

JUNE 2026

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# BEE NEWS



Official Newsletter of the Navy Seabee Foundation



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# BEE NEWS

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## NAVFAC NW honors Marvin Shields and all veterans lost in wars and by terrorists



NAVFAC Northwest, members of the Patriot Guard Riders, Port Townsend American Legion, and many others participated in a Memorial Day weekend ceremony at the gravesite of CM3 Marvin G. Shields to honor him and all service members who have died in combat or by terrorist actions.

Guest of honor attendees included Marvin Shields' widow, Joan and her husband, Dick Bennett, and Marvin's brother, Ron Shields.

June 10<sup>th</sup> marks the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Marvin Shields' heroic actions as part of Seabee Team 1104 at the Battle of Dong Xoai for which he was posthumously bestowed the Medal of Honor.

One other Seabee, SW2 William C. Hoover, was also killed during this battle and he was posthumously presented the Bronze Star with "V" for Valor.

*\*Read the Memorial Veterans Watch on page 3.*



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Candid.

## Memorial Veterans Watch

For 250 years

Our Nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen,  
Coast Guardsmen, Space Force Guardians,  
And National Guard have stood the watch

Since our country was born  
These patriots stood the watch  
While our nation rose to prominence  
These warriors stood the watch

Yes...even when we fought the war amongst ourselves  
Our military stood the watch

In ALL those times when the storm clouds of war  
Were seen brewing on the horizon of history  
These men and women wearing the cloth of our Nation  
Stood the watch

Many times they would cast an eye ashore  
And see their families standing there  
Needing their guidance and help  
Needing that hand to hold during those hard times  
But they still stood the watch

They stood the watch for 250 years  
They stood the watch so that we, our families and  
Our fellow countrymen could sleep soundly in safety,  
Each and every night  
Knowing that a patriot stood the watch

And during that watch since 1776, approximately  
1.2 million United States Armed Forces service members  
Stood their final watch:

- **American Civil War:** ~620,000 (Union and Confederate combined)
- **World War I:** 116,516
- **World War II:** ~405,399
- **Korean War:** 36,574
- **Vietnam War:** 58,220
- **Operation Just Cause** (Panama): 23
- **Persian Gulf War** (Desert Shield/Storm): 382
- **Global War on Terror** (Iraq, Afghanistan, and related operations): ~7,000

These include 407 Seabees who stood their final watch:

- **World War II:** 300
- **Vietnam War:** 84
- **Gulf War:** 19
- **Killed by Terrorists:** 4

Of the total who paid the ultimate sacrifice  
The Medal of Honor has been posthumously bestowed  
On 618 patriots, including one Seabee,  
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity  
At the risk of life  
Above and beyond the call of duty.

Today we are here to say  
'Patriots... the watch stands relieved  
Relieved by those you have trained, guided, and led  
You stand relieved... these Warriors have the watch..."  
"America...Standby to pipe the side...  
Our fallen have gone Ashore and now serve  
On the Staff of the Supreme Commander  
And our Mighty stand the watch."

## Seabees Build Counter-Drug Riverine Base for Colombian Marines

By Arline Cervantes, Archivist,  
US Navy Seabee Museum

In line with President George H.W. Bush's national drug control strategy, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney directed the U.S. armed forces to actively engage in combating the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States. This military support was aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of foreign forces in destroying drug processing laboratories, disrupting drug-producing enterprises, and controlling land, river, and air routes within their countries.

At the request of the Colombian government, an aggressive riverine program was established to assist its Marine Corps in developing a fully functional mobile task force capable of conducting prolonged operations in hostile river environments. The Counterdrug and Riverine Program was a unique joint training initiative with the U.S. Marine Corps, which provided Colombian Riverine Combat Elements (RCEs) the opportunity to reassert the country's sovereignty over its inland waterways.

One of the main problems associated with controlling drug traffic in Colombia stems from the country's rich network of rivers. A significant portion of Colombia's land border regions are marked by rivers that can branch out and provide multiple entry points into the country's interior. With over 18,000 km of navigable rivers to secure, the Colombian riverine operations bases, managed by the Colombian Marine Corps, are critical hubs for countering trafficking and insurgency. Key bases are stationed along major rivers and coastal areas of the country.

In addition to the training provided to every RCE by the U.S. Marines, the Counterdrug and Riverine Program enhanced Colombian riverine bases by deploying U.S. Navy Seabees to construct facilities at strategic combat sites. On September 28, 1992, a nine-month construction project commenced at the riverine counter-narcotics base camp in San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia, located along the Guaviare River.

Within just three months, a 45-man detachment from NMCB-4 cleared the jungle, placed over 1,100 cubic yards of concrete, built two large pre-engineered buildings, and installed the base's electrical system. By March 14, 1993, a 38-man detachment from NMCB-5 took over the project and completed the construction of the base.

The overall construction included a concrete boat ramp, 13 barracks, three shower and restroom facilities, a 100-person galley, a dispensary, and two large maintenance and storage buildings. Additionally, the Seabees drilled a water well, installed four water tanks, and, with the assistance of two U.S. Marines, built the perimeter security system.

On June 10, 1993, a new base was officially handed over to the Colombian Marines during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by officials from both Colombia and the United States. According to Lt. Alvaro Cruz, the commander of the base's Colombian Marines, this new facility significantly enhanced their operational capabilities by providing the logistical

support they had been missing on the river, thanks to the Seabees.

With the support of the Seabees, the Colombian Marines were able to deploy further and for longer periods to combat the illegal drug trafficking that had plagued the region for years. The new base also replaced the old Colombian Marine barracks, which were repurposed into a primary school, marking the first educational institution for the native population in that area. This school, along with the new base, became the hub of community life and fostered development in the surrounding regions.

Through these deployments, the Seabees bolstered Colombia's riverine security by constructing essential infrastructure, particularly for the Colombian Marine Corps, to aid in the fight against drug trafficking. Key missions included building riverine combat bases and various specialized infrastructure projects. These efforts underscored the partnership between U.S. and Colombian forces aimed at improving regional stability and enhancing humanitarian capacity.



Top left: Colombian Marines carrying instruments onto the nearly complete riverine operations base in San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia.

Top right: CN William Kilmon works out on a makeshift weight machine at a riverine operations base in San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia.



Left: A Colombian Marine patrols at a riverine operations base in San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia.

## A Seabee's Story: Frank Palmer

A Seabee's story is a series that starts with a questionnaire that a Seabee may use to get the storytelling juices flowing, but they may divert from the questions in any way they want to say their story however they choose.

This is Frank's story.

**Name:** Frank C. Palmer.

### **Tell me about your military service, or ties to the Seabees:**

It feels as though I have been connected to the Seabees my entire life. I originally entered through the Apprenticeship Program as an MA, but after some challenges in my youth growing up in Tacoma, Washington, I decided to move on quickly after graduation and was told to change my rate. I was then given the opportunity to select a Seabee rate and was told, in a story I still remember well, that I would be building golf courses. As a third-generation Equipment Operator, I felt called to follow in the footsteps of my father and grandfather. My wife served five years as a CM3 and was among the first enlisted women in a Seabee battalion, NMCB FOUR. My middle daughter was also awarded the Seabee Scholarship in 2014, which she used while attending UC Irvine.

### **What years (and how many) did you serve?**

I served from 1993 to 2018, completing 25 years, 10 months, and 2 days of service.

### **If you did active and/or reserve duty, please share specifics.**

I served on active duty from the first day of my career.



### **What command/s did you serve in?**

- NMCB FOUR – 1993-1997
- CBU 417, Whidbey Island, Washington 1997-2000
- ACB ONE – 2000-2004
- CBU427 and then commissioned CBMU 303 – 2004 – 2006 (Left early to go back to Battalion)
- NMCB FOUR – 2006 – 2009 – (Ramadi, Iraqi, and Djibouti, Africa)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment – 2009 – 2012
- NMCB FIVE – 2012 -2014
- NMCB FOUR – 2014 -2017
- 30<sup>th</sup> NCR – 2017
- VFA 97 Warhawks, Naval Hospital Lemoore 2017 -2018

### **Which one was your favorite?**

NMCB FOUR was my favorite assignment. It had an outstanding CMDCM in Tom Cyr and an exceptional Chief's Mess that included Tom Carter, whom I entered the Navy with, along with Jamie White, Vern Forrester, Jeremy Kirkindoll, John Scroggs, and many other remarkable leaders. The Wardroom was equally impressive under the leadership of Skipper Hamer, as were the company commanders, including now-CAPT Lopez-Martinez and CAPT Rafi Miranda, whom I was fortunate to serve under. The troops were exceptional, and what we accomplished in Ramadi, Iraq, and Djibouti, Africa, remains a source of pride for me to this day.

