

MARCH 2026

seabee.org

# BEE NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Navy Seabee Foundation

**Because you Served...Scholarships  
for Seabee Children &  
Grandchildren**

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**84 Years of the Seabees:  
The Birth of the  
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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. Here's how:

- Provide Scholarships to Children/Grandchildren
- Support/Sponsor the US Navy Seabee Museum
- Support the Seabee Memorial at Arlington
- Support other Museums, Memorials & Monuments, including the Seabee Museum & Memorial Park in Rhode Island and the Gulfport Seabee Heritage Center
- Support Battalion Homeport Celebrations
- Support All-Seabee Reunions
- Support Family Readiness Groups
- Sponsor Seabee events (Golf, OktoBEEfest, etc)
- Can Do Career Connection
- Annual Foundation Awards
- Support Navy STEM Camp
- Recognize Seabee Centenarians
- And much more, all thanks to your support!

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



The Navy Seabee Foundation offers scholarships to students seeking accredited two-year, and four-year degrees and career and technical scholarships. We provide 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 attending accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

## The 2026 Scholarship Application Season is open until April 15th.

### Who is Eligible?

Seabee Scholarships are open to individuals with sponsors (a parent or grandparent) who served with the Naval Construction Force. Eligible sponsors include enlisted personnel with a Seabee rating, as well as officers of the Civil Engineer Corps. Furthermore, individuals who have served or are currently serving in a Naval Construction Force Unit, including members from other service branches assigned to a Seabee unit, are also eligible. The scholarship extends its reach to encompass active duty, reserve, retired, and honorably discharged Seabee children and grandchildren, ensuring that the opportunity for educational advancement is available to those who have contributed to the legacy of the Seabees in various capacities.

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.

NOTE: Step-children and/or step-grandchildren may be required to provide additional documentation to show proof of relationship to their qualifying military parent (typically a tax document or a marriage certificate).

Please visit: <https://www.seabee.org/scholarships/>



Follow Navy Seabee Foundation on social media!

## Leadership Gulf Coast Tours NCBC Gulfport, Gains Insight into Seabee Mission

Story by Jovi Prevot  
 Naval Construction Battalion Center  
 Gulfport

The visit provided participants with an opportunity to learn about the Seabees' capabilities, training mission, and the installation's strategic importance to Navy. The tour included key facilities and highlighted how NCBC Gulfport supports deploying units, training, and contingency response efforts worldwide.

"Opportunities like this are essential to building understanding between our installation and the community we serve alongside," said Capt. Ana Franco, commanding officer of Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport. "The Seabees represent a unique capability within our Navy, and it is important that our community partners see firsthand how their support enables our mission and strengthens readiness."

*Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport Commanding Officer, Capt. Ana Franco gives a command brief to local business and municipality professionals during an installation tour, Feb. 25. Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, serves more than 10,000 service members, civilian personnel, veterans and family members. NCBC Gulfport is home to the Atlantic Fleet Seabees, the Naval Construction Training Center, the Expeditionary Combat Skills Training Center and nearly 40 tenants from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. (U.S. Navy Photos by Jovi Prevot)*

Leadership Gulf Coast, a program of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, is designed to develop informed and engaged leaders by connecting participants with key institutions and organizations throughout the region.

"The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce Leadership Gulf Coast Class of 2025–2026 had the honor of spending the day touring the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Armed Forces Retirement Home, and Keesler Air Force Base," said Caroline Loughman, Leadership Gulf Coast liaison. "This group of professionals is fortunate to learn firsthand about the many industries and organizations that shape our coast, and the military's presence is an essential part of that story."

Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, serves more than 10,000 service members, civilian personnel, veterans and family members. NCBC Gulfport is home to the Atlantic Fleet Seabees, the Naval Construction Training Center, the Expeditionary Combat Skills Training Center and nearly 40 tenants from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. The Sailors of NCBC Gulfport personify the "Can-Do" motto of Seabees and are ready to deploy and serve globally. For more information about NCBC Gulfport, visit our website at <https://cnrse.cnicy.navy.mil/Installations/NCBC-Gulfport/>



## Seabee Museum & Memorial Park happenings

### Secretary of War Pete Hegseth administers the oath of enlistment to military recruits in Rhode Island

By Tom Santos  
Seabee Museum & Memorial Park

On February 9, 2026, The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War, administered the Oath of Enlistment Ceremony to 30 recruits during a ceremony at the Seabee Museum & Memorial Park, in Davisville, RI. They were from RI Army National Guard, RI Air National Guard, US Air Force, US Navy, US Marine Corps, and US Army. Secretary Hegseth also presented coins to military personnel in special recognition of their achievements. After the ceremony, he personally thanked Curator Jack Sprengel, Treasurer/Store Manager Gail Frigon, and me for continuing to tell our Seabee history.

As part of his nationwide "Arsenal of Freedom" tour, Secretary Hegseth is working hard to equip our warfighters with the latest and most advanced technology ASAP. Regent Craft Inc. proudly displayed their Seaglider Drone outside between our Quonset Huts. Thank you Commander Abigail Hilliard and Major Gaven Smyth, Boston Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) and Secretary Hegseth's team for making SMMP a part of this special enlistment ceremony. Also many thanks to RI State Police and US Army CID for making this event safe and secure for all. (U.S. Navy photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Benjamin Dobbs)




### Golf Tournament

After a four year hiatus the game is back on, this time around we're playing at North Kingstown Golf Course located on the grounds of the old base. The course was designed by Walter Johnson as a 9 hole layout and it opened in 1944. In 1966 the course underwent a significant renovation expanding into a full 18 hole layout, the redesign was once again the work of Walter Johnson who at the time was serving as Chief Engineer at Quonset NAS, the construction is believed to have been carried out by Vietnam era Seabees stationed at CBC Davisville. This event is a fundraiser for the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park grounds, so mark your calendars Monday June 15th.



**Snow operations**

These Seabees get it done, no matter what!



**NORTHEAST SEABEE GOLF CLASSIC**  
DAVISVILLE

The North Kingstown Golf Course, located at 615 Callahan Road, was originally part of the approximately 1,350-acre World War II installation known as the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Davisville—the original home of the U.S. Navy Seabees. Designed by Walter Johnson, the course opened in 1944 as a nine-hole layout to serve military personnel stationed at the base. In 1966, the course underwent a significant renovation, expanding into a full 18-hole layout. The redesigned course was once again the work of Walter Johnson, who at the time was serving as Chief Engineer at Quonset Naval Air Station. Construction is believed to have been carried out by Vietnam-era Seabees stationed at CBC Davisville. Although NCBC Davisville officially closed in 1994, the golf course continued operations and had earlier been sold to the Town of North Kingstown in 1982. Today, the North Kingstown Golf Course offers 18 of the most scenic holes in the Northeast, featuring meticulously maintained greens and fairways, complemented by refreshing ocean breezes off Narragansett Bay.

**MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026**


**AGENDA**  
**07:30 AM** Registration  
**08:30 AM** Shotgun Start  
 Lunch Following Golf

**FORMAT**  
Scramble

**CONTESTS**  
 Longest Drive  
 Closest to the Pin

**WE HAVE PACKAGES FROM INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS TO CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Sponsors and Golfers Scan Here!



# NMCCB 5 Operations

## San Clemente Island

By BUC Amber Miller

Today is a bittersweet milestone. After months of hard work, long days, and overcoming every obstacle in our path, we have officially completed the 150' x 150' helicopter pad. This project tested us, pushed us, and ultimately strengthened us as a team. We set out with a mission, and we saw it through with grit, professionalism, and pride. Through every challenge, we carried our brother with us in spirit. His presence was felt in the work, in the laughs, and in the determination to finish strong.

I couldn't have asked for a better team. This accomplishment reflects your dedication and heart.

We miss you every day, brother. This one was for you.



## NMCB 133 operations and events

### Camp Covington, Guam Sustainment Exercise

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, assemble pier damage repair ramps as part of a sustainment exercise on Camp Covington in Santa Rita, Guam, February 24, 2026. 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)



### Camp Covington, Guam Demolish Playground

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, demolish old playground equipment as part of a revitalization effort on Naval Base Guam, February 24, 2026. 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)



### Camp Covington, Guam Install Silt Fence

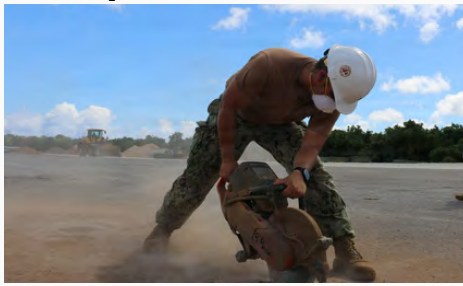
Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, install a silt fence on a construction project in Barrigada Guam, February 3, 2026. NMCB 133 is deployed under Commander, Task Force 75, which executes command and control of assigned Naval Expeditionary Combat Forces across the 7th Fleet area of operations to defend U.S. allied and partner interest. (U.S. Navy photos by Ens Rafael Yu)



# NMCB 133 operations and events

## Camp Covington, Guam Airfield Damage Repair (ADR)

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, install a silt fence on a construction project in Barrigada Guam, February 3, 2026. 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)



## Camp Covington, Guam Equipment Maintenance

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, perform construction equipment maintenance on Naval Base Guam, February 3, 2026. 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)



## Camp Covington, Guam Builder Shop

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, work in the Camp Covington builder shop on Naval Base Guam, February 3, 2026. 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)



# NMCB 133 operations and events

## Camp Covington, Guam Inventory

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, inventory construction material on Naval Base Guam, February 3, 2026. 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)



