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SEABEE

UNITED STATES NAVY | SUMMER 2012

The End of an Era

A Seabee Chapter Closes: Camp Moreell Transfers to U.S. Army

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YN3 Justin Ferebee (foreground), NMCB 3, musters with his squad during morning quarters at Camp Moreell, April 10, 2008. Following a transition period at Camp Moreell in 2008, the battalion moved on to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.
Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yepez

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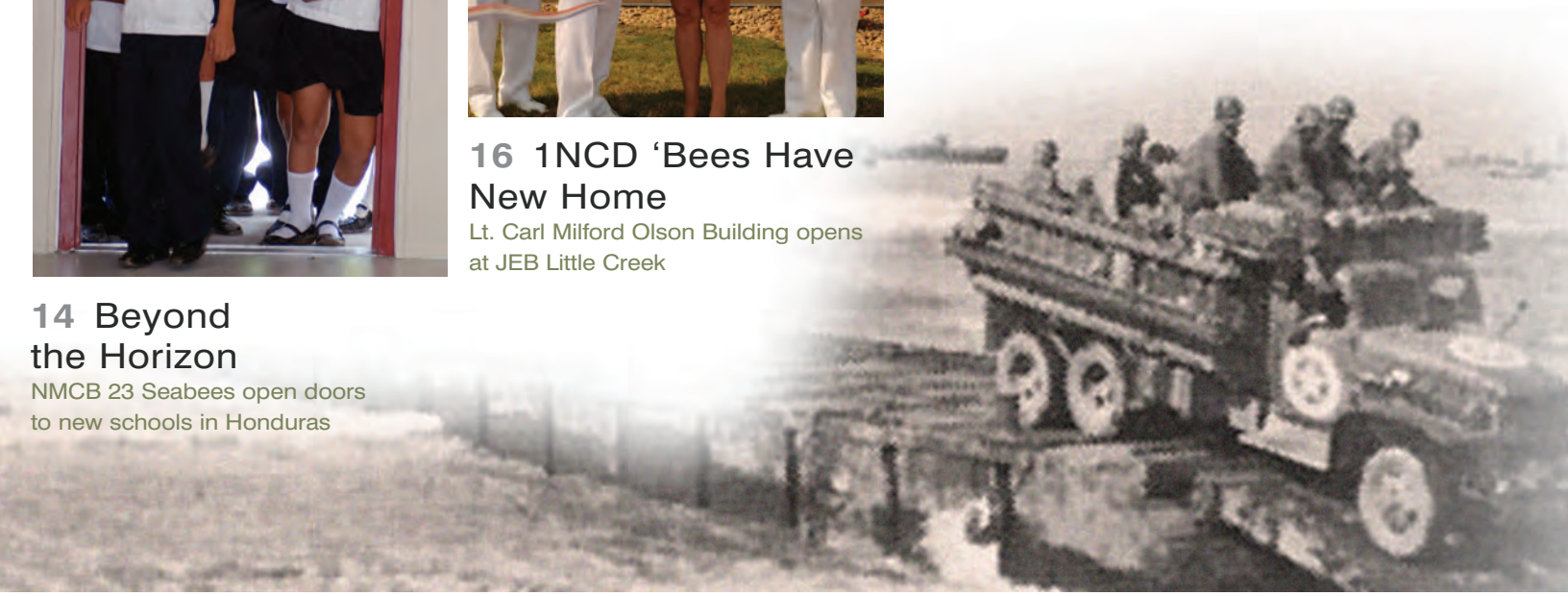

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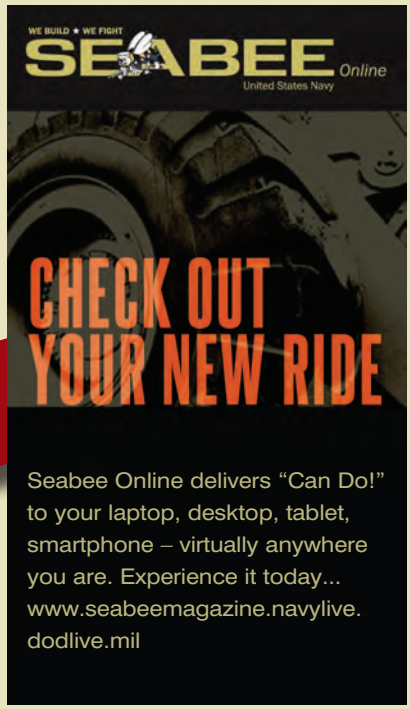
FORCM(SCW) Ray Dickey reflects on *Seabee* magazine's print past and looks ahead to Seabee Online's future.

Look for the Challenge Coin award in this issue!



‘Bee’s Eye View Over Totsuka

NAVFAC Far East’s Public Works Department (PWD) Atsugi Team Member CE2(SCW) Whitney Stettler replaces a flashing beacon light bulb on top of a 165-meter-high frequency satellite transmitting tower at U.S. Naval Transmitting Facility Totsuka, Japan, April 13. The project supports safety and visual obstruction lighting requirements for the microwave tower, in addition to the maintenance and operation of vital communications equipment linking ship and shore stations in the Far East.
Photo courtesy of PWD Sasebo

The medium has changed…the mission has not.

This is the final Bricks & Mortar to be written for the final print edition of *Seabee* magazine. What an honor it is to be writing it.

My first experience with the Seabees was in the late 1990s. I was a young Navy journalist tasked with capturing video stories on a Seabee detachment widening roads for refugees escaping the conflict in Kosovo. Our home base in Albania was named Camp Wedge. I didn't understand the importance of the name or the importance of the mission until I watched our Seabees stop in a small village and renovate a broken-down school – not because it was their mission to do so, but because it was the right thing to do. Only then did I understand.

MCC(SW/AW) Scott B. Boyle

That first experience instilled in me a respect for the Seabees' work ethic and compassion, which I carry with me to this day.

While this is the final print issue of *Seabee* magazine, telling the story continues. Seabee Online – http://seabeemagazine.navylive.dodlive.mil/ – will continue to proudly showcase the great work Seabees are doing around the world. Whenever you click on this link, you'll find articles, photos and videos about how Seabees extend the Naval Construction Force's global reach through combat operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

You see, while the medium has changed, the mission has not.

