

JANUARY 2026

BEE NEWS



Official Newsletter of the Navy Seabee Foundation



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BEE NEWS EXTRA

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Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

We're All About The Seabees

At the heart of the Navy Seabee Foundation mission is a promise: we're dedicated to the well-being of the Seabee/CEC Community—and their families. This support spans generations and takes shape in meaningful, tangible ways. From welcoming battalions home with pride to helping to provide an education through scholarships, here's how we stand beside the Seabee/CEC Community.

- Supporting Battalion Homeport Celebrations
- Scholarships to Children and Grandchildren
- Supporting All Seabee Reunions
- Supporting Family Readiness Groups
- Can Do Career Connection
- Annual Foundation Awards
- Supporting Navy STEM Camp
- Recognizing Seabee Centenarians
- And more, all thanks to your support!

The Navy Seabee Foundation is dedicated to supporting Seabees and Seabee families.



Thank you to the Navy Seabee Foundation for their generous donation to the NMCB 11 Family Readiness Group! Our FRG continually supports our families and we are thankful for all they do for us! Photo by MC2 A. Trafton.



From the NMCB 1 FRG: NMCB One FRG would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Navy Seabee Foundation for your incredibly generous \$500 donation. Your support is vital and directly enables us to continue building morale within our community. Your commitment to our cause is truly inspiring, and we look forward to sharing our progress with you. Thank you for being a champion for our work!



From the NMCB 133 Family Roo Crew: Thank you to the Navy Seabee Foundation for their generous donation to the 133 Family Readiness Group. Their continuous support has helped us serve the sailors and families of NMCB 133. We are truly grateful for them.



Grants were presented to the Port Hueneme Battalion FRG's during their Operation Christmas event just prior to the newsletter deadline.



NMCB 3



NMCB 4



NMCB 5

We're happy to support our Seabee community! Thank you to the Family Readiness Groups for all you do for Seabees and their loved ones—it's an honor to stand alongside you. A special thank you to donors like you who enable us to support Seabee families with \$500 grants! We are looking to expand our mission in this area with new opportunities, so your donations are greatly appreciated in that effort and really make a positive impact on Seabees and their families.



Follow Navy Seabee Foundation on social media!

A Seabee's story: From a small town to global impact

Joe Wallis, CWO5 (Retired), CEC, USN

*Joined the Navy in May 1989
Boot Camp: Orlando, Florida
Retired: October 2022
Total service: 33.5 years*

Why did you join the Navy?

Easy answer on joining the Seabees; Solid professionals. The first time I met a Seabee, I was growing up in rural Missouri. In those days, veterans were everywhere. Not the quiet kind that kept their stories locked away, but men who had lived long enough to carry three wars on their backs. World War Two. Korea. Vietnam. They were what we called trifecta veterans, though we did not fully understand what that meant at the time. We just knew they were different. Heavier somehow. Grounded. When they spoke, people listened. It was from them that I first heard about the Seabees of the Navy. Not in any official sense. No recruiting posters. No polished speeches. Just stories passed across kitchen tables, told on front porches, or shared in low voices after church. They spoke of World War Two, of men landing behind the Marines and building airfields out of jungle and coral while rounds snapped overhead. They spoke of Vietnam and firebases carved out of nothing, built fast because lives depended on it.

The stories were epic. Not exaggerated. Matter of fact. Which somehow made them larger.

The Seabees were builders, but not the kind that worked in safety. They carried rifles and tools in equal measure. They fought when they had to and built when they could. They left something solid behind wherever they went. That mattered to me, even then. Years later, after I had already begun my own journey in uniform, I encountered members of the Underwater Construction Teams. That was when the idea became real. These were not just builders. They were craftsmen operating in an environment that punished mistakes without mercy. Cold water. Low visibility. Heavy tools. Zero margin for error.

They blew me away.

It was a tight knit community of hard-working men. This was before women served in combatant units, and the culture reflected that era.

It was demanding. Unforgiving. Deeply professional. There was pride there, but not ego. Competence mattered more than words. You earned your place by pulling your weight, underwater and topside. The idea of building things underwater lodged itself in my mind and never left. It felt like the perfect intersection of skill, danger, and purpose. Creating something permanent in a place that did not want you there. That was the kind of work that stayed done.

By the time I understood what joining the Seabees truly meant, the decision had already been made. Joining the Seabees was the easiest decision I ever made.

Throughout this article are some random photos. Some from training, diving and OIF rotation I. One is a photo of my dad and I the day I pinned in CWO5. My dad, James L. Wallis, a retired ATC (AC) (1976) and Vietnam veteran dressed out in whites to put my shoulder boards on in 2017. Another is the only all CWO retirement ceremony I have ever heard of for CWO4 Antoine Stephens. As a CWO5 I was able to preside over the ceremony as the retirement officer.



The fifth Chief Warrant Officer Five (CWO5) ever in the Civil Engineer Corps, and the first CWO5 from the Underwater Construction Teams (UCT)/Ocean Facilities Program (OFP) community.

I joined the Navy thinking I would see the world for four years and have some fun, never imagining that I would spend more than 33 years serving the nation. I went through MEPS in St. Louis, Missouri.

Notable service in the NCF

After working in over 100 countries, twice on the polar ice cap, across multiple OEF and OIF deployments with the USMC, Naval Special Warfare, Joint Special

Operations Command, interagency intelligence task forces, and at marine and underwater construction sites worldwide, it's hard to pick just one.

Of interest might be when I was a lead in the development of the Seabee Engineering Reconnaissance Teams (SERT), conducting the first proof of concept in 2000. Originally intended to solve bridge and mobility challenges within Korean Theater war plans, I later directly oversaw the formation and training of all NMCB SERTs in Kuwait in preparation for the 2003 invasion of Iraq while attached to 30th NCR, Task Force MIKE.

There is no job in the world like underwater construction. It is the most challenging work on the planet. Most of the time you are cold, wet, hungry, tired, and operating in a very unforgiving environment, one that usually gets 51% of the vote. The moment you turn your back on that reality, bad things tend to happen, and more than a few times, they did.

What I love about the Seabees is taking a job like that and adding world-class tenacity, perseverance, and a bold-faced willingness to take on any challenge and succeed. All of that can be summed up in two words: Can Do.

I have too many sea stories to tell, but I will recount one that pretty much sums up the stock we Seabees are made of.

While deployed to Balad, Iraq, with a task force composed of East Coast Naval Special Warfare SEALs, I had the pleasure of working with an augment from an NMCB detail. The task force Senior Enlisted Advisor was a seasoned Master Chief SEAL with plenty of scars and stories to match. "Fierce" would be the best word to describe his demeanor.

Continued on next page.



A Seabee's story: From a small town to global impact (cont.)

Not long after arriving in country, he realized he had Seabees assigned to the unit and that things needed to get done. He asked me to send over one of the young men to take down a list of tasks and projects. A BU1 reported to the Joint Operations Command, which was feverishly busy, and stood before the Master Chief.

The Master Chief laid out the requirements in detail, in a serious and almost intimidating manner. The list was long, difficult, and needed to be completed immediately, without disrupting any ongoing operations. When he finished, the BU1 quietly put away his wheel book. The Master Chief stared at him and asked, "Well, kid, can you do it?"

Calm as anything, the BU1 replied,

"Yes, Master Chief. We are Seabees. We can do anything."

After the BU1 departed the JOC, the old SEAL looked over at me with a wide smile and said, "That's why I love you guys." And the Seabees did not disappoint.

I'm sure interactions like this have happened throughout the history of the force, and for the most part, we shrug our shoulders and move on. Yet it is moments like that which capture the one magical thing that separates us from everyone else. That spirit is alive and well among both current and former Seabees scattered across the world.

What impacted my life so deeply was growing up in the Navy within that culture of pride, professionalism, spirit, and a willingness to jump in with both feet and take on anything. It is infectious. Even after my service career ended, I noticed how people are drawn to, and follow, that same magic found in the Seabees. It is a humility paired with solid confidence: once our minds are set, nothing will get in our way. The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer.

The private sector loves Seabees. The harder the task, the more we thrive. Upon leaving service, I was grateful to receive many employment opportunities. Some offered fantastic sums of money, so much so that I became wary of what might be required to earn those paychecks.

Before separating, I followed the advice of those who went before me and attended a nonprofit transition course, where I was paired with a coach who helped me think deeply about what I wanted from the next phase of life. I owe a great deal to Sandy Travis of the Commit Foundation. She was a few years my senior and had spent decades "slaying dragons" in international business as a woman long before it was fashionable. She was a pioneer in every sense and took no guff from anyone. She was a Seabee at heart, whether she knew it or not.