### **Got a good sea story?**

In 1996 at Whidbey Island, I was a young EO2 when my LPO had to return to San Francisco due to a family loss. Before leaving, he entrusted me to oversee a project in his absence. The assignment was to construct a one-mile bike lane near the back gate of NAS Whidbey Island by the hospital. Most of the route was straightforward, but near the gate we had to raise the elevation by approximately 22 feet at a 2:1 slope for bicycle access. We nicknamed it the "Space Shuttle" ramp.

With EO1 Jeff Argumedo on leave and me as the only other Equipment Operator in the command, I had a small team that included a BU2 operating a front-end loader, a CE3 serving as a laborer, and me operating a D5 and an

older Champion 710A grader. Determined not to disappoint my mentor and friend, we worked from sunrise to sunset, including weekends. My wife even brought us hot soup at the jobsite while carrying our daughter. We knew we had 13 days before the asphalt crew arrived and Jeff returned, so we gave the project everything we had.

When EO1 returned on a Sunday, I was at the site admiring the road and ramp we had built. I was proud of the work and eager to show him the results. On Monday morning, I waited for the opportunity to take him to the jobsite. By lunchtime, he still had not gone, and being eager for his feedback, I finally asked him to visit the site before the end of the day.

When we arrived, I was extremely proud of the work, especially because it surpassed any road I had built previously in Adak, Alaska. Jeff quietly paced the "Space Shuttle" ramp while I waited for his reaction. Then, without warning, he began critiquing the work, saying the road was off center, kicking rocks and even noting that it was "1/16th of an inch off." At 22 years old, I was deeply discouraged. After that, our relationship was not quite the same, and he later transferred without much further discussion. His wife, who was from Guam, had by then come to think of me as a younger brother. We did not reconnect until years later at muster at ACB-ONE, when we were both EO1's. We then spent time together as families, and not long after, we deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jeff later retired, and I assumed I would not see them again.



## A Seabee's Story: Frank Palmer (cont.)

Fast forward to 2013: I was serving as the AOIC for NMCB FIVE Detachment Guam in support of an Army mission when I ran into retired EO1 Jeff Argumedo at the NEX. He greeted me warmly, and we picked up the conversation as though no time had passed. A few weeks later, he called and invited me to bring the Seabees to a family barbecue. When I asked how many to bring, he told me to bring all of them. I gathered 22 troops, loaded the bus, and we headed to Dededo.

At his family home in the village, my detachment enjoyed local food, including parrotfish, keleguen, pork belly, and chicken, and the atmosphere was outstanding. We also had a solid liberty plan and designated drivers in place. During the gathering, one of my motivated junior personnel, having built up "some courage," asked me in front of my mentor and adopted sister, "Master Chief, why is it that nothing is ever good enough for you, no matter how hard we try?" The entire backyard fell silent.

I responded by asking whether he truly wanted to know why, and when he said yes, I pointed to Jeff and said, "He is the reason why." My troops did not know how to react, and someone quietly suggested getting the bus ready. Jeff began laughing, which only intensified my frustration because, even 17 years later, he seemed to find the situation amusing. Then my adopted sister, now gone but never forgotten, asked me to tell the story of why 1/16th of an inch had mattered so much. I retold the events from that cold winter day on Whidbey Island while my troops listened closely.

She then turned to Jeff and asked him to explain what had really happened. In that small backyard, with chickens wandering through the village setting, he finally told the truth. He said it was the best road he had seen built in his years as an Equipment Operator and that he could not find anything truly wrong with it. However, he believed that if he had told me that at the time, I might have stopped striving for excellence. Instead, he challenged me so I would continue pursuing the highest possible standard.

My troops had a good laugh at my expense, and it became a memorable evening of fellowship and reflection. Sadly, my adopted sister, Jeff's wife, passed away from a rare form of bone cancer on Veterans Day in 2014. Her final words to me were, "Frankie, continue to chase your 1/16th of an inch in all you do."

### **Got another good sea story?**

In 2003, we were offloading 12 Maritime Prepositioning Ships at the port of Shuaiba and running 24-hour rotations to Kuwait Naval Base, where we were building an ELCAS(M) and an expeditionary camp. It was exhausting work, the kind that blurs one day into the next, but it was also the kind of mission that stays with you. On one of our last convoys, with about 22 VICs stretched out behind us and the sun starting to drop, our wrecker suddenly ran out of fuel. I honestly did not even know that was possible. We spent about an hour on the side of the road in a defensive posture before realizing all they had to do was switch over the fuel tanks.

This was just days before the war in Iraq began, and everyone felt the weight of that moment. At the time, I was an EO1, and I remember walking from vehicle to vehicle, checking on the troops and looking each one of them in the eyes. In moments like that, you could feel both the tension and the trust. When I got back to my command vehicle, a young CM3, who shall remain nameless, crouched down beside me and whispered, "EO1, if we were to acquire a baby camel, can we keep it?" I looked at him and said, "Oh hell no. I'm not going to explain that one when we get back." A second later, I heard him yell down the line, "EO1 said NO, you have to let it go!" Even in one of the most stressful times I can remember, that moment reminded me how humor has a way of

cutting through fear and bringing people back to themselves.

About a week later, a young Marine Corps Captain, while still at the port and was in our mobile work center, a HMMWV, and asked if we could help jump-start a tank. I told him, "No problem, we got you." Then he stated, "You know what I love about you Seabees?" Naturally, I asked, "What's that?" He said, "You all deploy with your museum and still outwork anyone." We both laughed, because honestly, there was some truth in that. I radioed my CM3 and told him to meet up with the Captain to see about the tank. A few minutes later, he ran back up to me, completely serious, and asked, "If they let me drive it, can I drive the tank?" I remember thinking there was no chance in the world they were going to let him drive a tank they had just offloaded, so I just told him, "Sure, CM3, sure." Not long after, while I was trying to get my numbers together for the 1600 brief with the General, I looked up and saw that tank flying across the staging area. All I could hear was, "Yeeehaaaaawwww, Seabees CAN DO!" I could not even be mad. Looking back now, what stays with me is not just the absurdity of the moment, but the spirit behind it. In the middle of hard work, uncertainty, and long days, that kind of energy and pride reminded me exactly who we were and why those memories still mean so much.

*"It's always the troops that make the difference!"*

### **What was your rate and final paygrade? Or current rate and paygrade?**

I retired as a CMDCM/E-9.



## A Seabee's Story: Frank Palmer (cont.)

### **What did you do after the Navy?**

After leaving the Navy, I immediately joined the City of Ventura as Fleet Supervisor. Given my health at the time, I felt it was important to slow down, return to the fundamentals, and give back to the community. I was not looking for another senior role; instead, I wanted to return to the shop floor and focus on managing equipment flow and operations. It was a meaningful way to support municipal services, including fire and police fleet operations. After five years, I retired again, and following a difficult family loss, my wife and I relocated to American Samoa, where she was born and raised.

I remained retired for about 67 days, just didn't feel right. During one of my wife's annual cancer checkups, I looked at the facility and told her, "We can do better than this." Two weeks later, I started as Maintenance Manager, and a month after that I became Director of Facilities and Plant Services. For the past 18 months, I have also had the privilege of serving the island as Interim Chief Operations Officer.

### **How did being a Seabee impact your life?**

To be candid, becoming a Seabee changed my life in profound ways. Growing up in Tacoma, Washington, in the 1990s did not always present many positive options, and the Seabees gave me purpose, a trade, and a sense of belonging. It gave me the family structure I needed at a critical time in my life. My earliest mentors were Vietnam veterans and, later, Gulf War veterans, and they mentored in a way that was direct, demanding, and deeply formative. From a technical Equipment Operator standpoint, I was fortunate to learn from outstanding professionals including EOCS CJ Rasure, EO2 Oscar Blanco, EO3 John Kirkwood, and later EO1 Jeffrey Argumedo. They showed me what excellence in the rate looked like.

