marine assigned to 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

“Focus and excellence in the basics will make NAVFAC extraordinary - keep the main thing, the main thing – construction, engineering, and contracting,” Kilian said. “It is imperative that we accelerate the speed of delivery on our construction projects. We must continue to hone our engineering expertise to deliver unparalleled technical excellence to the warfighter, and we must improve the agility of our contracts to keep pace with our adversaries in this dynamic global environment.”

During the ceremony, Kilian also reflected on his role as Chief of the Navy’s Civil Engineers Corps.

“I am inspired by the talented men and women in our community,” he said. “We are the Department of the Navy’s uniformed professional engineers and architects, entrusted with the enduring mission to build, maintain, and sustain the

Navy’s shore infrastructure across the full spectrum of military operations. Our work enables the warfighter and ensures the Navy and Marine Corps team is operationally ready, responsive, and resilient—anywhere, anytime.”

NAVFAC is the naval shore facilities, base operating support, and expeditionary engineering systems command that delivers life-cycle technical and acquisition solutions aligned to fleet and Marine Corps priorities. For more news from Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, visit <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/Media/>.

Photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Stachyra: Top to bottom: Rear Adm. Dean VanderLey, outgoing commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC); Adm. James Kilby, acting Chief of Naval Operations, delivers remarks; and Rear Adm. Jeff Kilian, incoming commander of Systems Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC)



## Seabee Museum unveils Cold War artifact from Moscow Bug House

PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA  
 Story by Lt. Drew Verbis  
 Naval Base Ventura County

The U.S. Navy Seabee Museum (USNSM) onboard Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme, holds an unveiling ceremony Aug. 5, to celebrate their latest exhibit ‘Seabee Special Assignments,’ to include a concrete column section from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, infamously compromised by Soviet listening devices.

In 1978, Technical Security Officers uncovered a Soviet listening post embedded within the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, a building the U.S. had occupied since the 1930s. This alarming discovery prompted rigorous negotiations with Russia, ultimately leading to the decision to construct a new embassy in Moscow. However, the U.S. faced significant challenges in sourcing the necessary construction materials and labor.

“The Cold War ushered in a new kind of warfare, one fought in silence, one fought in the shadows, and through surveillance,” said Lt. Aaron Ignacio, officer in charge, Naval Support Unit (NSU). “Recognizing the need for secure construction, the U.S. Department of State partnered with Seabees to create a unit capable of executing high risk construction projects, even in the most geopolitically volatile environments around the world; and from that foundation grew to what we know as NSU.”

In 1979, the Seabees from the NSU were tasked with providing critical Construction Security Surveillance (CONSEC) for the new embassy office building. Their mission was clear: to detect and report any attempts by construction workers to secretly introduce listening devices, conduits, or channels that could jeopardize the security of sensitive areas within the embassy.

“When construction of this new embassy in Moscow began, the challenge was enormous,” said Tamika Abbott, director, U.S. Department of State Office of Security Technology. “Every beam, wire, and wall had to meet the highest standards of security, not just structurally, but technically. The reality was stark. The

Department was constructing a building inside a country that was actively working to compromise it. And compromise it, the Soviets did.”

As the construction progressed and the precast columns were erected, the Seabees identified troubling inconsistencies in construction practices and techniques. A thorough investigation revealed the shocking truth: Soviet contractors were surreptitiously installing listening devices within the columns, known as “bugs.” This grave breach of security forced an immediate halt to the project, which would remain suspended until 1985.

“The real story is in the response,” said Ignacio. “When these listening devices were discovered, Seabees didn’t just react, they rebuilt. They dismantled the compromised materials, revised construction protocols, and implemented new methods to safeguard American diplomatic operations overseas.”

After years of denial, the Soviet intelligence arm was admitting its role in one of the most notorious espionage incidents of the 1980s: It had packed the new U.S. Embassy office building in Moscow with sophisticated listening devices. The edifice’s structure was so riddled with bugs that some US counterespionage experts described it as nothing but a giant microphone, and news outlets described it in headlines as the ‘Bug House.’

“Today at the Seabee Museum, we unveil a historic artifact, a concrete column from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, preserved exactly as it was found, one of the rare objects that transcends time,” said Abbott. “It was born of Cold War tension, embedded with real espionage, and preserved as a physical record of what it means to build trust in contested environments.”

Abbott thanked the Seabee Museum for providing a space to tell the story of ‘Seabee Special Assignments.’