Her advice to me was simple and spot on: "Start small, grow big." She recognized that it was never about the title or the money, it was about the challenge and the climb. I hadn't fully realized that about myself, though I suspected it.

When you spend your life heads down, grinding and working hard, you rarely take time for self-reflection.

Sandy told me plainly that I belonged in the defense space, working with a small team that was growing. She advised me to apply the same principles that had brought me this far: continue pushing limits, continue leading men and women, and continue inspiring them the way my own leaders had inspired me.

Years later, I emerged as President and CEO of Regulus, an international defense firm supporting the United States and its allies with arms, munitions, and a diverse array of warfighting, medical, and humanitarian support equipment and services. Our operations span the globe, and the business has grown into the billions and continues to expand. Whatever role I personally played in that growth, I will never truly know. Just like in the Seabees, I was surrounded by a family willing to take on impossible challenges and work relentlessly.

Continued on next page.



A Seabee's story: From a small town to global impact (cont.)

I am the sum of my experiences. I am only as good as those who led and inspired me, those who gave me second, third, and fourth chances. I learned mostly through failure, and fail I did, many times over.



“The courage and humility to face failure, stand back up, and try again is what truly separates greatness from mediocrity.”

I never believed in a zero-defect force, and maybe that is just the perspective of an old Chief Warrant Officer who is as outdated as he is now. What I do know is that every success I've had belongs to the mentors, leaders, peers, and juniors who saw something in me that I never saw in myself. They pushed me forward and showed me the path.



My only hope is that I did the same for others along the way.

I loved every day in uniform, even while losing friends and teammates in war, and through the terrifying moments both in combat and underwater. I would live through those experiences again and again, because they made me who I am today. I am proud of the men and women I served with then, and those I serve alongside today in private industry.

...Always a Seabee!

Baton Rouge, LA

Great having lunch with Seabee Buddies last Saturday. Always great to spend time with good friends just before the holidays. Happy Holidays to you all and your families. I look forward to beginning the new year together. Location: Cracker Barrel in Baton Rouge, LA right off I-12. We meet for lunch the second Saturday of each month at 11:30am.

L to R: Our Chief, CEC Pat Hodges, YN3 James Dietz, BU3 Ralph King and EO2 Donald Marcel



NCTC Gulfport

Cadets tour NCTC BU and SW Schoolhouses

Cadets from the Northmont High School NJROTC visited NCBC Gulfport from Ohio and toured the Builder and Steelworker schoolhouses to learn about the Naval Construction Force. Students also participated a Q&A session with NCTC staff and Capt. Ana Franco, Commander, NCBC Gulfport, Dec. 5.



NCTC Hosts a Command Tri-Service Trials event

On December 5th, the Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) in Gulfport, Mississippi, hosted the Command Tri-Service Trials event. This competition allowed instructors from the Tri-Service branches to engage in a friendly yet prideful contest across several challenging events, including:

Masonry: Competing in constructing a three-course corner lead.
Wall Framing: Assembling the bottom plate, top plate, and studs.

Cutting of Stair Stringer: Demonstrating math, measurements, and cutting techniques.

Hammer Time: The fastest time to drive 20 pieces of 16D nails into a 4"x4" lumber.

Wood Cutting: The fastest time to cut a 6"x6" lumber using a hand saw.

NCTC extends its congratulations to the United States Air Force for achieving 1st place and to the United States Navy for securing 2nd place. Bravo Zulu to the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Army for their outstanding performances! Your exceptional skills made NCTC and your students proud. Hoorah!

Continued on next page.



NCTC Gulfport

NCTC Hosts a Command Tri-Service Trials event (cont.)



This Old House Seabee veteran visits NCTC Gulfport

Everyone knows our Seabees are superstars, but earlier this year one of our own returned to NCTC Gulfport to bring that Seabee spirit to the small screen.

Nathan Gilbert, a proud Seabee veteran and Carpenter on This Old House, stopped by NCTC Gulfport to revisit the roots of his career and watch the next generation of U.S. Navy Seabees in the making.

NMCB 4 deployment operations

Diego Garcia

Bravo Zulu to the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR!

The NMCB-4 team that's currently deployed out here to NSF Diego Garcia successfully completed a Tension Fabric Structure construction project for our sister service with Air Force 36th Mission Support Group, Det 1 Diego Garcia. Can always rely on this team to have a "Can Do!" attitude!



Okinawa

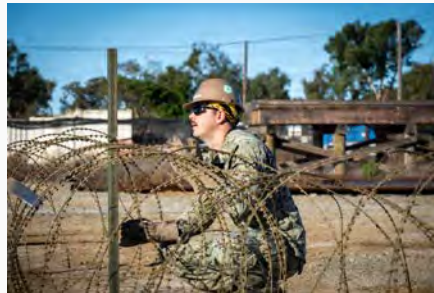
U.S. Navy Sailors and U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to units currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan, play flag football, on board Camp Shields, Okinawa, Japan, December 13, 2025. The teams are organized along service component lines. NMCB 4 is forward-deployed throughout the Indo-Pacific region to support and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. As the stand-in, crisis response, naval engineering force, NMCB 4 maintains a ready posture to deliver in-theater expeditionary logistics via expeditionary shore infrastructure, forward damage repair, and mobile construction. (US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Dakota Rayburn)



NMCB 3 homeport operations

Command & Control in Action – NMCB-3 CPX 2025

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 conduct a command post exercise aboard Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme. The exercise tested command and control processes alongside construction operations in preparation for major combat operations. NMCB-3 is homeported in Port Hueneme, California, and consistently trains on high-quality construction, expeditionary logistics, and combat operations to support the U.S. and partner nations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Austin Ingram)



UCT 1 recently completed a homeport shift

Ready, set, hike! The away team becomes the home team. After recently completing its homeport shift from Virginia Beach, Virginia to Gulfport, UCT ONE challenged their Seabee brethren on the gridiron in the first annual Turkey Bowl flag football tournament Nov. 20-21. UCT ONE emerged victorious, beating NCG TWO in overtime. Congrats to all the teams who participated and welcome to Gulfport!



NAVFAC EXWC happenings

Highlighting Our Unique, Innovative Work to Support the Warfighter!

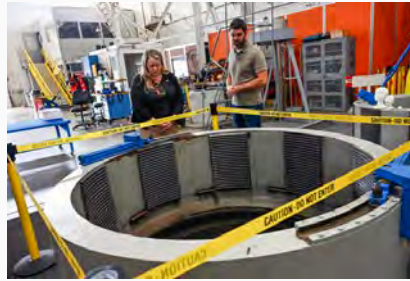
We recently hosted Marjorie Lutz, Director of Operations, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), to showcase our unique technical authorities and advanced capabilities, and underscore our critical role in providing technical expertise to CNIC and the broader Navy enterprise.

This was a productive, engaging visit that included a strategic overview of NAVFAC EXWC's contributions to enhancing warfighter and Fleet readiness, and tours of the lab spaces.

Ms. Lutz toured the Ocean Technical Department's Deep Ocean Simulation Facility, which is capable of testing equipment under the pressures and temperatures encountered at ocean depths. She viewed spaces dedicated to explosive effects and the DoW Lock Program.

At the Chemistry Lab, talks focused on efforts to remove per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from waters impacted by aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).

The visit concluded at the Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) facility, showcasing the MUSE equipment and the Seabee expert power technicians who rapidly deploy it worldwide in support of Department of War power requirements.



NAVFAC EXWC Tests, Evaluates Modular Barge System for Warfighter Needs

By Paolo Linares NAVFAC EXWC EX521, Research and Development

NAVFAC EXWC led a weeklong test of a sectional barge system designed to support diverse waterfront construction operations in support of Fleet and warfighter needs.

The Expeditionary Port Damage Repair (Ex-PDR) Expedient Configurable Barge (ECB) Test Event 1, Aug. 25-29 at the Port of Hueneme, included assembling and disassembling the 10-section Poseidon Barge System, conducting operational tests and evaluating the system.

The event validated the barge's ability to load accessory equipment, secure it for transport, and deploy it in a simulated operational environment. This milestone improves Port Damage Repair capability, with the next test event scheduled for March 2026.

"The successful testing event was the culmination of the hard work of the NAVFAC EXWC engineers and technicians, and the fleet that has

supported this from the start," Project Lead Lilian Buabeng said. "Getting this platform tested and in the hands of the warfighter will equip them to conduct mission critical requirements."

The flat-bottom, sectional barge is configurable to various sizes, accommodating equipment for diving, dredging, pile driving, light salvage, and other construction activities to meet Naval Construction Force (NCF) requirements, she said.