As I developed into a Chief Petty Officer, I benefited from exceptional mentorship from First Class Petty Officers such as EO1 Mark Borst, EO1 Bruce Freeman, EA1 Peter Broom, and EO1 Jose Amador, who helped keep me grounded and focused. Later in my career, leaders such as UCCM Ricky Bravo, CMCS Kenny Gillette, CMDCM Tom Cyr, CMDCM Anthony Teart, and CMDCM Doug Heiner each shaped my leadership philosophy in important ways. They taught

me lessons about humility, discipline, accountability, compassion, and the importance of building strong teams.

During periods when I was working on myself personally, I was also supported without judgment by remarkable leaders and shipmates including FLTCM Delbert Terrell, CMDCM Kevin "OG Sea Daddy" Eichmann, CMDCM Kristi Thrift, CMDCM Doug Heiner, CMDCM Freddy Martinez, CMDCM Tommy Carter, CUCM Ed Gonzales, EOCS Bruce Sites, HMCS Brandie Cheeseboro, EOCS Joshua Harr, BUC Wesley Harris, and SWC Delacruz, among many others. I remain in contact with several former teammates who continue to do outstanding things as civilians. I was also fortunate to serve alongside exceptional Wardrooms throughout my 25-year career, including Admiral Troy McClelland, Skipper Lengkeek, the late CAPT Butrym, CAPT Grant Morris, CAPT Miranda, CAPT Flood, and CAPT Lopez-Martinez, Chaplain Peter Ott, LTJG (at the time) Scott Morey and many others.

Later in my career, after many peacetime and wartime deployments, the cumulative impact of service took a toll on me both mentally and physically. It was not one single event, but the weight of many experiences over time. I have always been open about my experience with PTSD, and there was a period when I was making mistakes both personally and professionally. Admiral Kilian was among the first to guide me toward self-reflection and help, and other Seabees supported me as I underwent mental health evaluation and, for the first time in my career, stepped back in order to take care of myself. That decision helped preserve not only my well-being, but also my relationship with my wife and children. There may be no "T" in CAN DO, but I learned that taking responsibility for my own healing was one of the most important things I could do.

The lasting impact of being a Seabee is the mindset that "the difficult we do at once; the impossible takes a little longer." As I continue trying to make a difference in people's lives and in health care operations, I draw on my own experiences, including both successes and failures, to help others who may be navigating similar challenges. From time to time, people still reach out to me for advice related to mental health, confidence, or leadership.

I consider that both a responsibility and a privilege. Once a Seabee, always a Seabee. I believe that every deployment, field exercise, temporary assignment, permanent change of station, and training opportunity contributed to where I am today. I am an Equipment Operator at heart, and I never would have imagined that those experiences would one day prepare me to lead facilities and operations for the only hospital on an island. The challenges, successes, and setbacks along the way all helped shape that path. I owe it all to God.

In practical terms, the Seabees shaped every aspect of my leadership. I have worked alongside retired members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and the Seabee model of small-unit leadership remains one of the most effective I have seen. Empowering people at the lowest appropriate level, while holding them accountable, works in any organization. For example, when I was unexpectedly called on to brief the governors of Hawai'i and American Samoa, along with the Senate Health Committee, I relied on the SMEAC framework and adapted it to the audience. More recently, when new Executive Board members requested updates on 21 active projects, I used the same disciplined briefing methods I first learned as a Petty Officer Third Class and Crew Leader. During the facility tour, everyone knew their role and executed it well. Those fundamentals have stayed with me throughout my career.



### A Seabee's Story: Frank Palmer (cont.)

#### What is something else you do that might be interesting to fellow Seabees?

For my family and me, giving back is central to who we are. My children coach youth sports and lead tutoring sessions, and my wife has instilled in all of us the values of Fa'aSamoa, the Samoan way of life, which emphasizes service, communal responsibility, respect for elders, and the importance of family. Three years ago, through my role at the hospital, we established an internship program with the local vocational high school to teach teamwork, trade skills, and service to others in a structured and respectful environment. The program has been highly successful, and the students look forward to contributing at the hospital during the 12-week term each year. It has also given my facilities team the opportunity to demonstrate the value of craftsmanship and pride in the trades. We implemented a similar program with Oxnard Community College and the City of Ventura, which was equally successful and resulted in the hiring of two students after the first semester.

"Train your relief" is another enduring lesson I carried forward from my time in the Seabees.

I still trace so much of who I am today back to the Seabees and to the people who took the time to invest in me. The technical skills, leadership lessons, and life experience I carry with me all started there. Looking back on the past two and a half years on this 62-square-mile island, I am proud of what our team has been able to accomplish together—especially in places where many people thought change would be impossible.

#### Some of the Work I'm Most Proud Of

- Emergency power: One of the biggest milestones for me was helping bring two 800 kW emergency generators to the island, expanding the building to house them, and tying them into the Central Plant after we spent a year rebuilding it.
- Water and hot water systems: I am especially proud that we were able to install water purification, flush and clean the lines, and add two new boilers and hot water heaters so the hospital could once again have dependable potable and hot water service.
- Diagnostic imaging: It has also meant a great deal to see us restore consistent CT scan capability with two fully functional units, and to know that the island's first MRI is finally on its way by sea.

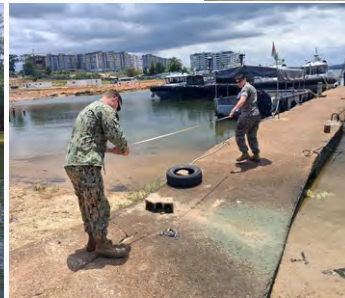
What keeps me going is that same CAN DO mindset that was built into me years ago. It is why I still believe in pushing for continuous improvement, even when the work is hard and the odds are long. Today, that means helping lead the construction of a new ICU/ER and Central Plant, completing a new roof and full storm shutter installation, creating three supervisor positions, launching a Leadership Academy, and supporting an average pay increase of 9 percent over the past year and a half. To me, all of that reflects the same lesson one of my mentors gave me during many field exercises: it is all about continuous improvement.



# 22 NCR Seabees, Marines Conduct Facility Assessments in Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

U.S. Navy Seabees and Marines conduct facility and capability assessments with the Côte d'Ivoire Navy and West Africa Regional Maritime Security Centre as part of exercise Obangame Express 2026. These combined assessments are the building blocks for future engagements, Mil-Mil cooperation, and small-scale infrastructure enhancements that will further regional maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea region. Obangame Express is one of three regional maritime exercises led by U.S. Sixth Fleet as part of a comprehensive strategy to provide collaborative opportunities to African forces and international partners to address maritime security concerns. (Courtesy photos by U.S. Navy.)



# NCBC Support AFRH Memorial Day Celebration

Seabees assigned to Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport participated in a Memorial Day ceremony at the Armed Forces Retirement Home - Gulfport honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to the United States in Gulfport, Mississippi, May 22, 2026. The ceremony included support from the Naval Construction Training Center Color Guard. (U.S. Navy photo by Jovi Prevot)



# NMCB 3 FTX operations

## Airfield Damage Repair

ACC 3-2 executed Airfield Damage Repair at Vandenberg SFB and delivered morale-boosting range projects at Fort Hunter Liggett—cutting, clearing, building, and getting after it every step of the way!

Proud of the grit, quality, and teamwork that made it happen.



## Projects

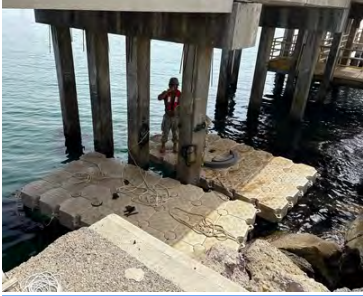
From initial build to sustained operations, ABCC 3-2 executed across the board constructing 2 bunkers, 10 tent decks, and 2 SWAHUTs, completing 2 MSR repairs, and conducting 2 LWPS operations. All while remaining tactically engaged throughout the exercise! Hoorah ABCC 3-2.



