



The periodic electronic newsletter of
the Seabee Historical Foundation

BEE NEWS

October 2023

A Seabee from NMCB3 Detail Papua New Guinea polishing their skills with some welding training.

2	80 years ago this month	9-10	NMCB 133	15	Nonprofit in the spotlight
3	Veteran recalls Honor Flight	11	Seabee Museum & Memorial Park Chapel rededication	16	Seabee veteran biscuit champion
4	10 years ago this month & SHF/SMSA Fall Board note	12	Pacific Partnership 2023	17	MS license plate & Sponsors
5-6	NMCB 3	13	Can Do Career Connection & Seabee veteran turns SI rookie	18	Reunions & events
7-8	This month in Seabee history	14	Seabee in the Spotlight		

Aurelio Tassone and his Tank Dozer Oct 27, 1943

By Amber Delacruz, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum Archivist

On October 27, 1943, a party of 8 Seabees and their commanding officer from Company A of Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) 87 landed by LST on the island of Mono, an hour after the assault on the island had begun. Mono Island is part of the Treasury Islands within the country of the Solomon Islands, and was considered key to the planned invasion of Bougainville, 28 miles to the north. Company A landed with two bulldozers and a jeep, which they were to use to cut a road along the jungle beach. They were accompanied by an engineering reconnaissance group of 25 men from Headquarters Company, and assigned to the Eighth New Zealand Brigade, which was engaged in heavy fighting upon their arrival.

The assault troops were bombarded by enemy bombing, mortar and machine gun fire, and were taking a heavy toll from the Japanese. In particular, a well-concealed and strongly built Japanese pillbox containing a cannon and machine guns was constructed near the position of the LST, and holding up advance from the beach. The party of Seabees was led by Lt. Charles E. Turnbull, who ordered Machinists Mate First Class Aurelio Tassone to engage the pillbox with his 24-ton, D-8 bulldozer. Tassone raised the blade the blade on



Aurelio Tassone and Lt. Charles E. Turnbull atop the D-8 dozer, which Tassone named "Helen" after his wife

his bulldozer to act as a shield, and made the slow approach to the pillbox. Lt. Turnbull followed on foot, 10 feet to the side and behind the dozer, and armed with a carbine to provide covering fire. Under continuous heavy fire, Tassone drove his bulldozer toward the pillbox and lowered the blade, tearing into and crushing the barricade, covering its occupants with tons of earth and logs. For their actions and bravery, Turnbull and Tassone were later awarded the Silver Star.

MEET THE SEABEE WHOSE BULLDOZER SMASHED A JAP PILLBOX...



AURELIO TASSONE MM1c HAS A STORY FOR YOU!



Aurelio Tassone receiving the Silver Star Medal from Comdr. Easterly, 87th
OinC

Navy Veteran recalls Kansas Honor Flight experience

by: Stephanie Nutt, (KSNW) WICHITA, Kan.

Navy Veteran Alfred Perez recently went on his first Kansas Honor Flight.

Perez served two tours in Vietnam with the Navy. He was a construction mechanic third-class for heavy equipment with the Seabees.

"I basically took care of the equipment that the equipment operators would tear up," said Perez.

Perez said it was a pretty emotional experience and that everywhere they went, they were treated with respect.

The most memorable part of the Kansas Honor Flight for Perez was the Vietnam Wall.

"I have eight fellow Seabees on that wall, so it kind of, you know, that kind of hits you right there," said Perez as

he tapped his chest over his heart.

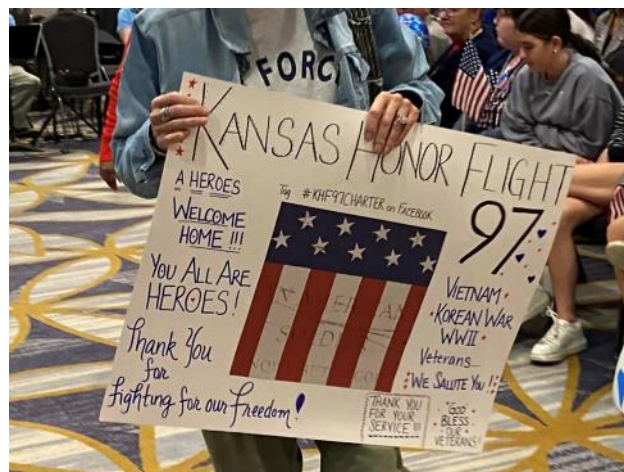
Perez said although the two days were tiring for him, he would take the trip again.

The biggest takeaway for him was that they were being honored.

"Means a lot. We didn't get this when we came home," said Perez.

For more photos of the welcome home party for the 97th Kansas Honor Flight, check out the "Kansas Honor Flight" page on Facebook.