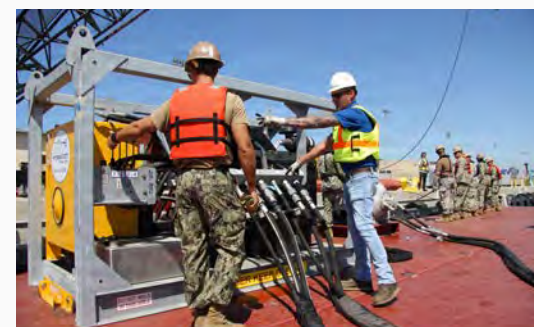
The testing included construction and deconstruction of the barge and its subsystems, and live evaluation and discussions regarding system employment, operational risk, engineering design, and procurement requirements, she said.

Dozens of personnel — federal civilians, sailors, and contractors — supported the operation. Participating military units were Naval Construction Group One (NCG-1), Underwater Construction Team Two (UCT-2), and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five (NMCB-5).

"We are proud of this demonstration that advances the capabilities of the Fleet and

warfighter," Buabeng said. "We are grateful for all who worked on this project to deliver an agile system that can meet national defense and operational needs."

Headquartered at Naval Base Ventura County, NAVFAC EXWC provides technology and unique, agile solutions for the warfighter focusing on expeditionary, oceans, and shore needs.



NAVFAC EXWC happenings

NAVFAC EXWC Hosts Key Navy Leader to Discuss Future Readiness and Technological Advancement

In a visit that underscored the critical role of technological innovation and strategic readiness, Peter Reddy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (DASN) for Research, Development, Testing, and Engineering (RDT&E), toured the NAVFAC Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC), Sept. 17, 2025. The engagement provided an opportunity for Mr. Reddy to see firsthand the diverse capabilities of NAVFAC EXWC and discuss the Naval Research and Development Establishment's (NR&DE) preparations for future challenges.

During an interview with Kail Macias, NAVFAC EXWC Technical Director, Mr. Reddy shared his insights on the NR&DE, drawing from his experience both within the establishment and in his current leadership position at the Pentagon.

His decade of experience working at the Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic, he said, gave him significant appreciation for the NR&DE's widespread capabilities. He added that now, working from the Pentagon as the DASN and being responsible for the NR&DE's sponsorship and awareness, he has the opportunity to see even more of the organization's reach and power.

He noted that, in spending time with different warfare centers, such as EXWC, he gains a better understanding of the NR&DE's capabilities and a deeper appreciation for the "real power, national impact, capability of the Naval Research and Development Establishment."



The 2027 Imperative: Readiness and Resilience

A key focus of the discussion centered on the importance of preparing for potential challenges by the year 2027. Mr. Reddy emphasized that this date, driven by potential adversaries, has served as a crucial rallying point for the Navy and the NR&DE.

Mr. Reddy stated that the year 2027 has been a point of focus for the Navy, given concerns about potential adversaries. He explained that this has helped align military services, and the Navy and NR&DE have rallied to improve preparedness, adjust mindsets, improve processes, and become more resilient and able to respond if the nation needs to go to war. He emphasized that "we've all been talking about one January 2027 as an important pacing date in the future."

He outlined two critical areas of focus:

Rapid Technological Adaptation:

Mr. Reddy emphasized the scientists and engineers across the NR&DE, including EXWC, will need to rapidly adapt to changes on the battlefield. This means getting feedback from the fleet and making quick adjustments based on what the adversary is doing, or if equipment is not functioning as expected. The goal is that EXWC will be "getting feedback from the from the field and from the fleet, and making those very quick adjustments when the enemy comes up with something or something isn't working the way we anticipated."

Workforce Readiness and Resilience:

Mr. Reddy explained that it is important to focus on the individual wartime readiness of each warfare center and lab. He stated that this includes making sure the workforce has the correct documents, and that they have the mental resilience to work long hours and deal with any challenges that occur during times of combat. He stated that "the other aspect of it is just the individual wartime readiness of the individual warfare center or lab, our workforce, our capabilities."

Mr. Reddy added that progress has been made toward getting more prepared, but that there is still work to be done.

He stated that this includes making sure that the workforce understands what sailors and marines may face, and that the workforce is ready to support them as they deploy.

NAVFAC EXWC: A Hub of Critical Capabilities

Mr. Reddy expressed significant admiration for the diverse portfolio of NAVFAC EXWC, highlighting its unique and vital contributions to the NR&DE. He stated that even though NAVFAC EXWC is smaller, the organization's diverse portfolio has capabilities that are vital in times of both peace and war.

He added that if you're looking for an expert on a subject, you can probably find them at EXWC, saying "'Do we have an expert for that?' 'Yeah, we do. That person's at EXWC.'"

He praised EXWC's expertise in ocean engineering, engineering support, and expeditionary support. He emphasized that while naval forces are known for aircraft, missiles, and submarines, these high-end capabilities rely on other support. He explained that the logistics, engineering, and ocean research enable the naval forces to do their jobs. He likened NAVFAC EXWC's work to the "secret sauce" that keeps everything running.

Looking to the Future

The visit concluded with a renewed sense of commitment to the NR&DE's mission. Mr. Reddy expressed his optimism for the future, particularly after meeting with NAVFAC EXWC's younger professionals. He noted that he had the chance to meet and speak with NAVFAC EXWC's newer staff, and that the future is in good hands with such a bright and enterprising group of engineers, contract specialists, and finance personnel.

The exchange underscored the critical importance of continued investment in naval research and development, as well as the dedication and expertise of the professionals within the NR&DE who are working tirelessly to ensure the Navy's readiness for the challenges of tomorrow.

CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASS	PRECEDENCE	R	<input type="checkbox"/> SEND MOD CLEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> SEND CLEAR
FROM	NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION		TO	INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS	

03 January 1966: BUPERS authorizes procurement of experienced construction trades as petty officers for Vietnam.

04 January 1968: EO1 H.C. Cousineau was killed when struck by enemy fire while riding in a helicopter north of Tan Ky, RVN.

05 January 1942: The Bureau of Navigation (now the Bureau of Naval Personnel) approved Admiral Ben Moreell's request for authority to recruit skilled craftsmen and artisans to man a Naval Construction Force. The original authorization was for a Naval Construction Regiment composed of three Naval Construction Battalions. This approval, in effect, was the actual beginning of the Seabees. Authorizations for additional battalions soon followed in rapid sequence.

06 January 1945: A Seabee whose unit was attached to a Marine Division doubled as a combat pilot during the invasion and battle for Cape Gloucester, New Britain. MM1c Chester J. Perkins of Naval Construction Battalion 19 flew a total of 218 hours, 105 of them during combat as the pilot of a light, unarmed reconnaissance plane. He made daily flights over enemy territory to transport rations and supplies to isolated jungle patrols and to spot for artillery batteries. In addition, Seabee Perkins carried blood plasmas to Marines wounded during the invasion operations and dropped medical supplies while fighting was still in progress. Seabee Perkins operated mostly from crude, improvised landing strips, usually roadways and sand bars. On one occasion a fusillade of enemy bullets pierced the cabin floor of his tiny plane. Fortunately, all of them missed him. For his outstanding accomplishments, Seabee Perkins was awarded the Navy Air Medal on 6 January 1945.

06 January 2012: Two Seabees, Equipment Operator 2nd Class Keith Hauter and Builder Constructionman Dan Morgan, NMCB 133, received purple hearts during a ceremony on Camp Krutke, Afghanistan. The award was for wounds sustained when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED). They were expected to make a full recovery and finish their deployment.

07 January 1944: Detachment 1039 (Pontoon Causeway Unit) was part of the assault on Marshall Islands.

08 January 1973: Seabees of NMCB 71 complete construction of a geodesic dome at the new Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Over the next few decades, the dome becomes the iconic image of the South Pole station.

08 January 2008: Marine Brig. Gen. J.A. Kessler, commanding general of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), officially opened the newly renovated runway at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq. The airfield is operating at full capacity for the first time in two years after NMCB 1 Seabees worked for three months to repair the runway.

09 January 2015: SANTA RITA, Guam – A plankowners plaque was presented at the establishment ceremony for Commander Task Force 75 (CTF-75) at Camp Covington aboard Naval Base Guam. CTF-75 will provide expeditionary combat capabilities in the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet area of responsibility. CTF-75 is capable of providing the fleet with diverse warfighting capabilities such as coastal riverine support, explosive ordnance disposal, diving, salvage and construction capabilities, as well as expeditionary intelligence and logistics in near-shore waters, littoral regions and inland areas.

