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Chapter 1
History and Organization of the Seabees and the Laws of Armed Conflict

Topics

1.0.0 Occupational Construction Skills
2.0.0 Concept of Organization and Chain of Command of the NCF
3.0.0 Organizations Supporting the Naval Construction Force
4.0.0 Laws of Armed Conflict
5.0.0 General Precepts of the Laws of Armed Conflict
6.0.0 Relations with the Country Being Entered
7.0.0 Your Conduct Under the Laws of Armed Conflict
8.0.0 What Happens When Rules are Violated

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Overview

The Seabees are the Navy’s construction force and few select teams, if any, enjoy a finer reputation among America’s fighting men and women. During their short history, the Seabees have won fame, honor, and distinction as an organization that “Can Do,” even when faced with practically insurmountable obstacles. In this chapter you will learn about the history of the construction force. You will also become familiar with the organization of the finest fighting construction team. Furthermore, you will learn about the laws of war and why we need them.

Objectives

When you have completed this chapter, you will be able to:

1. Describe the events that led to the establishment of the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) and the Seabees.
2. Identify the general organization of the Naval Construction Force (NCF), types of Seabee Units within the NCF, and their objectives and organization.
3. Identify the services provided by the organizations that support the Naval Construction Force.
4. Identify the mission, function, and structure of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs).
5. Describe the organization and mission of the Headquarters Company and the duties of its personnel.
6. Describe the duties of the rifle company personnel.
7. Identify the members of a rifle platoon and their duties.
8. Identify the members of a rifle squad and their duties.
9. Identify the members of a rifle fire team, their duties, and individual weapons.
10. Identify the fire support elements of the rifle companies in a battalion, and denote individual responsibilities.
11. Identify the members of the machine gun and antitank squads, their equipment, and duties.

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for completing this manual.

Features of this Manual
This manual has several features which make it easy to use online.

- Figure and table numbers are italicized within the handbook text. Figure and table reference numbers are conveniently located next to (or near) the applicable handbook text.
- Audio and video clips are included in the text, with italicized instructions telling you where to click to activate the appropriate link.
- Review questions are included at the end of this chapter as the chapter assignment. To submit assignments log into https://www.courses.netc.navy.mil, go to “Student Services”, in the drop down click on “Active Courses”, go to "View/Submit Answers" next to the course you wish to submit answers for. Assignments may be submitted to the above Web site as they are completed, and instant scoring is available. Your completion letter is available as soon as you pass all assignments.
- A form at the end of each chapter allows your input for improving the manual or correcting errors to be brought to the attention of CSFE’s Technical Review Committee. Your input is important and will help keep this manual up to date and free of technical errors.
1.0.0 OCCUPATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SKILLS

1.1.0 Civil Engineer Corps

The Navy CEC was established in 1867 to build and maintain the naval shore establishment. CEC officers are the Navy’s uniformed professional engineers and architects who are billeted to and command NCF units, and who:

1. Execute and manage the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Navy’s shore infrastructure for Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC)

2. Serve as component and service staff engineers

3. Serve in Naval Facilities Engineering Command’s (NAVFAC) public works and in Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division (FEAD)/Resident Officer In Charge of Construction (ROICC) billets

4. Provide a unique combination as naval officer, expeditionary warrior, engineering professional, and acquisition business professional by:

   a) Developing warfighting skills through tours with NCF units and being required to achieve a warfare qualification as a Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist (SCW)

   b) Registering as a professional engineer or licensed architect in areas such as architecture or civil, mechanical, environmental, and electrical engineering

   c) Pursuing certification as an acquisition professional in their role as construction project managers

1.2.0 Seabees

The name Seabee has three distinct meanings. The context in which Seabee is used determines its meaning. For the purpose of this publication, the name Seabee is synonymous with personnel and units of the NCF. Seabees are referred to as one of the following:

- Enlisted personnel of the Navy’s Occupational Field-7 (OF-7) ratings: builder, construction electrician, construction mechanic, engineering aid, equipment operator, steelworker, and utilitiesman

- All officers and enlisted personnel assigned to an NCF organization

- Units that make up the NCF

1.3.0 Seabee Occupational Skill

Seabee units consist of enlisted personnel with fleet and traditional Seabee OF-7 ratings. The Navy's fleet rating system uses broad enlisted career fields to classify personnel similarly to the Marine Corps' Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) ratings. Seabee occupational capability skills are identified for enlisted (E1–E8) personnel using the OF-7 construction ratings described below:

1. Builders, Builder Constructionman Recruit (BUCR) to Senior Chief Builder (BUCS), make up a large part of Seabees with skills similar to those of civilian construction workers. Builders are:

   - Bricklayers
• Carpenters
• Concrete finishers
• Masons
• Painters
• Plasterers
• Roofers

2. Construction Electricians, Construction Electrician Constructionman Recruit (CECR) to Senior Chief Construction Electrician (CECS), are responsible for power production and specialize as:
• Construction and powerhouse electricians
• Electrical repairmen
• Linemen
• Substation operators
• Telephone repairmen

NOTE
Unless specifically trained and equipped, construction electricians do not work on high-power electrical distribution lines.

3. Construction Mechanics, Construction Mechanic Constructionman Recruit (CMCR) to Senior Chief Construction Mechanic (CMCS), perform maintenance and repair to the following heavy construction and automotive equipment:
• Gasoline and diesel engines
• Hydraulic and pneumatic systems
• Ignition and fuel systems
• Steering systems
• Transmission and electrical systems
• Materials handling equipment

4. Engineering Aids, Engineering Aid Constructionman Recruit (EACR) to Senior Chief Engineering Aid (EACS), assist civil engineers in developing final construction plans. They:
• Conduct land and underwater surveys
• Estimate costs
• Perform quality assurance tests on common construction materials
• Prepare topographic and hydrographic maps, sketches, and drawings
• Schedule and plan site layout and grade control

5. Equipment Operators, Equipment Operator Constructionman Recruit (EOCR) to Senior Chief Equipment Operator (EOCS), are skilled in the following Civil
Engineering Support Equipment (CESE) and horizontal construction-related skill areas:

- Automotive vehicles and trucks
- Materials Handling Equipment (MHE) and Weight Handling Equipment (WHE)
- Pile driving, drilling, and blasting equipment
- Bulldozers, front-end loaders, excavators, and graders
- Cranes
- Rollers, graders, and asphalt paving equipment

6. Steelworkers, Steelworker Constructionman Recruit (SWCR) to Senior Chief Steelworker (SWCS), have skills similar to those of civilian steel workers. They are skilled in the following:

- Rigging and special equipment used to move, hoist, and install materials such as structural steel and structural shapes
- Placing, fitting, welding, cutting, bolting, and riveting steel shapes and reinforcing construction materials
- Nonstandard bridge erection

7. Utilitiesmen, Utilitiesman Constructionman Recruit (UTCR) to Senior Chief Utilitiesman (UTCS), are skilled in the following plumbing and heating construction-related areas:

- Air conditioning and refrigeration equipment
- Compressed air systems
- Fuel storage and distribution systems
- Sewage collection and disposal facilities
- Steam engineering systems
- Water treatment and distribution systems

NOTE
Refer to Appendix D for a breakdown of unit manning numbers and a rank/rate structure breakdown for NCF units.

1.4.0 Rating Convergence
At the master chief (E9) level, Seabee ratings converge into the following three from the seven listed above:

1. Master Chief Equipmentman (EQCM) from the equipment operator and construction mechanic ratings
2. Master Chief Constructionman (CUCM) from the builder, steelworker, and engineering aid ratings
3. Master Chief Utilitiesman (UCCM) from the construction electrician and utilitiesman ratings
1.5.0 Construction Skill Knowledge

Active and reserve Seabee forces bring significant engineering and construction knowledge to the fight. Seabee units are well trained to accomplish the initial, temporary, and permanent construction standard levels. They have a broad scope of construction skills, building from entry-level skills gained at Class A schools to journeyman-level skills gained at Class C schools and on the job training. Although there are specialized ratings for engineering disciplines, Seabees often cross-train, working outside their ratings as crewmembers on construction projects, creating a versatile construction workforce. Many Seabee reservists also work full time in construction trade civilian careers, augmenting active duty forces with in-depth construction skills.

1.6.0 The First Seabees

The U.S. Navy Seabees were formed during World War II shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Created by Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Navy’s Bureau of Yards and Docks in 1942, the Navy’s Seabees were founded on the premise that experienced, armed construction workers were critically needed in combat areas of World War II to support the need for massive military construction. Civilian labor in war zones was impractical, so the first Construction Battalions (CBs) were established. This was the beginning of the Seabees, who obtained their name from a transliteration of “CB,” for construction battalion. However, using seamen of the fleet to build shore-based facilities was not a new idea. Ancient Phoenicians, Romans, Greeks, and Egyptians did it. From the earliest days of the United States Navy (USN), Sailors who were handy with tools occasionally did minor construction chores at land bases. Admiral Moreell also gave the Seabees their official motto: *Construimus, Batuimus* — “We Build, We Fight.”—as depicted in the Seabee’s memorial statue in Figure 1-1.

Officially, permission to use the name “Seabee” was granted on 5 March 1942. Each year March 5th is observed as the anniversary of the Seabees.
1.7.0 Seabees in World War II

In World War II, the legendary deeds of the Seabees were recorded throughout both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of operation. The Seabees built over 400 advance bases along five figurative roads to victory. All five of these roads started in the continental U.S. The North Atlantic road continued through Newfoundland to Great Britain, France, and Germany. The South Atlantic road continued through the Caribbean Sea to Africa, Sicily, and up the Italian peninsula. The North Pacific road continued through Alaska and along the Aleutian chain of islands. The Central Pacific road continued through the Hawaiian, Marshall, Gilbert, Mariana, and Ryukyu Islands. The South Pacific road continued through the South Sea Islands to Samoa, the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, and the Philippine Islands. The first Seabee Detachment, the Bobcats, left the U.S. in January 1942 and landed at Bora Bora in the Society Islands in February. The Bobcats were the advance party of more than 325,000 men who served in the NCF during World War II.

Less than two months later, Detachments 2 and 3 of Naval Construction Battalion 1 landed at Tongatabu and Efate in the South Pacific. These two islands and Bora Bora were on the supply route to Australia, which was being used as a staging area for the Allied Forces that were preparing for the counterthrust against the Japanese forces in the southwest Pacific. On these three islands, the Seabees constructed fuel tank farms, airfields, supply depots, and other facilities for supporting actions in the Coral Sea and Solomon Islands.
From then on the Seabees and their construction and fighting deeds became legendary. Side by side with Marines and Army troops, they fought and built along the Pacific roads to Tokyo and along the Atlantic roads through North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. Their feats earned them the gratitude of the Allied fighting men who followed their trail in airplanes, ships, tanks, trucks, and on foot.

For example, in the Pacific, the Seabees built 111 major airstrips, 441 piers, 2,556 ammunition magazines, 700 square blocks of warehouses, hospitals for 70,000 patients, tanks for storing 100,000,000 gallons of gasoline, and housing for 1,500,000 men.

At Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides, Seabees constructed a 5,000-foot airstrip from virgin jungle in 20 days. From this airstrip, bombers destroyed the big Japanese air base nearing completion on Guadalcanal.

The Marines then invaded Guadalcanal and engaged in the battle that reversed the course of the war. Within days after the Marine landing, Seabees were there filling the bombshell holes on Henderson Field faster than the Japanese could make them. They kept the precious airstrip in almost continuous operation despite frequent Japanese air raids and fleet shelling. At Cape Gloucester, Seabees bulldozed paths to the Japanese lines, so that American tanks could attack the hostile position. They landed with Marines at Tarawa and put a shell-pocked airfield in operation within 15 hours. At Tinian, in a nine-month period, the Seabees placed 6,000,000 square yards of asphalt paving—enough to pave a road from New York to Boston. At the same time, they excavated 12,000,000 cubic yards of coral, enough material to construct three dams the size of Hoover Dam.

Finally, by way of numerous islands such as New Georgia, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Philippines, the Road to Tokyo was completed, and the Japanese formally surrendered in September 1945.

At the end of World War II, the rapid demobilization of the Seabees followed the same pattern that characterized the other Armed Forces. By June 1946, only 20,000 men remained on active duty.

Just before the Korean Crisis in June 1950, the number in active status dwindled to 2,800. With the declaration of the emergency, the active duty force was increased to over 14,000. This rapid expansion was possible because of the existence of the Seabee Reserve Organization.

1.8.0 Seabees in Korea

In Korea, Seabees rose to the challenge of the Cold War in the tradition of their “Can Do” predecessors. At the Inchon landing in September 1950, Seabees positioned pontoon causeways within hours of the first beach assault, and did it while under continuous enemy fire and in the face of enormously strong tides.

In addition to amphibious operations, Seabees were broken up into numerous detachments to service the K-fields of the various Marine air groups. Each airfield of the Marine air groups was designated with a “K” number, such as K-3 at Pohang, K-18 at Kimpo, Seoul, and K-2 at Teagan.

As the war continued, the need arose for an advance airfield to retrieve damaged aircraft unable to reach home bases or carriers after raiding the North Korean interior. The project was code-named Operation “Crippled Chick,” and a detachment of Seabees was sent to Yo Do in the Bay of Wonson to build an airstrip. The Seabees were given 35 days to complete the job, but they had the strip ready in 16 days. While building the
strip, the Seabees were under constant artillery bombardment from enemy forces on neighboring islands.

The rapid demobilization that followed World War II was not repeated after the signing of the Korean Armistice in July 1953. The Cold War had created a necessity to maintain military strength and preparedness. Crises in Berlin, Cuba, Africa, South America—and especially in Southeast Asia—kept the Seabees strong and active. Just before the outbreak of the Korean War, a basic reorganization of Seabee battalions was in progress. During this war, the reorganization was substantially completed. Two distinct types of battalions were established to gain specialization and mobility and are still in existence today. The Amphibious Construction Battalions (PHIBCBs) are landing and docking units with the mission of placing causeways, constructing pontoon docks, and performing other functions necessary for landing personnel and equipment in the shortest possible time. The NMCBs are responsible for land construction of a wide variety, which includes military camps, roads, bridges, tank farms, airstrips, and docking facilities.