It was also the 50th Kansas Honor Flight that the Maize High School cheerleaders participated in. Since they started, they have only missed two of the events.



Ten years ago this month: NMCB 3 in Timor Leste

U.S. Navy Seabee Chief Utilitiesman Miguel Fernandez, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's Timor-Leste Construction Civic Action Detail (CCAD) assistant officer-in-charge, receives a traditional tais, or scarf, from the Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL) during an appreciation ceremony for Sapper 13 participants. Royal Australian Engineers, Seabees from NMCB 3, and engineers from the U.S. Marine Corps 9th Engineering Support Battalion and F-FDTL teamed up to build a new school, outside bathroom facility, kitchenette and playground for the local Duyung suko, or neighborhood, in the Metinaro district of Dili. Sapper 13 is the first exercise of its kind ever executed in Timor-Leste. During the 28-day exercise, the joint team shared construction techniques and increased interoperability between the three countries. Seabees from NMCB 3 are also deployed to Timor-Leste to execute engineering civic assistance projects, conduct formal training with the host nation and perform community relations events to help enhance shared capabilities and improve the country's social welfare. One of the first battalions commissioned during World War II, NMCB 3's legacy stands strong in its ability to build and fight anywhere in the world as either a full battalion or as a group of autonomous detachments, simultaneously completing critical engineering and construction missions. For this deployment, NMCB 3 has split into nine details to perform critical construction projects in remote island areas such as Timor-Leste, Tonga, Cambodia and the Philippines. The teams will also conduct operations in Atsugi, Yokosuka and Okinawa, Japan; Chinhae, Republic of Korea and China Lake, Calif. The Naval Construction Force is a vital component of the U.S. Maritime Strategy. They provide deployable battalions capable of providing disaster preparation and recovery support, humanitarian assistance and combat operations support.



From the Fall Quarterly Board Meeting: The Seabee Historical Foundation and Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association held their Fall quarterly board meetings in Davisville, Rhode Island, which culminated in the Seabee Celebration later in the evening.

One of the main topics discussed by both organizations in taking steps toward merger was the motion, discussion, and unanimous acceptance of the bylaws for the merged organization to be known as the

Navy Seabee Foundation.

Thanks to the bylaws working group and all who participated in preparing for this significant milestone. There is still much work to be accomplished prior to our final vote of merger at the December board meeting, but we are well on our way to best serve the Seabee community.



"Our Seabee community is special, and we've never been stronger and more aligned than today. As the Boards of SMSA Directors and SHF Trustees continue to work tirelessly to join our two organizations into one Navy Seabee Foundation this year, we have strengthened the foundation for an even greater capability to support and serve Seabees and Seabee Families. It is a privilege to do this great work for our country."

Lou Cariello, SMSA Chairman

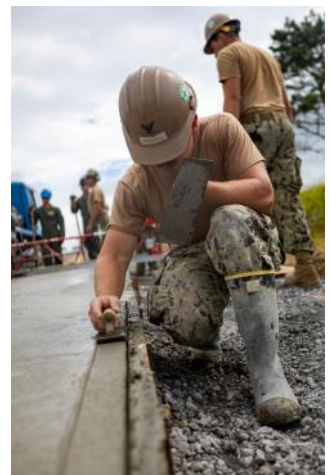
...and casting in concrete the ability to serve our Seabees and Families.

NMCB 3 on deployment

Our Diego Garcia Bees are giving Jake's Place some TLC



Building Airfields, Building Relationships. Recently, NMCB 3 Seabees worked alongside U.S. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force service members to place concrete at the Kirishima Training Area, Japan.



Detail Iwakuni is making excellent progress on MCAS Iwakuni Landfill.



Our 2nd Class Association has been collecting goods to donate to Help Oki.



NMCB 3 on deployment

Papua New Guinea

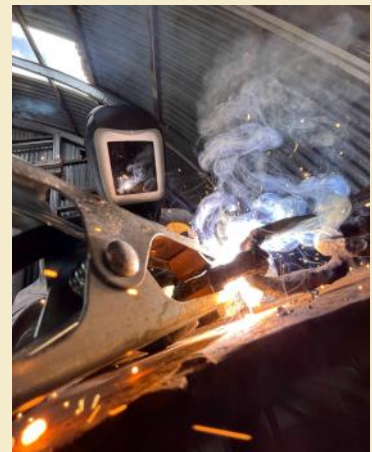


Seabees from DET PNG embarked on a training exercise to join the 95th CEC-I Army Combat Engineers and CLB 11 Marines for Joint Operation Tamiok Strike.



DET PNG are staying sharp by aiding in the renovation of Papitalai Secondary School.

A Seabee from DET PNG polishing their skills with some welding training.