10 January 1942: The first man received at Quonset Point for the construction companies was Robert Thomas Adams, SF1c 603-06-07, V-6, USNR from Newport, R.I. He arrived on January 10, 1942. Adams was not the first man enlisted, but because of the alphabetical sequence of his name, he appears in the original construction battalion received books as the first Seabee.

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TIME SIGNED	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER	
01	JAN	2026	0001L	<i>I.M. Seabee</i>	
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TIME FILED		COMM CEN NO.	HOW SENT	DATE-TIME GROUP	

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	

11 January 1959: The men of Mobile Construction Battalion 10 boarded the USNS Daniel Sultan at Guam, Mariana Islands for transfer to their homeport at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, California. Mobile Construction Battalion 10 was established on Guam in 1952. This establishment was actually a re-designation of the last active World War II Naval Construction Force unit, the 104th Naval Construction Battalion, under its new mission concept as a "mobile" land-based construction battalion. Until its recent disestablishment in July 1976, Mobile Construction Battalion 10 was the only construction battalion in continuous operation since World War II.

11 January 1967: Five NMCB 8 personnel were wounded in an enemy mining incident approximately twelve miles south of Chu Lai on a road leading from Route 1 to the 2/7 Marines Echo Company area. The vehicle involved was well sand bagged and as a result the personnel injuries were relatively slight. The two men in the cab of the vehicle were air evacuated to the First Medical Battalion.

12 January 1968: SWF3 J.R. Couch, USN, drowned while swimming near Red Beach, Da Nang Bay. His body was recovered on 16 January by a U.S. Marine Combined Action Platoon near Nam O.

12 January 2012: NMCB 3 and 31st SRG Seabees arrived on the scene of a disastrous wreck with an extendable-boom forklift, just in time to help the California Highway Patrol and local firefighters stabilize a vehicle containing a family of three teetering on the side of a bridge on Highway 101, Buellton, California.

13 January 1968: EON3 Daniel E. Houle, USN, and EOH3 Rodney L. Taylor, USN, were wounded by shrapnel from a booby-trapped sand bag while working on Route No. 1, RVN.

14 January 1944: The world premiere of The Fighting Seabees was held simultaneously at seven Seabee camps across the country.

14 January 1968: EONCN H.G. Hodges, USN, was killed and EOC3 J.G. Stotko, USN, was wounded by an enemy grenade detonation while they were manning a defensive position at the "Project Beaver" helicopter repair facility project at Red Beach, Danang, Vietnam. Stotko was flown by medevac to the 1st Marine Medical Battalion where he was listed in good condition. Preliminary investigations indicated that Hodges shielded the force of the blast from Stotko while attempting to hurl the enemy grenade from the bunker. Subsequently, the Silver Star Medal with combat "V" was posthumously awarded to Hodges for his heroic action. These men were part of a 16-man security detail from NMCB 9 charged with manning the perimeter of the project site from 25 December 1967 to 14 January 1968.

18 January 1947: As a part of Admiral Richard E. Byrd's Antarctic expedition, Operation Highjump, 166 Seabees sailed from Port Hueneme, California in December 1946. The Seabees sailed on the USS Yancey and the USS Merrick. The USS Yancey arrived alongside the ice of the Bay of Whales, Antarctica on January 18, 1947 and the USS Merrick arrived shortly afterwards. The Seabee detachment, part of a total complement of 4,000 men and 13 ships, then proceeded with their assigned tasks at Little America 4 in Antarctica. They unloaded equipment and supplies, set up a temporary naval base, built housing, a mess hall, and storage facilities. They also built a temporary airstrip, an emergency base further inland, and a communications system. The Seabees did all this work during the Antarctic "summer" with temperatures ranging from about 30 degrees above zero to 26 degrees below zero.

20 January 1965: The first deployment by air of an entire Seabee Battalion took place when NMCB 11 flew from Point Mugu, California, to Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands. This method of transportation saved a full month of travel time for each Pacific deployment.

20 January 1967: Seabees EO3 Francis E. Camden, Jr. and CMCN Merlin E. Boon of NMCB 62 were killed and 17 others wounded when a Viet Cong mortar attack hit the Phu Bai military enclave, Camp Campbell.

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TIME SIGNED	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER	
01	JAN	2026	0001L	<i>I.M. Seabee</i>	
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER USE ONLY			COMM CENTER OR RELEASER USE (INSTR-11)		
TIME FILED		COMMICEN NO.	HOW SENT	DATE-TIME GROUP*	

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.

Veteran spotlight Interview: A life of service, leadership, and legacy

By Marquita Foxworth

When I reached out to ask this retired U.S. Navy Seabee Roy Fessenden about his service, it was immediately clear that his story wasn't just about years served—it was about the people, principles, and moments that shaped a lifetime of leadership. As we together have made impact on fellow veteran's lives I thought it would only fitting to spotlight him!

Q: Tell me about your military service.

He served proudly as a U.S. Navy Seabee from 1978 to 2003, building not just infrastructure around the world, but also a reputation for dedication and resilience. When asked about his favorite duty stations, he didn't hesitate.

"Okinawa was probably my favorite deployment site. I did five deployments there. Second place would be Japan."

Q: Were there any defining moments that shaped who you are today?

He shared two pivotal experiences that fundamentally changed the course of his career and leadership style.

"The first was when I was a young Second Class Petty Officer (E-5) and honestly fed up with the Navy. BUI (E-6) Billy Hammond pulled me aside and told me something I've never forgotten: 'If you don't like the Navy and what's happening on these deployments, stay in and help me change it.' That shifted everything for me."

The second moment came during his Chief's Initiation, a rite of passage that forever altered how he viewed leadership. "In the Navy, there's a very distinct line between E-6 and below, and E-7 and above. Becoming a Chief taught me how to treat people—up and down the chain of command—with respect and accountability."

Q: What do you think civilians often misunderstand about military service?

His answer was heartfelt and direct.

"People don't always understand the sacrifice every Veteran makes—whether during peace time or war. We miss birthdays, anniversaries, Christmases, funerals, and countless moments most

people take for granted. That's something every Veteran carries with them."

Q: What did life look like after the military?

Retirement didn't mean slowing down.

"I'm fully retired now. I had a great military career, and then a second career working for the VA. Both were incredibly rewarding."

Q: Who would you like to give credit to along the way?

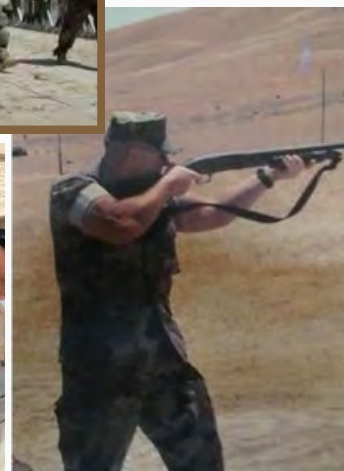
His gratitude runs deep.

"First, my dad—he was a World War II Navy veteran and my hero. Then BUI Billy Hammond, who helped me see the Navy differently. And Master Chief (E-9) Mike Mrsny, who taught me how to be a Chief Petty Officer."

Those lessons didn't end with the uniform.

"Being a solid Chief carried over into my VA career, and I still practice those principles today. I still carry my Chief Initiation Card and try to live up to the Chiefs Creed every single day."

This is a powerful reminder that leadership isn't confined to rank or uniform—it's carried forward through values, mentorship, and service to others. His story reflects the very best of what military service represents: commitment, sacrifice, and a legacy that continues long after retirement.



NMCB 11 homeport operations

NMCB 11 Chief Hospital Corpsman Becomes Licensed Practical Nurse After Passing NCLEX

*Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class
Alexa Trafton
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11*

Gulfport, Miss. (Dec. 5, 2025) Chief Hospital Corpsman Christopher Marlo, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, became one of the first Hospital Corpsmen in Mississippi to receive Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) credentials after passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) in December 2025.

Marlo achieved this milestone following the passage of Mississippi House Bill 1262 earlier this year, which opened eligibility for active-duty Navy Hospital Corpsmen to challenge the NCLEX and pursue state licensure based on their military medical training.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Marlo began the application process in July 2025 when the law first went into effect. However, after being selected for Chief Petty Officer, he paused his efforts during the Chief Petty Officer training season.

"Once I finished Chief Season, I immediately picked everything back up," Marlo said. "I started gathering all the documents again to make sure I could move forward with the exam."

Marlo has served 15 years in the Navy and has spent four of those years as an Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC). His medical experience includes assignments with Combat Logistics Battalion 24, 2nd Medical Battalion, and the School of Infantry-East. He said the clinical responsibilities in those roles helped prepare him for the NCLEX.