“Every day, I walk through embassies around the globe and witness the Seabee craftsmanship in every room and safe haven,” said Abbott. “They may not sign their work, but I know it when I see it!”

Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the USNSM was established in 1947 and is the second oldest Navy Museum in the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHHC) system. The museum is dedicated to documenting and ensuring the construction and engineering accomplishments of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps remain relevant.

Below: Rear Adm. Samuel J. Cox (ret.) director, Naval History and Heritage Command, Lt. Aaron Ignacio, officer in charge, Naval Support Unit, and Tamika Abbott, director, U.S. Department of State Office of Security Technology, delivers remarks during the ceremony.

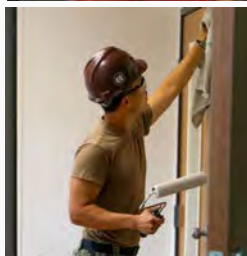


### NCB 18 Annual Training

Seabees assigned to Naval Construction Battalion 18, receive equipment operator training on Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, California, August 12, 2025. Reservists assigned to NCB 18 are on their Annual Training assignment, working to improve infrastructure and facilities for Sailors and civilians stationed on the island. (U.S. Navy Photos by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kelly Meyer)



Seabees assigned to Naval Construction Battalion 18, work on a berthing renovation project on Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, California, August 9, 2025. Reservists assigned to NCB 18 are on their Annual Training assignment, working to improve infrastructure and facilities for Sailors and civilians stationed on the island. (U.S. Navy Photos by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kelly Meyer)



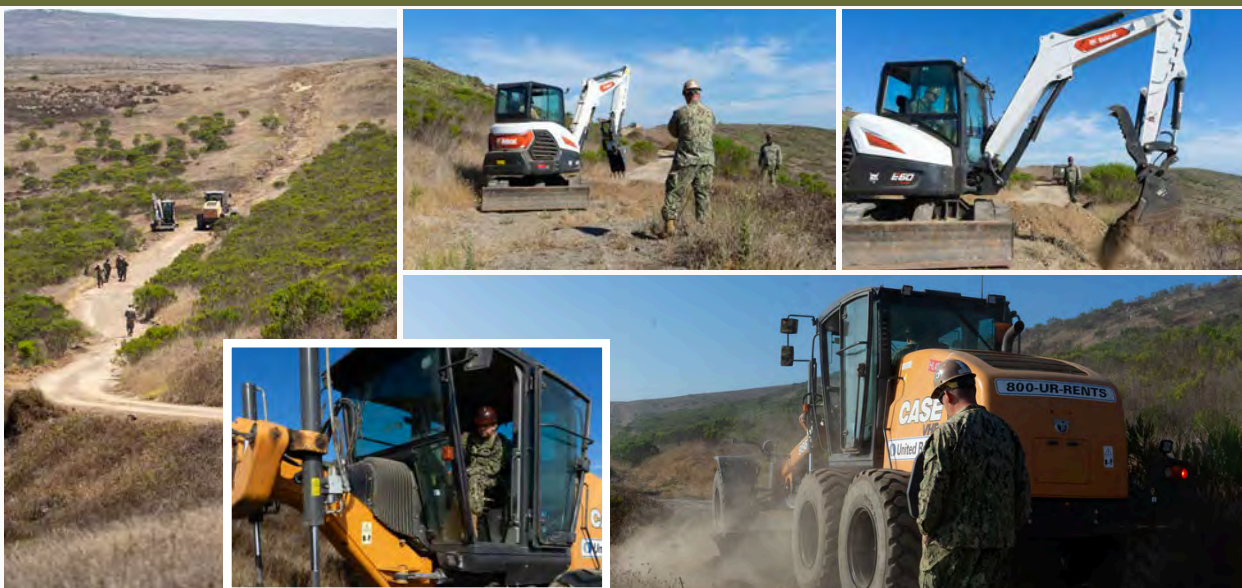
# NCB 18 Annual Training

Culinary Specialists assigned to Naval Construction Battalion 18, chop fruit at the galley on Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, California, August 7, 2025. Reservists assigned to NCB 18 are on their Annual Training assignment, working to improve infrastructure and facilities for Sailors and civilians stationed on the island. (U.S. Navy Photos by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kelly Meyer)