# NMCCB 3 FTX operations

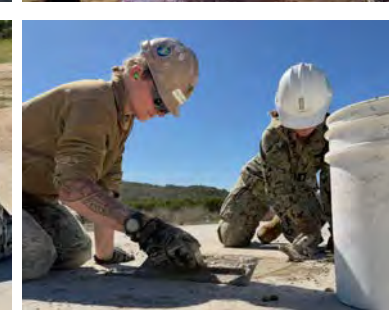
## Overhead Concrete Placement

WCC 3-2 put in work during FTX — executing an EXPDRO overhead concrete placement, building a sentry post and VTOL pad, and working side-by-side with UCT 2 to get the mission done. Another successful evolution driven by teamwork, adaptability, and Seabee ingenuity.



## Projects with Marines

ACC 3-1 spent FTX balancing mission execution with projects that leave a lasting impact — conducting airfield damage repair operations alongside a detachment of Marines from MWSS 373 and 372 while also improving Fort Hunter Liggett through construction of a latrine pad for the Z6 Range and concrete stairs near the main range BBQ area. From operational readiness to quality of life improvements, these Bees stayed hard at work.



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	

**01 June 1965:** At Chu Lai, RVN, NMCB 10 constructed a 4,000-foot aluminum plank Short Airfield for Tactical Support (SATS) for Marine Air Group 12. The first eight A-4 aircraft landed at the field on the 1st, with the first air strikes launched hours later in the day.

**01 June 1966:** The 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, which gained renown in the Southwest Pacific area during World War II, was reestablished in Saigon, RVN to exercise operational control over the Naval Construction Regiments and other directly assigned Naval Construction Force units. The Brigade was commanded by Rear Admiral Robert R. Wooding, CEC, USN.

**01 June 2010:** CAPT Katherine L. Gregory, CEC, USN promoted to RDML, becoming the first female CEC flag officer.

**02 June 1945:** 130th NCB, Okinawa, Operator MM2c John Wiebe and helper Gm2c Harry Lehr were operating their bulldozer in a road near the beach. Suddenly they and their machine dropped out of sight. When workers nearby looked around all was emptiness except for a gaping hole. After recovering from their astonishment they walked over and looked into the chasm. About 15 feet down was the vanished dozer with Wiebe still at the controls, but with a surprised look on his face. Demolition crews blasted a ramp and the "cat" was driven out and back to work by Wiebe, who received only minor lacerations from his experience.

**03 June 1965:** The main body of NMCB 9 departed Port Hueneme, CA, aboard the USNS Blatchford for Vietnam. This was the first battalion to depart from the continental limits of the United States for duty in Vietnam. Previously, NMCB 10 had departed from Okinawa and NMCB 3 had departed from Guam. Mobile NMCB 9 arrived in Da Nang on June 27, 1965.

**03 June 2005:** Seabees assigned to NMCB 24 constructed the framework for an eating facility aboard Camp Blue Diamond, Al Anbar Province, Iraq. The Marines assigned to the 2nd Marine Division were conducting counter-insurgency operations with Iraqi Security Forces to isolate and neutralize Anti-Iraqi Forces and create a secure environment.

**05 June 2006:** Two members of NMCB 25 - Equipment Operator 1st Class Gary T. Rovinski and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jamie S. Jaenke were killed when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) while on a convoy in the Al Anbar Province.

**06 June 1943:** Naval Combat Demolition Unit (NCDU) training school established at Amphibious Training Base Fort Pierce, FL. Volunteers assembled for the first classes came from the Bomb and Mine Disposal School in Washington, D.C. and from Camp Peary, VA (both Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps officers)

**06 June 1944:** In the initial stage of the Allied invasion of Normandy, Seabees formed the nucleus of naval combat demolition units. Each demolition unit was under the command of a junior officer of the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Team members placed explosive charges beneath the underwater steel barriers that prevented thousands of ships from reaching shore. As they were placing the charges the teams were under constant fire from the enemy. Whole teams were wiped out when shells hit their explosives. The men ignored the dangers and kept at their work. When the explosive charges were placed, survivors remained on the beach or swam back to the landing ships waiting in the channel. The explosives went off on schedule and huge holes were blown into the German defenses. Ships and landing craft darted for the shore through gaps in the barriers. Thousands of Seabees were soon manhandling their pontoon causeways onto the beach to let the infantry charge ashore.

**06 June 1967:** Khe Sanh came under enemy mortar attack. BUL3 C.A. Hubbard was killed in action; six men were wounded in action

**06 June 1967:** Senior Chief Equipment Operator Donald J. Barnes was killed in action at the north western South Vietnam Marine Corps Combat Base Khe Sanh on his first day of his second tour of RVN. On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1967, MCB11's combat camp at Dong

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TIME SIGNED	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER	
01	JUN	2026	0001L	<i>I.M. Seabee</i>	
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER USE ONLY			COMM CENTER OR RELEASER USE (INSTR-11)		
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 June 1969:** EO1 R.R. Anderson, Regimental (21st NCR) Seabee Team Instructor, drowned while participating in training field operations at Buck Hill Scout Reservation, RI.

**09 June 1952:** In Korea, a detachment from ACB 1 landed behind enemy lines on the island of Yo. There they built an emergency landing airstrip for crippled U.S. Marine aircraft. The planned 2,400 foot runway had been estimated to be a 45-day project. The Seabees finished it in 16 days.

**10 June 1965:** William C. Hoover, SW2, was killed at the battle of Dong Xoai. Hoover was the first Seabee killed in action in Vietnam. Although wounded in the initial Viet Cong mortar barrage, Hoover quickly went to his assigned defense post and began firing at the enemy. He was subsequently killed in the fighting. For his heroism, William C. Hoover was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. Also killed in the battle was Marvin C. Shields, CM3, the first (and only) Seabee to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Both men were members of Seabee Team 1104.

**10 June 2010:** Utilitiesman Constructionman James Thomas, left, and other Seabees assigned to NMCB 25, worked with fabricated sheet metal at a construction site onboard Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. NMCB 25, deployed from Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, was supporting Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay by completing construction projects to improve facilities on the base.

**10-30 June 2012:** NMCB 7 completed its last deployment before decommissioning. NMCB 7 was one of the original 10 Seabee battalions authorized by the chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks in 1942. As part of the Fiscal Year 2012 force reduction plan, NMCB 7 was scheduled to be decommissioned September 5 on board NCBC Gulfport.

**15 June 1985:** SW2 (DV) Robert Stethem is killed by terrorists in Beirut, Lebanon following the hijacking of TWA Flight 847. He will posthumously receive the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and be promoted to honorary Master Chief Constructionman on August 24, 2010 on board the USS Stethem, named in his honor.

**18 June 2008:** Construction Mechanic 1st Class Ross L. Toles III was killed June 18 as a result of wounds suffered from an enemy rocket attack in the northern Paktika Province of Afghanistan. The 37-year-old was a member of Navy Operational Support Center Detroit, and was assigned as an Individual Augmentee (IA) to Provincial Reconstruction Team Sharana.

**20 June 1968:** Dong Ha Combat Base came under enemy artillery fire resulting in the destruction of the Dong Ha ASP. Three NMCB 5 personnel, BUH2 R.D. Eastman, CMA3 B.E. Hall, and BUR3 F.J. Rupert were injured as a result of the action. Camp Barnes received major structural damages to all shop areas and damages varying from slight to major in the berthing and administrative areas.

**21 June 1969:** NMCB 58's Detail Quebec at Cam Lo crusher site credited with at least one enemy killed when they discovered a body during sweep of the area prior to starting work. The enemy soldier had apparently been setting a booby trap when he detonated another booby trap set by the Seabees the evening before. Local Vietnamese said other Viet Cong had been killed but were carried off during the night.

**22 June 1945:** The 69th NCB was the first full Seabee battalion to move by air from one location to another. It was flown in echelons from Bremen, Germany, to London, England, a distance of about 600 miles.

**23 June 2005:** An improvised explosive device killed Navy Culinary Specialist 1st Class Regina Renee Clark of Centralia, WA assigned to NMCB 18 when it detonated near her convoy vehicle in Fallujah, Iraq. Clark became the first female Seabee ever killed in action, and arguably the first female enlisted woman in the Navy ever killed in action. Two other women were killed in the vehicle with Clark from the explosion.