"I've been an Independent Duty Corpsman for four years, so I've worked in medicine daily for all of that time," Marlo said. "I wanted to take the NCLEX based on that experience and was happily surprised when I took it and passed first try."

Marlo said he pursued the exam because the new legislation made it possible for Corpsmen to earn additional medical credentials without requiring civilian schooling.

"I did it because it was available to us, and I wanted the extra certification," he said

"It's crazy too because all I have is Navy training. I didn't study for this at all. This just goes to show that the training we receive is that solid for us."

House Bill 1262 recognizes the scope and rigor of Hospital Corpsmen medical training by allowing them to apply for licensure equivalency for LPN qualifications. For Sailors stationed in Mississippi, the new law provides a pathway for gaining advanced credentials while on active duty.

Marlo said the credential not only validates his Navy medical experience but also enhances his ability to support the battalion and mentor junior Corpsmen.

"Having this certification reinforces what we already do in the fleet," he said. "It shows Corpsmen that their training matters and opens doors for them in the future."

Marlo said he remains focused on supporting the battalion's mission while continuing to develop his clinical skills. However, becoming an LPN is not Marlo's final goal, he intends to submit his application for the Navy's Medical Service

Corps Inservice Procurement Program (MSC-IPP) for Physician Assistant this coming June. With a wife, Jenny, and a seven-month-old son, Jake, he credits his family for motivating him during the process.

NMCB 11, based at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., provides expeditionary construction capability and combat service support to Navy and joint forces around the world. Corpsmen assigned to the battalion play a critical role in ensuring medical readiness and operational capability during deployments and training exercises.

Marlo said he hopes his accomplishment encourages other Hospital Corpsmen to pursue the credential now that the opportunity exists.

"If you're qualified, go for it," he said. "The training we get in the Navy prepares us more than we think. This is just another way to prove it."

NMCB 11 is assigned to Naval Construction Group TWO, and is homeported in Gulfport, Miss. as part of the Naval Construction Force.



NMCB 11 homeport operations

M4 range

Readiness comes in many forms. Recently, some of our Seabees spent some time on the M4 range. Photos by: MC2 A. Trafton



Tactical Unit Leaders (TUL)

TACTICAL. UNIT. LEADERS. We've got 'em, do you?!

Recently, we had some of our Lucky Eleven khaki participate in the Tactical Unit Leaders Course, and they had several milestone events! Check out some of the photos from the Convoy Simulator portion! Photos by: MC2 A. Trafton



Sailor 360

As part of Sailor 360, NMCB 11 held a panel for E5s and E6s that hosted members from across the base to discuss leadership in a joint service environment on 25 NOV 2025.

Thank you to the following for your participation in this: CMDCM Parsons, MSgt Husband, 1SG Landeros, CMSgt Castleberry, and EOCS Scurlock. Photos by: MC2 A. Trafton



FRG pre-deployment meeting

In November, our Family Readiness Group held a pre-deployment informational meeting! Thank you our awesome FRG for putting this on and all who attended! Photos by: MC2 A. Trafton



NMCB 11 homeport operations

NCTC Bridges project

Things have been moving along at our NCTC Bridges project site. Our crane crew came down to help lift and place the bridges after all the formwork to support it had been done. Photos by: MC2 A. Trafton



ECU Rebuild

Thanks to the skills he learned in C-School, UT2 Andrew Confer helped close out a 260-hour, total rebuild job on an Environmental Control Unit (ECU) by soldering a condenser together. Photos by: MC2 A. Trafton



Pre-deployment fair

Recently, we held our pre-deployment fair. We had booths for each detachment, as well as several resources for families while their loved ones are deployed. We also had a chili cook-off, with quite a few entries! Congratulations to EA1 Cortez on winning the chili champion belt! Photos by: MC2 A. Trafton and GM2 Bergan

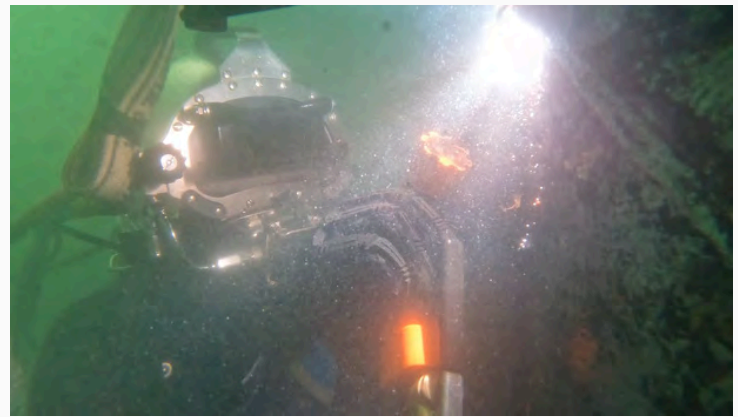
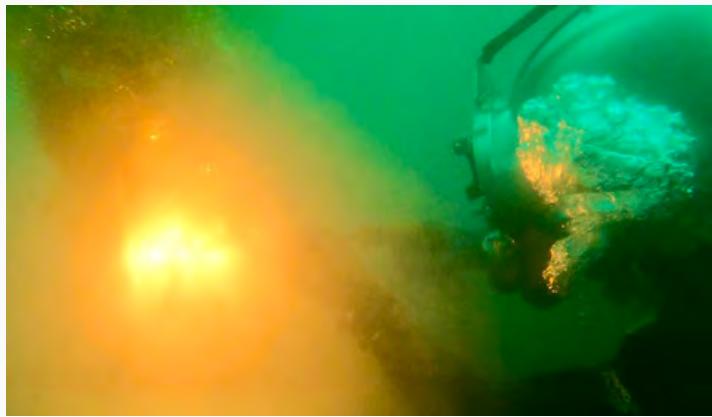


UCT 2 operations

UCT-2 punching the clock in Sasebo, Japan

Another job down — onto the next one Seabee Divers from Underwater Construction Team TWO completed inspection, maintenance, repair, and removal of critical waterfront infrastructure in direct support of 7th Fleet readiness.

From NAVFAC EXWC: NAVFAC EXWC was honored to participate in this! This was an excellent partnership in which a NAVFAC EXWC Ocean Engineer joined the project to provide technical oversight for this vital engineering work. BZ to the entire team for this successful mission!



Fort Hunter Liggett

Prime it. Pack it. Send it. Seabee Divers from Construction Dive Detachment DELTA, UCT2 making the ground shake and the training count during their Demolition Exercise.



PT

Brick by brick, we stack the work. Command PT was just another layer.



UCT 2 operations

Kosrae, FSM

Mapping the ocean floor one swath at a time.

Seabee Divers attached to Underwater Construction Team TWO conduct bathymetric survey operations to identify hazards, validate depths, and support follow-on diving and engineering efforts across the fleet.



Saipan, CNMI

Where the ocean hides the damage, we go find it.

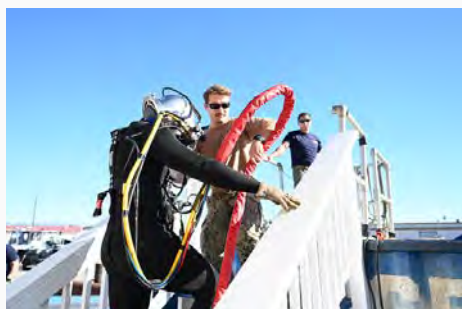
Seabee Divers attached to UCT-2 complete a Maritime Infrastructure Assessment to the Port of Saipan. A Maritime Infrastructure Assessment (MIA) is a comprehensive, engineering-based evaluation of a port, harbor, or waterfront facility—above and below the waterline. It identifies the true condition, capacity, and risks of critical infrastructure that supports fleet operations.



Port Hueneme, CA

HOOYAH FORCM!!!

FORCM U.S. Navy Seabees putting steel to flame during underwater welding training at UCT2. Seabee Divers sharpen cutting and welding skills as part of the relentless homeport grind. Photos by: EA1 Arnuco



UCT 2 operations

San Clemente Island

Getting on project when it matters

Seabee Divers from Underwater Construction Team TWO recently completed undersea sustainment on critical pieces of infrastructure at the Southern California Anti-Submarine Warfare Range (SOAR).



Port Hueneme, CA

UCT-2 putting in the reps. Training the details below the surface.

Seabee Divers from Underwater Construction Team TWO conducted bathymetric survey training focused on precision, repeatability, and confidence in the data. Photos by: EA1 Arnuco



NMCB 1 homeport operations

Turkey Bowl

We had a great turnout for our Turkey Bowl last week (week of Thanksgiving)!