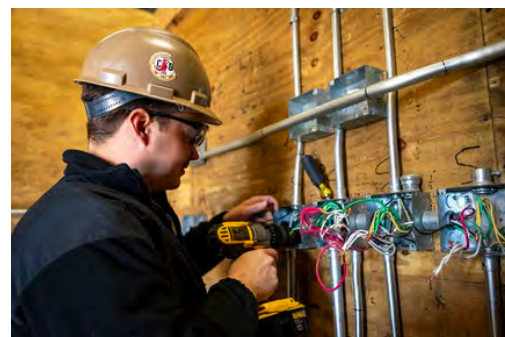
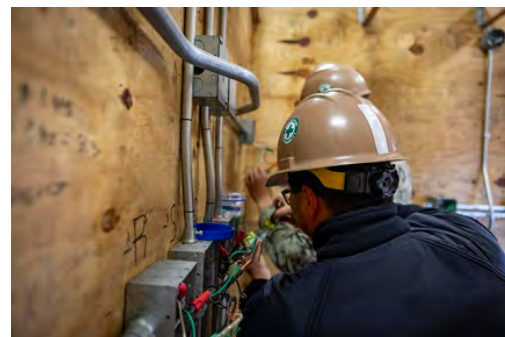
## Camp Covington, Guam Awning Project

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, place concrete for an awning construction project on Polaris Point, February 11, 2026. 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)



## Gulfport, Mississippi Seabee Technical Trainer

NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos in Gulfport are participating in Seabee Technical Trainings while in homeport to develop skills for our more junior Sailors and hone them for the more experienced Sailors. Participating in training like this ensures our Seabees stay ready to support any mission at home or abroad as we enable fleet maneuverability through high-quality construction.



## NMCB 133 operations and events

### Edinburg, Texas Navy Week Outreach Event

For this event, the community wanted to recognize and appreciate our veterans by having the local Veteran Motorcycle Social Club meet up at the American Legion Post 408 and drive a parade of motorcycles to the local motorcycle museum. This was a great way of connecting current active duty service members with veteran service members during this first Navy Week of 2026. The motorcycle museum started out as a private collection and is now open for public viewing. It's owned and operated by a character by the name of "Dirty Dave". He also owns the motorcycle shop next door. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Rollo)



### Edinburg, Texas Navy Week Outreach Event

Seabees assigned to the NMCB 133 Unit, pose for a picture while allowing two students to try on and handle the different equipment that the "Seabees" are trained to use in order to accomplish their day to day duties in the field. This is the first of several Navy weeks this year that mark the 250th anniversary of our great nation. It is referred to as "The Road to 250". These Navy weeks are designed to showcase the life and duty of different Navy Sailors during day to day operations as well as getting the public involved in what the NAVY does, from retired veterans to young audiences looking to shape and change their future into something better. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Petty Officer Joshua Rollo)



## U.S. Navy Seabee Museum

**LOWRIDER | CULTURA**   
**CULTURE | LOWRIDER**  
 IN THE UNITED STATES EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS



**March 28, 2026**  
**Seabee Museum**  
**Car Show**



3201 S. Ventura Rd.  
 Port Hueneme, CA 93043  
 seabeehistory.com





Celebrate the creativity, community, and culture of a unique car-making tradition.



This exhibition is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the National Museum of American History. It received Federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Institution.  
 Image: Dnestic Auto Club, Brooklyn, New York, 2023. Photo by Wendy Random

### Lowrider Car Show at the Seabee Museum!

In celebration of our Smithsonian lowrider exhibit, LOWRIDER CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES, CULTURA LOWRIDER EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum invites you to a Car Show on Saturday, March 28 | 10 AM – 4 PM.

-  3201 S. Ventura Road, Port Hueneme, CA 93043
-  FREE admission
-  FREE parking
-  No ID required to attend

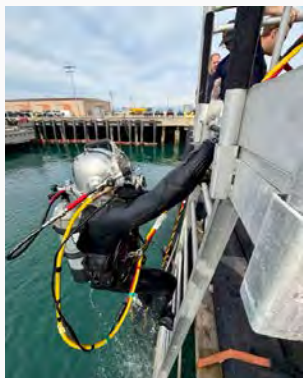
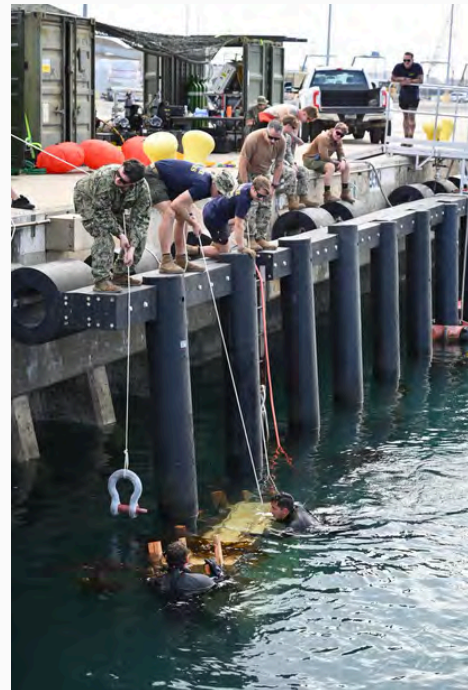
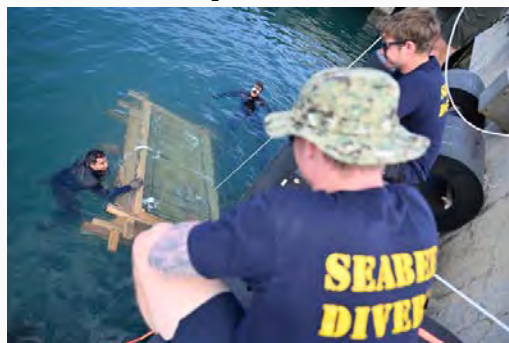
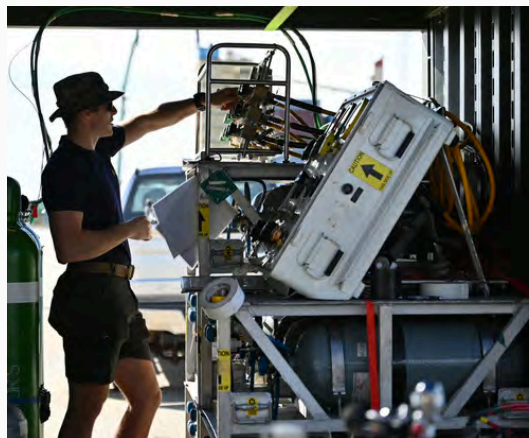
Want to showcase your vehicle?  
 Register by emailing [NHHC-SeabeeMuseum@us.navy.mil](mailto:NHHC-SeabeeMuseum@us.navy.mil)

Enjoy amazing cars, light refreshments, and food available for purchase. Bring the family and come enjoy the culture!

# UCT 2 operations

## Naval Base Ventura County Built right, below the waterline

Seabee Divers from Construction Dive Detachment 2-4 practicing placement of underwater concrete as part of their Pier side Phase of their Divers Training Exercise. Photos: EA1 Arnuco



## Naval Base Ventura County Diving into the weekend

Seabee Divers from Construction Dive Detachment 2-4 conduct surface-supplied diving operations as part of their Divers Training Exercise. Photos: ET2 Taylor

## Fort Hunter Liggett Demolition exercise

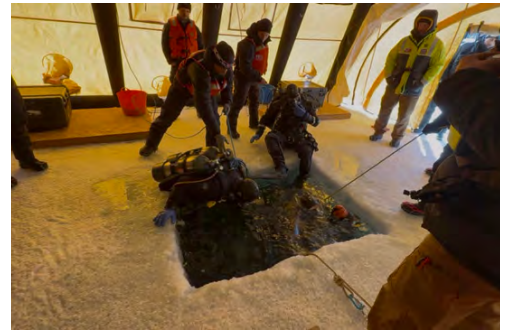
Seabee Divers from Construction Dive Detachment 2-1 complete their Demolition Exercise as part of their homeport training cycle. Photos: LTJG Dorian



# UCT 2 operations

## Camp Ripley, Minnesota Divers leaving surface! Entering the Ice

Seabee Divers from UCT2 complete the USCG Cold Water & Ice Diving (CWID) Course. The course trains divers to safely and confidently operate beneath ice in extreme cold-water environments. Photos: EOC Porras



## Port Hueneme, CA The TEAM

Seabee Divers from UCT2 pose for a command photo.



## ...Always a Seabee!

### Southwest Idaho

Greater Southwest Idaho Seabee Swarm returned to our "Homeport" today at Quinn's in Boise. Great food and great conversation with all that attended. Re-BEEPed the 40 sticker.



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

**01 March 1943:** Rear Admiral Ben Moreell requested the Navy construction units be authorized to use a distinctive designation and insignia; the Seabee insignia was authorized.

**02 March 1867:** By Act of Congress, it was provided that civil engineers should be appointed by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate. Previously, all civil engineers in the Navy were civilian employees. This is considered the birthday for the establishment of the Civil Engineer Corps.

**02 March 2023:** JOINT EXPEDITIONARY BASE LITTLE CREEK-FORT STORY, Va. - On March 2, Amphibious Construction Battalion TWO (ACB2) held a decommissioning ceremony at the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek (JEBLC) chapel after nearly 80 years of service to the Navy and Marine Corps team and our nation.

**03 March 1867:** William P.S. Sanger is commissioned as an officer and Chief Civil Engineer of the Navy, thereby beginning the Civil Engineer Corps of officers.