Going forward, our goal for Seabee Online is to make it the premier online virtual news and media hub for all Seabees – active duty, reserve, retirees and veterans, plus their family members. With Seabee Online you receive the latest, most up-to-date news and information on your laptop, smartphone, home computer or tablet. And, you can immediately share stories via social media and email. Now, the Seabee story truly spreads faster than it ever has.

Your support of Seabee Online is imperative to its success. You, the Seabees deployed around the world, see your work's impact first-hand. You see the smiling faces of the children in Africa after you renovate their school. You see the medical care provided at the hospital you built. You see the military lives saved because of the roads you repaired in Afghanistan.

Those stories deserve to be told and shared with the world.

It has been a privilege to work and deploy with the Seabees and to contribute to *Seabee* magazine.

Keep charging ahead…CAN DO!

MCC(SW/AW) Scott B. Boyle
Public Affairs Officer, 25th Naval Construction Regiment

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SEABEE
UNITED STATES NAVY

EDITORIAL
SEABEE magazine is published by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Public Affairs Office from the historic Washington Navy Yard, "the Quarterdeck of the Navy." Our readership consists of active and reserve Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers and their families, as well as veterans, retirees and the general public.

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Attn: *SEABEE* Magazine (Code PA)
1322 Patterson Avenue, S.E., Bldg. 33, Suite 1000
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seabee.online@navy.mil

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Please continue to follow the Seabees via *SEABEE* Online – SEABEEMAGAZINE.NAVYLIVE.DODLIVE.MIL

(Background) Seabees assigned to NMCB 5 construct Southwest Asia (SWA) huts, Camp Moreell, Kuwait, May 19, 2005.
Photo by JO2 Gino A. Flores

The End of an Era

Camp Moreell, Kuwait 2002-2012

For 10 years, Camp Moreell served as the main Seabee ground base and assembly point for all 'Bees and many Sailors who deployed across Southwest Asia, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. On May 23, the Seabee colors were retired on Camp Moreell.

(Continued on following page)

(From left) EQCM Charles Boris, BUC Andre Sanders and Cmdr. Matthew Motsko, officer-in-charge, 25th NCR (Forward), prepare to furl the colors of the Seabee flag as Lt. Cmdr. Sean Dalton salutes during NMCB 7's transfer ceremony at Camp Moreell, Kuwait, May 23.
U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James Lieth

The End of an Era

Camp Moreell, Kuwait 2002-2012

For outstanding contributions to the Summer issue, we present the *Seabee* Magazine Challenge Coin to MCC(SW/AW) Scott B. Boyle, 25th NCR Public Affairs. Boyle provided expert coverage of the historic transfer of Camp Moreell from the Seabees to the Army, in addition to the Bricks & Mortar column for our final print issue. Congrats and Can Do!

(Insets top to bottom)
Capt. Darius Banaji, commodore, 25th NCR, speaks during the transfer ceremony, Camp Moreell, May 23.

Lt. Cmdr. Sean Dalton (far right) and BUC Andre Sanders lead the formation for NMCB 7 as the battalion pays its respects to fallen Seabees during the Camp Moreell transfer ceremony.
U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. James Lieth

EO3 Jason Shantz (foreground), NMCB 3, prepares to fire his M-16 rifle during a weapons course in the Kuwaiti desert, Camp Moreell, April 11, 2008.
Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yepez

Seabees assigned to the 22nd NCR (Forward) muster on Camp Moreell, Kuwait, May 8, 2008, to dedicate a bronze statue honoring 14 comrades who died in uniform since the start of the War on Terrorism.
Photo by MCC Michael B. Watkins

A Seabee Chapter Closes: Camp Moreell Transfers to U.S. Army

By MCC(SW/AW) Scott B. Boyle, 25th NCR Public Affairs

The primary hub for Seabee deployments to and from Iraq and Afghanistan was closed during a ceremony held on Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, May 23.

For 10 years, Camp Moreell served as the main Seabee ground base and assembly point for all 'Bees and many Sailors who deployed across Southwest Asia, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

Cmdr. Matthew Motsko, officer-in-charge, 25th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) Forward, said Camp Moreell was a mainstay for all Seabees who prosecuted the multiple operations over the past 10 years.

"The closing of Camp Moreell is a somber feeling," Motsko said. "It's the end of an era, but a necessary event given the positive progress being made."

Named after Adm. Ben Moreell, the former commander of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps and the founding father of the Seabees, the camp supported 55,000 Seabees during 39 Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) deployments and 20 NCR deployments.

Master Chief Constructionman Rodney Gardner, 25th NCR command master chief, said the camp went through some major changes over the years.

"The first time I went through [Camp Moreell] back in 2002, it was nothing but tents with plywood floors," Gardner said. The showers were so far away that you would be covered in dust by the time you got to your tent.

"But over time, the tents were replaced by permanent structures — Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities and a great gym," he added. "It really became a home away from home for us."

For Motsko, the camp's legacy will live on even after it closes.

"Camp Moreell is what Seabees remember as home, right before they went out the door to perform their missions – further into harm's way while feeling comfort knowing someone had the watch and they could rest easy," he said. "[Camp Moreell] was, and still is, an icon."

While Camp Moreell is now closed for the Seabees, its importance to the mission has not changed. The U.S. Army's Alpha Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion is keeping the name intact in honor of the men and women who built and maintained it for the past 10 years.

"We will honor the namesake [of Camp Moreell] and respect what it means to your storied and proud heritage," Col. Robert Cheatham Jr., commander, Area Support Group – Kuwait, said during the transfer ceremony.

"We are humbled the Army and future tenants will keep the namesake of Camp Moreell," said Capt. Darius Banaji, commodore, 25th NCR.

Cheatham also thanked the Seabees for building, maintaining and preparing the camp so it could continue to support troops coming through Kuwait.

At the beginning of the transfer ceremony, Master Chief Equipmentman Charles Boris read the names of 20 fallen Seabees who all passed through Camp Moreell between 2003 and 2011.

"It was important, even imperative, to remember that all gave some, but some gave all, and some paid the ultimate sacrifice during operations over the past 10 years," Motsko said.