Our Units of Action showed up with their best and came to win, and in the end, ABCC 1 emerged victorious. Congrats to our winners and thank you to everyone who participated and cheered on their fellow Seabees!



22nd Naval Construction Regiment

Seabees Survey Opportunities to Partner in Gabon

Courtesy Story
 22nd Naval Construction Regiment

U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (22NCR) partnered with the Gabonese Navy to conduct a range of technical surveys at naval bases in Libreville and Port-Gentil, Gabon.

The focus of these surveys was to identify small-scale infrastructure projects, bilateral training opportunities, and potential equipment procurements that could enhance Gabon's maritime security capabilities.

"We were able to gather a lot of engineering data during our topographic and bathymetric surveys, side-scan sonar searches, and facility assessments," said Engineering Aid 1st Class Dylan Maznicki.

But Maznicki noted that while the data was important, the mission's true value was in its partnerships.

"More importantly, this opportunity enabled us to build relationships and understanding between our two navies," Maznicki said. "By working together, we can set the conditions needed to improve capabilities and readiness on both sides."

The U.S. Navy Seabees have worked alongside the Gabonese Navy for more than a decade, supporting modernization efforts and expanding their maritime domain awareness capabilities. With more than 850 kilometers of coastline, vast offshore oil reserves, rich marine ecosystems, and significant fishing and mineral exports, Gabon's Navy has a broad maritime security mandate.

"The Seabees worked with the Gabonese military to construct a new Maritime Operations Center for the Gabon Navy in Port-Gentil in 2019," said Lt. Cmdr. Taibatu

Obasi, chief of the Office of Security Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Libreville. "As a former Seabee myself, I know the mutual value these types of projects bring not only to our partners' maritime security capabilities, but also to Seabee readiness to operate in remote, challenging environments."

In addition to infrastructure assessments, Seabees from 22NCR conducted underwater search training with Gabonese Navy divers using a side-scan sonar system.

"We are very interested in learning more technical diving skills from the U.S. Navy," said Lt. Nyassa Dexterne, a diver with the Gabonese Navy. "We are responsible for a wide range of diving operations, including emergency response, so learning how to conduct underwater search operations is essential to those missions."

Dexterne noted that Gabonese Navy divers are often the first responders during maritime incidents such as the Esther Miracle ferry capsizing in March 2023, which resulted in the loss of nearly 40 lives.

The Gulf of Guinea is a critical corridor for global maritime trade, but the region continues to face significant security threats including illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, piracy, oil theft, and other illicit activities.

"The U.S. Navy Seabees' partnership with the Gabonese Navy is part of a broader effort to promote stability and security in the region," said Lt. Thomas McDowell, 22NCR diving operations officer. "Our presence is focused on improving Gabon's ability to patrol and protect its waters, which contributes directly to regional security and the free flow of global commerce."

McDowell said that this partnership reflects the U.S. Navy's ongoing commitment to building relationships and strengthening maritime security through persistent engagement.

"Seabees are often the unseen boots on ground," said McDowell. "They play a critical role in enabling these operations through engineering support and infrastructure development."

22nd NCR, headquartered in Rota, Spain, commands naval construction forces for Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces Europe-Africa/Task Force 68, supporting U.S., allied, and partner interests across the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.

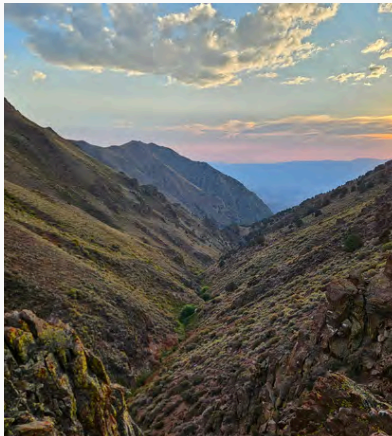
Task Force 68 (CTF 68) is a component of the U.S. 6th Fleet and commands all Naval Expeditionary Combat Forces in the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command areas of responsibility. These expeditionary forces provide maritime engineering and combat support capabilities in remote, austere, and complex environments.



NMCB 5 operations

Nevada crash recovery

In September, twelve Seabees from NMCB 5 conducted a real-world recovery mission in the mountains of western Nevada. Inserted by CH-53K to a remote peak at 9,500 feet, the team spent seven days clearing 2,000 square feet of dense brush, establishing a tent camp and 900-foot rescue line, and cutting and containerizing 15,000 pounds of debris. It's awesome to see our Seabees put their expeditionary skills to work in a real-world environment!



San Nicholas Island

Our crew has been working hard on San Clemente Island constructing a 150' x 150' Combat Aircraft Loading Area (CALA) pad. This project supports training flights from the island and strengthens the Navy's operational readiness.

The crew was recently recognized by the San Clemente Island OIC and Naval Base Coronado XO for their hard work and outstanding performance. Special recognition was given to CE3 Robbins for his exceptional effort and professionalism in support of the mission.



NMCB 5 operations

M18 Pistol Range

WE BUILD, WE FIGHT!

A few weeks ago, NMCB 5 conducted its first M18 pistol range. Check out our Seabees demonstrating proficiency and confidence on their new weapon system as they continue to sharpen warfighting skills.



NSU State Department operations

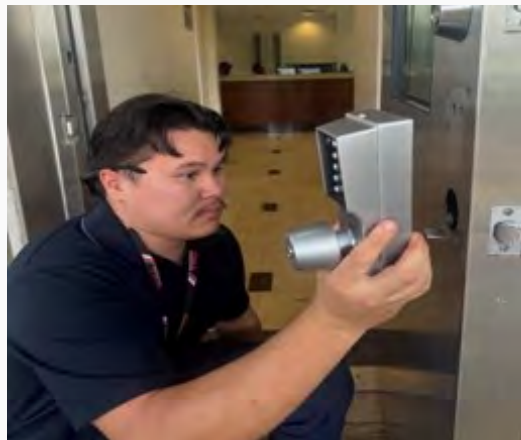
Riga, Latvia

Crystal clear. Loud and proud. SW1 Sheldon Smith replaced a faulty speaker system in Riga, Latvia. After discovering a missing and mis-installed outdoor electrical box, he fabricated a custom mounting plate to complete the installation, restoring reliable, weather-resistant audio communication for the site until the proper items can be ordered. Keep up the great work out there SW1!



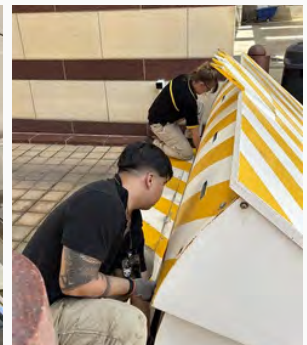
Canberra, Australia and Suva, Fiji

Our Seabees working in Australia and Fiji! SW2 Smith is shown restarting an iSTAR to resolve downed card readers. BU2 Taylor made the TDY journey to help out CE1 Pope in Suva, Fiji. He is seen helping to close those Unican work orders! It's Seabees helping Seabees, and it's the small moments along the way that remind us why we have the best jobs in the Navy!



NEA Region

Across the region, our teams are keeping U.S. Embassy facilities mission-ready. In Amman, BU1 Olivares restored crystal-clear visibility by cleaning dirt-built camera lenses. In Muscat, CE2 Tran along with his STS Paige kicked off annual barrier maintenance to ensure safe and reliable operations. And in Kuwait City, BU1 Brydon drilled door-contact points to properly alarm newly arrived secure containers. Proud of our crews for keeping security strong, one task at a time!



NSU State Department happenings

Berlin Olympic Stadium

Football Friday Spotlight!

CEI Connolly (Frankfurt) and CEI Alvarez (Berlin) took in the NFL International Series game, Indianapolis Colts vs. Atlanta Falcons, at Berlin's Olympic Stadium!

CEI Connolly, a die-hard Colts fan, showed his team spirit with face paint and cheered alongside family and friends, while CEI Alvarez, a Patriots fan, joined friends from the Berlin Embassy. Before kickoff, they even got exclusive on-field access thanks to the Berlin Embassy.

International NFL games are rare, but these two made the most of this epic experience! Proving that football fandom knows no borders! Photos by: CEI Bond, EUR Region PAO



ACB 1 operations and happenings

Maritime Prepositioning Force Exercise

ACB 1 participates in the Maritime Prepositioning Force Exercise (MPFX) with hands-on training on the beach to strengthen their capabilities.



Holiday "Feed the Troops"

Amphibious Construction Battalion ONE brought the command together for a Feed the Troops holiday meal, reinforcing connection and care ahead of the season. Sailors were recognized with Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and command coins presented by the Command Master Chief, followed by a full Christmas meal prepared and served by the Chiefs' Mess.