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

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# Seabee Museum & Memorial Park, Davisville, Rhode Island



The Seabee Museum and Memorial Park placed 407 flags reflecting CEC officers and Seabees KIA since our inception following the attack on Pearl Harbor. 403 have been killed in action during wartime. Four Seabees have been killed by terrorist attacks, including 3 CEC officers murdered while checking work in the Philippines by terrorists 1974 and SW2 Robert Stethem murdered on the tarmac in Beirut after his flight was hijacked.

The front flags were specially marked to reflect those four brothers, three in gold and one in red.

A special flag was marked in blue, reflecting the Seabees only Medal of Honor recipient, CM3 Marvin G. Shields.



**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 Vietnamese 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!



## NSU State Department happenings

### Versailles, France

Big things happening at NSU!

CM1 (SCW/EXW) Andrew Difranco was recently sent TDY to Versailles, France in support of Secretary of State Marco Rubio, showcasing the unique opportunities Seabees get to support missions worldwide.

While there, he visited the historic Palace of Versailles, a symbol of French history and diplomacy.

NSU continues to provide incredible opportunities for Seabees to operate globally and support high-level missions.

Join NSU. This could be you. Can Do!

Photos by: UT2 Gonzales, DC Region PAO



### NMCB 133 operations

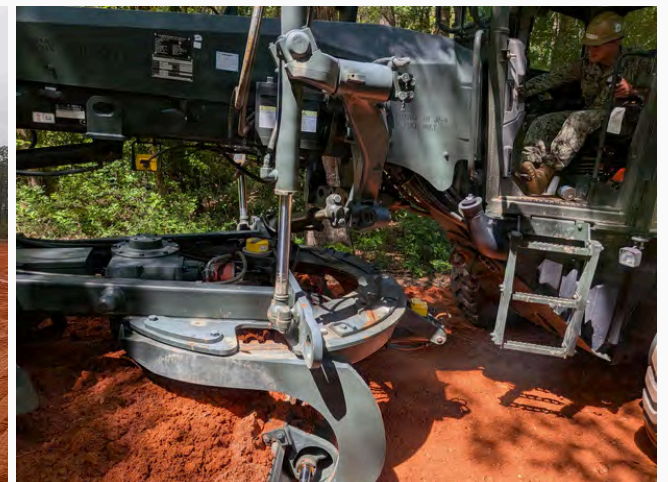
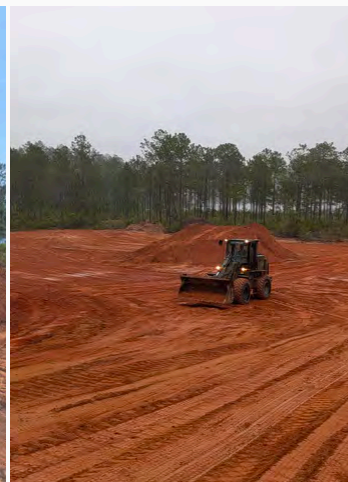
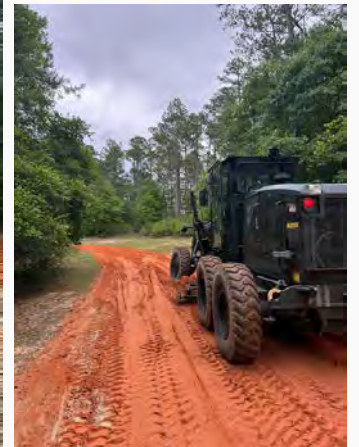
#### Black Hell Squad

NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos conducted their annual Black Hell Squad tradition this morning. This is to commemorate the battalion's legacy during the battle of Iwo Jima. The name refers to the black volcanic beaches on the island and how deadly this battle was, resulting in 40% of our battalion at the time not returning home.



#### Force Readiness Training *Perkinston, Mississippi*

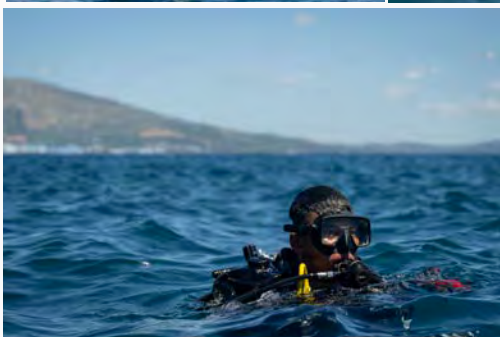
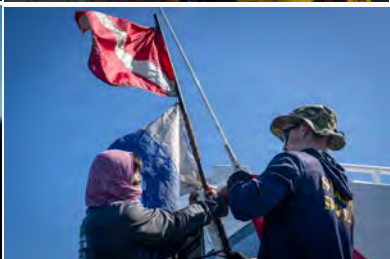
U.S. Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 conduct a clearing and grubbing under on Salmen Scouts Reservation Camp, May 7, 2026. NMCB-133 is conducting homeport operations as part of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, during the basic phase of the force readiness training plan (FRTP). (U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Caroline Ballay)



### UCT 2 operations

## Subic Bay, Philippines

Seabee divers assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) TWO, Construction Dive Detachment 2-3, conduct underwater infrastructure assessments as part of exercise Balikatan 2026 in Subic Bay, Philippines, May 5, 2026. Balikatan is a longstanding annual exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military designed to strengthen our ironclad alliance, improve our capable combined force, and demonstrate our commitment to regional security. (U.S. Navy photo by Natasha Ninete).



### NCB 18 operations

## Jim Creek Naval Radio Station

Everett, WA

Not far from Everett, WA, is Jim Creek, which turned into a full-scale playground for our equipment operators, set against one of the most unique naval sites in the region. With the area constantly evolving, operators got to work in a live environment where terrain needed to be shaped and moved.

Dozers and graders pushed material across a disposal zone, steadily leveling ground while building real control behind the blade. Excavator operators worked rock handling, trenching, and loading operations, dialing in precision while filling dump trucks for the next phase.

Once loaded, operators took to the wheel, hauling material through narrow, winding roads across the landscape, then executing controlled dumps. Every movement demanded awareness, control, and confidence behind the equipment.



## Everett Naval Station

Everett, WA

NCB-18 Seabees repaired a section of a paver walkway that had settled and become uneven over time. About 400 square feet was pulled up, the base was reworked and compacted, and the pavers were set back in place with the proper grade for drainage.

The goal was to correct the problem area and leave it in better condition than it was found. The surface is now level, drains properly, and is safer for daily use.

At the Marvin Shields Memorial, the team also pressure washed and re-stained the pergola, cleaning it up and helping preserve the space.



### NMCB 1 operations

#### Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands

*NMCB-1's Seabees construct temporary shelter for Tinian citizens affected by Typhoon Sinlaku*

U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, construct a modular general-purpose tent at Marpo Heights in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, April 27, 2026. Seabees set up tents from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for civilians who have completely lost their homes from damages caused by Typhoon Sinlaku. FEMA validated requests for temporary shelters through their application process, while the Department of War assisted with construction. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Xavier Romero)



#### Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands

*NMCB 1 Supports Roofing Mission in Tinian*

U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 install the first temporary roof on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, May 12, 2026, following damage caused by Super Typhoon Sinlaku. Temporary roofing operations help protect homes from additional weather impacts while supporting residents during ongoing recovery efforts across the CNMI. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues coordinating with FEMA, the CNMI government, and Department of War assets to support disaster response and recovery operations throughout the islands. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Christopher Rosario)



# NMCB 1 operations

## Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

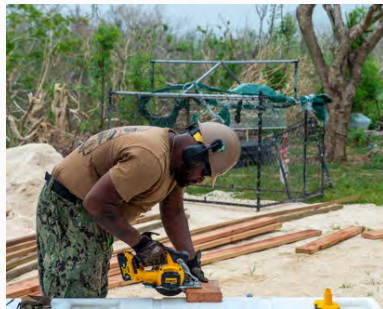
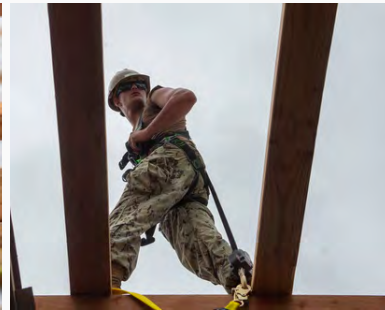
*U.S. Armed Forces Help Rebuild Saipan After Sinlaku*

### Stronger together

In the wake of Typhoon Sinlaku, Seabees from NMCB ONE - The First and The Finest work alongside FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), American Red Cross and our joint-force partners to provide humanitarian relief and recovery to the CNMI.