Detail Tinian is putting in amazing work adding a concrete pad to the camp ensuring more useful space for activities.



Det Marshall Islands: SEABEES. SAILORS OF CULTURES. Seabees assigned to NMCB 3 participate in Manit Day, The purpose of this day is to honor the Marshallese culture and heritage.

Our Pohnpei Seabees can't be stopped renovating Pohnpei State Gym/Track and Field restrooms. Just keep trucking down the line!!



FROM SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION	TO INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
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02 OCTOBER 2010: RDML PAULA C. BROWN BECAME THE FIRST FEMALE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE FIRST NAVAL CONSTRUCTION DIVISION AND JUST THE SECOND FEMALE IN THE CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS (CEC) TO BE PROMOTED TO REAR ADMIRAL DURING A CEREMONY AT THE SEABEE MEMORIAL, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA. THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT CAPS A SERIES OF FIRSTS FOR RDML BROWN, WHO WAS ALSO THE FIRST FEMALE COMMANDER OF A SEABEE REGIMENT IN COMBAT.

03 OCTOBER 1942: THE FIRST DECORATED SEABEE HERO WAS SEAMAN SECOND CLASS LAWRENCE C. "BUCKY" MEYER OF THE 6TH NCB. WHILE WORKING AS A TRUCK DRIVER ON HENDERSON FIELD, MEYER TOOK COVER IN A MARINE MACHINE GUN PIT DURING AN ENEMY STRAFING ATTACK ON THE AIRSTRIP. MANNING THE MACHINE GUN, HE FIRED AT THE LEAD JAPANESE ZERO AND SHOT IT DOWN. FOR HIS EXPLOIT HE WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR MEDAL. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MEDAL HAD TO BE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY, BECAUSE 13 DAYS LATER MEYER WAS KILLED IN ACTION WHEN JAPANESE DIVE BOMBERS ATTACKED AND DESTROYED THE GASOLINE BARGE ON WHICH HE WAS WORKING

03 OCTOBER 1964: NMCB 7 INAUGURATED THE FIRST FULLY COMPUTERIZED PROGRAMMING OF A SEABEE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WHEN THAT BATTALION'S WORKLOAD AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA WAS PLANNED AND PROGRAMMED BY COMPUTER. THIS METHOD OF PLANNING WAS TO BECOME A USEFUL TOOL IN PREPARING FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

04 OCTOBER 1969: AT 2330, GMG2 P.W. LARREMORE WAS KILLED IN ACTION ABOUT 5 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DA NANG IN BINH KY HAMLET, RVN.

12 OCTOBER 1970: CNO AUTHORIZED ESTABLISHMENT OF "AN UNDERWATER FACILITY CONSTRUCTION CAPABILITY" WITHIN NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE FOR PURPOSES OF ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, AND REPAIR OF UNDERWATER FACILITIES; UNOFFICIAL NAMES OF UCT 1 AND UCT 2.

13 OCTOBER 1942: CMM HENRY L. THOMPSON OF THE 6TH NCB WAS THE FIRST SEABEE KILLED IN ACTION. HE DIED DURING A JAPANESE NAVAL BOMBARDMENT OF HENDERSON FIELD ON GUADALCANAL. THOMPSON AND FIVE OTHER SEABEES WERE HUDDLED IN A DEEP DUGOUT TO AVOID THE HUGE 14-INCH ARMOR-PIERCING NAVAL SHELLS THAT THE JAPANESE NAVAL TASK FORCE WAS HURLING INTO THE SEABEE CAMP AREA. ONE SHELL LANDED DIRECTLY IN THE HOLE. THE CONCUSSION COLLAPSED THE SIDES OF THE HOLE, BURYING THE SIX MEN. TWO SEABEES, BRAVELY DISREGARDING THEIR OWN SAFETY, DUG THE SIX MEN OUT OF THE DIRT-FILLED HOLE. THOUGH THE OTHER FIVE MEN SURVIVED, THOMPSON WAS FOUND DEAD, SITTING UPRIGHT IN THE BOTTOM OF THE DUGOUT. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT HE DIED FROM THE CONCUSSION AS MUCH AS FROM SUFFOCATION. THE TWO MEN WHO DUG OUT THE MEN, SF1C H.L. OSBORN AND SF1C D.L. GILLIS, RECEIVED THE SILVER STAR FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

13 OCTOBER 1974: RESERVE BATTALION NMCB 17 DEDICATED THEIR PERMANENT DRILL SITE AT THE NCBC PORT HUENEME. THE DRILL SITE WAS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF CM2 JAMES W. LYNCH AND BU2 WILLIAM A. FULTON. THESE MEN DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES WHILE MEMBERS OF NMCB 17.