NMCB 11 Powers Up Camp Krutke

Seabees assigned to NMCB 11 detach a cable from a spool, after which the cable will be buried to provide power to a 10-ton heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit at Camp Krutke, on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Camp Krutke, dedicated in honor of Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Jared Krutke, NMCB 74, in January 2010, is a 21-acre camp built in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and home to Seabee battalions deployed to Camp Leatherneck in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Krutke was killed while performing his duties at the Seabee Armory on board Camp Covington, Guam, March 2007.
Photo by MC1 Jonathan Carmichael

Seabee IA Returns to Unit After IED Blast Near RC-South Base

By BUC Eric Chamberlin, NMCB 40

Construction Mechanic Constructionman Nicholas Morton, a Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 serving in Afghanistan as an Individual Augmentee (IA), received the Purple Heart medal, April 6, months after being wounded in an attack while on a routine foot patrol in a village outside the base at Regional Command-South. Morton and three other service members, including their medic, were injured.

Morton was one of three construction mechanics who volunteered to support the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) mission in Afghanistan with fellow NATO country forces as part of the Navy's IA program. After completing nearly six months of extensive Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle mechanic schools in the United States, Morton was assigned to PRT Uruzgan and completed additional combat skills training with his new team in Camp Atterbury, Ill., with the U.S. Army.

Morton and his team deployed in Jan. 2012 to Regional Command-South, Afghanistan. Having only been deployed to Afghanistan for a few weeks, the group was returning to the base when a teenage boy detonated an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) he was wearing as a vest.

"After the explosion it all happened so fast," said Morton."We began to set up a 360-degree perimeter to protect the three guys who were seriously wounded while the medic, who was one of them, went to work on the other two.

"It was then that another soldier told me that I was bleeding from my shoulder and I realized that I had been hit by shrapnel, also," he added.

Morton was evacuated to a medical facility in Kandahar where he was treated for fragmentation injuries for two weeks at the Warrior Recovery Center, and then returned to his PRT.

"I am feeling a lot better and glad to be back with my unit," he said following the Purple Heart ceremony.

CMCN Nicholas Morton, NMCB 40

Lt. Robert McHaren, NMCB 7, is met by his wife and children during Delayed Party's return, NCBC Gulfport, Miss.

Operation Enduring Freedom
Last Deployment
For 'Magnificent Seven'

Photos by MCC(SCW/SW/AW) Ryan G. Wilber, NCBC Gulfport Public Affairs

ET1(SCW/SW) Bradley Anderson, NMCB 7, is met by his mother and son, Quinton, during Main Body's Advanced Party return, NCBC Gulfport.

Patriotic Baby 'Bees celebrate NMCB 7's homecoming after a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

By Rob Mims, Public Affairs Officer, NCBC Gulfport

Family members, relatives and friends welcomed home more than 600 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, returning home to Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., between June 10-30, from a six-month deployment providing support to coalition forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

NMCB 7 assumed command of construction operations in Afghanistan from NMCB 1 during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at battalion headquarters, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 18. NMCB 7 was one of two Seabee battalions deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations as part of Task Force Forager, the other being NMCB 11, also from Gulfport.

Task Force Forager, consisting of Seabees and U.S. Army Engineer Forces, supports the mission of the International Security Assistance Force through direct tactical infrastructure development, improvements and deconstruction, engagement with Afghan Security Forces and Afghan National Army engineers, convoy security support and theater Freedom of Movement routes, and mission-specific construction in support of combat operations.

The battalion's main body component was located at Kandahar Airfield, and several task-tailored detachments operated throughout southern Afghanistan, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Seabees from "Magnificent Seven" accomplished hundreds of projects in support of the warfighting efforts in several regions in Afghanistan.

NMCB 7 is 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 is scheduled to be decommissioned later this year on board NCBC Gulfport.

Cmdr. J.G. Meyer, commanding officer, NMCB 7, is slated to become the executive officer, NCBC Gulfport, following the battalion's decommissioning. Battalion members will move to other units at Gulfport or elsewhere, or separate from the Navy.

NMCB 7 Lends a Hand Training Afghan Engineers

By MC3 Michael Scichilone, NMCB 7

Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 partnered with the U.S. Air Force's 443rd Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron to train and instruct Afghan engineers at the Kandahar Air Wing on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

U.S. forces taught Afghan engineers principles of carpentry, welding, and construction of concrete walls and foundations. NMCB 7's Delta Company camp maintenance electricians also built an electrical training aid for the engineers to use and learn about interior wiring.

BU2 William E. Davis (right), NMCB 7, supervises as an Afghan Air Force member practices battalion-provided training to help construct a guard shack for Afghan forces.

The crew of four Seabees spent approximately 1,850 man-hours, or 232 man-days, working with the Afghan engineers throughout the training evolution. On any given day, there were eight to 22 Afghan engineers participating in training activities.

"This project serves as a starting point to an enduring partnership that provides technical expertise and assists with developing construction skills for Kandahar Air Wing engineers while they are simultaneously supporting their local mission," said Lt. Jennifer Elliott, NMCB 7.

NMCB 3 **'Shares Resilience'** With Bosnian Military

By NMCB 3 Public Affairs and Staff Sgt. Daryl Knee, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 worked with the Bosnia-Herzegovinia military to build a fence around the military complex, and renovate a neighboring city's school and school annex in support of Exercise *Shared Resilience 2012 (SR12)*, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 28 – June 8.

NMCB 3 has been working in Bosnia-Herzegovina since April 25 to prepare the military compound's fence to meet force protection requirements for the participants of *SR12*, a two-week U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff-sponsored medical exercise.

Since the two nations' construction teams have different building methods, the Seabees observed how the host nation performed construction, worked past the language barriers and integrated as a joint construction team. The renovated school houses students from kindergarten to eighth grade; the annex is for kindergarten to fourth grade.

"These schools have been here a while," said Utilitiesman 1st Class James Marquez, NMCB 3. "There have been generations and generations of students going through these two buildings, and it feels good to know that I've been part of the team to make this a better place."