1.9.0 Between Korea and Vietnam

Wide diversity marked the activity of the reorganized battalions during the decades following the Korean Armistice. The tasks of Seabees were the tasks of a watchful peacetime. Wide-ranging, of tremendous variety, many were pioneering and experimental as well. They were a part of the Navy’s developing roles in defense and science. In this decade, Seabee builders were again on six continents.

More building and less fighting became the keynote of Seabee activities, and their peacetime achievements were no less impressive than those of wartime. On Okinawa, for example, the Seabees built a Marine Corps air facility using concrete precasting methods that earned the admiration of contractors throughout the Pacific area. Elsewhere, a small detachment of Seabees supervised and instructed Ecuadorians in modern construction methods while building a new Ecuadorian Naval Academy.

Beginning in 1955, Seabees began deploying yearly to the continent of Antarctica. As participants in Operation DEEP FREEZE, their mission was to build and expand scientific bases located on the frozen continent. The first “wintering over” party included 200 Seabees, who distinguished themselves by constructing a 6,000-foot ice runway on McMurdo Sound. Despite a blizzard that once destroyed the entire project, the airstrip was completed in time for the advance party of Deep Freeze II to become the first men to arrive at the South Pole by plane. The Seabees’ next assignment was to build a permanent scientific base on the continent. Over the following years, and under the most adverse conditions, Seabees added to their list of accomplishments such things as snow-compacted roads, underground storage, laboratories, and living areas. One of the most notable achievements took place in 1962, when the Navy’s builders constructed the continent’s first nuclear power plant at McMurdo Station.

By far the largest and most impressive project tackled by the Seabees in the 1950s was the construction of Naval Air Station (NAS) Cubi Point in the Philippines. Civilian contractors—after taking one look at the forbidding Zombailes Mountains and the maze of jungle at Cubi Point—claimed it could not be done. Nevertheless, the Seabees proceeded to do it. Begun in 1951, at the height of the Korean War, it took five years and an estimated 20-million man-hours to build this new, major Navy base. At Cubi Point, Seabees cut a mountain in half to make way for a runway nearly two miles long. They blasted coral to fill a section of Subic Bay, filled swampland, moved trees as much as 150 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet in diameter, and even relocated a native fishing village.
The result was an air station, and an adjacent pier that was capable of docking the Navy’s largest carriers. Undoubtedly as important as the finished project, however, was the indispensable leadership and construction experience gained by the postwar generation of Seabees. The construction of NAS Cubi Point was a mammoth learning experience as well as a job well done.

In 1960, the Seabee reserve organization began a series of important changes. Following the Korean War the reserve grew to 242 divisions, each with 4 officers and 50 enlisted men. In July 1960, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) granted authority for the establishment of 18 reserve battalions. These battalions were to be formed from the reserve divisions. In July 1961, battalion active duty training was initiated. In July 1967, the CNO approved the establishment of four regimental staffs; later an additional four staffs were approved. This process of evolution culminated in the establishment of the 1st Reserve Naval Construction Brigade in September 1969. The brigade exercised overall control of the Reserve NCF.

In 1960, the Seabees assembled a huge floating dry dock at Holy Loch, Scotland, for the service and repair of the Polaris missile submarines that cruised beneath the waters off northern Europe. The dry dock, with a submarine tender anchored alongside, gave the vital submarines a base that ended long transocean cruises for the purpose of repair and resupply.

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In 1962, Project Judy brought the Seabees to the historic Greek plain of Marathon. Living in a tent camp in a rural community, they built a naval communication station from scratch. When the job was completed in 1965, the Seabees had fabricated and erected more than 100 major antennae and created a base with all the comforts of home.

Seabees participated in building missile ranges in the Atlantic and Pacific. They also constructed housing and apartment complexes for U.S. servicemen and their families.

As indicated by the above-cited construction projects, Seabees during this period could be found everywhere. NMCBs regularly deployed to Guam, Okinawa, Midway, the Philippines, Cuba, Newfoundland, and Spain. Seabee detachments could also be found at dozens of smaller U.S. naval facilities throughout the world. The Seabees' primary mission was base expansion and maintenance. Their assignments included building and paving roads, laying sewer lines and water mains, building airfield and harbor facilities, restoring and converting old structures for new uses, wiring buildings, and erecting power lines. Such duty kept the battalions in a high state of readiness for the eventuality of advanced base building and amphibious support when war came again.

The Cold War era was not without crises. In 1958, when dissidents threatened to overthrow the government of Lebanon and U.S. assistance was requested, Seabees brought the Marines ashore over their pontoon causeways. In addition to participating in the landing, Seabees were divided into beach salvage teams to recover swamped equipment, improve beaches, and build roads.

Seabees were once again poised for action and on the scene in 1962 when, following the successful conclusion of the Cuban Missile Crisis, it was felt that Fidel Castro’s regime might retaliate against the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Under the constant threat of imminent ground attack or sniper fire, Seabees worked with speed and skill to fortify the base perimeter.

During this period Seabees assumed yet another new role, that of an operationally ready disaster relief force. Trained to build and fight, Seabees proved equally capable of quickly rebuilding ruins and combating peril. When an earthquake devastated the Greek island of Cephalonia in 1953, Seabees took part in emergency relief operations.
January 1961, Seabees improvised and used pontoons to save a California beach community threatened by tremendous tides. Seabees restored power and rebuilt damaged structures when Typhoon Karen destroyed much of Guam in 1962. Later, in 1964, Seabees were on the scene restoring utilities and building roads in a matter of hours after Alaska was struck by a devastating earthquake and tidal wave. When yet another typhoon ravaged an island in the Azores, Seabees arrived quickly with prefabricated housing units to lend vital assistance to the homeless. On several occasions, Seabees also manned their equipment to successfully battle forest and brush fires in the United States.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Seabee teams, another proud addition to the Seabee family, were born. This era marked the first use of these small detachments for local military aid and socioeconomic projects in underdeveloped countries. By 1963, this vital aid program was refined in both organization and control, and became a regular feature of Seabee activity abroad. Seabee teams usually consisted of thirteen carefully selected, experienced men: one junior CEC officer, eleven constructionmen, and a hospital corpsman. Such teams proved exceptionally effective in rural development programs and for teaching construction skills to people in such diverse locations as Africa, Central and South America, Southeast Asia, and later in the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. For instance, in 1962, a Seabee team arrived in the Republic of Haiti to restore a collapsing municipal pier that was vital to the national economy. The following year Spanish-speaking Seabees built and staffed a technical school in Santo Domingo. A Seabee team in Costa Rica protected the imperiled city of Cartago from a disastrous mud-flow by building dams and dikes. In other far-flung locations Seabee teams constructed roads, schools, orphanages, public utilities, and many other community structures.

However, much more important than the actual construction work they accomplished were the skills team members imparted to the local residents. Their true success was in enabling the local populous to continue old projects and initiate new ones long after Seabees left the region. There is no doubt that the “Can Do” Seabee teams have more than earned their additional measure of recognition as “the Navy’s Peace Corps.”

It was during the summer of 1964 that the Seabees first went to work for the State Department. The program was initiated following the discovery of electronic surveillance devices planted throughout the U.S. embassy in Moscow. To prevent future incidents of this nature, Seabees were used to perform all construction and renovation in security-sensitive areas of Foreign Service facilities abroad. In addition, they were tasked with the supervision of private contractors assigned to do construction work in nonsensitive areas. Despite its beginnings in 1964, it was not until 1966 that the Naval Support Unit, State Department, was officially established to administer Seabees assigned to support the Foreign Service. Because of the superb on-the-job performance of these Seabees, the State Department happily made them a permanent part of its operations.

Thus, a peacetime pattern of battalion training and deployment took shape in the years following the Korean War. This pattern, however, was drastically altered in 1965. The war in Vietnam brought American military intervention on a large scale and effected major changes in Seabee activity worldwide. In the spring of 1965, there were 9,400 Seabees on active duty at various sea and shore locations; most of these Seabees were assigned to ten reduced-strength NMCBs. These relatively few Seabees, however, were fully prepared to write a new chapter in the history of the Seabees.
1.10.0 Seabees in Vietnam

In South Vietnam, the Seabees built and fought and established a new reputation for their deeds of construction while under fire from the demilitarized zone in the north to the delta region. In the south, they supported combat operations and sometimes fought side by side with Marine Corps and Army troops in guerrilla-infested areas.

The first full Seabee battalion arrived in Vietnam on 7 May 1965 to build an expeditionary airfield for the Marines at Chu Lai. Others soon followed. From 1965 until 1969 the Seabee commitment in Southeast Asia rapidly increased, necessitating first the transfer of Atlantic Fleet battalions to the Pacific through a change of homeport, then the deployment of Atlantic Fleet NMCBs to Republic of Vietnam (RVN), and later the reactivation of nine additional battalions. This effort was culminated by the call to active duty of two reserve NMCBs in May 1968, bringing the number of battalions deploying to RVN to 21. In addition, there were two PHIBCBs lending support to the RVN effort. In the same time period, with a requirement for Seabees to support in-country activities such as naval support activities at Danang and Saigon, two Construction Battalion Maintenance Units (CBMUs), two deployed Naval Construction Regiments (NCRs) and the deployed Third Naval Construction Brigade rapidly increased. To support these various requirements, the total Seabee community grew from 9,400 to more than 29,000 in 1968 and 1969.

To help meet the mushrooming RVN requirements, the Navy used the concept of recruiting skilled construction workers at advanced pay grades. The Direct Procurement Petty Officer Program, reminiscent of early World War II recruiting efforts, proved to be highly successful in terms of both total numbers recruited (more than 13,000) and quality of input.

Seabee accomplishments in Vietnam were impressive, just as they were in World War II, in Korea, and during peacetime. All 21 active battalions deployed to Vietnam (some several times) to build the roads, airfields, cantonments, warehouses, hospitals, storage facilities, bunkers, and other facilities that were needed to continue the struggle. In accordance with the “mobile” concept of the NCF, Seabee units supported Marine, Navy, Army, and Air Force operations at camps and landing zones throughout RVN and at such outposts as Con Thien, Khe Sanh, and Gio Linh.

For their efforts in Vietnam, Seabee units and individual Seabees received formal recognition in the form of numerous commendations and medals. Moreover, it was in Vietnam that the first Seabee in history, CM3 Marvin G. Shields, a member of Seabee Team 1104, was posthumously awarded this nation’s highest recognition, the Medal of Honor, for his heroic efforts in defense of a special forces camp and Vietnamese district at Dong Xoai, as seen in Figure 1-2.

In a war in which the winning of people was an important part of the total effort, Seabee construction skills and medical assistance proved powerful weapons. The recitation of events and the quoting of statistics fail to

![Figure 1-2 — CM3 Marvin G. Shields.](image-url)
reflect the true color of the Seabees’ involvement during the Vietnam years. Later they supported the Marines at Chu Lai and Khe Shan; reopened the railroad between Hue and DaNang; struggled with the logistics problems of the Mekong Delta; constructed a new naval base on a sand pad floating on paddy mud; and built staggering quantities of warehouses, aircraft support facilities, roads, and bridges. But they also hauled and dumped tons of rock for paving roads to provide access to farms and markets; supplied fresh water to countless numbers of Vietnamese through hundreds of Seabee-dug wells; provided medical treatment to thousands of villagers; and opened up new opportunities and hope for generations to come through Seabee-built schools, hospitals, utilities systems, roads, and other community facilities. Seabees also worked with and taught construction skills to the Vietnamese people, helping them to help themselves, and proved that the Seabees really are “builders for peace.”

1.11.0 Post Vietnam

After Vietnam, when de-escalation of U.S. activity in Southeast Asia got underway, Seabee strength was once again reduced. By September 1970, the NMCBs were down to the planned post-Vietnam level of ten full-sized battalions. Because of the reduction of the NCF in Vietnam, on 6 December 1969 the HQ of the Thirtieth NCR was moved from Vietnam to Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands, and on 1 May 1971, the HQ of the Thirty Second NCR was moved from Vietnam to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. By the end of 1971, most Seabees were employed outside of Southeast Asia. Thus, on 9 November 1971, the THIRD U.S. Naval Construction Brigade was disestablished.

As the Seabees entered this new era, they found themselves employed on major peacetime projects. Alert battalions were reestablished in the Atlantic Fleet at Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico and in the Pacific Fleet at Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands. The men in the NCF found themselves employed outside their homeport fleet areas. No geographic limitations existed as battalions and details were deployed to satisfy the current and ever-increasing demand for Seabee expertise. For example, since the reestablishment of the alert battalions, one battalion, NMCB FOUR, served in 1970 as the Pacific alert battalion at Okinawa and in 1972 as the Atlantic alert battalion at Roosevelt Roads.

The post-Vietnam Seabees were involved in new construction frontiers: the Indian Ocean, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Europe, on the ocean floor, and in most of the oceans of the globe. Though younger and lower in number than their World War II predecessors, Seabees continued to demonstrate the same old “Can Do” spirit.

One of the major peacetime projects undertaken by Seabees after Vietnam was the development, construction, and operation of a U.S. naval communications station on Diego Garcia. Diego Garcia is one of the 52 coral atolls of the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, 960 miles south of India and 7 degrees south of the equator. Construction was started early in 1971, and the establishment ceremonies were held on 20 March 1973. The station became a complete operating entity and included transmitting and receiving facilities, berthing, and mess facilities; an airfield to accommodate logistical aircraft; utilities, roads, shops, and other support facilities; a fuel storage farm; and an entrance channel and turning basin within the interior lagoon.

During the 1970s, the mission of the Diego Garcia facility was greatly expanded as the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf assumed new strategic importance for the United States. The decision was made to develop Diego Garcia as a major support base for U.S. forces operating in the Indian Ocean area. Seabee battalions and detachments continued to deploy to Diego Garcia throughout the 1970s, with at least one full
battalion always in residence. During these years, the Seabees extended the existing runway; added to the power plant, subsistence, and receiver buildings; expanded the pier and the Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants (POLs) facilities; and built additional personnel support and supply facilities.