14 OCTOBER 2005: PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE DOCK LANDING SHIP USS PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52) AND SEABEES ASSIGNED TO NMCB 3, LOADED HEAVY EQUIPMENT ABOARD PEARL HARBOR, IN MANAMA, BAHRAIN BOUND FOR PAKISTAN. THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT WAS USED TO ASSIST THE VICTIMS OF THE WORST EARTHQUAKE IN THAT COUNTRY'S HISTORY. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICIPATING IN A MULTINATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT EFFORT LED BY THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT TO BRING AID TO VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK THE REGION 8 OCTOBER 2005.

19 OCTOBER 2011: CHIEF BUILDER (SCW) RAYMOND J. BORDER OF WEST LAFAYETTE, OH WAS KILLED BY IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IN AFGHANISTAN WHILE ASSESSING A ROAD IN PAKTIKA PROVINCE. CHIEF BORDER HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTEE TOUR BACK TO AFGHANISTAN AFTER DEPLOYING THERE WITH NMCB 74 THE PRIOR YEAR.

21 OCTOBER 2013: SEABEES STOOD ON THE FIRST 100 FEET OF A 250-FOOT RUBBLE MOUND BREAKWATER BUILT BY SEABEES FROM UNDERWATER CONSTRUCTION TEAM (UCT) 2. THE SEABEES WERE WORKING WITH ENGINEERS FROM THE TIMOR LESTE DEFENSE FORCE, MPU, THE AUSTRALIA DEFENCE COOPERATION PROGRAM, THE TIMOR-LESTE MARITIME POLICE UNIT AND SEABEE'S FROM NMCB 3 TO BUILD THE BREAKWATER AND A FLOATING SMALL BOAT PIER. THE SMALL BOAT PIER ENHANCED THE MARITIME POLICE UNIT'S ABILITY TO LAUNCH AND RECOVER SMALL BOATS.

DAY 30	MONTH SEPTEMBER	YEAR 2023	TIME SIGNED 2359 L	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER <i>J. M. Seabee</i>	(CONT NEXT PAGE)
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This Month in Seabee History:

Disclaimer: The history of the Seabees accomplishments each month is far more vast than this space. This list is a representative sample of all eras.

FROM SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION	TO INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
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23 OCTOBER 1967: THE FIRST CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS OFFICER TO BE KILLED IN VIETNAM WAS LIEUTENANT JOSEPH J. RHODES, CEC, USN, A MEMBER OF MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 121. LIEUTENANT RHODES WAS RIDING IN A JEEP THAT STRUCK A LAND MINE AND HE DIED FROM MULTIPLE SHRAPNEL WOUNDS. TWO OTHER OCCUPANTS OF THE JEEP, SWC GORDON J. DIBBLE AND BUR3 JON R. MORBAY, WERE ALSO KILLED. A SEABEE CAMP AT QUANG TRI, VIETNAM WAS LATER DEDICATED IN HIS MEMORY. A PLAQUE BEARING THE INSCRIPTION "CAMP RHODES DEDICATED IN HONOR OF LT JOSEPH JOHN RHODES, KILLED IN ACTION OCTOBER 23, 1967" WAS UNVEILED BY REAR ADMIRAL A.C. HUSBAND, THEN CHIEF OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

24 OCTOBER 1942: ARMORERS OF THE 34TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION WORKED TO KEEP THEIR WEAPONS IN FIRST-CLASS CONDITION AT ALL TIMES ON A PACIFIC ISLAND DURING WORLD WAR II. THE AFRICAN AMERICAN 34TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION WAS COMMISSIONED BY REAR ADMIRAL LEWIS B. COMBS AT CAMP ALLEN, NORFOLK, VA. THE 34TH NCB WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SEABEE BATTALION IN THE NAVY.

24 OCTOBER 1944: TANK MOUNTED FLAME THROWERS BECAME AN OUTSTANDING WEAPON FOR ROUTING JAPANESE SOLDIERS OUT OF CAVES AND PILLBOXES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. A COMPOSITE GROUP WAS SET UP TO ASSIST THE ARMY'S CHEMICAL WARFARE PERSONNEL IN DEVELOPING THIS WEAPON. INCLUDED IN THE GROUP WAS AN OFFICER AND 25 SEABEES FROM THE 117TH NCB. AFTER SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS, THE FLAME THROWING TANK PROVED TO BE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY EXCEPT FOR ONE TECHNICAL DETAIL WHICH THE TANKMEN SAID WAS A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE. THE SEABEES SET TO WORK ON A DESIGN FOR A FUNCTIONAL MODIFICATION OF THE WEAPON. NOT ONLY DID THE SEABEE DESIGN ELIMINATE THE OBJECTIONAL FEATURE OF THE PRIOR MODELS, BUT IT GREATLY REDUCED THE NUMBER OF MOVING PARTS. AT ITS FIRST DEMONSTRATION ON OCTOBER 24, 1944, THE NEW WEAPON WAS GIVEN ENTHUSIASTIC APPROVAL BY TANKMEN AND CHEMICAL WARFARE OFFICERS. IN ADDITION TO BUILDING THESE FLAME THROWER TANKS, SEABEES ALSO INSTRUCTED TANKMEN HOW TO OPERATE THEM. THE SEABEE INSTRUCTORS ASSISTED IN MAKING EXPERTS OUT OF ARMY AND MARINE TANKMEN BEFORE THE TANKS WENT INTO ACTION IN SUCH PLACES AT IWO JIMA, OKINAWA, AND PELELIU.