BUCN Arn Movilla (right), NMCB 3, works with the Bosnia-Herzegovinia military during the renovation process of Bijelo-Potoci Primary School, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 31.
Photos by Spc. Ashley Keasler, Combat Camera Detachment USEUCOM

"We had a chance to help the civilian populace," said Bosnian-Herzegovinian Army Brig. Gen. Ivica Jerkic, *SR12* co-director. "In the future, we're going to continue our efforts to do so."

The reason for the assured success of the construction projects is the cooperation between the U.S. and Bosnia-Herzegovinia militaries, said Chief Builder James Davenport, assistant officer-in-charge. The 1.3-mile security fence will be completed well ahead of schedule due to partnership efforts with the host army.

"We are here to build trust through cooperation on this project," said Davenport. "We are the lead on the project but they have a part in it as well. Once we started working together, the Bosnians-Herzegovinians had a vested interest — a personal pride in their accomplishments. It's no longer separated when we are on the project site, but integrated throughout. We're working together to build better schools for the children."

"It was amazing to see the motivation by the Seabees," said Bosnian-Herzegovinian Army Sgt. Jozef Ambruz, project crew leader and translator. "It's not about a fence; it's about bigger stuff. The U.S. Navy Seabees showed us trust and respected us as equals on this project, and that's how we became a united team set on completing a goal for many nations coming here."

BUCN Jonathan Riley, NMCB 3, guides a wooden plank during the renovation of Bijelo-Potoci Primary School, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 31.

(Left and below) Children in the town of Morales, Honduras, visit their newly finished classrooms for the first time, June 27.

Scenes from *Beyond the Horizon*

A U.S. Army South-led exercise, *Beyond the Horizon 2012*, is part of U.S. Southern Command's humanitarian and civic assistance program. In Honduras and Guatemala, Army engineers and Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 worked with host nation personnel to build schoolhouses and medical clinics for local communities.

(Below) EOC Chet Kowalski, NMCB 23, receives a warm welcome from future students of a Seabee-built school, Morales, Honduras, June 27.
Photos by 1st Lt. John Quin, Missouri National Guard Public Affairs Office

EO2 Tynita Russell, NMCB 23, takes a quick break during *Beyond the Horizon*, Morales, Honduras, where Seabees and U.S. Army engineers worked with host nation personnel to build schoolhouses and medical clinics for local populations.

NMCB 23 'Bee Connects School, Supplies for Local Honduran Children

Story and photo by Pfc. Clay Beyersdorfer, 70th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Equipment Operator 2nd Class Tynita Russell's dedication for the *Beyond the Horizon* mission can be seen at the site of a new schoolhouse being built in Morales, Honduras, as well as back in her hometown of Philadelphia, Pa. The results everyone will see as the schoolhouse is completed motivates Russell to give that extra effort.

"It's been a pretty amazing time…the people are amazing," Russell said. "They love us and absolutely appreciate us being here, which makes it all worthwhile."

Not only is Russell helping build a school from the ground up, she also coordinated with her civilian employer back home to gather school supplies to give back to local children.

"I have worked with my employer for the past month to help get a drive going that has been gathering school supplies for the kids," Russell said. "I thought it would be great to give back to the kids…so I asked [my employer] to jump on board and the response has been great. I can't wait to see [the kids'] faces when they see what we have for them."

On the ground and out at the site, Russell is responsible for much of the horizontal construction, including leveling the ground and clearing debris for the schoolhouse and latrine.

"This whole experience has not only allowed me to train more at my equipment operator job, but to cross train into other areas like carpentry, electrical and plumbing," she said.

Looking back over everything she has done in the last couple of months, she has loved it.

"I wish we could do more and have more time," Russell said. "This whole thing is about the kids, it truly is, and to be able to help them is such a wonderful feeling. Getting to know these kids and see how much this will help them is an amazing experience."

(Below) Members of the official party dedicate the new First Naval Construction Division (1NCD) headquarters building at Joint Expeditionary Base (JEB) Little Creek-Fort Story, Va., June 29. Participants in the ribbon-cutting ceremony included (from left to right) Carol Curtis, president, Noah Enterprises; Capt. Paul Odenthal, executive officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic; Rear Adm. Mark Handley, commander, 1NCD; Luann Olson, granddaughter of Lt. Carl Milford Olson, the building's namesake; Capt. Charles Stuppard, commanding officer, JEB Little Creek-Fort Story; and Don Olson, husband of Luann Olson.

Dedicated to Lt. Carl Milford Olson

1NCD 'Bees Make New State-of-the-Art Headquarters Home

By Daryl C. Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD

(Facing page, far left to right) The Seabee stencil used to mark Naval Construction Force (NCF) vehicles is etched on each main entry door to 1NCD's new headquarters facility; a wall in memory of the Fallen lists every Seabee killed at the hands of the enemy since World War II; Rear Adm. Mark Handley, commander, 1NCD, addresses guests and members of the NCF during the ribbon-cutting ceremony; occupants of the Lt. Carl Milford Olson Building view the Heritage Trail from the quarterdeck.

The First Naval Construction Division (1NCD) officially dedicated its new headquarters building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base (JEB) Little Creek-Fort Story, Va., June 29.

Participants in the ceremony included Rear Adm. Mark Handley, commander, 1NCD; Capt. Charles Stuppard, commanding officer, JEB Little Creek-Fort Story; Capt. Paul Odenthal, executive officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Mid-Atlantic; and Carol Curtis, president, Noah Enterprises.

The building, which incorporates many energy-saving and environmentally friendly features, was dedicated in honor of Lt. Carl Milford Olson, a Civil Engineer Corps officer who took part in the North African and Sicilian campaigns during World War II as officer in charge of a Seabee pontoon causeway platoon. He helped develop and build many of the fittings and attachments which made the Seabee pontoon causeways successful in landing operations. He was killed on the beachhead at Salerno, Italy, on Sept. 10, 1943.

Olson's granddaughter, Luann Olson, and her husband, Don, attended the ceremony and helped cut the ribbon.