Seabees assigned to Naval Construction Battalion 18, repair potholes on Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, California, August 9, 2025. Reservists assigned to NCB 18 are on their Annual Training assignment, working to improve infrastructure and facilities for Sailors and civilians stationed on the island. (U.S. Navy Photos by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kelly Meyer)

Seabees assigned to Naval Construction Battalion 18, repair a washed out road on Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, California, August 7, 2025. Reservists assigned to NCB 18 are on their Annual Training assignment, working to improve infrastructure and facilities for Sailors and civilians stationed on the island. (U.S. Navy Photos by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kelly Meyer)

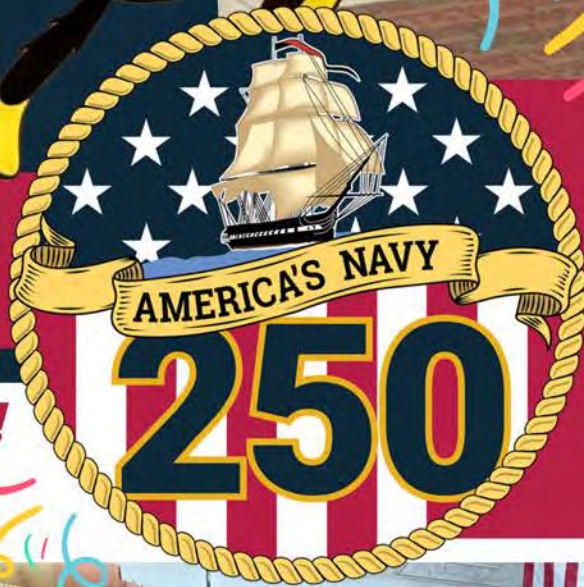


**FREE!**

# NAVY 250 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, OCT 11 • 10-4**

**U.S. NAVY SEABEE MUSEUM**



**Let's Celebrate 250 Years!**

Featuring: Birthday Treats!  
Military Displays, Touch-a-Truck,  
Kids' Activities, and More!



**Free Event for All Ages!  
Public Welcome!**



The U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, located at 3201 South Ventura Road, just outside the Naval Base Ventura County perimeter fence, on the corner of Ventura Road and Sunkist Street, near the Knott Gate entrance. Parking is FREE. [NHHC-SeabeeMuseum@us.navy.mil](mailto:NHHC-SeabeeMuseum@us.navy.mil)

**WISHING THE U.S. NAVY A HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY!**



Join us in supporting the  
**NAVY SEABEE  
 FOUNDATION**  
 HONOR THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE.

**REGISTER NOW**



OktoBEEfest.org



- |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ★ 9/25 - Ridgecrest, CA | 10/4 - Harrisonburg, VA | 10/9 - Missouri         | 10/17 - Japan            |
| 10/2 - Guam             | 10/4 - Port Orchard, WA | 10/10 - Bahrain         | 10/22 - Norfolk, VA      |
| 10/2 - Great Lakes, IL  | 10/7 - Boston, MA       | 10/11 - San Antonio, TX | 10/22 - Coastal NC       |
| 10/2 - Ventura, CA      | 10/7 - Tampa, FL        | 10/11 - Utah            | 10/23 - Jacksonville, FL |
| 10/3 - Colorado         | 10/7 - Arizona          | 10/11 - Alaska          | 10/23 - Gulfport, MS     |
| 10/4 - Rota, Spain      | 10/8 - Georgia          | 10/15 - Washington, DC  | 10/24 - Italy            |
| 10/4 - Troy, NY         | 10/9 - Philadelphia, PA | 10/16 - San Diego, CA   | 10/25 - Hawaii           |
| ★ 10/4 - Cleveland, OH  |                         |                         | 10/29 - Kentucky         |



**\$10 Ticket**  
 includes  
 commemorative  
 pint glass!



Thank you to our Sponsors!



**Sponsorships still available! Email [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)**



**Connect with the Seabee Community... Sponsor OktoBEEfest!**

Join the Navy Seabee Foundation in celebrating OktoBEEfest events worldwide this October! These gatherings unite active-duty, reserve and retired Navy Seabees, Civil Engineer Corps officers, along with their friends and families for a memorable blend of camaraderie and networking. Your sponsorship presents a unique opportunity to connect with the expansive Seabee community. Sponsor one location or sponsor all locations!



Last year saw 28 OktoBEEfest events around the globe. This year new locations will be added for even more exposure for your sponsorship! For more information about sponsorship, email us at [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org).