25 OCTOBER 2006: JUST TWO MONTHS INTO AN IRAQ DEPLOYMENT, CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN 2ND CLASS CHARLES V. "CHUCK" KOMPPA, A NAVY RESERVIST WITH THE FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON BASED NMCB 18, WAS KILLED IN ACTION WHILE SERVING IN IRAQ'S WESTERN AL ANBAR PROVINCE. KOMPPA WAS SERVING WITH THE BATTALION'S DETACHMENT 0618, BASED OUT OF BILLINGS, MONTANA.

26 OCTOBER 2012: RADM KATHERINE L. GREGORY ASSUMED DUTIES AS COMMANDER, NAVFAC AND CHIEF OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, THE FIRST WOMAN TO HOLD EITHER POSITION IN NAVY HISTORY.

26 OCTOBER 2007: AMPHIBIOUS CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (ACB) 1 DEPLOYED TASK FORCE BULLDOZER, IN SUPPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION'S (CAL FIRE'S) FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. TASK FORCE BULLDOZER PROVIDED SUPPORT TO CAL FIRE BY SUPPLEMENTING EXISTING, BUT OVERTAXED, FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES. THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES INCREASED CAL FIRE'S CAPABILITY AND ALLOWED MUCH NEEDED PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE TO BE PERFORMED ON IN-SERVICE EQUIPMENT.

28 OCTOBER 1965: AT MARBLE MOUNTAIN, DA NANG EAST, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, VIET CONG BANDS WITH MORTARS AND SACHEL EXPLOSIVES BLASTED AN AIR FACILITY AND A BADLY-NEEDED ADVANCED BASE HOSPITAL BEING BUILT BY NMCB 9. THE ASSAULT KILLED TWO SEABEES AND WOUNDED OVER 90. EIGHT QUONSET HUTS HOUSING SURGICAL, LABORATORY, X-RAY AND OTHER WARDS LAY IN SHAMBLES. THE SEABEES PAUSED TO HONOR THEIR DEAD AND THEN SET ABOUT REBUILDING THE HOSPITAL. THEY ERECTED AND OUTFITTED THE SURGICAL AND CLINICAL WARDS, ADDED LIVING QUARTERS, AND OPENED THE 400-BED HOSPITAL IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS.

29 OCTOBER 2012: BRIG. GEN. DAVID L. WEEKS, COMMANDING GENERAL, 411TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, JOINT TASK FORCE EMPIRE, AWARDED EOCN MATTHEW LOPER, NMCB 133, WITH THE PURPLE HEART ON CAMP KRUTKE, AFGHANISTAN. LOPER RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART FOR WOUNDS SUSTAINED DURING A MISSION IN THE HELMAND PROVINCE, AND WAS DEPLOYED TO AFGHANISTAN WITH TASK FORCE ANCHOR, PROVIDING ENGINEER SUPPORT TO COALITION FORCES.

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NMCB 133 on deployment

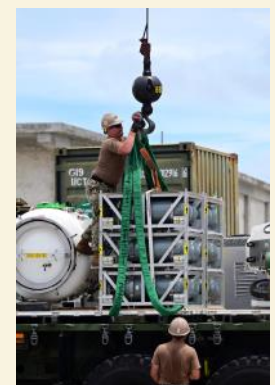
NMCB 133 is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations, including Nutekpor, Ghana employed by the U.S. 6th Fleet to defend U.S., allied and partner interests.



Top Left: Builder 2nd Class David Derosset checks soil compaction prior to concrete placement for a tension fabric structure to be used as a maritime training facility. Top Right: Steelworker 1st Class Brittany Harkovich cuts angle irons for concrete placement. Lower L-R: 1. Marines, assigned to the 8th Engineering Support Battalion (8th ESB), and Seabees, assigned to NMCB 133, cut concrete forms. 2. Seabees and Marines mix concrete. 3. Senior Chief Constructionman Jason Fletcher directs the mixing of concrete and aggregate. 4 & 5. Seabees and Marines place concrete.