"From the beach landings of World War II, the cold of Korea, the steaming jungles of Vietnam to the deserts of the Middle East, Seabees have built bases, paved roads and constructed numerous bridges, airstrips and forward operating bases in the four corners of the world," Handley said. "Our Seabee legacy became forever etched in our history during the early days of World War II by the likes of Lt. Carl Milford Olson…As we recognize Lt. Carl Milford Olson today, we also recognize our recently fallen heroes in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Heroes from within our battalions, heroes that were individual augmentees, heroes that paid the ultimate price for freedom."

The 28,330-square-foot Operations Control Facility provides the staff with improved functional workspaces to support subordinate Naval Construction Force units in order to meet the operational needs of Seabees deployed around the globe. The lead contractors for the $11.5 million contract were Noah Enterprises and Mid-Eastern Builders, Inc., with design by RRMM Architects.

The Lt. Carl Milford Olson Building houses approximately 150 military and civilian personnel. It enhances the operation of 1NCD by providing modern, well-configured work spaces capable of handling computer and communications technology. The building was designed and built to achieve high performance in human and environmental health, sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, environmentally preferable materials selection and high indoor environmental quality. It has been submitted for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

The facility mirrors the Navy's goals of environmental sustainability and incorporates many unique features. Photo-voltaic panels on the roof partially offset the building's electricity consumption. Rainwater collected from the roof is filtered and stored in an 8,000-gallon tank and used for flushing toilets, reducing consumption of city water. Extensive use of natural daylight in building design reduces the need for electric lighting in office spaces. Water-permeable parking lot paving and landscaping design reduce rainwater runoff into storm drains. LED lights in the parking lot also reduce energy consumption, and the facility gets its heating and cooling from geothermal wells in the ground.

"It will serve as a showcase for the Navy's energy and environmental initiatives for years to come," Stuppard said.

The facility also serves as a showcase for Seabee history. The hallways and common areas include a wide variety of historical images alongside photographs of modern-day Seabees in action, reflecting the connection between past and present, with an eye to the future.

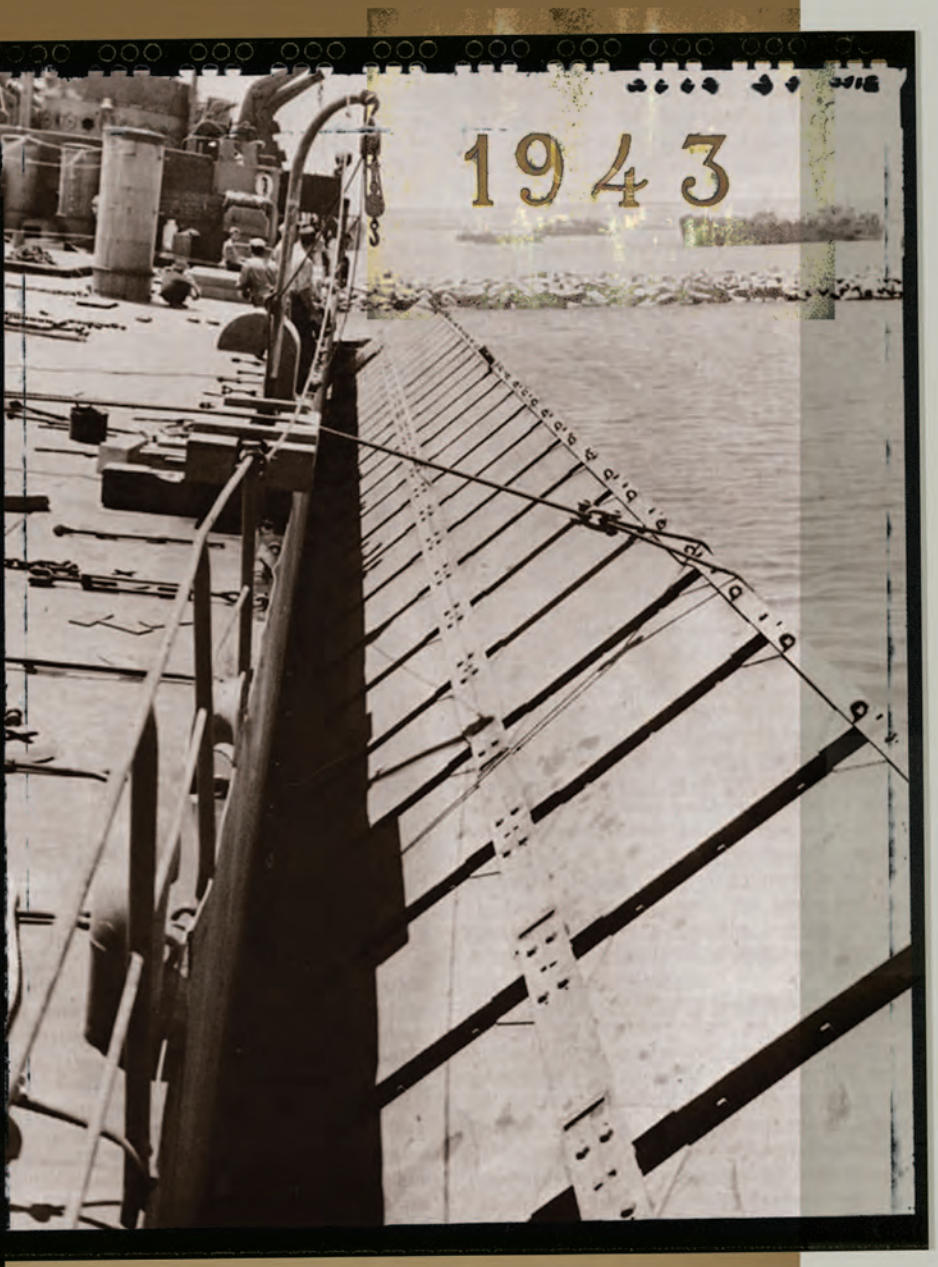
The Lt. Carl Milford Olson Building replaces Building 3006, a wooden structure originally built as a temporary barracks in 1943 and currently the oldest building at the Little Creek base.

Stuppard commented, "For years the Seabees have been taking care of everyone else in the Navy and other services all over the world, but not themselves…Today, with the opening of this new facility, our Seabees will have the best-looking building on campus."