Other projects on which Seabees worked in the 1970s included the upgrading of recreational and living facilities at the Naval Communication Station, Nea Makri, Greece. There, they built a radio facility; improved the base swimming pool; built tennis courts, a softball field, and an addition to the enlisted men’s club; and remodeled the barracks. At the Naval Facility, Souda Bay, Crete, Seabees built an open storage facility, a pipe and canvas enclosure, and a helicopter pad. In Sigonella, Sicily—at the Naval Air Facility—they installed diesel units and “no break” generators, remodeled barracks and the general mess, and built an air-frames repair shop, power-check pad, ordnance magazine, enlisted/CPO club, handball court, and theater. At the Fleet Support Office, La Maddalena, Italy, the Seabees built a gymnasium and a playing field unit.

In Spain, the Seabees worked on a number of projects at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota. These projects included remodeling barracks and the enlisted club; building additions to the base telephone exchange, warehouse, and calibration laboratory at the airfield; installation of a new fender system on Pier #2; and a causeway connection. They also reconstructed the Rota Seabee Camp, which had deteriorated because it had been vacant from 1965 until 1971. In London, England, Seabees remodeled a Marine barracks; in Greenock, Scotland, they built a bowling alley; in Holy Loch, Scotland, they renovated the public works department garage and the hobby shop facility; at the Naval Security Group Activity, Todendorf, Germany, they built an addition to an operations building and installed a new emergency generator.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific, the major efforts of the Seabees were centered on Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands and on Guam in the Marianas Islands. At Okinawa they performed many different and challenging assignments. The jobs included new structures at Camp Kinser—a new water pipeline, a modern underground electrical distribution system, and a major land-grading project at the Marine Corps Air Facility at Futema.

On Guam, Seabees were hard at work on a Seabee Camp. The camp, dedicated to William Lee Covington (a young CEC officer killed in Vietnam), included approximately 39 pre-engineered buildings, housing facilities, offices, shops, a galley, living quarters, a chapel, and utilities. Other projects completed during the 1970s included a major swimming pool complex at the naval hospital; a culvert and earthmoving project at the naval magazine; a CPO club, community center, and teen center at the naval communication station; and a major land-grading project at the Marine Corps Air Facility at Futema.

Seabees in Taiwan worked on the rehabilitation of barracks and on the construction of duplex cabins; at Iwakuni, Japan, they worked on a Marine Corps confinement facility, an exchange warehouse, and a water line. In the Philippines they constructed an aircraft rinse rack and runway support facilities.

In Puerto Rico, Seabees renovated roads during the 1970s, built a commissary and new buildings at Camp Moscrip, and carried out numerous civic action projects. During 1977, Seabees carried out a beach-erosion preventive project in Argentia, Newfoundland, and rehabilitated housing at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Seabees were also active in Antarctica again after the Vietnam War. As part of Operation Deepfreeze, they provided logistic support for the scientific research programs that were being conducted by 70 American universities, government
agencies, and industrial firms. The return of NMCB SEVENTY-ONE from Antarctica in 1974 marked the end of Seabee participation in Operation Deepfreeze. The National Science Foundation, which oversaw the program, was to accomplish all remaining construction by contract.

In addition to the work performed by the NMCBs, the PHIBCBs were extensively employed. Both were engaged primarily with fleet exercises and other training operations. Additionally, amphibious Seabees in the Pacific Fleet found time to accomplish earthwork for a canoe lagoon and a camping area at Imperial Beach, California, to place and remove concrete obstacles in South Bay for underwater demolition teams and Sealab training, and to complete the first increment of a sheet pile bulkhead project. Meanwhile, Seabees of the Atlantic Fleet constructed a boat marina at Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Little Creek.

Furthermore, detachments of the amphibious Seabees served in the Mediterranean and in the Caribbean. These detachments were of the amphibious ready groups that were prepared for amphibious assaults whenever necessary.

In June 1969, the first Seabee team to be employed by the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands landed at Moen Island in the Truk District. While the concept of civic action was not new to the Seabees, the Micronesian environment was totally different from that of Thailand and Vietnam, where the thirteen-man Seabee teams had proved so successful.

The Trust Territory was a United Nations strategic trust administered by the United States under a 1947 agreement. While the area was not war-torn or threatened, as was the case in Vietnam and Thailand, the Trust Territory was in an embryonic stage of political and economic development.

Under an agreement between the secretaries of the Interior and Defense and at the specific request of the native people at each location, Seabee teams were provided to assist the Micronesians in constructing facilities, roads, and utilities required to enhance the economic development and conditions of health in the Trust Territory. While construction of such facilities provided tangible evidence of Seabee accomplishments in Micronesia, the major emphasis and greatest potential benefit were the valuable training in construction skills made available to the people of Micronesia. This training enabled them to accomplish essential construction themselves.

Seabee teams in the Trust Territory served on the islands of Ponape, Truk, Palau, Kusaie, and Yap. Throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s, the teams built roads, dispensaries, water tanks, bridges, and public buildings. The response of the Micronesian people to the civic action program was highly favorable in all districts. The tangible benefits were readily apparent in the improved roads, utilities, and new facilities.

In the summer of 1972, a Seabee team, with assistance from a PHIBCB, assembled an Ammi-pontoon hospital barge on Lake Titicaca high in the central plateau of Bolivia. The project was sponsored by the Bolivian Navy with assistance from the U.S. government. The barge was a 90-foot Ammi-pontoon with a prefabricated Lewis building superstructure that served as a dispensary. It was powered by two diesel outboard motors and contained all the basic medical and dental facilities of a small hospital.

In the mid-1960s, increased interest in exploitation of the ocean for defense purposes spotlighted a need to establish an underwater construction capability within the Navy. A team of Seabee divers was formed during 1968 to launch, implant, and recover the Tektite I habitat in the Caribbean Sea. The success of this operation led to additional
Seabee underwater construction assignments. It also led to the establishment of two 
Seabee Underwater Construction Teams (UCTs): UCT ONE under the cognizance of 
the TWENTY-FIRST NCR at Davisville, Rhode Island, and UCT TWO under the 
cognizance of the THIRTY-FIRST NCR at Port Hueneme, California.

After their formation, both teams performed successfully in numerous operations. Some 
of the operations included the installation, maintenance, and repair of submarine cables 
and pipelines. They also implanted and recovered moorings, acoustic and magnetic 
systems; conducted underwater surveys; and performed harbor and dry dock 
inspections. The teams demonstrated a capability to perform and added a new 
dimension to the NCF, previously generally restricted to efforts on land.

In 1970, the CNO, had a concern for improving the quality of life ashore for the Sailor 
and their family, established a new program of improving shore establishment 
habitability. The Seabees were committed to lead and direct the Self-Help and Shore 
Establishment Habitability Improvement Programs.

Under these programs active and reserve fleet Seabees and construction battalion units 
participated in improvements to personnel support facilities. The construction battalion 
units consisted of approximately forty or fifty men and were established to provide more 
effective and worthwhile duty for Seabees while stationed ashore. In addition to training 
on construction projects and continuing the Seabees’ combat and disaster recovery 
readiness, the units guided and supervised the efforts of other Navy ratings in improving 
the Sailor’s living conditions ashore under the self-help concept.

Examples of the projects to improve living conditions ashore ranged from very simple 
structures, to large bus shelters, to large hobby shop complexes. Other typical 
examples included improvements to living facilities, temporary lodging, parking garages, 
on-base parking, mobile home parks, locker clubs, and recreation clubs. In 1981, 16 
construction battalion units were actively engaged in executing such projects in the 
United States.

In addition to performing their regular construction mission, Seabees participated in 
humanitarian and disaster recovery assignments in the wake of several natural 
disasters during the 1970s and early 1980s. In January 1975, a Seabee salvage team 
was sent to Managua, Nicaragua, following a major earthquake that heavily damaged 
that city. After completing its primary mission of salvage at the U.S. embassy, the team 
then salvaged badly needed hospital equipment for the El Rito Hospital in Managua. In 
December 1975, Seabees of Construction Battalion Unit 417 engaged in flood control 
operations at Mt. Vernon, Washington, when the Skagit River overflowed its banks and 
threatened the town. With the collapse of RVN in 1975, Seabees also provided support 
to the Vietnamese refugee program, Project New Life, by building a tent-city on Guam 
for 50,000 refugees. In February 1976, NMCB FORTY sent a detachment to Guatemala 
City, Guatemala, to provide disaster relief following an earthquake that caused 
extensive damage to that city. In May 1977, NMCB THREE performed recovery and 
reconstruction work of all types on Guam in the wake of Typhoon Pamela. In February 
1980, Seabees from the THIRTY-FIRST NCR at the Construction Battalion Center 
(CBC), Port Hueneme, California, battled a devastating flood at the Pacific Missile Test 
Center, Point Mugu, California. Seabees went to the islands of Jamaica and Dominica 
in 1980 to help repair the extensive damage caused by Hurricane David in December 
1979.

During 1981, Seabees based at the CBC Port Hueneme, California, performed a 
construction task of some interest. They constructed military and Secret Service support 
facilities at President Ronald Reagan’s ranch near Santa Barbara, California. During a
subsequent “thank you” barbecue for the men involved, President Reagan was made an honorary Seabee.

With the pressure to reduce the size of the Armed Forces after the Vietnam War, it became necessary to place greater reliance on the reserve force to offset the reduction in the active force. During the 1970s, reserve Seabees experienced a closer association with their active counterparts than in the past.

Efforts were made to elevate the readiness posture of the reserve Seabee force through a variety of programs. Through innovative techniques, new procedures were implemented within the reserve force. One such program involved the establishment of permanent drill sites for the reserve battalions at military installations within their respective geographical areas. At these sites were positioned readiness support allowances. These allowances consisted of essentially a 10 percent cross section of the TOA for a Seabee battalion. This allowed the reserve battalions to develop year-round training programs. To effectively care for and use this readiness allowance, active duty support personnel were provided to each of the reserve battalions. The mobilization readiness level of the reserve NCF was improved substantially by the middle of the 1970s.

In late 1973, as part of the Navy’s efforts to realign the naval shore establishment, the mission of the U.S. CBC at Davisville, Rhode Island, was revised. The center was reduced to providing storage and preservation facilities for advance base and mobilization stocks, and to providing mobilization facilities to support the NCF. At the peak of the Vietnam War, the Davisville Center supported ten full-strength battalions. However, by 1973, the center was homeport for only three battalions of peacetime strength and one UCT. In addition, the TWENTY-FIRST NCR was located there. On 30 June 1974, NMCB SEVENTY-ONE was transferred to the CBC at Gulfport, Mississippi; NMCB FORTY was transferred to CBC Port Hueneme, California, and UCT ONE was transferred to NAB Little Creek, Virginia. Later in the year, on 27 November, NMCB ONE was also transferred to CBC Gulfport, Mississippi. The last unit of the NCF at Davisville was the TWENTY-FIRST NCR. The regiment was disestablished there on 15 January 1975.

Because the United States was faced with continuing threats to its national security during the 1970s and early 1980s, the Nation had to continue to provide timely and responsible support to the operating forces of the Navy. This meant that the United States had to make the most efficient use of its defense resources. In this context, the Seabees faced, and continue to face, imposing challenges equal to and greater than those faced in World War II, Korea, and Southeast Asia.

1.12.0 Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm

On 2 August 1990, the armed forces of Iraq began the invasion and subsequent conquest of the Emirate of Kuwait. Under United Nations auspices, the United States and other member nations responded by deploying military forces to Saudi Arabia. The immediate goal was to forestall further Iraqi aggression; the long-range goal was to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The initial allied military undertaking to protect Saudi Arabia was dubbed Operation DESERT SHIELD.

Among the US forces deployed to the region was the FIRST MEF. Seabees were to provide construction support for this force. On 7 August, the Seabees began preparations to deploy four battalions to the region: NMCBs FOUR, FIVE, SEVEN, and FORTY. On 13 August the first Seabees arrived in Saudi Arabia, an element of PHIBCB
ONE, comprising 210 personnel. These men immediately went to work unloading Marine Corps equipment and supplies from MPF ships.

Upon their arrival in Saudi Arabia, the Seabees built critically needed facilities at the four airfields where a Marine air combat element had deployed. This entailed construction of parking aprons, as well as base camps to house the Marines pouring into the area. Next, the Seabees built ammunition supply points for the large amounts of ordnance being transported to the region. Once these needs were met, the Seabees shifted emphasis to improving living conditions in the Marine camps.

Among major projects completed during Operation DESERT SHIELD was an HQ complex for the FIRST MEF and a 15,000-man camp for the SECOND MEF. The latter project was the largest wartime multi-battalion Seabee project since the Vietnam War. NMCBs ONE, FOUR, FIVE (project lead), SEVEN, TWENTY-FOUR, FORTY, and SEVENTY-FOUR worked on the project. Construction began in late November. The camp comprised of six modules, each capable of housing 2,500 people. Each module contained berthing, office space, showers, toilet facilities, a galley, roads, and parking areas. The completed camp complex was dubbed “Wally World.”

Operation DESERT STORM, the expulsion of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, began in early 1991. On 16 January 1991, the Allies initiated a massive air campaign against Iraq. Before it was over, allied aircraft flew more than 40,000 sorties against Iraqi targets. At this time, planning went forward for the THIRD NCR to move into Kuwait in the wake of advancing allied forces, to open roads and airfields and provide immediate battle-damage repair.

In January 1991, the Marines began to move north in preparation for the expected ground assault on the Iraqis. In support of this, the Seabees began to concentrate on building and maintaining roads to serve as the main supply routes throughout northern Saudi Arabia.

The Gulf War demonstrated the ability of the NCF, both active and reserve, to meet the exigencies of a large-scale military operation. Not all of the action, however, was in the Persian Gulf. Approximately 60 percent of the Seabee reserve units called to active duty were sent to other parts of the world to replace active-duty units sent to the Gulf early in the conflict.

1.13.0 Seabees in Bosnia

Throughout 1995, the Second Naval Construction Brigade maintained a high state of alert for potential Seabee involvement in Bosnia. As part of the relief operations in the former Yugoslavian republics, it provided an officer to augment the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees staff. This officer functioned as engineering and infrastructure officer and served in a strictly nonmilitary capacity, assisting humanitarian relief operations.

In support of Joint Task Force (JTF) Provide Promise, in March 1995, a 35-person team from NMCB THREE successfully brought to a close the Navy’s turn at providing public works maintenance and operations functions at the Joint Fleet Hospital in Zagreb, Croatia.