**03 March 1871:** An Act of Congress gave the Navy's civil engineers, at the President's discretion, eligibility for relative officer rank and equal precedence with officers of the line.

**04 March 1962:** Through January and February 1962, Navy Seabees erected the PM-3A on Observation Hill overlooking McMurdo. On March 4, 1962, the power plant reached its first criticality. It was initially operated by Martin Marietta before operations and maintenance was handed over to Navy Officers, Seabees and Hospital Corpsmen of the Naval Nuclear Power Unit. Crews were also augmented with Army and Air Force personnel.

**05 March 1955:** It was in 1955 that the Seabees first celebrated their birthday on March 5. Before that the birthday had been celebrated on December 28, the date in 1941 that authority was requested from the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation to recruit enlisted personnel for the Seabee units. However, because so many men were usually on leave for the Christmas holidays and because of the heavy financial strain that attended the holidays, it was almost impossible for everyone to participate in a suitable celebration. Therefore, Rear Admiral John R. Perry, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, decided to change the celebration date to March 5, the date the personnel of the construction battalions were granted official permission to assume the name Seabees. Admiral Perry felt this would assure a more favorable observance of the birthday.

**05 March 1968:** NMCB 6 officers and men celebrated the 101st birthday of the CEC and 26th of the Seabees with the cutting of a 1,300 pound birthday cake, measuring 4 feet by 8 feet by 2 feet. This was apparently the largest cake ever baked in Vietnam, certainly the largest for the Seabees.

**05 March 2020:** The main gate at NBVC Port Hueneme, CA was renamed Knott Gate in honor on SW3 Eric Knott who was killed in Fallujah, Iraq on 04 September 2004.

**05 March 2021:** Effective March 15, all Seabee ratings will now compress into a single rating at the E-9 level, Seabee Master Chief (CBCM), eliminating the three existing E-9 compression ratings currently in the community. The move, announced in NAVADMIN 054/21, released March 5, will result in an immediate title change for all current Seabee E-9's in the Constructionman Master Chief (CUCM), Equipmentman Master Chief (EQCM) and Utilities Constructionman Master Chief to CBCM. The rating change applies to both Active-Duty and Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors.

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TIME SIGNED	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER	
01	MAR	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
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**06 March 1971:** NMCB 3 Detail Borealis at Ca Mau received eight rockets and heavy small arms fire. BU2 F.D. Lupo, USN, was killed in action and four other Seabees wounded. Two of the wounded required medevac. "Being on a detail did have its advantages: close camaraderie, a personal touch on meals, and maybe a little more freedom. It was also more dangerous; few Borealis men will forget the morning of March 6th at Ca Mau." NMCB cruise book 1970-1971 p.27.

**07 March 1967:** EOC J.C. Haines, CET3, L.R. Riddle, and CMH3 R.E. Kasper were killed in action in a mine explosion on the road from An Hoa to Da Nang. The men were from NMCB 4.

**08 March 1968:** Camp Barnes received 10 rounds of enemy rocket and artillery fire. The action resulted in 3 KIAs, CN E.E. Nevins, CEW2 J.P. Hartlage II, and BUL2 J.W. Borders. There were 8 men wounded in action. One berthing hut was completely destroyed.

**08 March 2024:** After 56 years NMCB 27 has changed back to NCB 27! 7NCR Commodore Lester Ortiz, CSO James Shambley and CMDCM Michael McCarty were officiating at the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27 (NMCB 27) Change of Command and Battalion name change. is now Naval Construction Battalion 27 (NCB 27).

**09 March 1950:** A detachment of 105th NCB arrived in the Caribbean for a practice invasion. The occasion was marred by squalls and heavy surf conditions, making the battalion's job of invading the beach and setting up pontoon causeways doubly hard. The battalions had to make three tries for the beach before their task was accomplished, to put ashore the Army's Third Division. The invasion was successful due to the unstinting efforts of the Seabees.

**09 March 1971:** Seabees of NMCB 40's advance party waded ashore at the remote atoll of Diego Garcia in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The Seabees were there to begin a highly-significant undertaking - the building of a United States Navy Communications Station. Up to this time, Diego Garcia had been a relatively unknown tropical atoll whose only industry was copra. Commissioning ceremonies for the Naval Communications Station, Diego Garcia were conducted two years later on March 20, 1973.

**10 March 1968:** BUH3 Frank G. Goelz, USN, was killed in an accidental fall while engaged in constructing a pile bent as part of repairs to Liberty Bridge, Da Nang, RVN. Memorial services for Petty Officer Goelz were held at Camp Hoover on 11 March and at Liberty Bridge on 12 March.

**13 March 1946:** 53rd NCB arrived at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands to take part in Operation Crossroads. Operation Crossroads was the Department of Defense's first large-scale atomic weapons research testing program. The 53rd NCB built observation towers, piers, communication towers, and general facilities to prepare the site. The battalion dredged the lagoon of Bikini to allow the capital ships to enter and anchor for the bomb blast. It also built a recreational area for the members of the Armed Forces engaged in the testing. Thus, Seabees were used to build a facility that helped to usher in the Atomic Age.

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**18 March 1944:** Pontoons demonstrated for use in amphibious assault in Narragansett Bay, R.I.

DAY 01	MONTH MAR	YEAR 2026	TIME SIGNED 0001L	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER <i>I.M. Seabee</i>
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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.*

### Diego Garcia happenings

Congratulations to the Seabees onboard NSF Diego Garcia on winning the January Captain's Cup hosted by the installation's Master-at-Arms!



### NMCB 1 news

We are pleased to announce that NMCB ONE has won the Battle "E" award for their performance over the course of FY2025!

The Battle "E", or Battle Efficiency Award, is awarded annually to the most outstanding active NMCB or UCT from the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets!

Congratulations to the Seabees and Sailors of NMCB ONE!



### NCB 18 news

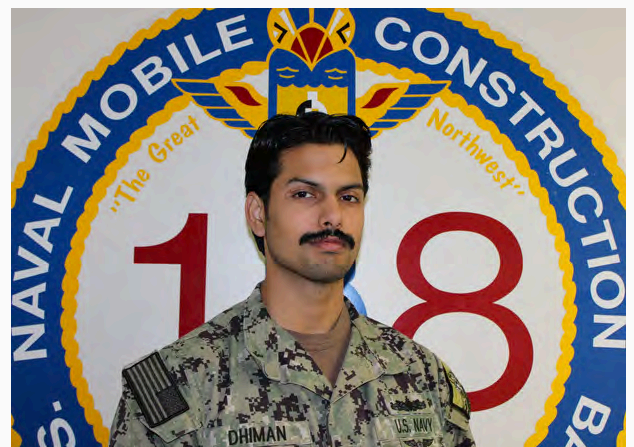
NCB-18 proudly recognizes YN2 Dhiman, Lakshya as our Sailor of the Quarter.

As a Yeoman supporting the administrative readiness of the battalion, YN2 ensures our Sailors and leadership have the tools, documentation, and support required to execute the mission. Attention to detail, professionalism, and commitment to accountability directly strengthen operational effectiveness across the command.

YN2 embodies service before self. Every task is approached with discipline and pride, contributing not only through individual performance but through positive influence on peers and leadership alike. This recognition reflects sustained dedication, reliability, and impact across the battalion.

NCB-18 congratulates YN2 on this well-earned achievement and looks forward to continued contributions to mission success and warfighting readiness.

Bravo Zulu



### NMCB 3 news

#### Washingtonville native serving with Navy Seabees in California receives award after rescuing injured surfer

By Ensign Han Fiori-Puyu, Navy Office of Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Petty Officer 3rd Class Austin Maddox, a native of Washingtonville, New York, serving the Navy at Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 in California, received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal on Jan. 12 for rescuing an injured surfer.

Maddox was surfing at Silver Strand Beach in November when he saw two other surfers collide, leaving one of them unconscious. Maddox and another surfer brought the injured person to shore. Maddox retrieved a first aid kit from his vehicle and applied pressure to the injured surfer's wound, while directing other bystanders in first aid procedures until the fire department arrived.

"I was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for being at the right place at the right time," said Maddox. "I was able to help, with others, a downed surfer off the beach and render first aid until medical help arrived."

Maddox graduated from Washingtonville High School in 2021. Additionally, Maddox will earn a bachelor's degree from Oxnard College later this year.

Maddox joined the Navy four years ago. Today, Maddox serves as a builder.

NMCB-3, one of the Navy's three original construction battalions authorized in 1942, is homeported in Port Hueneme, California, where 650 personnel provide engineering and construction support to naval and joint forces around the world.

This year, the Navy is commemorating its contribution to the nation's defense as the United States celebrates 250 years of independence.

According to Navy officials, for more than 250 years, the Navy has sailed the globe defending freedom and protecting prosperity.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to

recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

As Maddox and other sailors continue to perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the U.S. Navy and protecting the American way of life.



Builder 3rd Class Austin Maddox (right) with NMCB-3, receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from Capt. Tony Holmes, commanding officer of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division, onboard Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, California, on Jan. 12. (U.S. Navy Photo by Esthela McKenzie)

### ...Always a Seabee!

#### Baton Rouge, LA

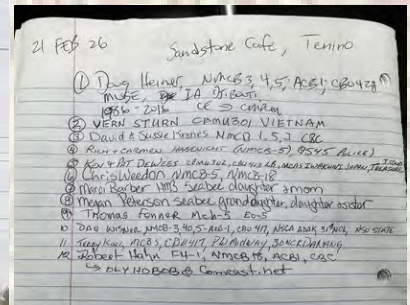
Great Swarm luncheon today! Largest we've had in a while. New Seabees/New Friends! We enjoyed good food and great conversation.