Our Guam detail having been working hard on various mission sets. The crane crew has been providing top-tier support to Underwater Construction Team 2 and the multinational underwater repair engagement, 2023 by moving diving survival equipment essential to the mission.



Honor, Connect, Unite, Inspire, Support

NMCB 133 on deployment



Our Cyprus detail is making progress clearing and leveling at the helicopter landing pad construction site.



Morocco detail, are working hard laying the groundwork for a pre-engineered building for a maritime training facility to be utilized by the Royal Moroccan Navy.



Below: Tunisia detail have been working hard conducting high quality construction on a youth center for the local population.



Seabees are continuing their hard work on the military working dog project in Rota, Spain. They are leveling floor drainage, installing electrical outlets, and installing a new silt fence around the site.



Seabees Helping Seabees



CAN DO
Career Connection



Are you looking for employees who are: Hard Working, Dedicated, Reliable, and Innovative? On the SHF website you can post open job listings and search resumes of qualified Seabees with "Can Do" attitudes and the skills to match. Consider adding a Seabee to your team today!

Are you a Seabee transitioning to the private sector, or a Seabee veteran looking for a new opportunity? On the SHF website you will find employers who are looking to add members to their team those who exemplify the Seabee "Can Do" ethos. Registration is FREE for employers and job seekers!

We are looking for feedback on the "Can Do" Career Connection as a resource for Seabees. Has it helped you land a job or hire a Seabee? What was good about your experience with this site? What can be improved on this site to make it more user friendly? Contact us at (228) 575-3858 or email info@seabeehf.org and let us know how we have supported you or how we can support you better. Thank you to the companies who have registered and are posting jobs with the Can Do Career Connection.

www.seabeehf.org/careers

Navy Seabee veteran becomes a Sport Illustrated swimsuit model rookie.

From Navy vet to model in no time! Brittney Nicole only started modeling a year ago - And already she's started to see success, walking New York Fashion Week and landing a magazine cover.

After studying psychology at Augusta State, Brittney joined the Navy, a job that saw her stationed in Gulfport, Mississippi, but also took her all over the world to Spain, Japan, Israel and Guam. In these countries, she built schools and runaways among other projects.

She then worked for the Navy as a civilian employee and is relatively new to the world of modeling, an interest that she only started chasing a year ago.

SI Swimsuit says her motto is: 'Life is too short to not go after your dreams. Your dreams are within reach, so go get them.'





SEABEE MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL PARK

RHODE ISLAND



The Chapel in the Pines, originally designed in 1960 and constructed by Seabee battalions based in Davisville, RI during the Vietnam War, had suffered from significant wear and tear over the years. Today, it stands as an integral part of the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park. After a dedicated effort spanning two and a half years of fundraising, the necessary funds were successfully gathered to initiate the Chapel's much-needed renovation. The entire renovation process was meticulously overseen by the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park.

On October 7th, the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park proudly hosted a rededication ceremony for the Chapel in the Pines. The event drew a capacity crowd of Seabees and friends, underscoring the community's deep connection to this historic site. The Seabee Museum and Memorial Park extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the generous donors, whether their contributions were \$1 or \$5,000. Every single individual's support is immensely appreciated, and the organization hopes that this support will continue as there is still ongoing work to be done on the Chapel's exterior and the surrounding grounds. Your continued involvement is vital to our mission.



Pacific Partnership 2023 Seabees Break Ground at Mongniol Primary School

Photos by Chief Mass Communications Specialist Eric Chan



Top-left: Utilitiesman 3rd Class Michael Blake secures a water pipe during a water container renovation project.

Top-right: Water container renovation project group photo at Mongniol Primary School during Pacific Partnership 2023. Now in its 18th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

Middle-left: Seabees breakup a concrete pad.

Middle-center: Construction Electrician 3rd Class Drequa Addison works on a water pipe.

Middle-right: Engineering Aide 2nd Class Duc Nguyen removes fencing.

Bottom-left: Seabees remove a water container during a renovation project at Mongniol Primary School during Pacific Partnership 2023.

Sailor in the Spotlight



*Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Max Rector
Naval Air Station Sigonella*

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (Oct. 27, 2023) – Construction Electrician 2nd Class Alyssa Escamilla, 26, from Hollister, California, has been a member of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's Public Works Department (PWD) for two and a half years. She joined the Navy in November 2015, with a drive to live self-sufficiently, improve her financial security and work in a professional environment.

“For me, serving means being there for the people around me in the best way I can,” said Escamilla. “I really just want to do well by my peers and grow as a person. I hope to mirror what I believe to be a good leader.”