In October of that same year, the brigade sent a staff officer to the HQ of Allied Forces, South, in Naples, Italy, to help finalize the North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations plan for Bosnia. Liaison officers from NMCB ONE THIRTY-THREE were dispatched to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) aboard the U.S. Ship (USS) Wasp and to several locations in Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, and Germany.
At the start of 1996, a 170-person detail from NMCB ONE THIRTY-THREE was deployed at the Sava River crossing at Zupanja, Croatia, constructing the first and highest priority tent camp of the entire Joint Endeavor Implementation Force operation. This deployment, which began in December 1995, was the first deployment of Seabees utilizing the Air Force’s C-17 aircraft. After expending 14,900 man-days constructing five tent camps and numerous sustainment projects, the detail redeployed to Rota, Spain, on 2 March 1996. The Second Naval Construction Brigade maintained a high state of alert for potential Seabee involvement in the disestablishment of many of these tent camps.

In September 1996, NMCB FORTY continued the mission in Bosnia. A total of 334 personnel with 226 pieces of Civil Engineering Support Equipment (CESE) deployed to Bosnia on 21 September to disestablish fourteen base camps and complete nineteen force sustainment projects, expending 9,600 man-days in the effort.

NMCB FORTY was midway through a seven-month deployment to Camp Mitchell in Rota, Spain, when it was ordered to Bosnia. The above-cited CESE equipment and an additional 100 shipping containers were transported aboard the USS *Wilson* to Livorno, Italy. From Livorno the battalion moved via seven trains to an intermediate staging base at Taszar, Hungary. From there, the battalion moved in four road convoys, escorted by military police, through Croatia, and down to Colt Base in Bosnia. NMCB FORTY accomplished the entire move in three weeks from the time orders were received. In Bosnia, NMCB FORTY was under the orders of the Task Force (TF) Eagle Engineering Division. The battalion ultimately employed more than 400 Seabees in the U.S.-led Multinational Division North to tear down base camps as part of a withdrawal of U.S. Army troops from the region. Aside from disestablishment operations, the battalion was tasked with a variety of collateral projects, including road maintenance on Main Supply Routes (MSRs) and snow and ice removal. Additionally, the battalion built a bypass road and a container laydown area in Bosnia, and an ammunition handling area in Croatia. Finally, with the deployment of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division to the theater, NMCB FORTY was tasked to prepare for sustainment engineering projects at two base camps that were to remain as consolidation sites in the area.
1.14.0 Seabees in Iraq

Seabees supporting the I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) were among the first U.S. forces on the ground to support U.S. efforts in Iraq. With approximately 3,000 Seabees in theater, they had the largest Navy role ashore during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Before hostilities, Seabees constructed a 20-acre airfield parking apron, prepared 10-acre and 20-acre areas for AM-2 matting, and constructed two munitions storage areas, a 48,000-square foot concrete pad, and a 1,200-person camp in Kuwait. When hostilities began, Seabees maintained 11 breach lanes as the Marine Corps crossed the line of departure and entered Iraq. Seabees erected bridges over the Diyala River and Saddam Canal in spans ranging from 40 to 60 meters. They repaired and constructed various roads to provide the Marine Corps with effective paths to move northward, as seen in Figure 1-3. Seabees also constructed a 14,400-person prison camp that covered 42 acres. Seabees performed work at the port of Umm Qasr, including port clearing, engineering assessments, and port opening in preparation for humanitarian aid. Seabees built the 5,000-person facility Camp Patriot at the Kuwaiti Naval Base including building an elevated causeway to offload supplies.

Seabees also renovated schools and municipal facilities to help the Iraqi people. This included 7 bridges, 74 schools, 13 government buildings, and 16 police and fire stations. They also completed 20 utility restoration projects, including the Al Hillah Water Irrigation Facility for irrigating 125,000 acres of farmland.

![Image of Seabees repairing a road in Iraq.](image-url)
During Operation Iraqi Freedom II, approximately 1,100 Seabees deployed to Iraq to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people and to provide force protection construction for U.S. forces. Seabees negotiated 300 projects valued at over $100 million in contracts in Al Anbar to improve education, sanitation, transportation, water and sewer, primary care clinics, courthouses, police stations, and Iraqi security facilities.

During Operation AL FAJR (battle of Fallujah), Seabees provided nontraditional direct combat support to the MEF. In preparation for the invasion, Seabees played a key role by securing electrical service to the city. During the battle, two task-organized engineer assessment teams performed critical infrastructure assessments and advised Marine regimental combat team commanders on engineer-related matters regarding replacement time and cost to utility systems, with the goal of supporting the timely reoccupation by Iraqi civilian operators. The Seabee teams also led reconstruction efforts and assumed the role of Fallujah public works during the absence of Iraqi municipal employees.

Seabees in Iraq at the time of this publication are providing force protection and habitability improvements for Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in support of coalition forces, including construction of hardened dining facilities, force protection barriers, temporary berthing structures, tension fabric structures for storage facilities, wastewater treatment ponds, upgrades to existing electrical systems, and runway repairs. They are also constructing operating bases for Iraqi civil defense forces and border patrol units, and providing assessments of roads, bridges, and facilities to support the Marines.

1.15.0 Seabees in Afghanistan

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, approximately 450 Seabees began prepping to launch a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. TF FIFTY-EIGHT, supported by a Seabee detachment from NMCB ONE THIRTY-THREE, was establishing a FOB in Afghanistan to build up combat power and subsequently conduct combat operations against the Taliban regime and Al-Qaeda forces. The mission was contingency construction such as repairing and maintaining a dirt runway at FOB Rhino, then moving to Kandahar to perform Rapid Runway Repair (RRR) at the coalition-bombed international airport.

As the focus of effort began to shift from Rhino to Kandahar, additional personnel and equipment were moved in as needed. Seabees repaired crater damage from coalition bombing and got the runway open for C-130 and C-17 flights within 48 hours with temporary, compacted-earth expedient repairs. They also built a short-term holding facility to house Taliban and Al-Qaeda detainees. They were then tasked with improving temporary to permanent runway repairs so that other types of aircraft, including the C-141 needed to transport detainees from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, would be able to use the airfield at Kandahar.

Seabees also deployed to Basilan in the Philippines to support counterterrorism efforts there. Seabees built roads, bridges, and water-wells, and repaired ports and airstrips to allow access to isolated areas where the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group was trying to gain a foothold.
1.16.0 Major Humanitarian Efforts

1.16.1 Hurricane Ivan

More than 250 Seabees from NMCBs ONE and NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR deployed to Navy installations in Pensacola, Florida, to assist in recovery operations following Hurricane Ivan, which struck on 16 September 2004. The Seabees cleared roads, established emergency generator power, erected a fleet hospital surgical unit suite; developed temporary landfills to accommodate debris caused by the hurricane, and assessed damage to base facilities. In Guam, Seabees from NMCB Seven helped the local population in recovery efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Nanmadol, which ravaged the island in December 2004.

1.16.2 Tsunami Recovery

Seabees from NMCBs SEVEN and FORTY and UCT TWO responded to the December 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean near Sumatra. NMCB SEVEN also deployed an Air Detachment (AIRDET) of 100 Seabees to Sri Lanka. They removed more than 1,300 cubic yards of debris from schools, demolished nine unsafe buildings, and distributed 28,000 gallons of water to internally displaced persons camps. NMCB FORTY deployed 49 Seabees onboard the landing ship dock USS *Fort McHenry* to Indonesia. They conducted assessments of 32 government facilities and two airfields and directed the construction of three tension fabric structures and beach-clearing operations. UCT TWO deployed a construction diving detachment of 15 Seabees to Thailand and performed waterfront engineering assessments of key facilities.

1.16.3 Pakistan Earthquake

In October 2005, 125 Seabees from NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR deployed to Pakistan following a devastating 7.6-magnitude earthquake near Muzzafarabad. Forty Seabees from NMCB Four relieved NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR personnel in December. In support of the Disaster Assistance Center—Pakistan, Seabees provided general construction support; engineering assessments; construction of temporary shelters, schools, and sea huts; road clearing and debris removal; water and utility line repairs; and construction/camp maintenance for the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit.

1.16.4 Hurricane Katrina Recovery

After Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast on 29 August 2005, more than 3,300 Navy Seabees responded directly in recovery operations. They included Seabees from TWENTY-SECOND NCR; Twentieth Seabee Readiness Group (SRG); NMCBs ONE, FOUR, SEVEN, EIGHTEEN, FORTY, and ONE THIRTY-THREE, TWO ZERO TWO, and THREE ZERO THREE; UCT ONE; and PHIBCB TWO. Seabees cleared 750 miles and assessed 2,695 miles of roads. They removed more than 20,000 tons of debris and supported search and rescue operations. Seabees repaired 85 schools affecting 47,208 students and repaired and constructed more than 30 temporary public buildings. They also delivered 237,000 gallons of water and fuel and distributed food to 1,600 families each day. They completed 455 water, sewer, and electrical repairs. UCTs also repaired and inspected piers.

Seabees (who themselves were victims—some of whom lost everything) were also helping out their shipmates and fellow community members through very rough times. NMCB ONE was just returning to Gulfport, Mississippi from deployment in Southwest Asia and Europe as Katrina was hitting land. A planeload of those Seabees were forced to land in Atlanta, Georgia and rest overnight, waiting for Katrina’s wrath to pass. Many
of those Seabees made their way via bus to Gulfport to survey their own losses and help their shipmates. NMCB FIVE of Port Hueneme, California, was delayed in returning home from Iraq and Guam for 30 days to allow Gulfport-based NMCB ONE THIRTY-THREE’S personnel more time to recover before their deployment to Iraq and Guam.

Members of NMCB SEVEN worked with crewmembers from the USS Whidbey Island and the Mexican amphibious ship MS Papaloapan to clean up local schools in the Biloxi area. Less than a month after Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast regions, Seabees from NMCB FORTY were called into action when Plaquemines Parish experienced rising waters from Hurricane Rita, threatening a levee. The Seabees worked with local residents and the Air National Guard to fill and place sandbags along a 150-foot section to protect the community.

Reserve Seabees from NMCB EIGHTEEN (based in Washington State) worked side by side with their active duty counterparts during hurricane relief efforts. They began working at NAS Meridian, Mississippi, where 1,000 evacuees from the Gulfport area were transferred to an on-base shelter. They manned the shelter’s welcome center and cleared massive amounts of debris on the base and surrounding roads.

NMCB FORTY built a 500-person tent city in September for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials in Plaquemine Parish so the officials could relocate from temporary accommodations at Belle Chasse Primary School. The tent city, which included air-conditioned tents, showers, and a 40- by 60-foot dining facility, allowed FEMA to conduct their day-to-day operations while Belle Chasse Primary School concentrated on getting their students back in class.

Seabees built another tent city in Pass Christian, Mississippi, to house 1,000 people rendered homeless by the impact of Hurricane Katrina. Approximately 250 Seabees from detachments across the United States gathered behind the city’s War Memorial Park, where they constructed a temporary police department HQ and other municipal offices as government leaders organized plans to rebuild the town.

Seabees from NMCB FORTY and local Plaquemine Parish residents teamed up to help FEMA expedite establishing housing for hundreds of Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Seabees installed water, sewage, and electrical connections for trailers made available for use by local families as temporary housing.

The CBMU TWO ZERO TWO, Key West Detachment secured and cleaned up the 11-story Armed Forces Retirement Home in Biloxi, Mississippi, which was home to 400 retired military personnel. The facility was evacuated because the lower level was flooded during the storm.

2.0.0 CONCEPT OF ORGANIZATION AND CHAIN OF COMMAND OF THE NCF

The Secretary of Defense Memorandum Global Force Management Implementation Guidance FY 2008–2009 assigns Navy operating forces to each of the Geographic Combat Commanders (GCCs). A force assigned to a GCC may be transferred from that command only as directed by the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) and under procedures prescribed by the SecDef and approved by the President of the United States (POTUS). The Navy has established multiple component Headquarters (HQs) to support the unified combatant commands.

Two parallel chains of command exist within the Navy: service and operational.
1. The Service chain of command goes from POTUS to the SecDef, the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).

2. The operational chain of command goes from POTUS, through the SecDef, directly to the Combatant Commanders (CCDRs) for missions and forces assigned to their commands. NCCs provide operational forces to GCCs and other operational commanders.

The NCF consists of two functional components:

1. FIRST Naval Construction Division (1NCD)/Naval Construction Forces Command (NCFC), see Figure 1-4.

2. Naval Amphibious Construction Battalions (PHIBCBs) of the Naval Beach Group (NBG) which is discussed later in this section.

2.1.0 Mission of the Naval Construction Force

“With compassion for others, we build; we fight, for peace with freedom.” —Admiral Ben Morell. The NCF’s mission is to conduct contingency engineering and expeditionary construction operations across the ROMO. In carrying out this mission, the NCF performs the following tasks:

- Provides responsive military construction support to the operating forces of the United States, including operational, logistics, underwater, and ship-to-shore facilities construction, maintenance, and operation. This includes engineer reconnaissance, Battle Damage Repair (BDR), vertical and horizontal construction, construction and maintenance of advance base facilities, power generation and electrical distribution systems, water treatment and distribution systems, wastewater treatment and collection systems, and contingency public works support. Refer to Navy Warfare Publication (NWP) 4-04, *Naval Civil Engineering Operations*, for a comprehensive list of NCF capabilities.

- Provides responsive military logistics support to the operating forces of the United States and its allies by enabling and conducting ship-to-shore movement of wet and dry cargos. Refer to NTTP 3-02.1M/ MCWP 3-31.5, *Ship to Shore Movement*, and NTRP 3-02.1.2, *Naval Beach Group Support Element Operations*, for additional information on the amphibious construction battalion (ACB or PHIBCB) and its role in this mission.

- Provides military and amphibious tactical and sustainment construction support to Navy, Marine Corps, and other forces in military operations, subsequent Combat Service Support (CSS) ashore, and defense against overt or clandestine adversary operations directed toward personnel, camps, and facilities under construction.

- Provides CS and CM, including furnishing assistance to civilian agencies under conditions of emergency or catastrophe caused by adversarial action or natural causes.

**NOTE**

NCF response in the Continental United States (CONUS) is coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and/or with local or state agencies through the military chain of command.
• Provides forces for Foreign Humanitarian Assistance (FHA) and Humanitarian Civic Action (HCA) operations.