L to R: CEC Pat Hodges, CMCS Stephen Lucia, HoneyBee Jamie Stephans, HoneyBee Misti Sellers, EO2 Patrick Lynch, BU3 Ralph King, HoneyBee Tammy Marcel, EO2 Donald Marcel, PrincessBee Katie Trahan, PrincessBee Gabby Marcel and YN3 James Dietz.



#### Pacific Northwest

Seabee Family and Friends Breakfast! Ahhhh, always hits the spot! Since I was in the neighborhood, I decided to stop and pay respects to NMCB 18 Seabee, CS1 Regina Clark, as well.— at Sandstone & Quarry Bar.



# 1 NCR operations

## Port Hueneme, California

The Seabees and officers of the FIRST Naval Construction Regiment (INCR) recently gathered at their Port Hueneme headquarters for a quarterly Readiness Training Platform (RTP) session from January 26-30, completing critical training and meetings to meet the year's objectives.

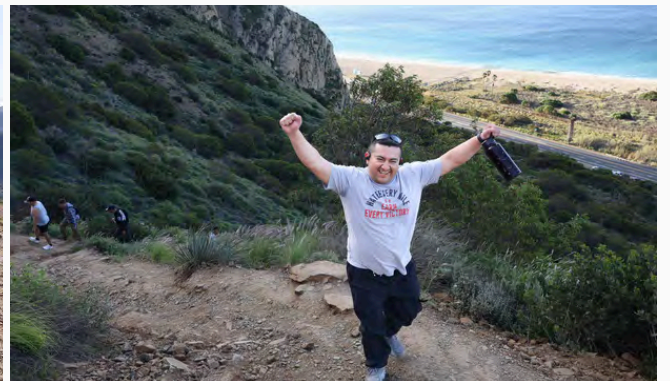


Chemical Biological Radiological (CBR) Course

## Pistol Range



## Chugach Trail PT



# NSU State Department happenings

## Ankara, Turkey

During a recent TDY to Ankara, Turkey, CM2 Kielty (left) from Astana and SEO Jonathan (right) out of Athens and took advantage of the long weekend for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to explore one of Turkey's most iconic destinations, Cappadocia.

From breathtaking snow-covered rock formations to the unforgettable sight of hot air balloons rising at sunrise, the trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a great way to take in the local culture while away from home.

Cappadocia truly delivered views they won't forget.

Photos: CM2 Kielty, SCA Region PAO



## Brussels, Belgium

CM2 Barnett completed key security infrastructure improvements in support of the Joint Administrative Services Building.

Work included wiring the data connection for a new card reader in the Brussels EC Room, helping enhance access control and overall facility security. CM2 Barnett also pulled wire to implement an ENS zone cutoff switch, ensuring stronger system control and improved operational reliability.

Strong work supporting mission readiness and security upgrades across the installation!

Photos: CE1 Bond, EUR Region PAO



## Milan, Italy

UT2 (SCW) Marc Gonzales recently completed a TDY to Milan, Italy, in support of Secretary of State Marco Rubio during the 2026 Winter Olympics. The U.S. delegation also included Vice President J.D. Vance, making it a high-profile assignment to assist with the American presence at one of the world's most prestigious sporting events.

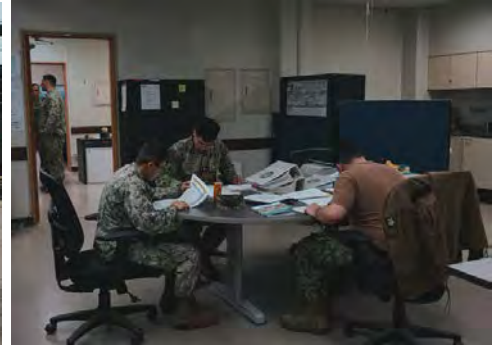
Photos: UT2 Gonzales, DC Region PAO



### NMCB 11 operations

#### Okinawa, Japan Advance Party

From inventory, to certification, and some extra training... We've been busy bees! Our Lucky Eleven AP Seabees have been diligently working on our turnover with NMCB Four out here in Okinawa, Japan!



#### Okinawa, Japan RIP/TOA

On Monday, we completed Relief-in-Place / Transfer-of-Authority (RIPTOA) with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR.

NMCB 11 is the first battalion to return to the Camp Shields from the east coast in over a decade.

Camp Shields, named after Marvin G. Shields, nods to an important piece of history for NMCB 11, and serving from this location reinforces the legacy of Seabee excellence that defines LUCKY ELEVEN. HOORAH 11!

Photos: MC2 Alexa Trafton



## UCT 1 operations

### U.S. Navy, Estonian Partners Conduct Ice Diving Training to Enhance Baltic Maritime Readiness

Story and photos by Chief Petty Officer  
Justin Stumberg  
22nd Naval Construction Regiment

U.S. Navy Seabee Divers assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) One, Construction Dive Detachment Bravo (CDD/B), are conducting ice diving and underwater demolition training with the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB) and Estonian navy divers during an annual bilateral ice exercise scheduled from Jan. 31 to Feb. 17, 2026.

The exercise focuses on developing cold weather capabilities that enhance maritime security, improve Alliance readiness, and reinforce Estonia's contributions to the conventional defense of the Baltic Sea region.

"This opportunity builds real-world capability in one of the most demanding dive environments imaginable," said Senior Chief Constructionman Keith Reed, master diver assigned to UCT-1 CDD/B. "Operating under ice requires absolute trust in equipment, procedures, and teammates, especially in conditions where precision, readiness, and discipline directly affect mission success."

The exercise takes place at Rummu Quarry Lake and Miinisadam Naval Base and includes classroom instruction, pier-side safety training, practical ice dives, and a salvage survey of a submerged barge.

Estonia faces a significant volume of explosive remnants of war, particularly in waterways and coastal regions affected by historic conflicts. The training supports humanitarian mine action objectives while improving Allied capacity to detect, assess, and respond to underwater hazards that threaten maritime infrastructure, commercial traffic, and regional security in all weather conditions.

"Ice diving stresses every element of a diver's training from planning, communications, emergency response, and execution," Reed said. "Working alongside Estonian Rescue Board and navy divers allows us to exchange techniques, leverage their local expertise, and carry lessons forward that strengthen cold-weather and Arctic diving operations across the Naval Construction Force."

Beyond technical dive training, the training is designed to improve interoperability, expand operational readiness, and support NATO maritime safety and deterrence efforts by ensuring regional forces are prepared to operate effectively in austere and contested environments.

"This engagement reflects years of trusted coordination with Estonia and deliberate planning across U.S. and host-nation teams," said Chief Builder David Madmon, diving action officer assigned to 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (22NCR). "Our role was to align the right capabilities, ensure safety and logistics were in place, and create a training environment that delivers lasting operational value for both nations."

This training builds on previous U.S.-Estonian humanitarian mine action engagements dating back to 2017 and

supports NATO objectives to enhance maritime readiness, resilience, and safety across the Baltic Sea region.

It also reinforces a forward defense posture by strengthening European Allies' ability to lead regional maritime safety and security efforts, with U.S. forces providing specialized capabilities and operational support.

UCT-1 CDD/B, currently deployed under 22NCR, is a specially trained and equipped unit within Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces that specializes in diving, light salvage, underwater construction, and military engineering operations in austere environments.

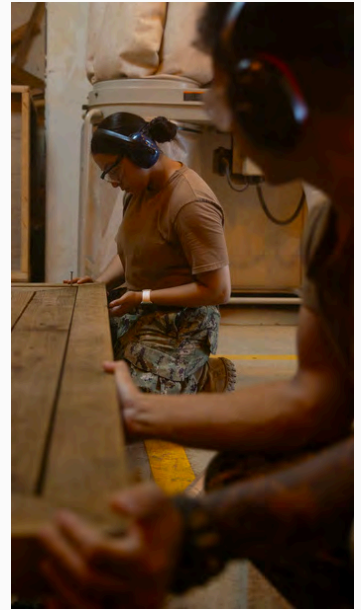
22NCR commands naval construction forces for Navy Expeditionary Forces Europe-Africa/Task Force 68 across the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations to defend U.S., Allied, and partner interests.



### NMCB 4 operations

#### Okinawa, Japan

The day-to-day routine kept NMCB4 Seabees in ABCC-B tasked and engaged on Camp Shields, Okinawa.



### ...Always a Seabee!

#### Denver, Colorado

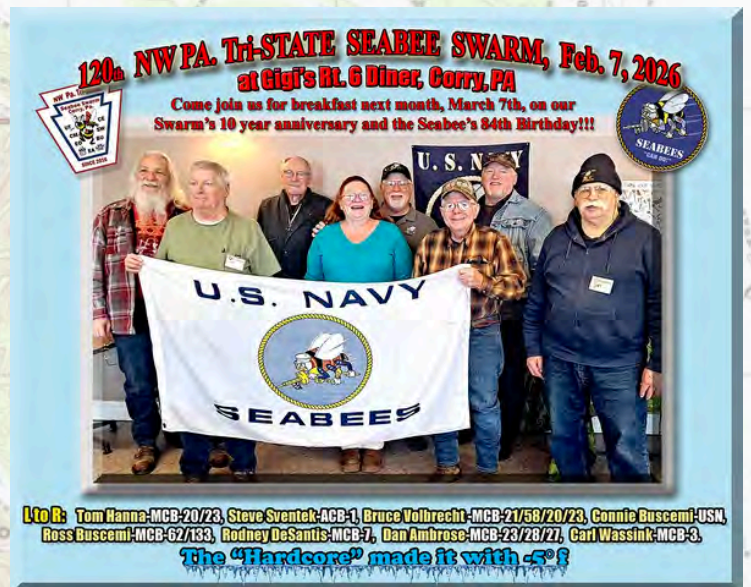
I absolutely love Seabee Swarm! It's great getting together with old and new friends!