Lt. Carl Milford Olson:
Pontoon Causeway Pioneer

By Daryl C. Smith,
Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD

"He was an officer and a gentleman. He died a hero's death in defense of his country and its principles during the invasion of Italy."



Lt. Carl Milford Olson was born in St. Paul, Minn., on Feb. 7, 1899. During World War I, Olson enlisted in the Navy and served as a radio operator.

He attended the University of Minnesota from 1920 to 1924, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. After working in Chicago as a draftsman, Olson and his family moved back home to St. Paul, where he operated his own architectural firm from 1933 to 1941. Due to wartime priorities, he moved to Decatur, Ill., in 1941 to work for a large engineering company writing specifications and contracts for ordnance plants.

In December 1942, at the age of 42, Olson volunteered for service in the Civil Engineer Corps, and was commissioned in February 1943. After processing through Norfolk and Williamsburg, Va., and Davisville, R.I., he crossed the Atlantic to participate in the liberation of Europe.

As a member of Construction Battalion Detachment (CBD) 1006, he took part in the North African and Sicilian campaigns as officer in charge of a Seabee Pontoon Causeway Platoon. He helped develop and build many of the fittings and attachments which made the Seabee pontoon causeways and rhino ferries successful in landing operations. In fact, the ramp for unloading cargo at the front end of each of these huge barges was known as an "Olson Ramp."

In September 1942, Olson participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy. The beach was divided into two parts – the northern section was invaded by the 46th British Division, assisted by CBD 1006, and the southern section was invaded by American forces, also using Seabee pontoon crews. During the first days of the landing, ships were unloaded under constant fire and bombing.

On Sept. 10, 1943, Olson was killed when his pontoon was struck by an enemy bomb. He was the first American officer of the war killed during a land invasion of continental Europe. Olson's commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. W.A. Burke, said at the time, "He died in action on his causeways, at the head of his men, an outstanding example of an engineer and an officer."

A proclamation by his fellow officers of the 1006th read, "Lt. Carl Milford Olson, CEC, USNR, has by his attitude of service and friendship to all, and strict devotion and patriotism to his country won both the professional and personal friendship of all the officers and men…He was an officer and a gentleman. He died a hero's death in defense of his country and its principles during the invasion of Italy."

Twenty-eight other members of his detachment were killed during the operation. However, their mission was completed. Approximately 11,500 vehicles went ashore over CBD 1006's pontoon causeways during the Italian invasion, and the Port of Naples was liberated. The detachment was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for its efforts at Salerno.

Display of WWII Seabee memorabilia, Ventura County, Calif., c. 1947.

Seabee Museum (entrance), NCBC Port Hueneme, Calif., c. 1960.

A History of Seabee History

All Seabees know the history of the Civil Engineer Corps and Seabee community as one steeped in heritage and legacy. One little-known story, however, is how the Navy has worked toward preserving and perpetuating that history over the years.

By Lara Godbille, Director, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Naval History and Heritage Command

Soon after the United States entered World War II in December 1941 and established the Seabees, senior leadership at the Bureau of Yards and Docks (BuDocks, the predecessor to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NAVFAC) recognized the need to record and analyze the construction efforts of the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) and Seabees in both the Pacific and European theaters. As early as February 1942, Adm. Ben Moreell, chief of the CEC, insisted that BuDocks establish a history program.

In a memo to the assistant chief, Capt. Lewis Combs, Moreell wrote, "Do not forget our project to get an historian started now. We should have no trouble locating a competent person – should have some technical knowledge. How about getting a man from Engineering?"

Within months, the Bureau had established a history division which used copies of the construction battalion movement reports and after action reports to chronicle both the construction and heroics of the Seabees. These accounts resulted in the publication of the two-volume, "Building the Navy's Bases in World War II" in 1947.

After the war, the editor of "Building the Navy's Bases," Lt. Cmdr. Helen R. Fairbanks, became the first civilian BuDocks historian. Fairbanks's most immediate and important task was to collect and preserve the records of BuDocks, the CEC and the Seabees from World War II which were being stored in temporary federal record centers.

Fairbanks traveled to various record centers across the country and retrieved Seabee records that inevitably would have been destroyed otherwise. She warehoused the records in the Greater Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Area and in Clearfield, Utah, until they were all moved to Port Hueneme, Calif., in 1960, becoming the core collection of what is now the Seabee Archive.

Unrelated to Fairbanks's efforts at the time, in 1947, the Seabee Museum was established in Port Hueneme. The reason Port Hueneme was selected as the site over the original home of

Seabee Museum (interior), NCBC Port Hueneme, Calif., c. 1950.

Museum entrance, NCBC Port Hueneme, Calif., 1950.

U.S. Navy Seabee Museum entrance today, Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, Calif.

the Seabees in Davisville, R.I., was because Port Hueneme had an abundance of Seabee-related historical items on hand. During World War II, approximately 250,000 Seabees passed through Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Port Hueneme on their way to or from the Pacific Theater. Anxious to get home after extended duty overseas, the Seabees left vast quantities of memorabilia and "war trophies" in Port Hueneme rather than dealing with the lengthy government paperwork required to ship them home. By 1946, the building known as "Theater C" was overflowing with abandoned war souvenirs. The Navy often publicly displayed these artifacts at local public events such as the Ventura County Fair.

By the early 1950s, the museum in Theater C had become more of a warehouse than a display area. Not only was the collection outgrowing the facility, but the location of the building on the base limited access to the museum and attendance was down. In 1954, Capt. William Church, commanding officer, NCBC Port Hueneme, with some prodding from Fairbanks, pushed for the reorganization and relocation of the museum to a larger, more centrally located facility. In 1956, the museum relocated to two large Quonset huts, known as "Elephant Huts," which had been the base post office during World War II.

In 1960, the BuDocks Historian's Office and the Seabee Archive moved to Port Hueneme as well. Even though they were on the same base, the historian's office and museum remained in separate facilities until the mid-1980s when a renovation of the old museum building permitted collocation of office space and collections. Even under the same roof, the two organizations stayed administratively separate until being merged in 2001.