2.2.0 First Naval Construction Division (1NCD)

1NCD is the U.S. Navy’s global force manager for the NCF, except PHIBCBs. 1NCD is a commissioned, operational shore-based command headquartered at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia, with an integrated AC and RC staff. As a permanently organized command, 1NCD/Naval Construction Forces Command (NCFC) (Figure 1-4) provides expeditionary combat construction forces to fulfill operational and forward engagement requirements of the GCCs and joint task force (JTF) and component commanders; to conduct contingency and CAP in support of Operation Plans (OPLAN), theater security cooperation plans, and contingencies; to provide contributory engineering support to naval shore activities; and to exercise Command and Control (C2) over NCRs and SRGs by providing planning, training, policy, and resources to organize, train, operate, and maintain Seabee units. 1NCD does not have dedicated direct labor assets that reside in its subordinate units.

Figure 1-4 – 1NCD chain of command.
2.2.1 Naval Construction Regiments (NCRs)

Seven NCRs (*Figure 1-5*) are organized under 1NCD as operational commands. Two AC NCRs, TWENTY-SECOND and TWENTY-FIFTH NCRs, are located at CBC Gulfport, Mississippi; and one AC NCR, THIRTEENTH NCR, is located at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme, California. There are four RC NCRs with readiness support sites (RSS) spread across CONUS.

1. FIRST NCR is headquartered at NBVC Port Hueneme, California.
2. THIRD NCR is headquartered at Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Readiness Center Marietta, Georgia.
3. SEVENTH NCR is headquartered at Naval station (NAVSTA) Newport, Rhode Island.
4. NINTH NCR is headquartered at Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base (JRB) Fort Worth, Texas.

![Figure 1-5 — 1NCD NCRs.](image)

The NCR (*Figure 1-6*) is an independent, permanently structured CE that conducts construction and engineer project management operations. The NCR provides C2 over assigned subordinate engineer and other expeditionary units when deployed to an assigned geographical area mission. The NCR (CE) does not have dedicated direct labor assets; these assets reside in its subordinate units. The NCR deploys as an independent unit, usually functioning as a CE of a Naval Construction Element (NCE) with multiple assigned NCF units. The NCRs assigned task organization may include other Navy expeditionary units or detachments, and units from other Services or Host Nations (HNs).
The NCR provides sustained general engineering and construction program management beyond the organic capabilities of supported units. The size and concept of employment of a deployed NCR can vary depending on the requirements of the mission. The NCR deploys during exercises, contingency, or major combat operations. The NCR and its subordinate units deploy as whole integral units or as task-organized detachments. Units and detachments task-organize with warfighting-capable or engineer-mission-only capabilities.

An NCR deploys and employs not only its own units, but also units from other NCRs and SRGs, as well as units from other Navy expeditionary forces, reserves, and other Services as required. The NCR is capable of independent employment but may be a satellite on the HQ of one of its supported units. It is capable of supporting up to an Army Corps or MEF-sized mission across the Range of Military Operations (ROMO). The NCR may function as the CE of an NCE.

2.2.2 Seabee Readiness Group (SRG)

Two SRGs are organized under 1NCD, primarily as training commands. The TWENTIETH SRG is located at CBC Gulfport, Mississippi and the THIRTY-FIRST SRG is located at NBVC Port Hueneme, California. SRG instructors work under 1NCDs training philosophy and policy to conduct realistic, aggressive, and safe training, providing continuity and consistency in the continuum of training and mentoring of Seabees.
The SRG (Figure 1-7) provides combat-ready NCF units ready for tasking in support of the GCCs. The SRG provides those units under its ADCON, with the training, equipment, maintenance, and logistical support as required to achieve their assigned NMETs and the associated capabilities contained in their ROCs in preparation for deployment in support of an NCC, Joint Force Commander (JFC), or Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

The SRG provides technical and military instruction and unit logistical support beyond the organic capabilities of supported units. The SRG staff sections and departments are aligned with the 1NCD organization and function in a supporting role to the 1NCD HQ staff.

The SRG directly coordinates planning, resource allocation, and training program execution with assigned NCF units. Training includes instruction in individual and team combat skills, with specialized technical construction skills through unit-level Field Exercise (FEX) training events. The SRG master scheduler reviews unit skill inventories, schedules, and training pipelines, and communicates directly with units to identify training deficiencies and to provide program support. SRG Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) support AC and RC unit training by traveling to subordinate unit locations to conduct training when economically feasible.

**2.2.3 Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB)**

The NMCBs are primarily designed for construction and military support operations to build advance base facilities in support of the Armed Forces. Figure 1-8 shows the basic NMCB organization. The function of an NMCB also includes projects of repair and operation of facilities and lines of communications during emergencies or under conditions that demand immediate action. When fully outfitted, NMCBs are self-sufficient units for 90 days and require replenishment of consumable items only. They can defend themselves for a limited time; communicate internally; provide messing and billeting facilities; and perform the necessary administrative, personnel, medical, dental supply, and chaplain functions. The NMCBs also participate in disaster recovery operations during both natural and man-made disasters.
Each battalion subdivision has a construction and military support assignment, and every Sailor fills a construction and military billet. Command channels are the same for both construction and military support, permitting rapid transition from one to the other.

All platoons are organized into work squads that correspond to the weapons/rifle squad organization. Work crews and work squads of construction platoons are also trained as disaster control teams. Each battalion may organize the squads of each platoon to meet its particular needs. The construction/military companies retain their normal letter designation, and the platoons retain their letter-number designation to facilitate reference, planning, and scheduling.

NMCB company commanders do not have Article 15 authority as specified in Title 10, *Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)*. They report administratively to the Executive Officer (XO). The operations officer has functional oversight over the battalion’s construction operations; therefore, all company commanders report to the operations officer for operational tasking. NMCB companies are organized similarly to a basic infantry rifle company for military control and accountability, such as muster, instruction, inspection, and physical and general military training.

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**Figure 1-8 —NMCB Main-Body Organization.**

Each battalion subdivision has a construction and military support assignment, and every Sailor fills a construction and military billet. Command channels are the same for both construction and military support, permitting rapid transition from one to the other.

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2.2.3.1 The Headquarters Company

The Headquarters Company of a Seabee battalion serves as the military and administrative organization for the personnel assigned to the executive and special staffs of an NMCB. Headquarters Company has the capability of providing defense in a combat situation as a company unit and, in addition, acts as a reserve force for the battalion. The Headquarters Company’s staff, when participating in a defensive situation, consists of the company commander, platoon commanders, a company Chief Petty Officer (CPO), and other administrative assistants as required to organize it into two rifle platoons and one grenadier platoon.

**Headquarters Company Commander**

Normally assigned to additional duty on the battalion staff, the Headquarters Company commander is responsible for the following:

1. Command of the company in all military formations and operations
2. Assignment of personnel on the watch, quarter, and station bill
3. Personnel muster
4. Supervision and coordination of military and leadership training
5. Administration and guidance in professional and technical training
6. Berthing, messing, mail distribution, and physical fitness
7. Division officer responsibilities, unless separate division officers are assigned

The Headquarters Company commander is also responsible for the security and defense of the battalion’s command post and acts as the reserve force commander for the battalion in the defense.

**Headquarters Platoon Commanders**

All personnel assigned to the battalion’s executive and special staffs are administratively assigned to Headquarters Company. Therefore, the headquarters platoon commanders are normally officers of the administration and personnel department, the operations department, and the supply and logistics department. Most battalions will assign a junior officer with a rank of Ensign or Lieutenant Junior Grade.

The platoon commander is responsible for training, discipline, control, and tactical deployment of the platoon. The platoon commander carries out the orders of the company commander and controls the platoon through squad leaders. In combat, the platoon commander is positioned where they can readily control their squad leaders. At the same time, they are in contact with the company commander. Platoon commanders are generally linked with the company commander by radio, field telephone or both.

**Headquarters Company Chief Petty Officer**

The Headquarters Company CPO can be a chief petty officer or a senior chief petty officer, and serves as an assistant to the Headquarters Company commander in a staff capacity. The Headquarters Company CPO is directly responsible to the company commander for the administration and efficient operation of the company. The company CPO is also responsible for the discipline, training, and performance of the men assigned to the company and is armed with the service pistol.
2.2.3.2 The Rifle Company Headquarters

The rifle company headquarters of a Seabee company consists of the company commander, an assistant company commander (when assigned), the company chief, a company guidon, a company clerk, a company messenger, and other administrative assistants as required. The rifle company headquarters varies somewhat in each company, depending on its construction/combat missions.

Rifle Company Commander

The rifle company commander is usually a lieutenant in the CEC who is responsible for commanding their company by following the policies of the CO.

Assistant Rifle Company Commander

The assistant rifle company commander, when assigned, may be a junior CEC officer or a senior enlisted. The assistant rifle company commander is normally placed in a position of line authority and responsibility between the company commander and the platoon commanders. As a personnel and material manager within the company, they are concerned with executing and enforcing the policies of the company commander and the commanding officer. The assistant rifle company commander supervises the administration of the company; plans and gives technical support to the platoon commanders about their crew assignments, project planning and scheduling, safety, and training. The assistant rifle company commander is armed with the service pistol.

Rifle Company Chief

The rifle company chief is the senior enlisted Sailor assigned to the company, usually a senior chief petty officer or a master chief petty officer. The rifle company chief is the primary administrative assistant and technical advisor to the company commander. The rifle company chief is directly responsible to the company commander for the administration and efficient operation of the company and for the discipline, training, and the performance of the Sailor assigned to the company. The rifle company chief is armed with the service pistol.

Rifle Company Guidon

The rifle company guidon, generally a petty officer first class, acts as a construction expediter and supply coordinator for the company. During combat, they are stationed near the company commander and are responsible for the distribution of ammunition to the platoon guides. The guidon coordinates the ammunition counts following combat to ensure appropriate redistribution. The rifle company guidon is armed with the M16 service rifle.

Rifle Company Clerk

The rifle company clerk is normally a constructionman with clerical experience. Duties consist of preparing company memorandums, typing, filing, and many other administrative tasks. The rifle company clerk is also the company mail orderly. During military operations, they become the company staff communicator and must be familiar with the operation and care of the company communications equipment. In addition, they are trained in proper procedures for transmitting reports and messages. The rifle company clerk may also serve as guidon bearer during parade formation. The rifle company clerk is armed with the M16 service rifle.

Rifle Company Messenger

Generally, a constructionman is assigned to the company headquarters as a rifle company messenger. They primarily perform in this capacity only during military
operations. For work purposes, they are assigned to a work crew/rifle fire team. Although they deliver most of the messages on foot, they are also trained in the operation of communications equipment so they can take over should the rifle company clerk become a casualty. When the company administrative tasks increase, as they do during homeport training periods, the rifle company messenger may assist the rifle company clerk with their duties. The rifle company messenger is armed with the service rifle.

### 2.2.3.3 The Rifle Platoon Headquarters

The maneuvering elements of a rifle company are the rifle platoons. A Seabee rifle platoon consists of a platoon headquarters and three or more rifle squads. Each rifle squad is composed of three or more work crew/rifle fire teams. The primary combat mission of the rifle company, as well as the rifle platoon, is to repel the enemy assault by fire and close combat.

Each rifle platoon headquarters consists of a platoon commander, platoon petty officer, platoon guide, communicator, and a messenger.

#### Rifle Platoon Commander

The rifle platoon commander is generally an Ensign or Lieutenant Junior Grade. Normally, they are the project supervisor. They are responsible for the training, discipline, control, and tactical deployment of their platoon. The rifle platoon commander carries out the orders of the company commander and controls their platoon through squad leaders. In combat, the rifle platoon commander is positioned where they can readily control their squad leaders and, at the same time, remain in contact with their company commander. The rifle platoon commander is generally linked with the company commander by either radio or field telephone or both. The rifle platoon commander is armed with the service pistol.

#### Assistant Rifle Platoon Commander

The assistant rifle platoon commander is generally a chief petty officer. Normally, they are the project supervisor. They are responsible for the training, discipline, control, and tactical deployment of the platoon. The assistant rifle platoon commander carries out the orders of the company commander and controls their platoon through squad leaders. In combat, the rifle platoon commander is positioned where they can readily control their squad leaders and, at the same time, remain in contact with their company commander. The rifle platoon commander is generally linked with the company commander by either radio or field telephone or both. The assistant rifle platoon commander is armed with the service pistol.

#### Rifle Platoon Petty Officer

The rifle platoon petty officer, generally a first class petty officer, is the next senior person in the platoon and is second in command. As such, they perform all duties assigned by the rifle platoon commander and stand ready to assume command in their absence. On the job, they will assist in project supervision. In combat, they assist in all aspects of supervision and control of the platoon. The rifle platoon petty officer is positioned where they can hear the commands of the rifle platoon commander but far enough away to avoid becoming a casualty should the rifle platoon commander be hit. The rifle platoon petty officer is also armed with the service pistol.
Rifle Platoon Guide

The rifle platoon guide is generally a first class petty officer who performs the administrative functions the rifle platoon commander may direct. They are directly responsible to the rifle platoon commander for the supply and timely resupply of the platoon in combat and often perform a similar task on the jobsite. They also maintain the platoon casualty record. While the platoon is moving in training or in combat operations, the rifle platoon guide helps prevent straggling. The rifle platoon guide is armed with the service rifle.

Rifle Platoon Communicator and Messenger

The rifle platoon communicators and messengers are generally constructionmen; and during normal construction, they are assigned to work a crew/rifle fire team. The rifle platoon communicator and messenger, in combat, provide communications between the rifle company headquarters and the rifle platoon commander and also between the rifle platoon, its squads, and attached units. The rifle platoon communicator uses radio or telephone communication methods, while the rifle platoon messenger generally travels on foot. Both are armed with service rifles.

2.2.3.4 The Rifle Squad

The Seabee rifle squad is composed of a squad leader, three fire teams, and a grenadier. Ideally, the rifle squad will contain three fire teams of four Sailors each, a grenadier, and the squad leader for a total of 14 personnel.