Email  
**[INFO@SEABEE.ORG](mailto:INFO@SEABEE.ORG)**  
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**[WWW.SEABEE.ORG](http://WWW.SEABEE.ORG)**



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**Sponsor All OktoBEEfest Event Locations!**

**ALL-EVENT TITLE SPONSOR .....\$10,000**

*One Sponsorship Available*

- Largest logo and recognition on event website, all social media ads, associated print material, and signage at ALL events\*
- 10 Complimentary Tickets for ALL OktoBEEfest events
- Verbal recognition and opportunity to speak at ALL events
- Opportunity to hand out branded materials at ALL events

**ALL-EVENT PRESENTING SPONSOR .... \$5,000**

- Logo and recognition on event website, all social media ads, associated print material, and signage at ALL events\*
- 5 Complimentary Tickets and verbal recognition at events
- Opportunity to hand out branded materials at ALL events

**Sponsor a Specific OktoBEEfest Local Event**

The following packages are for a sponsorships at the OktoBEEfest location of your choice.

**GOLD SPONSOR ..... \$2,500**

- Logo recognition on local website event page & social media\*
- Verbal recognition at your local event
- Logo on local event banner and associated print material\*
- Up to 20 complimentary tickets to your local event
- Opportunity to hand out branded materials at your local event

**SILVER SPONSOR ..... \$1,000**

- Logo recognition on local website event page & social media\*
- Verbal recognition at your local event
- Logo on local event banner and associated print material\*
- Up to 10 complimentary tickets to the event

**BRONZE SPONSOR ..... \$500**

- Name recognition on local website event page, event banner & flyer\*
- Verbal recognition during remarks
- Up to 5 complimentary tickets to the event

**SEABEE SPONSOR (Small Business or Individual) ..... \$100**

- Name recognition on local event banner\*
- Up to 2 complimentary tickets to the event

*\*NOTE: Deadlines apply for inclusion in signage/print material*

# 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](mailto:info@seabee.org).

**PGA**<sup>TM</sup>  
**OF AMERICA**

**REACH FOUNDATION**

## **PGA of America**

*The PGA of America REACH Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable foundation of the PGA of America. The mission of the Foundation is to positively impact the lives of youth, military, and diverse populations by enabling access to PGA Golf Professionals, PGA Sections and the game of golf.*

## **About the PGA of America**

*The PGA of America is an association of more than 31,000 trained golf professionals dedicated to elevating and advancing the game for the enjoyment of everyone. For over 100 years, we've helped create, develop and bolster golf's presence in the United States and around the world, furthering the love of the game for all.*

## **We Believe in Golf**

*Established in 1978 as PGA Foundation, Inc. – the charitable arm of the PGA of America – the mission and vision was simply to impact lives through golf. Now as the PGA of America REACH Foundation, our mission remains the same as we aim to deepen community involvement through our programs and extend golf's reach. The Foundation proactively introduces new groups to the sport we love. As we increase access and create invitation, more are challenging themselves, enjoying the outdoors, making friends, living healthier lives and discovering the pure joy of golf.*

## **PGA Jr. League**

*For Youth*

The PGA Jr. League Scholarship Fund and Opportunity Leagues are removing barriers and opening doors for families to create new memories through the game of golf. We envision a world where golf is accessible for every child, everywhere, regardless of their background or circumstance. PGA Jr. League is committed to enriching lives through experiences that transcend golf.

## **PGA HOPE**

*For Veterans & Active Duty Military*

PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is helping build a community where Veterans can thrive through the game of golf. Led by PGA of America Golf Professionals, PGA HOPE is introducing and teaching golf through a 6-8 week curriculum while creating a path forward for thousands of Veterans and active duty service members. PGA HOPE is proud to serve communities in all 50 States.

And more...

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

# REUNIONS & EVENTS

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

## SEPTEMBER 2025

- 6 NMCB-25 REUNION  
Saturday, September 6 - Onalaska, WI
- 13 NAVFAC SE Seabee Ball Golf Tournament  
Saturday, Sep 13 - Fernandina Beach, FL
- 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
- 25-27 MCB-12 Association Reunion  
September 25-27 - Westport, MA
- 25 OktoBEEfest Ridgecrest, CA  
Thursday, September 25, 5-8pm
- NMCB 12 Reunion  
Saturday, September 26 - Westport, MA