Escamilla's primary duties at PWD include command physical training, platoon and troop administration. She also volunteers as a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) administrative Uniform Victim Advocate, is the Women's Resiliency Council (WRC) president, and serves as the PWD public affairs officer.

“SAPR UVA and WRC give me the opportunity to be there for people who may feel they have no one else to turn to,” said Escamilla. “PAO allows me to capture the best moments of our everyday work life and recognize the hard work we put in as PWD.”

Escamilla's favorite part of her job is training junior troops; sharing her past experiences and knowledge. Supporting her Sailors and peers is very important to her.

“It makes me feel genuinely happy when I can share useful and pertinent information I know will benefit someone throughout and beyond their naval career,” said Escamilla.

Escamilla's leading petty officer, Construction Electrician 1st Class John Ronayne, said she is nothing short of an exemplary leader. When given the opportunity to nominate a Sailor for Sailor in the Spotlight, his instinct was to nominate Escamilla.

“Escamilla seeks out opportunity to become a better leader each and every day, while capitalizing on daily tasks and duties,” said Ronayne. “She is a deck-plate leader who uses empathy, selflessness and administrative talents to lead PWD Sigonella to success. Escamilla has limitless potential and is devoted to her Sailors.”

Escamilla said her proudest naval accomplishment so far happened while on a deployment to Chuuk, Micronesia, where she was the lead electrician for a humanitarian project. She said she will never forget the happiness her team brought to the staff and students at the school, and the connection she made with those they were helping.

“During that deployment, we built a two-room building, and renovated 12 bathrooms for the Chuuk High School,” said Escamilla. “During the seven-month deployment, I advanced to E-4, and earned my Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist and Expeditionary Warfare Specialist qualifications, all while learning out of rate and teaching others above my paygrade.”



While on the deployment, Escamilla repaired generators, installed interior wiring and lights, and found a way to supply underground power to the pumps for 12 bathrooms. Escamilla said she worked very hard and thought outside the box the entire deployment, but still took time to have fun with the rest of the crew.

In her spare time, Escamilla is earning her Associate's degree and enjoys fitness, sewing, baking and reading. Escamilla's favorite parts about being stationed in Sicily is learning about Sicilian history and the ability to travel; “Dolce far Niente,” meaning, “The sweetness of doing nothing.”

Naval Air Station Sigonella provides consolidated operational, command and control, administrative, logistical and advanced logistical support to U.S. and other NATO forces. The installation's strategic location enables U.S., allied, and partner nation forces to deploy and respond as required, ensuring security and stability in Europe, Africa and Central Command.

Seabees! You are why we do what we do...

The Seabee Historical Foundation (SHF) seeks to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps in the famed Seabee “CAN DO” Spirit.

Our efforts fall under four programmatic pillars:

- * **Honor and Serve Seabees and Seabee Veterans**
- * **Engage a Wider Audience**
- * **Inspire America’s Youth**
- * **Educate the Public about Seabee Contributions**

Our work falls within five key areas to support these pillars:

- * **Honor, Connect, Unite, Inspire and Support** Seabees.

In supporting Seabees, our “Non-Profit in the Spotlight” page highlights additional resources available for Bees in need.

Non-Profits in the Spotlight



Our mission is one of gratitude.

For their service, sacrifice, and selflessness.

Join us as we proudly celebrate America’s Veterans with a day of honor in our nation’s capital.

The Honor Flight Mission & Vision

Our Mission

To celebrate America’s veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation’s memorials.

Our Vision

A nation where all of America’s veterans experience the honor, gratitude,

and community of support they deserve.

Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission. In furtherance of this common goal, we have the enormous privilege of showing our nation’s veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve.

Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to our organization.

Honor Flight Network currently honors those who served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

Over 125 hubs across the country form our Honor Flight Network. These hubs and their volunteers truly make our mission a success. They freely donate their time and talents to coordinate flights, bus trips, welcome home ceremonies, thousands of phone calls and so much more – all with the common goal to honor our nation’s heroes with the trip of a lifetime.

Through Honor Flight Network’s Lone Eagle program, we are able to serve those veterans who live in areas with no local hub – furthering the reach of our impact.

124 Active Hubs

Over 260,000 Veterans Transported & Counting

17 Years In Operation

44 States Served by Hubs

For more information on how to register, or ways to support, please visit:

<https://www.honorflight.org>

Virginia Beach Hardee's baker wins dough for his exceptional biscuits

by: Aesia Toliver,
WAVY.com

Tony Robinson, from Norfolk, named Hardee's 2023 Biscuit Baker Competition Champion.

Five days a week, a group of locals meet up at their favorite breakfast spot in Virginia Beach off Independence Boulevard.

"It's the best Hardee's around," said Virginia Beach resident, Kay Post.