Squad Leader

The squad leader is generally a first class petty officer. They carry out the orders of the platoon commander and are responsible to them for the discipline, appearance, training, control, and conduct of their squad at all times. They must pay particular attention to the care and maintenance of the weapons and equipment of the squad. In combat, they have the important responsibilities of fire discipline, fire control, and maneuvering their squad. They take a position where they can best observe and control the squad and carry out the orders of the platoon commander. They control the squad by voice and visual commands. The squad leader is primarily a leader; therefore, they only fire their own weapon in critical situations. The squad leader is armed with the service rifle.

Grenadier

The grenadier, generally a third class petty officer, carries out the orders of the squad leader and is responsible to them for the effective care, maintenance, and employment of their weapon—the M203 grenade launcher. In combat, the grenadier always moves with (or is close to) the squad leader. Usually, another third class petty officer in the squad is trained to replace the grenadier should the first one become a casualty. On the jobsite, the grenadier has no special authority unless specifically designated.

2.2.3.5 The Rifle Fire Team

The rifle fire team is the basic combat unit of the rifle squad and is formed around the automatic rifle, which is a variation of the M16 service rifle, with the selector lever always turned to fully automatic. The fire team normally consists of four personnel, although it may contain as few as three and as many as seven. The four basic members are the following:

1. Fire team leader
2. Automatic rifleman
3. Rifleman number 1
4. Rifleman number 2

**Fire Team Leader**

The fire team leader, generally a second class petty officer, carries out the orders of the squad leader and is responsible to them for the effective employment of the fire team. Their primary responsibility is to control the fire team in combat. In addition, they are responsible for the care and condition of the weapons and equipment of the fire team. The fire team leader is positioned where they can best control the fire of the automatic rifles of the team. They usually control their personnel through real and visual communications, since there are normally no radio or telephone communications below the platoon commander’s level. Although they are armed with the service rifle, their primary duty as a leader comes first; and they serve as a rifleman only when absolutely necessary. The senior fire team leader serves as assistant squad leader and is prepared to take over the squad in the event that the squad leader becomes a casualty.

**Automatic Rifleman**

The automatic rifleman, generally a third class petty officer, provides heavy firepower and is the backbone of the fire team. They are responsible to the fire team leader for the effective employment of the automatic rifle as well as its condition and care. The automatic rifleman acts as the fire team leader’s assistant and takes over in their absence.

**Rifleman Number 1**

Rifleman number 1, generally a constructionman, carries extra ammunition for the automatic rifleman. The automatic rifle must be kept in action at all times; if the automatic rifleman becomes a casualty, rifleman number 1 moves up and replaces the automatic rifleman. In addition, rifleman number 1 is armed with the service rifle and acts as a rifleman and a scout. Rifleman number 1 will assist rifleman number 2 in protecting the flank (exposed side) of the fire team.

**Rifleman Number 2**

Rifleman number 2, a constructionman or an apprentice, serves as a rifleman and protects the flank of the fire team. Rifleman number 2 is point for all team formations and may also serve as a scout. If more than four personnel are assigned to the fire team, the additional personnel have the same general duties as rifleman number 2. All are armed with the service rifle.

**2.2.3.6 Machine Gun Squad**

The machine gun squad consists of a machine gun squad leader and two four-man machine gun teams. They work together under the supervision of the team/squad leader.

**Machine Gun Squad Leader**

The machine gun squad leader, generally a first class petty officer, has the same basic duties as the rifle squad leader. In addition, they select and assign exact positions and targets for their machine guns within the area designated by the platoon commander. The machine gun squad leader is armed with the service rifle and also carries binoculars and a compass.
Machine Gun Team

The machine gun team consists of a team leader, a gunner, and two ammunition carriers. This team operates and services the machine gun.

Machine Gun Team Leader

The machine gun team leader, generally a second class petty officer, is responsible to the squad leader for the effective employment (fire power) of the machine gun for the team. They carry and place the machine gun tripod for action. They also carry one bandolier (belt with pockets to carry machine gun ammunition). During combat, the machine gun team leader is responsible for changing the machine gun barrel, so they carry a kit that contains an extra gun barrel and a combination wrench. The machine gun team leader is armed with a service pistol.

Gunner

The gunner does the actual firing of the machine gun in combat as directed by the team leader. They carry the machine gun, one bandolier of machine gun ammunition, and are armed with a service pistol. Also, they must be able to maintain the machine gun. Generally, the gunner is a third class petty officer.

Ammunition Carrier Number 1

The ammunition carrier number 1, generally a constructionman, acts as the supply man for the team. They carry one box of machine gun ammunition (200 rounds) and the spare barrel case with the Traversing and Elevating (T&E) mechanism. Ammunition carrier number 1 is armed with the service rifle. When not actually engaged in carrying machine gun ammunition, they protect the flank of the machine gun team.

Ammunition Carrier Number 2

Ammunition carrier number 2, generally a construction apprentice, carries two boxes of machine gun ammunition (400 rounds). They are armed with the service rifle and also protect the machine gun team.

2.2.3.7 Antitank (At4) Squad

The antitank squad consists of two three-person teams whose principle mission is defense against armored vehicles (tanks).

Antitank Squad Leader

The antitank squad leader, generally a first class petty officer, has the same basic duties as any other squad leader. In addition, they select and assign the exact positions and targets for the antitank weapons within the areas defined by their platoon commander. The antitank squad leader is armed with the service rifle, and carries binoculars and a compass.

Antitank Team

The antitank team consists of three personnel carrying five AT4s each. These personnel are also armed with service rifles.
2.2.4 Underwater Construction Teams (UCTs)

There are two AC UCTs. These UCTs are commissioned, operational Navy commands organized under the ADCON of their respective SRG subordinate to 1NCD. UCTs (Figure 1-9) and/or Detachments (DETs) receive construction project management oversight/tasking (exercising TACON or OPCON only when delegated) through the cognizant NCRs per the 1NCD geographically-designated OAs. UCT ONE is located at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia, and UCT TWO is located at NBVC Port Hueneme, California.

The UCT is a specialized unit that provides a wide range of underwater repair, inspection, and construction expertise. Its sea and shore components each have an assigned unit identification code. Teams are expeditionary and amphibious in nature, consisting of Navy qualified divers from Seabee (OF-7) ratings and support personnel. They accomplish inshore and deep ocean engineering tasks. The danger of underwater construction and the use of explosives for subsurface and terrestrial demolition require Seabee divers to have specialized training, unique skills, and rigorous personal qualification standards. Seabee divers continually exercise these critical readiness requirements throughout their Fleet Response Training Plan (FRTP) to maintain proficiency.

2.2.4.1 Mission of the Underwater Construction Team

The mission of the UCT is to conduct expeditionary, temporary and/or permanent inshore, waterfront, and underwater deep ocean facility construction, inspection, repair, and maintenance operations and to conduct amphibious landing support of JLOTS operations, including Foreign Humanitarian Assistance/ Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (FHA/HCA) and underwater recovery operations. NWP 4-04, Naval Civil Engineering Operations, Appendix A, contains a list of engineering and construction tasks within the range of UCT capabilities and a comparison of UCT tasks to those of other Marine Corps and Navy engineer units. Also, OPNAVINST 3501.93 (series), Required Operational Capabilities (ROC) and Projected Operational Environment (POE)
for Naval Beach Groups and Their Elements, contains a complete listing of missions and capabilities and COMFIRSTNCDINST 3502.2, Naval Construction Force (NCF) Training Requirements, contains the Navy Mission Essential Tasks (NMETs) that a UCT is trained to accomplish.

The UCT is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Port opening operations
2. Beach/channel clearances
3. Geotechnical surveys
4. Hydrographic surveys, including complex inshore and deep ocean underwater construction tasks, such as ocean bottom surveys for potential underwater facilities
5. Light salvage and recovery operations
6. Support of OPDS installation and sustainment operations
7. Underwater construction, maintenance, and repair operations to a depth of 190 ft on facilities such as boat ramps, piers, wharfs, underwater cable systems, underwater pipelines, and mooring systems
8. Underwater inspections
9. Underwater engineering, including inspection, site surveying, and design support

2.3.0 Construction Battalion Maintenance Units (CBMUs)

The CBMUs conduct public works functions at Navy and Marine Corps expeditionary FOBs and constructs Expeditionary Medical Facilities (EMFs). Its personnel and equipment are a modular task organization of air-transportable, ground, and sea logistics elements. Direct labor assets are approximately 50 percent of the total basic allowance that may be assigned directly to construction and contingency operations or other tasking. Each CBMU (Figure 1-10) is an integrated Active Component (AC) or Reserve Component (RC) organization; whose AC is an immediate response force and its RC detachments require mobilization and 45-day postmobilization training for employment.

Figure 1-10 — CBMU chain of command.
There are two CBMUs, CBMU-TWO ZERO TWO *(Figure 1-11)* is headquartered at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia, and CBMU-THREE ZERO THREE *(Figure 1-12)* is headquartered at Naval Base San Diego, California. These CBMUs are shore-based, surge-capable, commissioned operational Navy commands under the ADCON of their respective SRGs subordinate to 1NCD.

*Figure 1-11 — CBMU 202 homeport main-body organization.*
Figure 1-12 — CBMU 303 homeport main-body organization.

The CBMU is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Improving vertical construction
   a) Constructing, improving, and maintaining encampments, Combat Service Support Areas (CSSAs), and other Naval Forward Logistics Sites (NFLSs) and required support facilities
   b) Conducting continuing public works, camp improvements, and maintenance management at FOBs
2. Setting up and providing continuing public works operations support and camp improvements
3. Improving limited forward base camps and providing continuing public works operations support
4. Providing CSS for a 1NCD forward-deployed CE
5. Conducting limited base horizontal construction, to include improving and maintaining unpaved roads, expeditionary airfields, and helicopter landing zones
6. Conducting maintenance and repair of utilities, including mobile electric power (systems less than 600 volts) beyond supported units’ capabilities and electrical power distribution systems
7. Installing, maintaining, and operating water purification, water storage, and utility distribution systems
8. Creating survivability enhancements, including the construction of protective structures as needed to improve perimeter security for FOB camps
9. Conducting countermobility operations through installation of nonexplosive obstacles and barriers

### 2.4.0 Amphibious Construction Battalions (PHIBCBs)

There are two PHIBCBs organized under the Naval Beach Group (NBG) as operational Navy commands. PHIBCB-ONE is homeported at NAB Coronado, California, and PHIBCB-TWO is homeported at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia. *Figure 1-13* illustrates the command relationships of the PHIBCBs.

The PHIBCB is an operational command that provides tactical elements of personnel and equipment to functional components supporting the Commander, Amphibious Task Force (CATF), for support of the Navy Support Equipment (NSE) during the initial assault and the assault follow-on phases of amphibious landing operations, Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) operations, and/or Joint Logistics Over-The-Shore (JLOTS) operations.

Each PHIBCB is an integrated AC/RC organization who’s AC is an immediate response force; its RC detachments require a 45-day mobilization and training period for
employment. Its sea and shore components each have an assigned unit identification code. Direct labor assets are approximately 70 percent of the total basic allowance that may be assigned directly to off-load cargo, contingency operations, or other tasking. Although not under 1NCD, PHIBCBs are considered part of the NCF because 75 percent of the officers are CEC officers, 50 percent of the enlisted members are Seabees (OF-7), and the PHIBCB has a limited organic general engineering capability.

2.4.1 Mission of the Amphibious Construction Battalion

The PHIBCBs conduct Ship-to-Shore (STS) transportation of bulk fuel, water, supplies, materials, and equipment in support of amphibious, Logistics Over-the-Shore (LOTS), JLOTS, and MPF operations. They construct and operate tactical camps and conduct related CSS, including general engineering and security support in subsequent operations ashore. NWP 4-04, Naval Civil Engineering Operations, Appendix A, contains a list of construction and engineering tasks within the range of PHIBCB capabilities and a comparison of PHIBCB tasks to other Marine Corps and Navy engineer units. Also, OPNAVINST 3501.93 (series), Required Operational Capabilities (ROC) and Projected Operational Environment (POE) for Naval Beach Groups and Their Elements, contains a complete listing of missions and capabilities.

Each PHIBCB is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Installing and operating STS bulk liquid systems, OPDS, and the Amphibious Bulk Liquid Transfer System (ABLTS)
2. Conducting lighterage operations with Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) and Navy Lighterage (NL) causeway ferries and warping tugs; conducting maintenance and repairs to these powered craft and unpowered section/modules
3. Installing and operating floating causeway piers, Roll-on/Roll-off Discharge Facilities (RRDFs), and Elevated Causeway System (Modular) (ELCAS(M)) piers
4. Operating and conducting maintenance on barges and/or warping tugs in conjunction with causeways, fuel systems, and salvage work
5. Constructing, improving, and maintaining encampments and other logistics beach support areas required by the NSE or Landing Force Support Party (LFSP)

NOTE

Doctrinal camp size is 1,200 personnel for Assault Follow on Echelon (AFOE) mission and 850 personnel for MPF operations.

6. Conducting limited general engineering construction projects in support of beach improvements
7. Conducting beach and camp security support
8. Providing seaward salvage support
9. Operating shoreside cranes
10. Providing beach salvage elements to the beachmaster unit beach party teams
3.0.0 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE (NCF)

3.1.0 Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC)

Based on operational requirements, NECC provides combat-ready forces of mission specific units or multimission task-organized force packages to fulfill JFMCC/JFLCC demands by using the existing solid foundation of core capabilities that exists in the Navy’s expeditionary force today and in emerging new mission capabilities. Combined under a unified command structure, Navy force readiness and responsiveness increases to support evolving irregular warfare missions in major combat operations, maritime security operations, and maritime homeland security/maritime homeland defense.

3.2.0 Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC)

NAVFAC’s component commands comprise two subordinate HQ commands, NAVFAC Atlantic and NAVFAC Pacific, and Facilities Engineering Commands (FECs) located around the globe. NAVFAC has four specialty centers, three of which provide significant support to the NCF: Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center (NFESC), Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Command (NFELC), and the Navy Crane Center.

3.3.0 Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE)

The CSFE is located at NBVC Port Hueneme, California, with a Navy CEC captain as its CO. CSFE is one of 15 learning centers that report to the Naval Personnel Development Command in Norfolk, Virginia. The center provides Seabees, CEC officers, facility engineers, and environmental professionals with the skills, knowledge, and education necessary for lifelong learning to provide quality support to the fleet.