Today, the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum is part of the Naval History and Heritage Command. Thanks to a generous $12 million donation by the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation, the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum and Seabee Archive moved into a brand new, state-of-the-art facility in 2011. Unlike the old Quonset huts, the new facility has environmental and physical controls that permit the staff to preserve the collection their predecessors so diligently collected. In addition, the museum is located outside the perimeter fence, making it more easily accessible for veterans and the general public, with no restriction, for their education and enjoyment.

For more information about the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum and Seabee history, visit the museum's website at www.usnavyseabeemuseum.com.

(Background) Seabee statue before restoration.

(Insets) PHIBCB 2 refurbishing the 'Bee in preparation for its new home in front of 1NCD's new headquarters facility at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story. Members of PHIBCB 2's Seabee Rehabilitation Team are pictured in the center photo.

1NCD 'Bee Gets Makeover, Moves to Headquarters

By MC3(SCW/SW/AW) Jonathan Pankau, PHIBCB 2 Public Affairs

Amphibious Construction Battalion (PHIBCB) 2 completed the restoration of the First Naval Construction Division's (1NCD's) Seabee statue, Joint Expeditionary Base (JEB) Little Creek-Fort Story, Va., June 27.

PHIBCB 2's Seabee Rehabilitation Team completed the restoration in two weeks, after which members of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) placed the bee in front of 1NCD's newly constructed Operations Control Facility two days before the building dedication to Lt. Carl Milford Olson, June 29.

"This is a significant historical contribution for PHIBCB 2 because this is the first time a building was named after an amphibious Civil Engineer Corps officer," said Cmdr. Dan Grippo, executive officer, PHIBCB 2. [*Editor's Note: See related story on pp. 18-19.*]

The bee was originally constructed by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4's Bravo Company for the base at Camp Moscrip, Puerto Rico. After Camp Moscrip closed, the bee was transported to Virginia Beach, Va., to the original 1NCD headquarters building and refurbished by Construction Battalion Unit 423, June 2004. Exactly eight years later, the bee was due for its next makeover.

"Parts of it were starting to rust so badly that it was creating holes in the metal," said Steelworker 3rd Class Richard Griffin, Seabee Rehabilitation Team project manager. "Rust stains were even starting to drip onto the foundation and the paint was even worse. She definitely needed some love."

PHIBCB 2's Charlie Company did all of the welding, grinding and body restoration work during the first week of the project and transported the bee to Bravo Company's Lighterage Repair Facility where it was scheduled to be spray painted.

"The spray gun broke down, though, and we had to paint the whole thing pretty much by hand," said Equipment Operator Constructionman David Barresi, team member and concept designer of the bee's face. Barresi said he enjoys drawing caricatures in his spare time and jumped at the chance to design the new face of the 1NCD 'Bee.

"I've seen the bee with a few different faces and this one's the best so far," said Senior Chief Builder (SCW/EXW) John Woolston, operations chief, PHIBCB 2.

Woolston deployed to Camp Moscrip with NMCB 7 in 1993 and 1996, and took a picture with the bee both times.

"Restoring the bee brings my career full circle," Woolston said. "I get to be a part of rehabilitating a piece of Seabee history right at the end of my career that I admired at the beginning of it." He retired in August.

A plaque designating PHIBCB 2 as the remodelers of the statue is being cast and will be placed on the foundation.

PHIBCB 2's Seabee Rehabilitation Team included the following: Barresi, Griffin, Steelworker Constructionman (SCW) Stephen Bowman, Steelworker Constructionman Christopher Johnson, Builder Constructionman Joseph Galloway, Steelworker Constructionman Michael Flores, Steelworker Constructionman Charles Molyneaux, Steelworker Constructionman William Pohoretsky, Utilitiesman 3rd Class Paul Watts, Steelworker 3rd Class Richard Griffin, Steelworker 3rd Class Edward Gonzales, Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Andrew Kraus, Chief Steelworker (SCW) Julio Martinez, Ens. Allison Islin and Lt. Brandon Montoya.

A New Look at Independence Day

By Jenn Cobbel,
Former NMCB 4 Ombudsman and
Family Readiness Group President

The Cobbel Family - Jenn, Bailey and Dave

Independence Day comes but once a year. But to military spouses, the word "independence" has perhaps a different meaning for a large chunk of the year when your spouse is deployed. You know what I'm talking about. Deployment. This one word can bring with it a rush of emotion from anticipation, excitement, anger, sorrow and joy, just to name a few. And each depends on where you are in the deployment cycle.

According to Merriam-Webster, the word "independence" means the quality or state of being not subject to control by others, not requiring or relying on someone or something else. As Seabee spouses, we each have our way of dealing with this newfound independence when our husband, wife or partner is deployed – sometimes whether we realize it or not.

My husband Dave is currently going through C school at Great Lakes. I have been a military spouse for 12 years, through nine deployments, six moves and countless other life events. At one time or another, I think I have experienced every emotion that comes along with being on the other end of deployment, a.k.a. being independent.

From December 2006 to April 2012, we were stationed in Port Hueneme, Calif. While there, my husband deployed four times: Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan (twice). However, this doesn't count the C schools he attended and field exercises he did while there, too. That's a lot of time away from home for Dave — and a lot of independence for me.

Our daughter, Bailey, and I have figured out what works for us while Papa is gone. The day he leaves for a deployment, we mail him his first box. I call it the "dessert box." It has his favorites in it: 64-oz. bag of M&Ms, jar of peanut butter and special milk in a box. After we get home from the post office, we set up another goodie box. Each box contains things we know he will miss, pictures of us and anything else we think he can't live without. Bailey and I send him a box every pay day until the mail gets cut off. That's a good thing because it means Papa and the Seabees are coming home soon.

> "During deployment, sometimes I think that the house, Bailey and our dogs know that Dave is gone and try to revolt."

While Dave is gone, Bailey does a Papa Chain. These are links of construction paper which she connects. She adds one link for every day that Papa is gone, and usually works on it once a week. On her links she will write messages to Dave, such as what she has been up to or how she is feeling about him being gone. We tack her Papa Chain up all around her room. By the time he comes home it usually goes all the way around and sometimes overlaps. This also serves as Bailey's homecoming decoration for him, and it's something she has done all by herself.