~Trasie Wright

#### Kansas City, Missouri

KC Seabee Swarm. February 1, 2026.

George, Alan, Leo, Val, Brenda, Phil, Michelle, Hal. Thanks for coming to Legion Riders Breakfast. Good to see everyone.



## Fort Leonard Wood generates U.S. Army, Navy prime power production experts

By Melissa Buckley

Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office

Fort Leonard Wood's U.S. Army Prime Power School serves as the core for training in electrical power generation, distribution systems and operational energy for Soldiers serving in power distribution military occupational specialties and Naval Construction Force sailors.

According to Brian Parker, USAPPS director, prime power production specialists support the Department of War's mission at home and abroad.

"Soldiers will assist in natural disasters and with overseas power generation and distribution," Parker said. "Sailors will provide power to telecommunication stations and provide facility power for ships in port."

USAPPS 1st Sgt. James Bishop said prime power's graduates are "the Army's subject matter experts in all aspects of electrical power, we enable warfighting and defense missions by providing continuous, commercial-grade power at a scale greater than what units can provide with their organic equipment."

"Ultimately, our job is to ensure units at all levels have reliable, efficient power so they can focus on their primary mission without worrying about the lights or comms going out," Bishop said. "Prime power also supports the homeland as first responders during natural disasters, ensuring critical facilities such as fire stations and hospitals can be connected to temporary power while utility power is being restored."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Dugan, USAPPS commander and deputy commandant, said prime power is critical to success on today's battlefield as the demand for their technical skills continues to expand.

"There will never again be a time when power is not the No. 1 commodity on the battlefield and that requirement is only going to grow exponentially," Dugan said.

"Because of that, the need for Soldiers and sailors with this skill set will increase. As new technologies are developed, how we get power may change but the requirement will only increase."

According to Dugan, USAPPS is the sole training institution for prime power medium voltage power generation and distribution for the U.S. Army and Navy.

USAPPS has the capability to train about 200 service members annually through the Prime Power Production Specialist Course; Instrumentation Specialist Course; Mechanical Specialist Course; Electrical Specialist Course; Power Line Distribution Course; and two professional military education courses of advanced and senior leader.

Soldiers with the MOS of 12P Prime Power Production Specialists learn to maintain electrical power plants by installing and inspecting electrical power generators and analyzing power plant equipment and systems, while isolating and troubleshooting complex malfunctions.

USAPPS' Prime Power Production Specialist Course is a 48-week course that includes 16 weeks of academics, 16-weeks of operations and 16-weeks of an additional skill identifier.

"One of the ASIs is a requirement to become MOS qualified as a 12P Prime Power Production Specialist," Dugan said.

Those ASIs are the instrumentation specialist, mechanical specialist and electrical specialist.

"In addition, USAPPS supports the 12Q Power Distribution Specialist MOS at our location, which runs in conjunction with our alternate 12P ASI, Power Line Distribution Course," Dugan said.

At USAPPS, power distribution specialists learn to design, install and maintain electrical distribution systems, such as utility poles, power lines and electrical hardware.

USAPPS history and anniversary

The school moved to Fort Leonard Wood in 2010 and started training in January of 2011.

"The relocation from Fort Belvoir to Fort Leonard Wood was part of the 2005 base realignment and closure," Dugan said. "Previous to Fort Leonard Wood, it was located in Fort Belvoir having been constituted in 1956."

"This year marks the 70th anniversary of when the first cadre started training in 1956."

According to Dugan, USAPPS started off with a nuclear power production operators course in 1956 and continued until 1977 when the community switched to diesel engine prime movers.

"A sizeable portion of our current 12P course, is pulled directly from the original nuclear power production course," Dugan said. "USAPPS is working toward the re-implementation of a nuclear reactor course as that technology adds a tremendous capability to commanders at echelon."

While the school prepares to return to its nuclear origin, it is fitting that USAPPS is also planning to commemorate the school's 70th anniversary this spring.

Dugan said the USAPPS 70th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled to take place from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 18 at the school. The event will feature guest speakers, lunch, a cake cutting ceremony, tours of prime power training areas, interactive displays and a group photo.

*(Continued on next page.)*



*Sgt. Boukari Sawadogo assembles an optoelectronic circuit during a hands-on practical exercise in the U.S. Army Prime Power School's Instrumentation Technician additional skill identifier class Feb. 23 at Fort Leonard Wood.*

## Fort Leonard Wood generates U.S. Army, Navy prime power production experts (cont.)

"It is important that young service members understand what those before them have done and where the community as a whole comes from," Dugan said. "Our community is small and having an opportunity to gather and celebrate is a key part of our heritage."

Parker said he is looking forward to celebrating the school's legacy and its future.

"This school provided an awesome career for me and my family while I was in the Navy," Parker said. "I enjoy seeing the students get an understanding of the material. I truly believe this is one of the best jobs in the Army and Navy. I want to help move the school in the right direction for the future."

According to Dugan, a lot has changed since the school opened 70 years ago, and he expects to see the courses taught at USAPPS change even more as the U.S. Army continues to transform.

"With the rapid advancement of technologies, such as unmanned systems, pulse weapons and artificial intelligence data centers, compounded with the changing nature of warfare, the requirements for power are vastly different, as well as how energy systems are deployed" Dugan said.

"In addition to advancements in technology on the battlefield, industry is leading a revolution in power generation. We are seeing tremendous growth in new, innovative and advanced technologies."

Bishop agreed and said he is excited for the future of prime power.

"The electrical power industry is constantly evolving, and with that, our capabilities evolve as well. Hybrid battery systems, hydrogen and even nuclear power are huge opportunities to modernize the battlefield, and I am excited to see how prime power incorporates operational energy and emerging technologies in future missions sets," Bishop said.

As of right now, only active duty and Reserve Soldiers attend USAPPS, but Dugan said he expects that to change this summer.

"We are expecting our first National Guard Soldiers to start training here in August," Dugan said.

USAPPS is open to initial entry and reclassifying Soldiers through the rank of sergeant.

For more information about USAPPS, visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers PPS website.

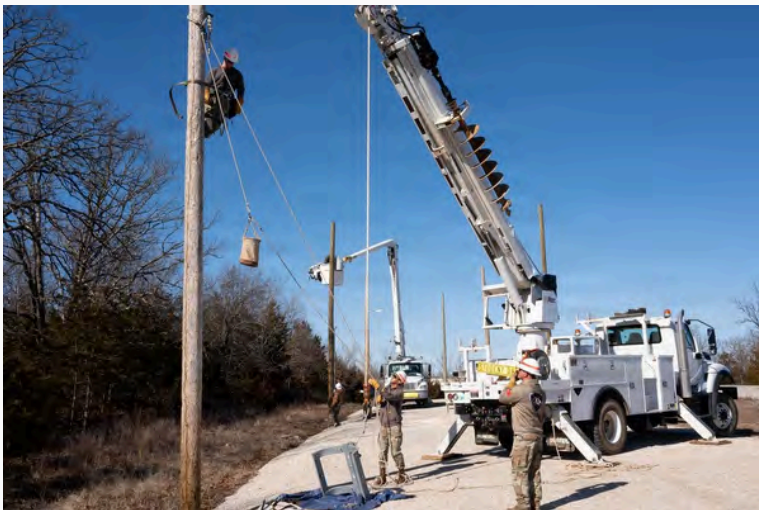
<https://www.usace.army.mil/Who-We-Are/Prime-Power-School/>



*U.S. Army Prime Power School Electrical Course students test transformer secondary voltage with a multimeter Feb. 23 at Fort Leonard Wood.*



*Pfc. Andrew Akhavan adjusts the direct current power supply to power a Thyristor circuit during the U.S. Army Prime Power School's Instrumentation Technician additional skill identifier class Feb. 23 at Fort Leonard Wood.*



*U.S. Army Prime Power School Power Line Distribution Course students mount a transformer bracket on a utility pole from a gaffed position while classmates (in the background) prepare to run a secondary conductor from the transformer to the streetlight Feb. 23 at a Fort Leonard Wood Training Area.*



*U.S. Army Prime Power School Advanced Leader Course students practice splitting and reconnecting power packs Feb. 23 at Fort Leonard Wood.*

# 84 Years of the Seabees: The Birth of the “Can Do” Spirit

On **March 5, 1942**, the U.S. Navy officially authorized the name “Seabees” for its Naval Construction Battalions — a simple phonetic spelling of “CB.” That date marks the formal birth of a fighting construction force that would change naval warfare and military engineering forever.

## A Wartime Necessity

In the early months of World War II, the Navy faced a serious challenge. Bases, airfields, roads, and supply depots needed to be built rapidly across the Pacific and other theaters of war. Civilian contractors had the skill to build them — but under international law, they could not lawfully engage in combat if attacked. And they were being attacked.

The solution was bold and unprecedented: create militarized construction units trained to both build and fight. These men would carry tools in one hand and weapons in the other.

The result was the formation of the Naval Construction Battalions under the leadership of the U.S. Navy and the guidance of the Civil Engineer Corps. On March 5, 1942, the Navy approved the name “Seabees” and later adopted the now-iconic Fighting Bee insignia — a bee wearing a sailor cap, holding a wrench, hammer, and machine gun.