From clearing debris to restoring homes, their efforts reflect the strength of teamwork and our commitment to the people we serve.

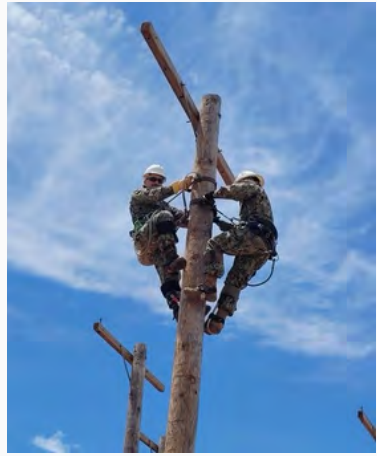
Proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners in service as we help communities recover and rebuild.



# CSFE Det Sheppard training

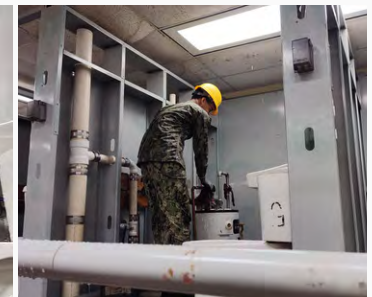
## Cross-training opportunities

They say UT stands for "Unlimited Talent," and UT2 Packard proved it true by stepping outside his comfort zone, climbing poles, and taking on cross-training opportunities with the CEs. Hoorah Seabee!



## UT Class 26011

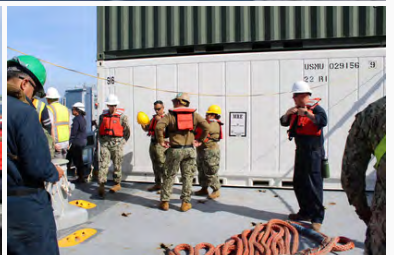
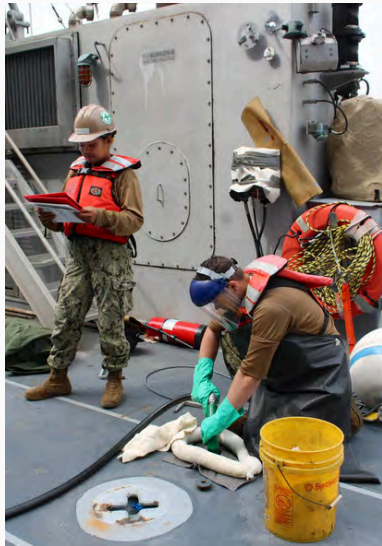
The students of UT Class 26011 are developing critical troubleshooting skills on piping systems under simulated high stress.



# ACB 1 operations and training

## South Korea operations

ACB 1 conducts waterborne operations in Korea.

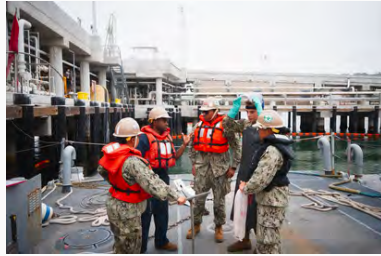


# ACB 1 operations and training

## Ligherage Training Team (LTT)

ACB 1's Ligherage Training Team (LTT) continues to build warfighting readiness by providing hands-on instruction to Sailors in critical ligherage operations. Through focused training and practical application, the team ensures our Seabees are proficient in the skills required to support amphibious and expeditionary missions around the globe.

Their dedication to developing capable, mission-ready Sailors strengthens ACB 1's ability to deliver combat power from sea to shore. Can Do!



## Charlie Company training

ACB 1 Seabees assigned to Charlie Company's Builders Shop balanced training and craftsmanship as one sailor conducted table saw safety training while another restored an antique wooden box, supporting day-to-day operations and hands-on skill development within the shop.



## Always a Seabee...

### Southwest Idaho

Weiser, ID

The monthly meeting of the Greater Southwest Idaho Seabee Swarm deployed to Weiser to the site of Tara's Place. The Swarm welcomed aboard 2 newbie's, Todd Weathers and Rory Aguilar. Great time with all, good friends, good food and staff.



### South Central Pennsylvania

Chambersburg, PA

May 9th, 2026 South Central PA Seabee Swarm was held at Hoss's in Chambersburg, Pa. Left to right: Larry Kunkle, Mike Sage, SGT. Russ Sykes (Army Engineers), Ferd Prehn, Paul S. Barnett Jr., Jerry Wolfe, Marvin Peck, Dan Herrick. Special thanks to the staff of Hoss' as they dealt with a power outage affecting half the building. Service was outstanding as usual.



### Pacific Northwest

Dupont, WA

PNW Seabees met up at the Cafe at Eagle Pride Golf Course. This group of Bees love to try new places throughout the PNW and add the next breakfast on the events page of the PNW SEABEES CAN DO Facebook page. Check them out coming to a town near you and get there!



## NMCB 11 operations and games

### Philippines

*NMCB 11 and Philippine Army conduct rapid airfield damage repair during BK26*

U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, share legacy airfield damage repair techniques with engineers from the 53rd Engineering Brigade, Philippine Army, during exercise Balikatan 2026 at Camp Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City, April 28, 2026. Balikatan is a longstanding annual exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military designed to strengthen our ironclad alliance, improve our capable combined force, and demonstrate our commitment to regional security. (U.S. Navy photo by Natasha Ninete)



### U.S. Embassy Kolonia

*Building partnerships, one project at a time!*

The U.S. Navy Seabees recently completed a new protective cover (awning) for the College of Micronesia - FSM (OFFICIAL)'s electrical panels. Without proper protection, these electrical panels are easily damaged by rain and harsh conditions.

Over two weeks, the Seabees designed and built a stronger, more durable cover to keep the equipment safe and working properly for years to come. This project helps ensure students and faculty have reliable electricity for their classrooms and facilities.

We're honored to support our partners and invest in education infrastructure across FSM!



## NMCB 11 operations and games

### Okinawa, Japan

#### Engineering Games

Seabees from NMCB 11 in Okinawa participated in the Engineering Games, hosted by the 9th Engineer Support Battalion.

Here are some shots from the day!

Photos: MC2 A. Trafton



## MUSE happenings

### Fort Leonard Wood, MO

#### Prime Power School graduation

The current Prime Power Production Specialist training program evolved from the Nuclear Power training program that was established in 1958 to train and qualify members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force as nuclear reactor operators and technicians. As military power requirements changed, so did the training program. In 1977, the Nuclear Power program was phased out and replaced by the Non-tactical Generator program. In 1985, the name was changed to the Prime Power Production Specialist Course. Navy graduates become part of the Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) Program.

The Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) Division provides specialized, easily transportable

equipment for temporary support of utility and critical power systems, including highly skilled U.S. Navy Seabee technicians to provide technical assistance and training. MUSE provides power plants, transformers, substations, and technical expertise to support utility short falls at DoD locations worldwide. This program offers qualified Sailors advanced technical training, skills, and valuable hands-on experience in the Critical Power field.

Congratulations to our newest MUSE Techs class 002-25.

Welcome to the Family!

- CE2 Hector Zedamedina
- CM2 Andrew Sotelo
- EA2 Brent Hockin
- CE2 Steven Robinson



### UCT 1 operations

#### Pag, Croatia

*Bilateral exercise*

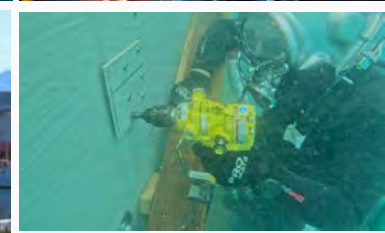
Seabee divers assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1, Construction Dive Detachment Charlie (CDD/C), conduct diving operations as part of a bilateral exercise with a Croatian dive team in Pag, Croatia, May 8, 2026. UCT 1, CDD/C, currently deployed under 22nd Naval Construction Regiment, is a 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.