3.4.0 Naval Construction Forces Command (NCFC)

NCF units under 1NCD currently operate out of two primary CONUS locations: CBC Gulfport, Mississippi, and NBVC Port Hueneme, California. Not all NCF units are based out of these locations, although they are central to NCF training, TOA equipment management, and mobilization. Other locations are detailed throughout this publication when describing each unit.

3.5.0 Reserves

NCF reserves are organized under the FIRST NCR, THIRD NCR, SEVENTH NCR, NINTH NCR, and their subordinate RC units. Additionally, NCF reserves are also assigned to AC units such as 1NCD, the CBMUs, and the PHIBCBs under the NBGs.

4.0.0 LAWS OF ARMED CONFLICT

The laws of armed conflict are the concern of every member of the Armed Forces: Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and yes, even Seabees. Because of the important sound of the term “laws of armed conflict,” it might appear that only people, such as the CNO, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of Defense, and the President, concern themselves with the rules of war. While over the years individuals such as these from many countries have drafted the basic documents governing the treatment of people in wartime, the laws of armed conflict remain the direct concern of every service member.
The principles behind the laws of armed conflict are stated as such, “How you, an individual Seabee, conduct yourself in wartime operations to accomplish your mission while still respecting the rights of civilians, your enemies, and your allies.” The next few sections will provide some basic information on what to do and, just as important, what not to do in wartime situations.

4.1.0 Why we need Laws in War

Unfortunately, war is as old as man himself. People cause wars; weapons do not. Man creates the weapons that are merely the instruments that a nation uses to carry out its war objectives. Genghis Khan, the ancient Asian warlord, killed or maimed a greater percentage of people than any other leader in history. He did it with bows and arrows and other similar primitive weapons. During Genghis Khan’s era, there were no rules of war. Even though the human continues to be the force behind the weapons, there exists a certain orderliness to which people subscribe to when they find themselves on a battlefield.

The positive side of mankind has managed to improve the conditions under which war is conducted since the era of Genghis Khan. As newer weapons of warfare have made it easier for man to kill their fellow man, nations have sensed a need to eliminate unnecessary death, destruction, and suffering. This need has been reflected in the moral values of civilized man and also in military policies.

Binding customs and formal laws of war, presented in the Geneva conventions and The Hague regulations, have evolved. They legally bind most nations to the practices set down at Geneva and The Hague. The United States has agreed to these rules. Any violation of them is the same as a violation of the laws of the United States itself. The United States has led the world in adopting rules for its military forces. These rules recognize that enemies are also human beings and that captured or detained people are entitled to retain their fundamental rights as humans regardless of their past conduct or beliefs. Every Seabee has the duty, therefore, to know and obey the laws of armed conflict.

History shows that discipline and high morale led our military forces to victory in battle after battle. These same characteristics apply to obedience to the laws of armed conflict. Although a Seabee will be in uniform and be an instrument of a nation state (the United States) in an armed conflict, this does not give them license to do anything they wish to do. There are limits on what can be done when waging war and those limits are established by the laws of armed conflict. This chapter explains what a Seabee can and cannot do.

5.0.0 GENERAL PRECEPTS OF THE LAWS OF ARMED CONFLICT

When entering into armed conflict in another country, the Seabee should be aware of many of the characteristics of the country. Knowledge of these characteristics will better prepare them to follow the tenets of the laws of armed conflict.

5.1.0 Geography

A general understanding of the geography of a nation will help one to know where the population of the country is concentrated. That knowledge is important for preparation in dealing with civilians and the enemy as they are encountered. In addition, before operating, it is important to know the general area of the country and the nations that
border it. This knowledge may help in understanding any trends that may have an effect on carrying out the laws of armed conflict. The capital city and the other major cities should be known, as well as the characteristics of the land (mountains, deserts, plains, etc.), and the climate. Knowledge of all these features will help when dealing with rules of war situations that might arise during time in the country. Service members should receive information about the general characteristics of the geography of a nation as part of instructional briefings given in operational deployments.

5.2.0 People

Knowledge of the people in a country can be invaluable to service members in how they conduct themselves under the rules of war. Since nearly all offenses under the laws of armed conflict involve people, the more that is known about the civilian populace of a country and of the enemy, the better off the service member will be. Their ethnic backgrounds, their language, the educational level of the people, the important cultural characteristics (particularly if they are different than the culture of the United States), the religions of the country, and the social customs of the people should be known.

Knowledge of the people is probably the most important thing to know about the country. Without it, it is difficult to understand the way the people think and act. Accordingly, the chances of doing something in violation of the rules of war increase. If the enemy and the people are one and the same, then the questions posed above will serve for both. If not, the same questions about the enemy need to be asked. It is important to know both the military and nonmilitary characteristics of the enemy.

5.3.0 History

There is no need to know the long and detailed history of a country, except as it relates to why someone is there. Historical circumstances involving politics, religion, or cultural values may have led to a service member being in the country. It is important to have knowledge of, and be sensitive to, the historical circumstances dictating U.S. Armed Forces’ involvement in the country. It is important to pay attention during briefings on these matters. Articles on the subject should also be read (newspapers, periodicals, etc.). Knowing the history of the country as it relates to military involvement may serve the service member well if a situation exists where one has to decide what action(s) to take in a wartime situation under the laws of armed conflict.

5.4.0 Economy

Is the country poor or wealthy? Does it have wealth concentrated in a few people and enormous pockets of poverty among the general populace? It is important to have answers to these questions because such conditions may contribute to the way one deals with the people and the enemy of the country. Current economic conditions are also important. (These conditions include growth, inflation, deflation, unemployment, poverty, etc.). Knowledge of the economic condition of a country can lead to an understanding of how the people and the enemy of the country might behave toward service members or foreigners. It might also assist in preventing a violation of the rules of war.

5.5.0 Foreign Relations

Knowing the alliances, Allies, traditional enemies (if any), and the role of the country in international organizations (for example, the United Nations) can provide the service member with an understanding of what to expect. When in another country, the
following question should be asked. Will the country comply with the laws of armed conflict that we fight under, or can we expect behavior contrary to our training?

5.6.0 Government

Knowing something about the nature of the national government in a country may better prepare one to understand the nature and conduct of the enemy as well as the civilian populace. Is the government of the country bound by the Geneva conventions and The Hague resolutions? Will the government prosecute someone for a crime against civilians or against the enemy for a violation of the rules of war? Even if the government does not comply with the rules of war in any way, an obligation as a Seabee is to conduct themselves under the laws of armed conflict that they are taught.

6.0.0 RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRY BEING ENTERED

The relations of the United States’ with the country being entered may be good, bad, or somewhere between these two extremes. The government of the country may want the Seabees to be there, but some of its people may not. Situations or actions from the enemy, or from the general population, may be encountered that will try the service member’s patience. Statements such as, “Yankee, Go Home!” may be heard. If so, the service member must maintain self-control and not violate the principles learned under the laws of armed conflict. Service members should be familiar with U.S. relations with the country they are entering. This knowledge can serve well in preventing the creation of a situation where one might violate the rules of war.

Along with knowledge of the country, it is important to fully understand the mission. While conducting a mission, a situation may develop where there will be an opportunity to succeed or fail in the practice of the laws of armed conflict.

This chapter contains important information to provide sufficient knowledge of what to do and what not to do under most combat situations. This knowledge protects the service member from violating the laws of armed conflict. When encountering a situation where one is unsure of what action(s) to take in carrying out a mission, clearance from the next higher authority should be obtained before continuing. For example, when military action by a service member might endanger the lives of some local civilians and it is not sure how to proceed, it is important to get approval for the next action from the next higher authority.

7.0.0 YOUR CONDUCT UNDER THE LAWS OF ARMED CONFLICT

The laws of armed conflict state what can and cannot be done in combat situations. With the training received, necessary discipline is provided to ensure the service member will be able to do the right thing. But if a Seabee does not learn how to conduct their actions in combat, they will be punished for mistakes.

All persons in uniform, carrying a weapon or participating in any way in military operations or activities, are known as combatants. Under the laws of armed conflict, only combatants are considered proper targets and may be fired upon. All others are called noncombatants. Noncombatants include civilians, medical personnel, and chaplains. Knowing the difference between combatants and noncombatants in guerrilla war situations may sometimes be difficult and require great care. Humane treatment of noncombatants may help in obtaining valuable intelligence to better pursue a mission.
in doubt about the differences between combatants and noncombatants, a superior should be consulted before a course of action is pursued.

7.1.0 Enemy Combatants

Enemy soldiers who surrender or enemy soldiers who are captured, sick, or wounded should never be attacked. When handling prisoners of war (POWs), the six Ss: search, secure, silence, segregate, safeguard, and speed the prisoners to the rear should be followed. A prisoner must never be killed, tortured, or mistreated because such actions are a violation of the law. Besides, prisoners may be able to give vital information about the enemy. Treating a prisoner badly also discourages other enemy soldiers from surrendering, and it strengthens their will to resist. But if prisoners are treated well, fairness encourages the enemy to treat their prisoners (U.S. buddies) well. Humane treatment of POWs is right, honorable, and required under the laws of armed conflict. Improper treatment of prisoners is punishable by court-martial.

Enemy soldiers should be allowed to surrender. The enemy may use different signals to convey they are surrendering, but all of the signals should be noticeable. It is illegal to fire on an enemy that has thrown down their weapons and offered to surrender.

Medical care should also be provided to the wounded—whether friend or foe. Under the laws of armed conflict, it is a requirement to provide the same medical care to the sick and wounded as would be provided for the service member’s own personnel.

When someone is captured, it may not be easy to determine whether the person is an enemy. That determination is made by specifically trained personnel at a higher headquarters. Captives may be questioned about military information of immediate value to a mission, but threats, torture, or other forms of coercion may never be used to obtain information.

Personal property may never be taken from a prisoner, except those items that are clearly of a military or intelligence value (weapons, maps, or military documents). These items may only be taken after the prisoner has been secured, silenced, and segregated. Nothing that is not of military value may be taken. Only an officer may take custody of the personal effects of a prisoner.

Captives may perform some types of work but the work must not relate to assisting the captive’s enemy’s war effort. The acceptable work performed must be limited to allowing captives to dig foxholes or build bunkers only for their own protection. Under the laws of armed conflict, captives may never be used as a shield for an attack or defense against the enemy; to search for, clear, or place mines or booby traps; or to carry the captive’s enemy’s ammunition or heavy gear.

Under the rules of armed conflict, service members are not permitted to attack villages, towns, or cities. But service members are allowed to engage the enemy that is in a village, town, or city, and to destroy any equipment or supplies that the enemy has there when it is mission-essential. In all cases, it is not permissible to create more destruction than is necessary to accomplish the mission. When using firepower in a populated area, only military targets must be attacked.

Protected property may not be attacked. While some protected property may mean little to some, the property in question may be of cultural importance to the people of the country. Examples of protected property include buildings dedicated to religion, art, science, or charitable purposes; historical monuments; hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected and cared for; and schools and orphanages for children. When the enemy uses these places for refuge or for offensive purposes, a
commander may order an attack. It is common sense to destroy no more than the minimum amount of protected property consistent with carrying out the mission. To do more may undermine the mission.

7.2.0 Civilians

Earlier in this chapter, the reasons for knowing as much as possible about the country in which service members conduct operations were discussed. Once there, civilians and private property need to be treated as though it belonged to the service member.

The rights of civilians in war zones should not be violated. When something is known about the culture and practices of the people, there should be little trouble recognizing the rights of civilians. Civilians should be protected from acts of violence, threats, and insults—both from the enemy and from fellow Seabees. On occasion, it may be necessary to move or resettle civilians because such action is urgently required for military activities. Under no circumstance should civilian property be burned without approval of higher authority. Similarly, property should never be stolen from civilians. Failure to obey these rules is a violation of the laws of armed conflict and punishable by court-martial.

Under no circumstances should medical personnel or equipment used for the welfare of the people or the enemy be fired upon. Most medical personnel and facilities are marked with a red cross on a white background. However, a few countries use a different symbol. This is one of the reasons it is important to be familiar with the customs of the country in which operations are conducted. Similarly, Seabees should never pose as a Red Cross representative when they are not. Life may depend on proper use of the Red Cross symbol.

Parachutists are considered helpless until they reach the ground. Under the rules of war, it is not permissible to fire at parachutists while they are in the air. If they resist with weapons upon landing or do not surrender, they may be attacked. Paratroopers, on the other hand, are always considered combatants and may be fired on while they are still in the air.

Under the laws of armed conflict, poison or poisoned weapons may not be used. However, nonpoisoning weapons to destroy the food and water of the enemy may be used.

Weapons may not be altered to cause unnecessary suffering by the enemy. Altered rounds cannot be used to inflict greater destruction on the enemy. These alterations are forbidden under the laws of armed conflict.

8.0.0 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN RULES ARE VIOLATED

Some basic rules have been provided to show what can and cannot be done in a wartime situation, as they relate to the laws of armed conflict. This section provides instructions on what action should be taken if the rules are violated by other personnel.

Violations of the laws of armed conflict by others must be prevented because they are criminal acts. When a criminal act in progress is witnessed and about to happen, it should be prevented by:

- Arguing against it
- Threatening to report the criminal act
- Repeating the orders of your superiors
• Stating your personal disagreement
• Asking a senior individual present to intervene

If a Seabee is totally familiar with the country during an operation and knowledgeable about the rules of war, it is possible to prevent a criminal act. In the event the criminal act immediately endangers the life of the witness or the lives of others, the exact amount of force needed to prevent the crime may be used—but only as a last resort. If the criminal act (or act about to be committed) is committed by an immediate superior, the act should be reported to their immediate superior. This is a requirement by the laws of armed conflict. Conversely, it cannot be required to commit a crime under the laws of armed conflict. If a service member is ordered to commit a crime under the rules of war, they must refuse to follow the order and their refusal reported to the next higher authority. A Seabee can be prosecuted for carrying out an unlawful act under the laws of war, so it is important to know what is legal and the rules of armed conflict should be followed.

8.1.0 Code of the U.S. Fighting Force

The Code was prescribed by the President of the United States in 1955 as a simple, written creed applying to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States. The words of the Code, presented in six articles, state the principles that Americans have honored in all the wars this country has fought since 1776.

The Code is not intended to provide guidance on every aspect of military life. For that purpose there are military regulations, rules of military courtesy, and established customs and traditions. The Code is in no way connected with the UCMJ. The UCMJ has punitive powers; the Code does not.