ACB 1's chaplain opened the meal with a prayer, and music, karaoke, and a cornhole tournament rounded out the event—giving Sailors time to unwind, connect, and head into the holidays knowing the command has their back.



NMCB 133 homeport and deployment operations

Sailor 360 Squad Fitness Challenge

Recently, we held the final competition for our Sailor 360 squad fitness challenge. A few weeks prior, each squad from each company competed in a similar challenge to see who was the fastest in the company. Here, the top squad of each company went head to head in a team based fitness challenge that involved rucking, ammo can lifts, ammo can squats, low crawls, a memory challenge, and a team push-up segment.

Sailor 360 is the U.S. Navy's flexible, command-driven leadership development program, designed for all ranks to foster growth in character, competence, and connections, focusing on mentorship, professional skills, and community building.



Tinian

NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos in Tinian of the North Mariana Islands are supporting the U.S. Air Force 513th Expeditionary Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers as they restructure their camp on Tinian.



NMCB 133 homeport and deployment operations

Det Guam

NMCB 133 Works on Polaris Point Project. Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, place concrete footers and install a security fence at the Polaris Point access road project in Santa Rita, Guam, December 4, 2025. NMCB 133 is deployed under Commander, Task Force 75, which executes command and control of assigned Naval Expeditionary Combat Forces across the 7th Fleet area of operations to defend U.S. allied and partner interest. (U.S. Navy photos by Ens Rafael Yu)



Guam Gunnin' Roos

Runnin' Roos? More like Gunnin' Roos!

NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos spent time getting familiar with the M2A1 .50 caliber machine gun during a dry fire training here on Naval Base Guam. The training focused on increasing their knowledge and speed in loading and unloading operations.



NMCB 133 homeport and deployment operations

NMCB 133 Build a Shower Facility (homeport)

Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, conduct quality control checks for a shower facility project on the John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, Mississippi, Dec. 10, 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 (FRTF). (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Waters)



...Always a Seabee!

Corry, PA

Seabees meet up on the first Saturday each month, usually at Gigi's Rt. 6 Diner at 10AM for a couple of hours of BS amongst ourselves...if you show up, just wear your boots... sometimes it gets deep!

We hope to see you there... as always, same place, same time, same day... and same smiling and feisty waitress and good grub. Echo Alpha Two Charley Whiskey... OUT!!



Florida

Recently, members from Seabee Veterans of America Islands X-11 Tampa and X-9 Jacksonville met at the Robert Jenkins Veterans Home in Lake City. We shared Christmas presents with all 150 Veterans living there. MERRY CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICES.



Pacific Northwest

Each month we mix it up and meet up for breakfast in a different area. Check the Events tab on PNW Seabees Can Do Facebook page to see where we'll be next. See ya around, Bees!

Newly elected NSF board members

During our recent quarterly board meeting held early in December, the Navy Seabee Foundation board of directors approved the slate of 4 new board members. They will begin their term at our next board meeting in March 2026. Welcome aboard, team! We look forward to working together again to support Seabees and Seabee families. Hoorah!

Del Terrell

Fleet Master Chief, Chief of Navy Personnel Command

- Force Master Chief of the Seabees/Naval Facilities Eng Systems Command
- Director, U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy
- Commander, Naval Activities Spain, Rota
- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5
- Naval Construction Training Center, Port Hueneme

Non-profits:

- Board Member of Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (2023-2025)
- Fleet Reserve Association Member

Currently resides in Fort Washington, MD With his wife Kelly and their two daughters

Sports: Sooner, Thunder, and Dallas Cowboys Fan

Sponsor: Tom Cyr



Larry Sharpe

Force Master Chief of the Seabees/Naval Facilities Eng Systems Command

- Currently employed: Puyenpa Construction LLC, construction program manager
- Commander Task Force 68, Rota Spain
- Naval Construction Group One
- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five
- Naval Construction Training Center, Port Hueneme

Currently resides in Woodbridge VA With his wife Susan, Three of four kids presently serving active duty

Sports: Detroit Lions and Red Wings

Sponsor: Tom Cyr



Doug McVicar

CAPT, CEC, USN(r)

- Currently employed: Chief Executive Officer of Peloton Management, LLC
- Active Tours: NMCB-23 Operation Desert Storm
- Reserve Highlights:
- Former CO NMCB 23
- CSO 3rdNaval Construction Regiment
- Director NRCEM EUR/LANT

Nonprofits and Volunteerism:

- Board member of the nonprofit Haven of Northern Virginia
- Served on the Seabee Foundation Golf Committee since 2016.
- Active fundraiser for the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association for over 40 years.

He resides in Fairfax, Virginia, and enjoys golf, cycling, and travel, as well as spending time with his three adult children and eight grandchildren.

Sports: Washington Nationals, Washington Caps, Dallas Cowboys, San Antonio Spurs

Sponsor: Jenn Donahue



Tom Kolongowski

- C– Founder and President, Trident Risk Advisors
- Commercial Building and Property Insurance for construction and environmental clients
- Prior to Trident: 23 years in Property and Casualty Insurance and Risk Management industry
- US Naval Academy '86
- Former USN Supply Officer, LCDR
- Former S4a in NMCB 3, SEABEE Combat Warfare Pin
- Attendee at past SEABEE celebrations

Non-Profit

- Member, Board of Trustees Marine Military Academy, Harlingen, Texas
- Treasurer, Board of Directors Navy League, Philadelphia Council

Currently resides in Malvern, PA

Sponsor: Cliff Maurer



Fort Leonard Wood

Army beats Navy at Fort Leonard Wood flag football game

Photos by Melissa Buckley
Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 35th Engineer Battalion go head-to-head with Sailors from the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering Detachment and Marines from the Marine Corps Detachment during Fort Leonard Wood's Army vs Navy flag football game Dec. 13 on one of Fort Leonard Wood's playing fields. The Army team emerged victorious with a final score of 26 to 12. The 35th Eng. Bn. Soldiers were chosen to represent the Army following their Commander's Cup victory earlier this year.



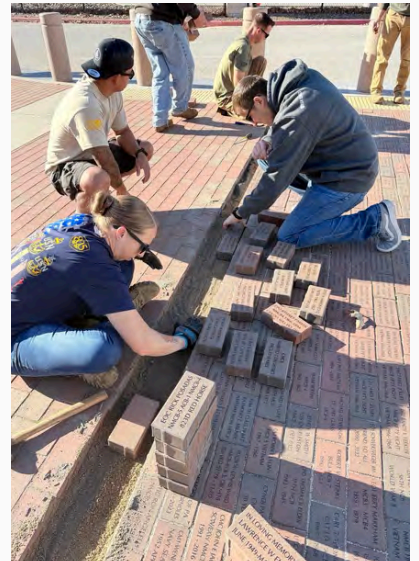
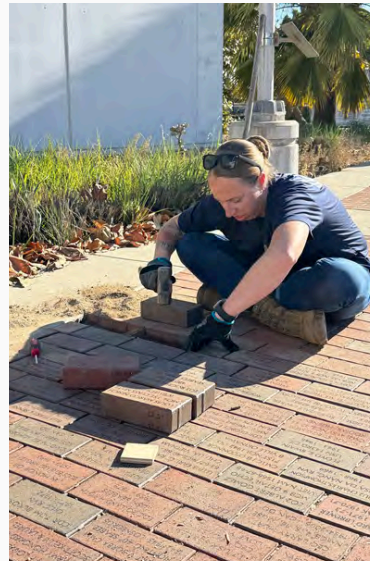
U.S. Navy Seabee Museum

The recent Seabee brick installation at the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum was a great reminder of how this legacy is built— one name, one story, one act of service at a time.

A huge thank you to the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering CSFE Chiefs Mess volunteers who generously gave their time and muscle to get these bricks installed. Their dedication helps preserve Seabee history and ensures these tributes are proudly displayed for generations to come.

Looking for a meaningful way to honor a Seabee, past or present? Seabee bricks make great gifts and are always available for purchase on our website. Learn more and order yours here: <https://www.seabee.org/support/seabee-bricks/>

Every brick helps keep the Seabee legacy strong. Can Do!



What's going on at the US Navy Seabee Museum?

The US Navy Seabee Museum is kicking off a busy year, with a traveling exhibit set to open in January, a new temporary exhibit to celebrate our Nation's 250th birthday opening in May, and the return of our annual Seabee Fest, also taking place on May 16, 2026.

We invite you to join us for our highly anticipated Grand Opening event, "**Lowrider Culture in the United States**" (*Cultura Lowrider en los Estados Unidos*), on January 10, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Celebrate the vibrant world of Lowriders with us! The event will feature activities and educational programs for all age groups.