## “We Build, We Fight”

From their earliest deployments, Seabees proved indispensable. They constructed airstrips on coral atolls, built roads through jungles, erected hospitals and fuel depots, and repaired battle-damaged facilities — often under direct enemy fire.

During World War II alone, Seabees built more than 400 advanced bases across the globe. Their work supported amphibious assaults, carrier operations, and the island-hopping campaign that ultimately pushed Allied forces toward victory in the Pacific.

Their motto, **“Construimus, Batuimus” — We Build, We Fight**, was not symbolic. It was operational reality.

## A Legacy That Endures

Now, in 2026, the Seabees celebrate their **84th year** of service.

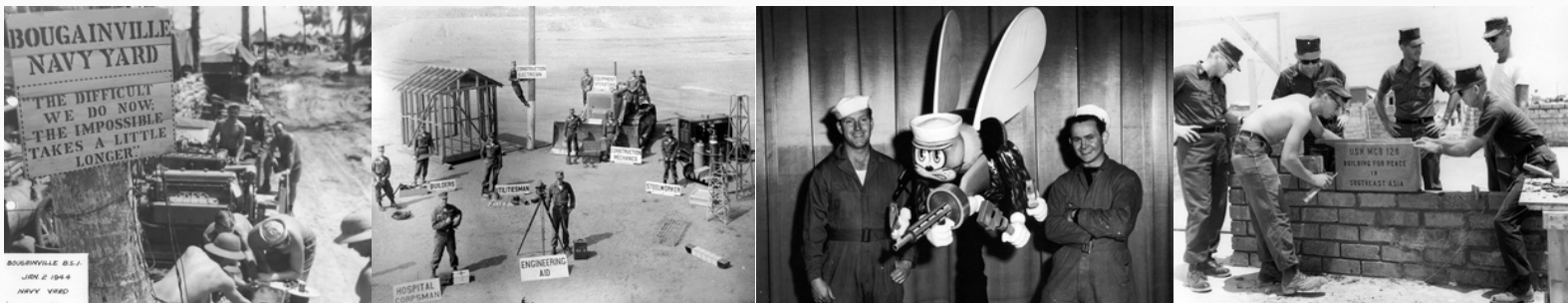
While the global landscape has changed, the mission remains remarkably consistent. Seabees continue to support combatant commanders worldwide by constructing expeditionary facilities, improving infrastructure, responding to natural disasters, and strengthening partnerships with allied nations. From wartime airfields to humanitarian missions, the Seabee spirit remains rooted in adaptability, ingenuity, and grit.

## The Power of March 5

March 5 is more than a date on the calendar. It represents the moment the Navy formally recognized a new kind of Sailor — one equally comfortable behind a blueprint or behind a barricade.

Eighty-four years later, the Seabees still embody that same “Can Do” attitude that began in 1942.

And the mission continues.



## The Birth of the Civil Engineer Corps

For more than a century, Civil Engineer Corps officers have celebrated 2 March 1867 as the birth-date of their corps. However, the truth of the Civil Engineer Corps' origin is somewhat more complicated than a simple establishment on a single date.

Whatever the significance of 2 March 1867, there is no doubt that prior to that date Navy civil engineers were not commissioned officers and did not comprise a staff corps. They were simply civil servants employed at the Bureau of Yards and Docks and at the various navy yards under its cognizance. Instead of "civil servant," the contemporary term "civil officer" was most often used to describe such civilian employees during this epoch. Nevertheless, this term is ambiguous to some degree. In the 1860s and 1870s, it was synonymous with the term "civil servant;" however, during much of the 19th century, the Navy also used the term "civil officer" to mean a commissioned officer of a staff corps. This usage was perfectly consistent, since line officers during this period considered staff officers to be nothing more than noncombatant civilian specialists in uniform, despite the fact that staff officers held Presidential commissions just as line officers did. The first Navy civil engineers were few in number; there were only seven on 7 March 1867. Premier among them was William P. S. Sanger, whom, as we learned earlier, the Board of Navy Commissioners originally hired as a staff civil engineer in 1836.

Until 1850, the Navy paid its civil engineers out of funds provided for the works they were supervising. However, in 1850 they were placed on the civil list along with naval constructors. They were henceforth "civil officers" and the Navy paid them out of funds appropriated for the pay of the personnel of its civil establishment.

The first indication that the Navy was considering making its civil engineers into commissioned officers appeared in the Secretary of the Navy's report of 5 December 1855. In it, Secretary of the Navy James C. Dobbin said, "After much reflection and attentive observation of the practical workings of the present system, I am very favorably inclined to the plan suggested by a predecessor, of establishing a distinct corps in the Navy, whose duty shall be confined to

hydrography, ordnance, civil engineering, and other scientific duties."

Despite Secretary Dobbin's being "favorably inclined," there was no change in the status of civil engineers until 1867.

On 2 March 1867 -- the date that would one day be celebrated as the birth-date of the Civil Engineer Corps -- the Thirty-Ninth Congress devoted exactly thirty-one words to civil engineers (and naval storekeepers) in an appropriations act: "Provided that civil engineers and Naval storekeepers, when required at any of the Navy yards, shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,...." These few words do not make it clear that the Civil Engineer Corps came into being on the date of the 1867 act. The act says nothing about civil engineers being commissioned nor does it mention the establishment of a new staff corps.

The latter would, of course, follow from the former. The key phrase of the act is "...shall be appointed by the President...." Prior to 2 March 1867, civil engineers, like other civilian employees, were appointed by the Secretary of the Navy henceforth, the President would appoint them. As well as making civil appointments, the President also appointed men to commissioned officer status.

Did Congress intend to give civil engineers commissioned status by making their position a presidential appointment? Unfortunately, Congress' intent is not clear -- the act is simply too brief and vague for this conclusion to be drawn. Can the status of naval storekeepers, who are included in the act, provide a clue to Congress' intent? Unfortunately, no. Depending upon the situation, both civilian employees and commissioned officers could hold the appointment of naval storekeeper.

Nevertheless, one pivotal fact can be extracted from the act of 2 March 1867. It was now at least possible to consider civil engineers commissioned officers. Prior to 1867, they could not have been commissioned officers under any circumstances because they did not hold presidential appointments. However, the act of 2 March 1867 was so ambiguous about the status of Navy civil engineers that an additional fourteen years were to pass before they would completely win recognition as commissioned officers constituting a new staff corps.

For almost two years after the passage of the act of 2 March 1867, there was nothing to indicate that the status of civil engineers had changed. The Navy Register of 1 January 1868, a publication which lists all commissioned and warrant officers, did not list civil engineers. The Navy also continued to pay civil engineers from funds appropriated for its civil establishment.

The following year, however, brought a change. The Navy Register of 1 January 1869, listed five civil engineers in a section entitled "Naval Constructors and Civil Engineers" (naval constructors had been commissioned officers since 13 March 1863 and constituted a staff corps).

Nevertheless, the register does not show civil engineers in its pay table, indicating that the Navy still did not pay them out of funds appropriated for military personnel. It is in the Register of 1869 that the term "commission" is first used in conjunction with civil engineers. A "date of commission" of 28 March 1867, is given for the five civil engineers listed in the register.

Inexplicably, the register does not list William Sanger among the civil engineers, although he was most certainly a Navy civil engineer in 1869. Sanger first appears in the Register of 1 January 1873, and 3 March 1867, is given as his date of commission.

The "commission" referred to in the register must be a military commission and not simply a civilian appointment because only military officers are supposed to appear in the registers and the same terminology is used in the section dealing with line officers. Congress changed the pay status of civil engineers the following year. The third section of the act of 15 July 1870 (Section 1556, Revised Statutes), which fixed the pay of Navy officers on the active list, included civil engineers in its provisions. Henceforth, the Navy paid civil engineers out of the military personnel appropriation. Both the Navy and Treasury Departments clearly recognized civil engineers to be commissioned officers. Their pay was fixed on the longevity system like that of other officers and deductions were made for the benefit of the Navy Hospital Fund. Under the Law of 1799 only "the officers, seamen, and marines of the Navy of the United States" were liable for this levy.

*(Continued on next page.)*

## The Birth of the Civil Engineer Corps (cont.)

The Register of 1 January 1871 reflected this change in status; there was now a listing for civil engineers in the officers' pay table. Thus, civil engineers were appointed by the President, listed in the Navy Register, and paid as commissioned officers. The only thing that civil engineers lacked was rank.

Until 3 March 1899 staff corps officers did not possess military rank. Rank was a jealously guarded prerogative of line officers. Instead of military rank, the Navy granted staff corps officers "relative rank." Staff corps officers had professional titles (i.e., chief engineer, assistant surgeon, paymaster, etc.) and "ranked with" corresponding line officer grades (i.e., "pay director ranking with captain"), but did not have actual rank. Until 1871 no attempt was made to assign even relative rank to civil engineers. This was changed on 3 March 1871 when Congress passed an act which stated that "civil engineers shall have such relative rank as the President may fix." Despite this new authority, another ten years would pass before a president would "fix" relative rank for Navy civil engineers.

Congress in an act of 27 February 1877 further clarified the status of civil engineers. In Sections 1473 through 1479 of the Revised Statutes, Congress discusses the relative rank assigned to officers of the Medical Corps, Pay Corps, Engineer Corps, Naval Constructors, Civil Engineers, and Chaplains. (Section 1478 dealing with civil engineers merely repeats the words of the act of 1 January 1871.) Next follows an emendation to Section 1480 which states: "The grades established in the six preceding sections for the staff corps of the Navy shall be filled by appointment from the highest members in each staff corps." Since one of these "six preceding sections" is devoted to civil engineers, Congress clearly indicated that it considered civil engineers to be commissioned officers comprising a staff corps.