#### Split, Croatia

*Bilateral exercise*

Seabee divers assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1, Construction Dive Detachment Charlie (CDD/C), conducts infrastructure repairs and assessments at the Port Brizine fuel terminal to restore structural integrity to a critical maritime refueling facility in Split, Croatia, May 18, 2026. UCT 1, CDD/C, currently deployed under 22 Naval Construction Regiment, 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.



### NCG 1 happenings

#### Vehicle maintenance

U.S. Navy Construction Mechanic 2nd Classes Randolph Gonzales and Bailey Rascoe, Seabees assigned to Naval Construction Group 1 (NCG 1), perform maintenance on a MTRV MK31 truck on Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, Calif., May 6, 2026. NCG 1 is homeported in Pt. Hueneme, and leads and manages the overall capability and readiness of its Naval Construction Regiments (NCR's), Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB's), Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU), and Underwater Construction Team (UCT). NCG1 provides the required engineering support that the Navy and Nation needs to construct and maintain base facilities, repair battle damaged facilities, conduct defensive operations as required, and to meet disaster preparedness and recovery missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Seaman Jade Holmes)



#### Los Angeles Fleet Week 2026

U.S. Navy Seabees and equipment assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 and Underwater Construction Team 2 on display in San Pedro, Calif., during Los Angeles Fleet Week on May 23, 2026. Los Angeles Fleet Week, now in its 10th year, is a sea service celebration that allows citizens of Greater Los Angeles to witness today's maritime capabilities firsthand. Nearly 1,500 Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen will showcase their capabilities and equipment, participate in various community service events, and enjoy the hospitality of Los Angeles during the event. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Dickinson.)



## NMCB 74 Seabees gather in Long Beach to mark the 35th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm

By Cody Heaster  
WLOX, Biloxi, MS

LONG BEACH, Miss. (WLOX) — Veterans of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 gathered at the Long Beach Harbor Pavilion this weekend to honor their service and remember their role in the Gulf War.

Veterans of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 gathered this weekend to honor their service and remember their role in the Gulf War. More than 100 former Seabees gathered in Long Beach to mark the 35th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm.

"We really hadn't been in any situation like that since Vietnam," said Jeffrey Robinson, a Seabee construction mechanic during the Gulf War. "Most of our experience was from Vietnam veterans training us to go back over there."

Robinson said he felt a mix of caution and confidence before deployment.

"A little fear in your mind, but you're letting your training and stuff that you went through encompass you and make you strong to go," he said.

Robinson turned the pages of photo albums from his deployment overseas. Each image pulled him back to that time and to what he still calls the mission that mattered most.

"You deploy, you complete the mission and you bring everybody back home safe," he said.

Kenneth Cater was a Seabee for six years, serving as a construction electrician petty officer during Desert Storm.

"It was kind of tense. You know, kind of worried, kind of scared because of the unknown," Cater said.

Cater said the memories are about the bond that kept them steady in the unknown.

"I watch your back, you watch mine, and if we ever get in a situation, we know that we have each other's backs and everything is gonna be okay," he said.

Cater watched silently as the bell tolled for the Seabees lost over the years.

As they mark 35 years since Desert Storm, the reunion was about reliving the closeness they shared and the brotherhood built far from home.

"It's not only us coming together, it's the families understanding a lot more about what we went through over there," Robinson said.

"When you have your brothers, when you have that relationship and you have that bond that no matter what happens, if they need you, you be there for them," Cater said. "Because if I was in that situation, they would be there for me."

After decades, the bond between Seabees remains strong, forged in service and carried forward in the way they still show up for one another.

As they celebrate the 10th reunion next year, they hope to see more Seabees connecting with one another.

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# NAVFAC SE happenings

## Kings Bay, GA

*Seabees put STEM into action at local middle school*

Civil Engineer Corps Officers from Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC) Kings Bay and Public Works Department (PWD) Kings Bay volunteered at Yulee Middle School to assist Mrs. King's 8th-grade class with a hands-on construction project.

The Seabees helped the class build their own chicken coop, brooder box and garden beds. Embodying the "Can Do" attitude, the officers demonstrated the realities of construction while teaching the importance of quality control, safety and project management.

After initial safety briefings, the students were organized into teams and worked together to complete every construction activity safely, on time and within budget!

Bravo Zulu LCDR Brittini King, LTJG Tim Finley, LTJG Tony Cavaretta and LTJG Dan Ruggiero. You did an exceptional job of teaching and empowering the next generation of STEM professionals!



## Great Lakes, IL

*Bravo Zulu to the U.S. Navy's newest Sailors*

NAVFAC Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Williams and Senior Enlisted Leader CUCS(SCW/EXW) Lorin Asada represented the command at the Recruit Training Command (RTC) Division 208 graduation ceremony on May 21 in Great Lakes, IL. This event marks the culmination of a highly successful nine-week sponsorship. Throughout their intensive training, NAVFAC Southeast teammates provided vital mentorship and support to these recruits, ensuring they are prepared to make a direct impact on the future of the Fleet. This milestone highlights our unwavering commitment to supporting the next generation of warfighters.



# 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).



Serving those who run toward the fight

## MISSION STATEMENT

To continue to grow our community that raises awareness and combats suicide by empowering Veterans, first responders, law enforcement officers, and their families through traditional and non-traditional therapies.

## History of 22KILL:

In 2012, the Veterans' Administration (VA) released a Suicide Data Report that found an average of 22 veterans die by suicide everyday. The 22KILL initiative started in 2013, at first just as a social media movement to raise awareness, and later became an official 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in July of 2015.

In 2016, as our push-up initiative (the #22pushupchallenge) swept social media, 22KILL began its transformation from awareness to suicide prevention. By the end of that year, the viral campaign, and the fundraising that accompanied it, allowed us to donate over half a million dollars to sponsor other Veteran service organizations.

In 2017, 22KILL began to acquire and develop traditional and non-traditional mental wellness programs, and offered a myriad of services through Tribal Council, One Tribe Outdoors, Wind Therapy, W.A.T.C.H., White Star Families and Workshops.

In 2021, 22KILL was changed to One Tribe Foundation because we expanded our services to include Veterans, first responders, law enforcement officers and their families.

One Tribe meaning the Human Tribe, we all bleed red.

## OUR PURPOSE:

Restore the value of life by empowering Veterans, first responders, law enforcement officers and their families.

Prevention begins with awareness. This means educating ourselves and the general public, opening up the conversation, and learning to become comfortable with the uncomfotability of being vulnerable. By doing this, we can identify the often avoided or unaddressed issues that can lead someone to thoughts of suicide, and confront those issues as they come, rather than letting them accumulate into something much worse.

The next step is empowerment. One of the biggest challenges Veterans and first responders face is finding a sense of purpose after service. One Tribe Foundation has built a vast network of organizations and resources across the country, and whether through its own programs, or through external sources, veterans, first responders, and family members can find services for mental wellness and empowerment programs to help them find or rediscover that sense of purpose. The other side of this is engagement. Often times, one may come to realize that all they really needed was the brotherhood and camaraderie that may have been absent from their lives since leaving service. The TRIBE allows service members to connect with like-minded individuals and gives them the opportunity to get involved with community events and projects, and be a part of something great.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Become an advocate, register as a volunteer, donate, and show your support with One Tribe Foundation and 22KILL gear. Merchandise sales help cover administrative overhead, while donations go towards supporting programs and services for Veterans, first responders, and their families.

One Tribe Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 organization, donations are tax-deductible at the highest amount allowed by law.



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

# REUNIONS & EVENTS

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

## JUNE 2026

1 Seabee Virtual 5K Sign Ups Continue  
Seabee5K.org  
Participate July 1-7.

Register early for the July Seabee Virtual 5K to get your t-shirt in time for your event!



Blue Trident, LLC

8 **2026 DC Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Monday, June 8 - Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, VA · SeabeeGolf.org - TOURNAMENT IS SOLD OUT!