As for me when Dave is gone, I try to stay busy. I do lots of volunteering with the Command and Bailey's school, and I also work from home. When he comes home, I love sharing the list of "Things that broke while Dave was gone." During each deployment, I keep a notebook of everything that broke. These are not funny when they actually happen, but when we look back on them together they're pretty hysterical! My list from our last deployment looked like this:

Things that broke while Dave was gone:

- House – sand bags needed to prevent flooding from street.
- Truck – leaking water from the 3rd brake light.
- Refrigerator – enough said.
- My toenail – I fell in the bushes putting up Christmas lights with flip-flops on.

During deployment, sometimes I think that the house, Bailey and our dogs know that Dave is gone and try to revolt. You may be thinking that I'm kidding. I'm not.

But when your Seabee comes home, the house, truck, fridge and toenail don't seem that major anymore. And for the time being, independence is very overrated.

Seabee Online Rolls Into High Gear

2012 SEABEE REUNIONS

SEPTEMBER

SEPT 21-23
NMCB 12
All Seabees Welcome
Westport, MA
Bill Napert Jr.
508-672-2737
bnapert@aol.com

SEPT 23-27
9th NCB (WWII), CBMU 624
Richmond, IN
Ray Dickerson
765-960-5767
ray@thegadabout.com

SEPT 27-30
22nd Annual MCB 7 Reunion
San Diego, CA
Denny Blaisdell
419-867-9371
dennybee@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER

OCT 3-6
NMCB 71/71st NCB (All Deployments)
Las Vegas, NV
Jerry Montecupo
412-373-3096
jmontecupo@verizon.net

OCT 5-8
NMCBs 1, 9, 10 Combined Reunion
Nashville, TN
Peter Dowd
781-837-0393
Mcb1reunion@verizon.net

OCT 6
NMCB 16/16th NCB
Arcadia, CA (Arcadia Park)
BUC Al Hegney
909-627-3461
hegneyhouse@hotmail.com

OCT 9-12
All Seabee Reunion (X-1 Gulfport, MS; NMCB 62; PWD Edzell, Scotland) and 66th NSVA National Convention
Gulfport, MS
Danny Duval
228-324-2794
duval.danny@gmail.com
Robert Smith
228-424-1185
smithrp@cableone.net
Norm Hahn
715-834-4780
normhahnjr@yahoo.com
www.nmcb62alumni.org

OCT 17-20
NMCB 74 (Vietnam Era)
Gulfport, MS
Dan Bower
810-938-8046
beatleboots1949@comcast.net

OCT 26-28
CBMU 302 (All Eras)
All Seabees Welcome
Branson, MO
Dave Schill
609-410-5969
dwschill@comcast.net

NOVEMBER

NOV 8-11
NMCB 14/14th NCB
Asheville, NC
Fred S. Bossard
570-801-8901
bossarf@mac.com
nmcb-14alumni.com

For updated reunion information, visit www.allseabees.com
or Seabee Online at seabeemagazine.navylive.dodlive.mil/reunions

Seabee Magazine in Print…The End of an Era

By FORCM(SCW) Douglas "Ray" Dickey, Force Master Chief Petty Officer of the Seabees

FORCM(SCW) Douglas Dickey

This month marks the end of an era as *Seabee* magazine rolls off the printing presses for the last time.

I'm a little sad because I, like many of you, liked getting my own copy. I read it front to back, and sometimes back to front. I liked having issues of the magazine neatly arranged on my desk. My favorite issues were those that included some of my former units, such as NMCB 4 and NMCB 40. I always thought it was a really good-looking magazine with great stories about our 'Bees, and I've been one of the magazine's biggest fans over the years.

With today's focus on being fiscally responsible and being connected to each other through technology, be it with smart phones or a tablet, we have to stay current and flexible. Earlier this year, the publishers of the magazine, NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs & Communications, convinced Rear Adm. Chris Mossey, NAVFAC commander and chief of engineers; Rear Adm. Mark Handley, commander, 1NCD; and me that converting the magazine to a totally online version made a lot of sense. Not only would *Seabee* magazine be available to all Seabees, both active and reserve, but could extend to their families, Seabee veterans and friends of Seabees, around the world, 24 hours a day.

Instead of a quarterly publication, news and information could be updated weekly, or on the spot if needed, for late-breaking happenings. Instead of just words, the new magazine could be multimedia in scope and include video and audio news pieces. That's exciting. But what closed the deal for me was that you – the reader – could provide feedback, ask questions and interact with other readers through this new medium. That's important. I'm really pleased with this new magazine and from the comments I've seen, so are many of you. This magazine belongs to all Seabees and can only get better with your feedback.

"We need each of you to tell the Seabee story to each other, to our leaders and to the American public."

Since 2000, *Seabee* magazine has been a first- or second-place finisher in the annual Navy Chief of Information (CHINFO) Merit Award competition. That means it has been one of the Navy's top magazines for the past 10 years due to the superb Navy public affairs professionals assigned to Seabee units, and the editorial team at NAVFAC and 1NCD. It's also due to the fact that our 'Bees are providing photos and stories to our unit PAOs to publish. Please contribute when you can. We need each of us to tell the Seabee story to each other, to our leaders and to the American public. Send your MCs articles, photos, videos and even project ideas about what your unit is doing. You can even email them directly to seabee.online@navy.mil. Let's show the world how our "Can Do" men and women contribute so much to our Supported Commanders around the world.

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone that our national election is November 6. If you haven't registered with your state or applied for an absentee ballot, please see your command voting representative. If you're having issues with the voting process, the Federal Voting Assistance Program call center is available at 1-800-438-8683, DSN 425-1584 or at vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html. It's your right to vote and a freedom that you defend!

Hoorah Seabees!

Construimus ✯ Batuimus

Objects in Mirror...

...may be closer than they appear. First Naval Construction Division's (1NCD's) EO2 Rhyan Tetrault gives the 'Bee a lift from its perch at the former 1NCD headquarters location. The first stop was for a few repairs and touch-ups at Amphibious Construction Battalion 2, before heading to its eventual site on Gator Boulevard at the new 1NCD Operations Control Facility [*Editor's Note: See related story on p. 22*].

Photo by BUC(SCW) Tia Stevenson