Experience the dazzling celebration of Lowrider culture, which combines artistic expression, technological innovation, and storytelling that reflects Mexican American and Chicano culture and identity. This vibrant, bilingual exhibition showcases this unique car-making tradition through a display of photos and graphics.

After World War II, the United States fully embraced car culture as a representation of the American Dream. *Corazón y vida* showcases the 80-year history of lowriding and community building through a collection of photographs and posters. The exhibition features newly

acquired photos and posters from Latina/o photographers, drawn from the Smithsonian's collection. Today, lowrider culture has spread across the U.S. and beyond, influencing popular culture around the world.

Lowrider Culture in the United States / Cultura Lowrider en los Estados Unidos is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in collaboration with the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of the American Latino. The exhibition received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the National Museum of the American Latino.



Drastic Auto Club

Brooklyn, New York, 2021

Photo by Wendy Random.

About the Exhibit:

Lowrider Culture in the United States/Cultura Lowrider en los Estados Unidos

10 January – 4 April 2026; Open Monday through Saturdays, 1000 - 1600

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.

Here is a consolidated list of the Nonprofit in the Spotlight organizations we shared over the last year. 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.

Bee News Extra 2025-02	Blue Star Families	https://bluestarfam.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-03	Folds of Honor	https://foldsofhonor.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-04	Mike Rowe Works Foundation	https://mikeroweworks.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-05	Military Spouse Advocacy Network	https://www.militaryspouseadvocacynetwork.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-06	Project Healing Waters	https://projecthealingwaters.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-07	Road Home Program	https://roadhomeprogram.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-08	Irreverent Warriors	https://irreverentwarriors.com/
Bee News Extra 2025-09	PGA of America Reach Foundation	https://www.pgareach.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-10	Warrior Rising	https://www.warriorrising.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-11	National Military Family Association	https://www.militaryfamily.org/
Bee News Extra 2025-12	America's Vet Dogs	https://www.vetdogs.org/

REUNIONS & EVENTS

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

JANUARY 2026

- 1 **Navy Seabee Foundation Scholarship Application Open**
www.Seabee.org

FEBRUARY 2026

- 6 San Diego Seabee Ball Tri-Tournament Golf
Friday, February 6 - San Diego, CA
- 27 San Diego Seabee Ball
Friday, February 27
- 28 Ventura Seabee Ball
Saturday, February 28 - Camarillo, CA

MARCH 2026

- 2 159th Civil Engineer Corps Birthday
Monday, March 2
- 5 84th Seabee Birthday
Wednesday, March 5
- 7 Hampton Roads Seabee Ball
Saturday, March 7 - Norfolk, VA
- 7 Midwest Seabee Ball
Saturday, March 7 - Bloomington, MN
- 14 NMCB 25 REUNION
Saturday, March 14 - Galena, IL
- 17 NMCB 128 REUNION
March 17-19 - Gulfport, MS
- 28 Gulfport Seabee Ball
Saturday, March 28 - Mississippi Coast Coliseum

Send us information about your 2026 Seabee Birthday events and we will add it to our online list of events and add it to the Bee News.

APRIL 2026

- 15 Navy Seabee Foundation Scholarship Application Deadline
Wednesday, April 15 - www.Seabee.org
- 16 NSVA All Seabee Reunion
April 16-19 - Gulfport, MS
- 18 NCBC Gulfport Seabee Day
Saturday, April 18 - Gulfport, MS
- 29 **2026 Gulf Coast Seabee Golf Tournament**
Wednesday, April 29 - The Club at Diamondhead, MS
Register at www.seabee.org
- 30 NMCB 24 Reunion
Thursday, April 30 - Chattanooga, TN

MAY 2026

- 1 NMCB 74 Desert Storm/Desert Shield Reunion
Friday, May 1 - Long Beach, MS
- 12 MCB58 Reunion
Tuesday, May 12 - San Antonio, TX

JUNE 2026

- 8 **2026 DC Seabee Golf Tournament**
Monday, June 8 - Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, VA
Register at www.seabee.org
- 12 MCB-12 Vietnam Reunion 1968-1969
Tuesday, June 23 - Bath, ME

JULY 2026

- 1-7 **2026 Seabee Virtual 5K**
July 1-7 - Watch for more details to come!

AUGUST 2026

- 10 **2026 San Diego Seabee Golf Tournament**
Monday, August 10 - Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, VA
Register at www.Seabee.org

OCTOBER 2026

- 8 **2026 Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Tournament**
Thursday, October 8 - Virginia Beach National Golf Club, VA - Register at www.seabee.org

Follow us on social media to stay in the know!



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



More information about these events is available at Seabee.org.

A grandson's birthday post for his Seabee Grandpa:

Alan Stands Alone Bryant

December 18, 2025

Today, my hero—my Grandpa—turns 104 years young! Born in 1921, he's officially older than sliced bread (yes, that's a real thing—sliced bread wasn't sold until 1928).

He served our country proudly as a Navy Seabee during WWII, building and fighting to keep this great nation free. The courage, sacrifice, and grit he showed then still inspire me every single day.

But more than that, he raised me through some of the toughest and most formative years of my life. He taught me what it means to be responsible, to work hard, to show respect, to live with honor, and above all, to be a good person. Those lessons are carved into my heart forever.

When I asked him the secret to living such a long, full life, he looked at me with that familiar grin and said, "Well, feller, you gotta keep moving—or you might as well be dead."

Grandpa, you've seen more changes in this world than most of us can even imagine, and yet you've faced it all with strength, humor, and grace.

Happy 104th Birthday to the toughest, kindest, wisest man I know. I love you more than words can say. Thank you for everything.



For more details about these events, go to 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.

Stay tuned for the next print edition of the Bee News for coverage on our recent Seabee Celebration in the Pacific Northwest and a summary of OktoBEEfest events

Click on the pictures to go directly to pages.

Check out the Jobs List!

new!

CAN DO

Career Connection

seabee.org




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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,

Instagram at: @navyseabeefoundation, and

LinkedIn at: 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!

facebook
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BECAUSE YOU SERVED, THEY COULD BENEFIT

The Navy Seabee Foundation offers scholarships exclusively to the children and grandchildren of America’s Fighting Seabees, Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers and those who served with the Naval Construction Force.

The Navy Seabee Foundation Scholarship Application is Open Online Jan 1 - Apr 15.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Children and grandchildren of a Seabee or Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) Officer. (Step childcare & grandchildren, too!)
- Members of other service branches assigned to a Seabee unit.
- Active duty, reserve, retired and honorably discharged Seabee
- **Applicants must be a senior in high school or entering college for the first time as a freshman and must be under the age of 23.**

GOT QUESTIONS?

- Visit www.Seabee.org
- Email scholarship@seabee.org



NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION
HONOR THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE.

seabee.org



5 Ways to Support the Navy Seabee Foundation:



Donate Online

One-time or reoccurring gifts can be made at

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.

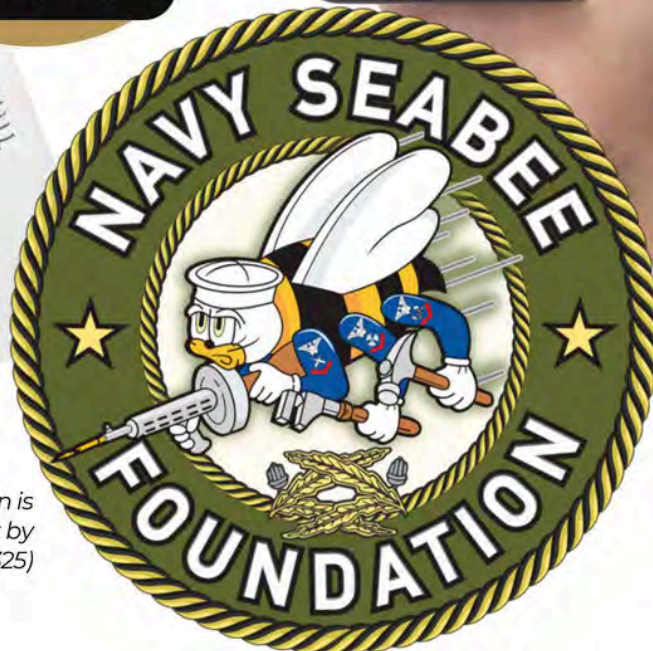


Donate by Mail

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)





THANK YOU!

SUSTAINING PARTNER:



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CAN DO!

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To find out how your company can become a Navy Seabee Foundation corporate partner, email us at info@seabee.org