## OCTOBER 2025

- 2 OktoBEEfest Guam  
Thursday, October 2, 6-8pm
- OktoBEEfest Great Lakes, IL  
Thursday, October 2, 5-8pm
- OktoBEEfest Ventura, CA  
Thursday, October 2, 5-8pm
- 3 San Diego Seabee Ball Tri-Tournament Golf  
Friday, October 3 - San Diego, CA
- OktoBEEfest Colorado  
Friday, October 3, 5-8pm

- 4 OktoBEEfest Rota, Spain  
Saturday, October 4, 1-7pm
- OktoBEEfest Harrisonburg, VA  
Saturday, October 4, 2-6pm
- NMCB 23 CPOAA Barbecue and Mini Reunion  
Saturday, October 4, 5-8pm - Harrisonburg, VA,
- OktoBEEfest Cleveland, OH  
Saturday, October 4, 12-4pm
- OktoBEEfest Troy, NY  
Saturday, October 4, 5-8pm
- OktoBEEfest Port Orchard, WA  
Saturday, October 4, 5-8pm
- 7 OktoBEEfest Boston, MA  
Tuesday, October 7, 5-8pm
- OktoBEEfest Tampa, FL  
Tuesday, October 7, 5-8pm
- OktoBEEfest Phoenix, AZ  
Tuesday, October 7, 5-9pm
- 8 OktoBEEfest Georgia  
Wednesday, October 8, 5-8pm
- 9 **11th Annual Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Thursday, October 9 - Virginia Beach, VA
- OktoBEEfest Philadelphia, PA  
Thursday, October 9 - 3-6pm
- OktoBEEfest Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri  
Thursday, October 9 - 5-8pm
- 10 OktoBEEfest Bahrain  
Friday, October 10, 5-11:30pm
- Ventura Seabee Ball Golf Tournament  
Friday, October 10, 8am-3pm

- 11 Navy 250 Celebration at the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum  
Saturday, October 11, 10am-4pm
- OktoBEEfest San Antonio, TX  
Saturday, October 11, 12-4pm
- OktoBEEfest Alaska  
Saturday, October 11, 6-8pm - Talkeetna, AK
- OktoBEEfest Salt Lake City, UT  
Saturday, October 11, 5:30-8:30pm
- 15 OktoBEEfest Washington D.C.  
Wednesday, October 15, 4-7pm
- 16 OktoBEEfest San Diego, CA  
Thursday, October 16, 6-9pm
- 17 OktoBEEfest Iwakuni, Japan  
Friday, October 17, 6:30-9:30pm
- 20-23 MCB1 - MCB9 Reunion  
October 20-23 - Branson, MO
- 22 OktoBEEfest Norfolk, VA  
Wednesday, October 22, 5-8pm
- 23 OktoBEEfest Jacksonville, FL  
Thursday, October 23, 5-8pm
- OktoBEEfest Gulfport, MS  
Thursday, October 23, 5-8pm
- 24 OktoBEEfest Naples, Italy  
Friday, October 24, 4-8pm
- 25 OktoBEEfest Hawaii  
Saturday, October 25, 2-5pm
- 26 East Coast All Seabee Reunion  
October 26-29 - Pigeon Forge, TN
- 29 OktoBEEfest Kentucky  
Thursday, October 23, 5-8pm

Submit Your Event! Reach out to the Navy Seabee Foundation at [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org) to add your event.

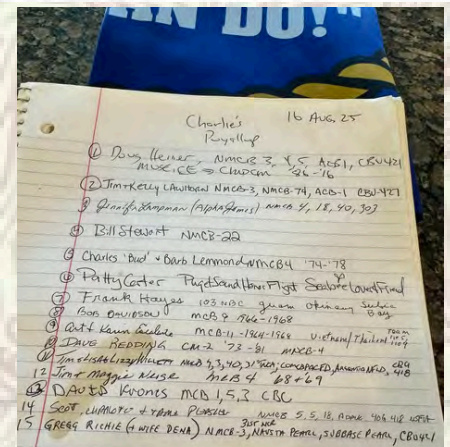


More information about these events available at [seabee.org](http://seabee.org).

### Pacific Northwest

### ...Always a Seabee!

A group of PNW Seabees met for breakfast and Seabee camaraderie at Charlie's Restaurant in Puyallup, WA. For more PNW events, please visit the PNW Seabees Can Do page on Facebook.



For more details about these events, go to [www.seabee.org/events](http://www.seabee.org/events)


# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

The mission of the Navy Seabee Foundation is to preserve and protect the history and legacy of the U.S. Navy Seabees and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Purchasing from our shop or buying a brick helps us further our mission.