15 Northeast Seabee Golf Tournament  
Monday, June 15 - North Kingstown, RI

23-26 MCB-12 Vietnam Reunion 1968-1969  
June 23-26 - Bath, ME

30 Seabee Spring Brick Sale Ends  
May 4-June 30 - Seabee.org

## JULY 2026

1-7 **2026 Seabee Virtual 5K** July 1-7  
Tag us at #Seabee5K in your photos when you participate!

Last Call to Register!



Seabee5K.org

## AUGUST 2026

10 **2026 San Diego Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Monday, August 10 - Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, Rancho Santa Fe, CA. Registration open now for Golfers and Sponsors: SeabeeGolf.org

## SEPTEMBER 2026

15-17 CBMU 302 Reunion Association  
September 15-17 - Bloomington, MN

19 **OktoBEEfest - Harrisonburg, VA**  
Saturday, Sep 19 - Harrisonburg, VA · OktoBEEfest.org

21-24 MCB11 & NMCB 8 Associations Joint Reunion  
September 21-24 - Colorado Springs, CO

26 NMCB 14 Association Reunion  
Saturday, September 26 - Orlando, FL



If you'd like to host or sponsor, go to [OktoBEEfest.org](http://OktoBEEfest.org)

## OCTOBER 2026

1 **OktoBEEfest - Guam**  
Thursday, October 1 - Winthrop Harbor, IL · OktoBEEfest.org

**OktoBEEfest - Great Lakes, IL**  
Thursday, October 1 - Tamuning, Guam · OktoBEEfest.org

3 **OktoBEEfest - Troy, NY**  
Saturday, Oct 3 - Troy, NY · OktoBEEfest.org

**OktoBEEfest - Cleveland, OH**  
Saturday, Oct 3 - Cleveland Heights, OH · OktoBEEfest.org

8 **2026 Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Thursday, October 8 - Virginia Beach Ntl Golf Club, VA  
Register at SeabeeGolf.org

8 **OktoBEEfest - Tampa, FL**  
Thursday, October 8 - Tampa, FL · OktoBEEfest.org

10 **OktoBEEfest - Aiken, SC**  
Saturday, October 10 - Aiken, SC · OktoBEEfest.org

**OktoBEEfest - Lubbock, TX**  
Saturday, October 10 - Lubbock, TX · OktoBEEfest.org

12-15 NMCB 133 Seabee Veterans Association Reunion  
October 12-15 - Gulfport, MS

13 **OktoBEEfest - Surprise, AZ**  
Tuesday, October 13 - Surprise, AZ · OktoBEEfest.org

15 **OktoBEEfest - Washington, DC**  
Thursday, Oct 15 - Washington, DC · OktoBEEfest.org

**OktoBEEfest - Jax, FL**  
Thursday, Oct 15 - Jacksonville, FL · OktoBEEfest.org

18-22 MCB1 - MCB9 Reunion  
September 18-22 - Virginia Beach, VA

22 **OktoBEEfest - Gulfport, MS**  
Thursday, October 22 - Gulfport, MS · OktoBEEfest.org

24 **OktoBEEfest - Gulfport, MS**  
Saturday, Oct 24 - Fort Wayne, IN · OktoBEEfest.org

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



@NavySeabeeFoundation  
 @NavySeabeeFoundation  
 @SeabeeFoundation

Follow us on social media to stay in the know!

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

The ASCE Military Engineer Leadership Fund supports active-duty uniformed service members (age 35 and under) with a Civil Engineering degree to attend the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Younger Member Leadership Symposium (YMLS). The Fund covers the registration fee and up to \$1,200 in travel.

expenses including transportation and hotel (excluding meals). Two recipients are selected annually. The ASCE YMLS is a three-day leadership workshop hosted by the Committee on Younger Members (CYM) and scheduled for August 21-23, 2026, at the ASCE headquarters in Reston, Virginia. Designed for Younger Members (age 35 and under), the symposium focuses on personal development and honing early-career professional skills. The website and application can be found at the following website. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2026.



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!!!

# 2026 SPRING SEABEE BRICK SALE!

U.S. Navy Seabee Museum  
PORT HUENEME, CA

Seabee Heritage Center  
GULFPORT, MS

**Last Chance!**

Sale ends **JUNE 30**

**SEABEE.ORG**

**\$100**  
(Reg. Price \$125)

Brick names include: EOC ROLLAND H ROTH LOVING FATHER USN SEABEE 1959-1978; BUJ2 PHILIP E PARRATT VIETNAM MCB7 MCB128 CBC AT GULFPORT MS; CANDACE M BOWEN NAVY SEABEE WIFE MOTHER & OMBUDSMAN; EOC JOSEPH R SCOTT NMCB 71, 5, 74 1957-1961 1967-1984; EOC DANIEL VELOURSEABEE LOVE YOU DAD, JERRI; EOC STEVEN H HARTMAN MCB 128 1966; EOC DAVID HILL MCB 14; EOC W R GUGLIUZZA MCB 121 21; EOC PHILIP ENGEL VIETNAM MCB 133 1965-1968; EOC JERRY BUJ; EOC BRUCE H BRUCE CAPT, C 3 JUN; EOC PICH 69; EOC CM1(SCW/E) KEPI; EOC ROY ROY NAVY 1981; EOC BAN 69-70; EOC MCB22; EOC MCB121; EOC E03 RC; EOC MCB22; EOC MCB121.

# SEABEE 5K

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SEABEE VIRTUAL 5K

Register Now! [Seabee5K.org](http://Seabee5K.org)

Race July 1-7 Your Way!

#Seabee5K

Support the Seabee community we proudly serve. Gather your friends and family and let's get moving! Plus, every registered participant receives a 2026 Seabee Virtual 5K athletic performance shirt. (And, YES, it's ok to sign up just to get the shirt!)

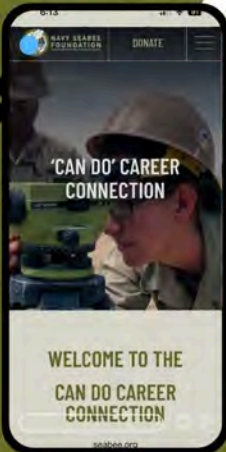
Congratulations to CUGS Christopher Johnson of winner of the Seabee 5K shirt design contest!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SHIRT SPONSOR: Blue Trident, LLC

WITH COMPASSION FOR OTHERS WE BUILD WE FIGHT FOR PEACE WITH FREEDOM

# Turn Seabee Skills into Civilian Success

A free career platform connecting Seabees, veterans, and employers who value real-world skills.



Check out the 'Can Do' Jobs list!



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



POWERED BY THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

Check Out the Navy Seabee Foundation Online Seabee Shop  
**Every Purchase Supports Seabees and Their Families**

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

Support the Navy Seabee Foundation  
**Seabee Golf: Coast to Coast, Swing for a Cause!**

MONDAY  
**AUGUST 10**  
SAN DIEGO, CA

THURSDAY  
**OCTOBER 8**  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

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

**THE PLANNING HAS BEGUN, BUT WE STILL HAVE ROOM FOR YOU!**

- 9/19 HARRISONBURG, VA • 10/1 GUAM • 10/1 GREAT LAKES, IL • 10/3 TROY, NY
  - 10/3 CLEVELAND, OH • 10/8 TAMPA, FL • 10/10 AIKEN, SC • 10/10 LUBBOCK, TX
  - 10/13 SURPRISE, AZ • 10/15 WASHINGTON, DC • 10/15 JACKSONVILLE, FL
  - 10/22 GULFPORT, MS • 10/24 FORT WAYNE, IN • 10/24 STATE COLLEGE, PA
- READY TO JOIN THEM?**

Host an event or become a sponsor...  
Opportunities are still available.

## 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 Seabee Heritage Center in Gulfport
- 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!

### 5 Ways to Support the Navy Seabee Foundation:



**Donate Online**  
One-time or recurring gifts can be made at [www.seabee.org](http://www.seabee.org)



SCAN ME



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

SCAN ME



**Text to Give**

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



SCAN ME

Text "Seabee" to 44321 to donate from your phone

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



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



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

# THANK YOU!



## NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

HONOR THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS:



moffatt & nichol  
Creative People. Practical Solutions.®



PELTON MANAGEMENT LI



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# CAN DO!

seabee.org

Find out how your company can become a Corporate Partner. Email [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)