Post said the biscuits at this location were second to none.

"It's great, it's fluffy I get what I want," said local woman, Debbie Darwin.

It's not just the warm buttery goodness that has their hearts — it's the man who makes them. Anthony Robinson was recently named the 2023 Hardee's National Biscuit Maker Champion. He came out on top against thousands of other biscuit makers across the U.S.

He was one of four finalists who competed in St. Petersburg, Florida for the title and a grand prize of \$10,000. That's a lot of dough!

"His personality is great — he always waves to us, and

the biscuits have good quality," said another resident Vicky Cartwright. "I like to bake, so I know when this biscuit is good."

This is Robinson's first National title, but he's won the regional competition which includes Hardee's in Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky, four different times.

"We hear him coming out saying 'hot biscuits,' and it's just a nice happy feeling in here," Darwin said.

Robinson has been making biscuits from scratch for over 12 years.

"Little circles for folding, big circles for rolling," Robinson said as he laid out his flour.

He clocks in at 4 a.m., and whips up dozens of batches until the breakfast hours are over.

"I've always had a love of cooking so that came natural, but doing the Hardee's biscuits was something different," Robinson said. "I did it. I fell in love with it."

Robinson said his attention to detail, and following protocol, comes from his time in the Navy as a construction mechanic. He retired in 2006, and has been with Hardees ever since.



"That act of you knowing you have a job to do, being able to get up in the morning to do that job, and just the dedication you should have in any particular job that you have," Robinson said. "I do take that from the military."

The passion behind it all he said comes from his grandma, Lucinda Hunter, who passed away.

"I was the one that stayed back in the kitchen and watched her cook when my brother and my cousin went out and played," Robinson smiled.

It's that combo of love and discipline that keeps customers coming back for more.

"We know when he is not here because the biscuits aren't as good," Cartwright said.

"As long as Hardee's is doing biscuits, I'll be here," Robinson said.

Calling All Mississippi Seabees!

Mississippi Legislature has authorized a Seabee Specialty License Plate supporting the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation. Must hit 300 sold for production to start.

\$33

There's Still Time to Order!

www.seabeehf.org

ORDER NOW

Visit our Members portal where you can update your membership, see past newsletters and more.

To sign up, please visit: seabeehf.org/member-login/

"The Difficult We Do At Once, The Impossible Takes A Bit Longer. ~Miracles are by Appointment Only"



Patron (\$10,000)



Leader (\$5,000)

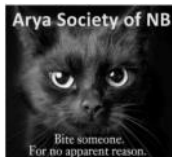


The Seabee Historical Foundation thanks our Corporate Partners
Are you a business looking to connect with our CEC/Seabee Community? Become a part of the Team! Scan the QR Code above with your smart phone for details.

Partner (\$2,500)



Supporter (\$1,000)



Cellon & Associates

Associate (\$500)



Honor, Connect, Unite, Inspire, Support

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

Veterans Day Wreath Laying

Seabee Memorial

Arlington National Cemetery.

Saturday, November 11th, 2023

Pacific Northwest Marvin Shields & Veterans Day Tribute

Marvin Shields Gravesite

November 11, 2023

1100-1200

Gardiner Cemetery, Gardiner, WA

*"With Compassion For Others,
We Build, We Fight
For Peace With Freedom"*

Contact us:

P.O. Box 657
Gulfport, MS 39502
Phone: 228-575-3858
Email: info@seabeehf.org

Visit us on the web at:
https://www.seabeehf.org

On Facebook at:
@CECSeabeeHistoricalFoundation

In person at:
Heritage Center adjacent to the
Base theater/training center
NCBC Gulfport, MS

NSVA Island X-1 Gulfport All Seabee Reunion

May 2-5, 2024

Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront

Pam Taylor, 228-223-1762

seabeeepam@hotmail.com

Bob Smith, 228-424-1185

smithrp1904@gmail.com

UCT 50th Anniversary Reunion

May 17-19, 2024

Port Hueneme, CA

CBCM(MDV) Adam Winters,

805-982-2430,

adam.s.winters.mil@us.navy.mil

CBMU 302 Reunion

October 10-12, 2024

Thousand Hills Resort Hotel

Branson, MO

Peggie Vandenberg, 509-520-5396

peggiev@pocketinet.com

NMCB 4 Reunion

November 07-10, 2024

Golden Nugget Casino/Resort

Las Vegas, NV

Jim Wilson, 248-369-5129

jimlegendary@gmail.com

2023 GULF COAST SEABEE GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Diamondhead Country Club

The Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) and the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation (SHF) are working together on this event to raise funds for scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Seabees and to support the operation of the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation

Become a Sponsor!
Raffle Prizes Needed!

www.seabeegolf.org