**Navy Seabee Foundation Seabee Store**

Purchase Seabee merchandise to help further our mission.



**Seabee Memorial Bricks in Gulfport/Port Hueneme**

Honor a Seabee family member or friend in your life by purchasing a brick in Gulfport or Ft. Hueneme.



**Navy Seabee Foundation Redbubble Shop**

You can purchase Seabee stickers, Navy Seabee Foundation stickers and other products.

## OTHER SEABEE STORES SUPPORTING SEABEES



Davisville Museum Seabee Store

Support the Davisville Seabee Museum and Memorial Park by shopping from their online store.

Click on the pictures to go directly to pages.

5/28/25 **NEW UPDATE**

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- Williamson County Schools (1 job)
- Smithsonian Institution (3 jobs)
- Marco Contractors, Inc. (1 job)
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**FREE for employers and job seekers!**  
[www.seabee.org](http://www.seabee.org)






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[seabee.org](http://seabee.org)

## Tell Us Your CAN DO Success Story!

We want to hear from you! Employees and employers who have had success with help from the 'Can Do' Career Connection -- let us know!



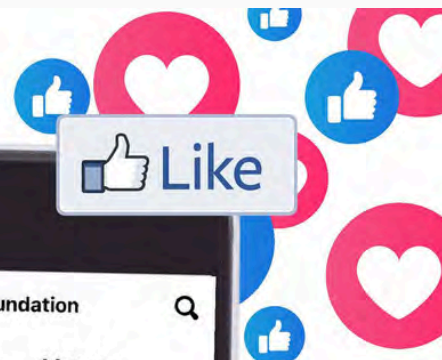
**CAN DO Career Connection**

### Stay Connected with the Navy Seabee Foundation Online

Want to see the impact of your support in real-time? Follow the Navy Seabee Foundation on social media to stay up to date on inspiring stories, historical highlights, scholarship spotlights, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved. Our social media channels are a daily celebration of the Seabee spirit—from honoring our veterans to sharing the achievements of today’s Seabee families.

You can find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/NavySeabeeFoundation](https://facebook.com/NavySeabeeFoundation), Instagram at [@navyseabeefoundation](https://@navyseabeefoundation), and LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/seabeefoundation](https://linkedin.com/company/seabeefoundation). Every like, share, and comment helps amplify our mission and connect the Seabee community worldwide. Join the conversation today!

**LIKE & FOLLOW  
THE NAVY SEABEE  
FOUNDATION TO  
STAY IN THE KNOW!**



# 5 Ways to Support the Navy Seabee Foundation:



## Donate Online

One-time or reoccurring gifts can be made at

[www.seabee.org](http://www.seabee.org)



## 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.

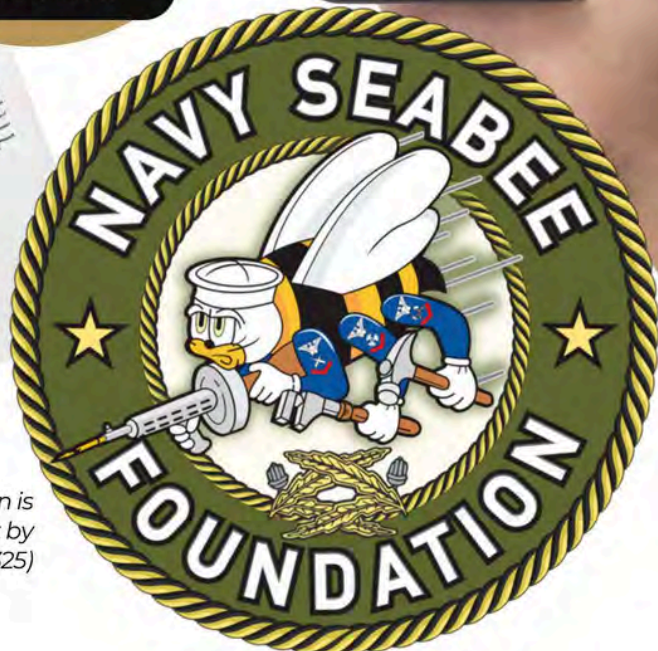


## Donate by Mail

Mail a check to 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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# CAN DO!

seabee.org

To find out how your company can become a Navy Seabee Foundation corporate partner, email us at [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)