In 1878, however, the position of Navy civil engineers was completely reversed as a result of a dispute over the dismissal of one of their number. Attorney General Charles Devens in an opinion of 18 November 1878 ruled, "The appointment [of civil engineers] is local in its character. And although under the act of 3 March 1871, the President was given discretionary power to confer relative rank upon civil engineers, this power has never been

exercised, and they have no rank by which their relation to the officers or men in the Navy can be determined: Held, accordingly; (1) that civil engineers (in the absence of any action by the President conferring upon them relative rank) are not to be considered Naval officers, but civil officers...."

This ruling, drastic as it might seem, did not appear to affect the status of civil engineers in the Navy. Civil engineers appear in the Navy Registers of 1 July 1878, 1 January 1879, and 1 January 1880 without any indication that their status as officers was altered.

In 1881, the whole question of the status of civil engineers was finally resolved. The first significant event took place on 24 February 1881 when the President "conferred relative rank on civil engineers of the Navy, and fixed the same as follows: one with the relative rank of captain; two with the relative rank of commander; three with the relative rank of lieutenant commander; and four with the relative rank of lieutenant."

Shortly thereafter, Navy civil engineers, armed with their new relative rank, sought a final resolution of their legal status from the Justice Department. They no doubt wanted a reversal of the 1878 Justice Department opinion that they were not naval officers. The civil engineers petitioned Attorney General Wayne I. MacVeagh to respond to the following question: "Are civil engineers of the Navy officers in the Navy or civil officers connected with the Navy?"

On 12 April 1881 Attorney General MacVeagh, taking into account the relevant acts and amended statutes, reversed the decision of his predecessor and further stated, "...I am led to the conclusion that the civil engineers in the Naval service must be regarded as a staff corps of the Navy -- that they are officers in the Navy' possessing...defined relative rank as such with other officers in the Navy, and are not merely 'civil officers' connected with the Navy."

The petitioning civil engineers further asked whether they were entitled to full retirement rights as naval officers. Once again, the Attorney General answered in the affirmative. Taking advantage of this second decision, William P. S. Sanger retired from the Navy on 15 October 1881 with the relative rank of captain. He had

completed fifty-one years of service to the Navy, first as a civilian employee with Loammi Baldwin and later with the Navy Department and, finally, as a commissioned naval officer. Three other long-serving Navy civil engineers, Benjamin Chandler, Norman Stratton, and Calvin Brown, also chose to retire in October 1881.

Whatever the initial status of civil engineers, the Navy did not grant them a uniform until 1881. Six months after the President fixed the relative rank of civil engineers, a uniform circular of 24 August 1881, specified that civil engineers were to wear a regulation staff officer's uniform with the rank stripes placed on a background of light-blue velvet cloth. In addition, the letters "C.E." were to be embroidered in silver old-English script on the shoulder straps and epaulets.

Thus, after fourteen years, Navy civil engineers finally managed to win full recognition as commissioned officers, comprising their own staff corps, and possessing a distinctive uniform.

Why did the first Civil Engineer Corps officers have to suffer so many vicissitudes in order to win recognition for their new status? Part of the problem undoubtedly resulted from the line officer view of staff officers during the 19th century. As Charles O. Paullin in his History of Naval Administration says, "The line naturally resisted the assignment of rank to the staff. An institution that has developed traditions and a corporate life, and that enjoys a monopoly of rights and privileges, is wont to resist strenuously its being cheapened or made common either by undue additions to its membership or by extension of its privileges to others."

Nevertheless, the Navy and the line seem to have accepted civil engineers as commissioned officers fairly early on -- witness their appearance in the Navy Register of 1869. What probably contributed most to the difficulties experienced by Navy civil engineers in winning recognition as commissioned officers was simply their small number and their widely scattered geographical distribution. Of the seven civil engineers in 1867, only Sanger was at the Bureau of

*(Continued on next page.)*

## The Birth of the Civil Engineer Corps (cont.)

Yard and Docks in Washington, DC; the rest were located, one each at various navy yards. Such a small, widely dispersed group did not command much influence in the Navy Department or Congress. Given these very real disadvantages, it is a tribute to the ability and professionalism of these first Navy civil engineers that it did not take them much longer to win recognition for themselves as regular commissioned officers of the Navy.

The struggle to achieve equality with officers of the line and other staff corps was by no means over in 1881. For though recognized as commissioned officers, Civil Engineer Corps officers still could not aspire to the office of Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. Another seventeen years would pass before a Civil Engineer Corps officer became chief, in spite of the fact that the senior officers of the other staff corps were already chiefs of their respective bureaus.



*Photo: The first Navy Civil Engineer Corps officers: B.F. Chandler, F.C. Prindle, W.P.S. Sanger, F.A. Hastings, and Charles Hastings, c. 1860s. The Navy created the Civil Engineer Corps on March 2, 1867. The original duties of the Civil Engineer Corps included the charge, erection and repair of all buildings, docks, and wharves; supervising the architect, and directing all masters and other workers involved in building public works. Civil Engineer Corps officers were not required to wear a navy uniform until 1881 when the leaf insignia was created.*

## ...Always a Seabee!

### San Antonio, Texas

Oldest VFW post in Texas 76. NSVA dedication of beautiful Artwork.



CALLING ALL CREATIVES!

# DESIGN THE 2026 SEABEE 5K SHIRT!



## DESIGN CONTEST!

Calling all creatives! The Navy Seabee Foundation is inviting artists, designers, and Seabee supporters of all ages to submit an original design for the official shirt of the 2nd Annual Virtual Seabee 5K. This is your chance to showcase your creativity while supporting the Seabee community. The winning design will be featured on the back of the official race shirt worn by participants around the world during Virtual Seabee 5K Week: July 1-7, 2026.

## HOW TO ENTER

Designs should be bold, screen-print friendly, and include the text "2nd Annual Virtual Seabee 5K" and "2026." The Foundation will add the official Seabee 5K logo to the front chest of the shirt, as well as the sponsor logo.

The contest is open March 1 – April 22, 2026, and the selected designer will receive a \$250 cash prize, three official 2026 Seabee 5K shirts, recognition on Navy Seabee Foundation platforms, and bragging rights!! Show us what you've got — and help design a shirt Seabees everywhere will wear with pride.

Enter by April 22, 2026 • 11:59 PM | PST



### \$250 PRIZE!

Send your design to [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)

Full contest rules, artwork guidelines, and submission details are available at [seabee.org/events/seabee-5k-info/](https://seabee.org/events/seabee-5k-info/)



# 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).



Boulder Crest is a nationally-recognized charity organization [501(c)3] serving members of the military, veterans, first-responders, and their families. With your help, we are building a world where all people can thrive in the aftermath of trauma.

Boulder Crest is the home of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG). We offer life-changing programs free of charge to members of the military, veterans, and first responder communities, and their families. We train our nation's heroes to thrive in the aftermath of trauma. Here's how.

## Our Philosophy

We are transforming our nation's approach to mental health through the science of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG). We won't leave our nation's Warriors behind.

Our veteran and first responder communities are struggling under the weight of trauma. They desperately deserve an innovative and lasting approach – one founded on hope and possibility. Our Posttraumatic Growth (PTG) training programs teach our participants how to make peace with their past, live in the present, and begin planning for their future.

## Strong family connections matter

Boulder Crest understands the sacrifices and stresses of military and veteran families. Through our signature PATHH programs and Rest and Reconnection (R&R) Stays, families have an opportunity to learn more about themselves and each

other and rediscover the love and connections that brought them together.

## Issues we tackle

### Training & Education

Our Posttraumatic Growth-based curriculum and programs enable participants to thrive after trauma through research-supported, evidence-based methods.

### Community & Technology

Our programs are not catch-and-release, but rather continuous and supportive through our strong partner location relationships and connected communities (both online and offline).

### Research & Evaluation

We measure and publish the impact of training programs via qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches.

### Social & Policy Change

By inspiring innovative and like-minded individuals, organizations, donors and policymakers to proliferate the science of PTG, we can change our nation's approach to mental health.

## A mission grounded in evidence-based science

As the home of PTG, we train our nation's heroes to live great lives in the aftermath of trauma through the science of Posttraumatic Growth. We envision a world where all members of the military, veteran, and first responder communities have the training, skills, and support they need to transform their struggle into lifelong growth.

## Our groundbreaking Boulder Crest Institute

Our Institute serves as the hub for the development, delivery, study, and scaling of our PTG programs. Dr. Richard Tedeschi, who coined the term “Posttraumatic Growth” after a decade of research and clinical work focused on trauma survivors, is the Executive Director of our PTG-based think tank.

For more information on how you can receive or support these services, please visit: <https://bouldercrest.org/>



# REUNIONS & EVENTS

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

## ONGOING

- Now-Apr 4 Smithsonian Lowrider Culture Exhibit at the Navy Seabee Museum, Port Hueneme, CA
- Now-Apr 15 Navy Seabee Foundation Scholarship Applications accepted online at [seabee.org](http://seabee.org)
- Now-Apr 22 Seabee Virtual 5K T-Shirt Design Contest Entries accepted via email to [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)

## MARCH 2026

- 2 159th Civil Engineer Corps Birthday  
Monday, March 2
- 5 84th Seabee Birthday  
Wednesday, March 5
- 6 Hawaii Seabee Ball  
Friday, March 6 - Hale Koa, Honolulu, HI
- Fredericksburg TX Seabee Birthday Weekend  
Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8, Fredericksburg, TX
- 7 Rota, Spain Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 7 - Cadiz, Spain
- Hampton Roads Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 7 - Norfolk, VA
- NAVFAC Southeast Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 7 - Jacksonville, FL
- 11th Annual U S Navy Seabee Birthday/All Military Ball  
Saturday, March 7 - Hiwassee, GA
- Midwest Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 7 - Bloomington, MN
- Pacific Northwest Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 7 - Bremerton, WA
- NAWS China Lake Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 7 - Ridgecrest, CA
- 8 Troy, NY Seabee Ball  
Sunday, March 8 - Lake George, NY
- Lubbock, TX Seabee Birthday  
Sunday, March 8 - Lubbock, TX
- 14 Naples, Italy Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 14 - Naples, Italy
- Seabee Memorial Wreath Laying  
Saturday, March 14 - Arlington, VA, 9am

- 14 DC NCR Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 14 - Arlington, VA
- NMCB 25 REUNION  
Saturday, March 14 - Galena, IL
- Salt Lake Seabee Birthday  
Saturday, March 14 - Hill AFB, UT
- 17 NMCB 128 REUNION  
March 17-19 - Gulfport, MS
- 21 Okinawa Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 21, Okinawa, Japan
- Ft. Leonard Wood Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 21, Lake Ozark, MO
- 28 Key West, FL Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 28 - Key West, FL
- Gulfport, MS Seabee Ball  
Saturday, March 28 - Mississippi Coast Coliseum
- Lowrider Car Show at the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum  
Saturday, March 28 - Port Hueneme, CA

## APRIL 2026

- 15 NSF Scholarship Application Deadline  
Wednesday, April 15 - [Seabee.org](http://Seabee.org)
- 16-19 NSVA All Seabee Reunion  
April 16-19 - Gulfport, MS
- NMCB 121 Reunion  
April 16-19 - Gulfport, MS
- 18 NCBC Gulfport Seabee Day  
Saturday, April 18 - Gulfport, MS
- 23 NMCB 74 All Eras Group Mini Reunion  
Thursday, April 23 - Branson, MO
- 29 2026 Gulf Coast Seabee Golf Tournament  
Wednesday, April 29 - The Club at Diamondhead, MS  
Register at [seabee.org](http://seabee.org)
- 30-3 NMCB 24 Reunion  
April 30-May 3 - Chattanooga, TN

## MAY 2026

- 1-3 NMCB 74 Desert Storm/ Desert Shield Reunion  
May 1-3 - Long Beach, MS
- 2 Seabee Days - Hueneme  
Saturday, May 2 - Port Hueneme, CA
- 12-18 MCB58 Reunion  
May 12-18 - San Antonio, TX

## JUNE 2026

- 8 2026 DC Seabee Golf Tournament  
Monday, June 8 - Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, VA  
Register at [seabee.org](http://seabee.org)
- 15 Northeast Seabee Golf Tournament Davisville  
Monday, June 15 - North Kingstown, RI
- 23-26 MCB-12 Vietnam Reunion 1968-1969  
June 23-26 - 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 - Fairbanks Ranch Country Club Rancho Santa Fe, CA. Register at [Seabee.org](http://Seabee.org)

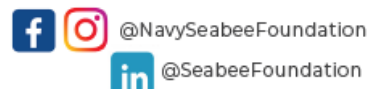
## SEPTEMBER 2026

- 15-17 CBMU 302 Reunion Association 2026  
September 15-17 - Bloomington, MN
- 21-24 MCB11 & NMCB 8 Associations Joint Reunion  
September 21-24 - Colorado Springs, CO
- 26 NMCB 14 Association Reunion  
Saturday, September 26 - Orlando, FL

## OCTOBER 2026

- 1-30 2026 OktoBEEfest  
More info at [seabee.org/events/oktobeepests/](http://seabee.org/events/oktobeepests/)
- 8 2026 Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Tournament  
Thursday, October 8 - Virginia Beach National Golf Club, VA - Register at [seabee.org](http://seabee.org)

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



Follow us on social media to stay in the know!

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

Attention  
Seabees!!!

**We're looking for all living WWII Seabees.**

If you know of one in your area, please contact us so that we can honor their immense contributions to our legacy.

Email: [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)

Attention  
Seabees!!!

Support the Navy Seabee Foundation – Play for a Great Cause!

# 2026 Seabee Golf Tournaments:



WEDNESDAY  
**APRIL 29**

📍 The Club at  
Diamondhead



MONDAY  
**JUNE 8**

📍 Westfields Golf  
Club, Clifton, VA



MONDAY  
**AUGUST 10**

📍 Fairbanks Ranch  
Country Club



THURSDAY  
**OCTOBER 8**

📍 Virginia Beach  
National Golf Club



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



**NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION**

# CELEBRATING IN 2026?

Let us know about your Seabee event!  
We'll help you get the word out!

**SEABEE.ORG**

# Seabee Bricks

A memorial brick is the perfect way to honor that special Seabee family member or friend in your life – a thoughtful gift that will permanently display their name and honor their service to their country.

Customize your brick with your own special message. It can be a tribute to a former or current Seabee, a Seabee unit, your own service.

**\$125**

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

PORT HUENEME, CA

GULFPORT, MS

# 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 and CEC 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 PT. Hueneme.



### Navy Seabee Foundation Redbubble Shop

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



### Old Salt Coffee "Can Do Brew"

Old Salt Coffee donates \$1 per bag of coffee sold to the Navy Seabee Foundation's efforts to support Seabees and their families.

## OTHER SEABEE STORES SUPPORTING SEABEES



### Davisville Museum Seabee Store

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

# Check out the Jobs List!

*new!*  
**CAN DO**  
Career Connection  
[seabee.org](http://seabee.org)

## TRANSFORM LIVES WITH YOUR DONATION

**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!**

facebook  
linkedin  
Instagram

## Because You Served, They Could Benefit. Navy Seabee Foundation Scholarships for Seabee Children & Grandchildren!



For more than 50 years, we've honored the legacy of Seabee service by investing in the next generation. Each year, the Navy Seabee Foundation awards scholarships to children and grandchildren of Navy Seabees, Civil Engineer Corps Officers and those who've served in the Naval Construction Force supporting a wide range of educational paths, including:



- Four-year colleges and universities
- Community colleges
- Career & Technical Education (CTE) and Trade Schools



**Applications Due by April 15th**

Navy Seabee Foundation Scholarship Application open online at [Seabee.org](https://Seabee.org).

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

# 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.



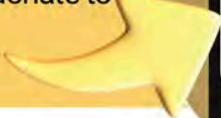
## **Text to Give**

Text "Seabee" to 44321 to donate from your phone



## **Venmo Donation**

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

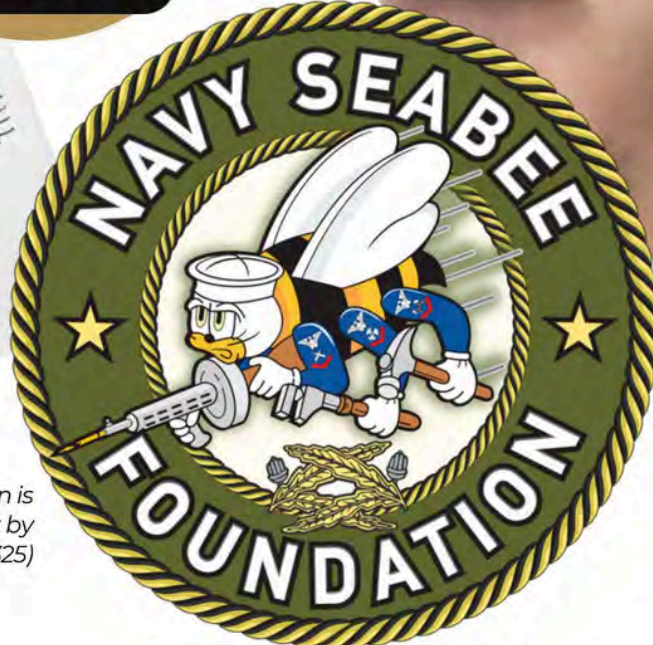


## **Donate by Mail**

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)





# THANK YOU!

SUSTAINING PARTNER:



moffatt & nichol  
Creative People, Practical Solutions.®

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS:

70E Solutions / Allan Myers / Alliant Insurance Services Inc. / Associated General Contractors-San Diego / Balfour Beatty / Belcastro Construction Management / Bergelectric Corp / BMK Ventures / Boeing / Broaddus & Associates / Brown Strauss Steel / Burns & McDonnell / C.J. Management Group Inc. / Casper Company / Cellon & Associates, Inc. / Charles Schwab / Crest Steel / Cuts, Inc / ECS Mid Atlantic, LLC / Electricore, Inc. / ELEN Consulting Inc. / FA Design Build / Frederick Derr & Company, Inc / Gannett Fleming / GCR, Inc. / GET Solutions/Terracon / GovGig / Harkins Builders, Inc. / Harrison County Development Commission / Herman Construction / Hess Brewing / Incredible Supply and Logistics / J. L. Davis Electrical Contractor, Inc. / Karpinski Engineering / Marathon Construction McParlane & Associates / MPC Computer Products / New York Life / Pucket Cat / Puppenpa Construction / RE/MAX Alliance / RE/MAX Alliance / RLM / Rock Spring Contracting / Salem Five / SAME- Hampton Roads / Savvy Builders / Steel Fab / Stranix & Associates / Superior Cleaning Equipment Inc. / Tetra Tech / Trestle Construction / The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company / Tinkle Town / United States Marine / VOC Associates, LLC / Waste Pro

# 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)