The six articles of the Code can be divided into three categories. Articles I and VI are general statements of dedication to country and freedom. Conduct on the battlefield is the subject of Article II. Articles III, IV, and V concern conduct as a prisoner of war.

8.1.1 Article I

* I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

It is a long-standing tradition of American citizens to answer the call to arms willingly when the peace and security of this Nation are threatened. Patrick Henry stated it best in the early days of our country when he said, “... give me liberty or give me death.” Nathan Hale, captured by the British during the revolutionary war and charged with spying, personified the spirit of an American fighting for freedom, when he spoke the immortal words, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country,” just before his execution by hanging.

More recently, the threat to America has been less obvious as small countries, such as South Korea and South Vietnam, have borne the brunt of attacks by the enemy. Nevertheless, Americans have risen to the challenge and have proven their dedication and willingness to make the supreme sacrifice as much as in any of the wars in our history.

In June 1965, Construction Mechanic Third Class Marvin G. Shields served with U.S. Navy Seabee Team 1104 at Dong Koai, supporting 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces. Although wounded when a reinforced Viet Cong regiment using a machine gun, heavy weapons, and small arms placed intensive fire on the unit, CM3 Shields continued to resupply his fellow Americans with needed
ammunition to return the enemy fire for a period of approximately 3 hours. Wounded a
second time during this attack, CM3 Shields assisted in carrying a more critically
wounded man to safety. Then, he resumed firing at the enemy for 4 more hours. CM3
Shields unhesitantly volunteered to accompany the commander and knock out an
enemy machine gun emplacement that was endangering the lives of all personnel in the
compound because of the accuracy of the enemy fire. Advancing toward the objective
with a 3.5-inch rocket launcher, the two men succeeded in destroying the enemy
machine gun emplacement, undoubtedly saving the lives of many of their fellow
servicemen.

CM3 Shields fell mortally wounded by hostile fire while returning to his position. He was
later awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions. His bold initiative and
fearless devotion to duty are perfect examples of the meaning of the words of Article I of
the Code.

8.1.2 Article II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the
members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

This is an American tradition that dates back to the Revolutionary War. An individual
may never voluntarily surrender. If isolated and unable to fight the enemy, they are
obligated to evade capture and rejoin friendly forces at the earliest possible time.

John Paul Jones always comes to mind when one reads Article II of the Code. In 1779
the captain of the Bonhomme Richard challenged two British ships of war, the Serapis
and the Countess of Scarborough. Old, slow, and hopelessly outclassed the Bonhomme
Richard was being badly battered, repeatedly set on fire, and rapidly filling with water
when the captain of the Serapis called, “Do you ask for quarter?”

“I have not yet begun to fight,” replied John Paul Jones. Hours later, the Serapis struck
her flag; and Jones and his crew boarded and captured the British ship as they watched
their own ship sink.

When a unit is involved, the officer in command may never surrender that unit to the
enemy while it has the power to resist or evade. A unit that is cut off or surrounded must
continue to fight until it is relieved by, or able to, rejoin friendly forces.

8.1.3 Article III

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort
to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from
the enemy.

8.1.4 Article IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no
information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am
senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over
me and will back them up in every way.

8.1.5 Article V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank,
service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost
of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its
Allies or harmful to their cause.
The misfortune of being captured by the enemy does not end a Seabee's usefulness to their country. Their duty is to continue to resist the enemy by all possible means and to escape and assist others to escape. A Seabee may not accept parole from the enemy or special favors, such as more food, warm clothes, less physical restrictions, and so forth, in return for promises not to escape or for informing or providing information to the enemy.

Informing, or any other action endangering the well-being of a fellow prisoner, is forbidden. Prisoners of war must not help the enemy by identifying fellow prisoners who may have knowledge of particular value to the enemy and who may, therefore, be made to suffer brutal interrogation.

Strong leadership is essential to discipline. Organization, resistance, and even survival may be extremely difficult without discipline. Personal hygiene, sanitation, and care of the sick and wounded prisoners of war are an absolute “must.” All United States officers and noncommissioned officers must continue to carry out their responsibilities and exercise their authority if captured.

The senior line officer or noncommissioned officer within a prisoner of war camp, or a group of prisoners, must assume command according to rank or date of rank, without regard to branch of service. The senior line officer is the lawful superior of all lower ranking personnel. If the senior officer or noncommissioned officer is incapacitated or unable to command for any reason, command must be assumed by the next senior man. This responsibility cannot be avoided.

8.1.6 Article VI

*I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.*

Article VI and Article I of the Code are quite similar. The repeated words *I am an American, fighting for freedom,* are perhaps the most important words of the Code, because they signify each American’s faith and confidence in God, country, and service. Since John Paul Jones made his defiant reply, “I have not yet begun to fight,” to the present, Americans have traditionally fought the enemy wherever they were found and with whatever weapons were available. When captured, the American, fighting for freedom, has continued the battle in a new arena. When facing a Communist interrogator, they have been under fire just as though bullets and shell fragments were flying about them. Disarmed, the POW has fought back with mind and spirit, remaining faithful to fellow POWs, yielding no military information, and resisting every attempt of indoctrination. Every Seabee has the responsibility to honor these traditions by carefully adhering to the meaning of each article of the Code. The many Americans who have accepted this responsibility are heroes in the finest sense of the word.

In February 1966, Lieutenant (jg) Dieter Dengler, USNR, was on a bombing mission over North Vietnam when his aircraft was badly damaged by ground fire. LTJG Dengler crash-landed his aircraft in nearby Laos and attempted to evade capture. After successfully evading the enemy for one day, he was captured and led to a village where he was interrogated and told to sign a Communist propaganda statement condemning the United States. LTJG Dengler’s repeated refusal to give more than his name, rank, service number, and date of birth, or to sign any statements, resulted in severe beatings. When he continued to refuse to answer questions, he was tied behind a water buffalo that dragged him through the brush. The interrogations and beatings continued for three days, but LTJG Dengler refused to give in. Later, he escaped from his guards.
but was recaptured and again severely beaten. After six months in captivity, LTJG Dengler successfully escaped, killing several enemy guards in the process. On the seventeenth day, a pilot who escaped with him was killed, and LTJG Dengler had to continue alone. Although suffering from malnutrition, jaundice, fatigue, and badly cut and swollen feet, LTJG Dengler refused to give up. Finally, on the twenty-second day after his escape, he managed to lay out a crude SOS on a bed of rocks and attract the attention of a United States Air Force aircraft. Later, a rescue helicopter plucked him to safety and ended his ordeal.

The stories of Americans, fighting for freedom, that have steadfastly followed both the spirit and letter of Articles III, IV and V of the Code are numerous.

We all recognize that full compliance with the laws of armed conflict is not always easy, especially in the confusion and passion of battle. For instance, a service member might be extremely angry and upset because their unit has taken a lot of casualties from enemy booby traps or hit-and-run tactics. But they must NEVER engage in reprisals or acts of revenge that violate the laws of armed conflict.

**Summary**

In this chapter, you were made aware of how the Seabees got their start. Now you should understand why we need the Seabees and the importance of their heritage. You were also introduced to some of the organizations within the Seabees and the chain of command that encompasses them. Finally you were introduced to the laws of armed conflict. You learned why—even in a time of war—you have rules to follow and why you follow them. Through this heritage you too will become a valuable asset to the Seabees and the Navy overall.
Assignment 1

Objectives

1. Describe the events that led to the establishment of the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) and the Seabees.
2. Identify the general organization of the Naval Construction Force (NCF), types of Seabee Units within the NCF, and their objectives and organization.
3. Identify the services provided by the organizations that support the Naval Construction Force.
4. Identify the mission, function, and structure of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs).
5. Describe the organization and mission of the Headquarters Company and the duties of its personnel.
6. Describe the duties of the rifle company personnel.
7. Identify the members of a rifle platoon and their duties.
8. Identify the members of a rifle squad and their duties.
9. Identify the members of a rifle fire team, their duties, and individual weapons.
10. Identify the fire support elements of the rifle companies in a battalion, and denote individual responsibilities.
11. Identify the members of the machine gun and antitank squads, their equipment, and duties.

Questions

1. What year was the Navy Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) established?
   1. 1866  
   2. 1867  
   3. 1876  
   4. 1877

2. The abbreviation for which term is the origin of the Seabee name?
   1. Construimus, Batuimus  
   2. Carpenter, Builder  
   3. Construction Battalion  
   4. Sea going Builders

3. The Seabees landed with the Marines on what Pacific Island to put a shell-pocked airfield back in operation?
   1. Tarawa  
   2. Tinian  
   3. Guadalcanal  
   4. Iwo Jima
4. The Seabees were sent to Yo Do in the Bay of Wonson to build an airstrip. They completed this daunting task in how many days?

1. 13
2. 15
3. 16
4. 19

5. Beginning in 1955, Seabees began deploying to what continent?

1. Asia
2. Europe
3. South America
4. Antarctica

6. In what theater did CM3 Marvin G. Shields receive the Medal of Honor?

1. Vietnam
2. Korea
3. Iwo Jima
4. Guadalcanal

7. What U.S. President was made an honorary Seabee?

1. Jimmy Carter
2. Ronald Reagan
3. Richard Nixon
4. John F. Kennedy

8. What organization is responsible for conducting public works functions at Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary forward operating bases?

1. CBMU
2. PHIBCB
3. UCT
4. CSFE

9. What organization is responsible to construct and operate tactical camps and conduct maintenance on barges?

1. CBMU
2. PHIBCB
3. UCT
4. NAVFAC
10. What organization is responsible for conducting port opening operations and geotechnical surveys?

1. CBMU
2. PHIBCB
3. UCT
4. 1NCD

11. NAVFAC is an Echelon II systems command located at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., and is commanded by a Navy ……

1. Lieutenant commander.
2. Commander.
3. Captain.
4. Rear admiral (upper half).

12. Where is First Naval Construction Division headquartered?

1. Port Hueneme, CA
2. Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, VA
3. NAB San Diego, CA
4. Washington Navy Yard, DC

13. Naval Construction Training Centers (NCTCs) are tenant commands that provide training schools for NMCB personnel and are under the direction of ……

1. NAVFAC.
2. NCR.
3. UCT.
4. CBC.

14. Which of the following objectives is a capability of the Naval Construction Regiment?

1. Deploys as a single unit
2. Provides command and control over subordinate units in homeport
3. Functions as the CE of a MEF
4. Replaces an Army Corps mission assignment

15. What command is responsible to identify training deficiencies and to provide program support to the Seabees?

1. SRG
2. NAVFAC
3. UCT
4. 1NCD
16. Who has the primary mission of constructing advance base facilities in support of the armed forces?

1. SRG  
2. NMCB  
3. CBMU  
4. NCR

17. A headquarters company is organized into a total of how many rifle platoons?

1. 1  
2. 2  
3. 3  
4. 4

18. Protecting and defending the battalion command post are the responsibilities of what person?

1. The company chief petty officer  
2. The platoon commander  
3. The headquarters company commander  
4. The squad leader

19. What individual may serve as a headquarters' platoon commander in a battalion?

1. Admin officer  
2. Supply chief  
3. Project crew leader  
4. Ammunition officer

20. During home-port training periods, what person is responsible to the Company Commander for performing administrative tasks?

1. Company chief petty officer  
2. Company clerk  
3. Project crew leader  
4. Right guide

21. The rifle company guidon is responsible for coordinating supplies, distributing ammunition and what other task?

1. Delivering mail  
2. Typing reports  
3. Duty task officer  
4. Construction expediter
22. What member of the rifle company performs the duties of the mail orderly?
   1. Chief
   2. Clerk
   3. Guidon
   4. Squad leader

23. A Seabee rifle platoon consists of a platoon headquarters and at least how many rifle squads?
   1. 1
   2. 2
   3. 3
   4. 4

24. What is the rank of the Assistant Rifle Platoon Commander?
   1. Ensign
   2. Lieutenant junior grade
   3. Senior chief petty officer
   4. Chief petty officer

25. Keeping the rifle platoon personnel supplied with construction and combat materials is a task assigned to what member of the rifle platoon headquarters?
   1. Commander
   2. Messenger
   3. Guide
   4. Petty officer

26. The rifle squad ideally consists of how many personnel?
   1. 13
   2. 14
   3. 15
   4. 16

27. The rifle squad leader is generally of what rank?
   1. First class petty officer
   2. Second class petty officer
   3. Third class petty officer
   4. Seaman
28. In combat, the grenadier always moves with or is close to whom?
   1. Squad leader
   2. Platoon commander
   3. Rifle company chief
   4. Corpsman

29. The rifle fire team will generally consist of how many personnel?
   1. 1
   2. 2
   3. 3
   4. 4

30. The senior fire team leader serves as an assistant to the ……. 
   1. Squad leader.
   2. Automatic rifleman.
   4. Rifleman number 1.

31. What member of the fire team may act as a scout?
   1. Rifleman number 1
   2. Corpsman
   3. Grenadier
   4. Automatic rifleman

32. What member of the fire team is the “backbone” of the team?
   1. Fire team leader
   2. Automatic rifleman
   3. Rifleman number 1
   4. Rifleman number 2

33. What machine gun team member is armed with the service pistol?
   1. Ammunition carrier number 1
   2. Ammunition carrier number 2
   3. Gunner
   4. Squad leader

34. Why is it important for a Seabee to know about the laws of armed conflict?
   1. It explains the rights of the civilians
   2. It outlines the tactics used to infiltrate the enemy
   3. It notifies you of your rights under the Geneva conventions
   4. It provides details on weapon usage for combat
35. As a Seabee fighting in a foreign country, what type of information about the country is of most importance to you?

1. People
2. Geography
3. History
4. Economy

36. Under the laws of armed conflict, what person would be considered a combatant?

1. Uniformed chaplain
2. Hospital corpsman
3. Armed guerrilla
4. Civilian

37. Under the laws of armed conflict, a violation of which of the following principles in handling Prisoners Of War (POWs) would result in punishment?

1. Search and secure
2. Silence and segregate
3. Strip and sanitize
4. Safeguard and speed to the rear

38. If you mistreat POWs, you are subject to which of the following punishments?

1. Verbal reprimand
2. Letter of reprimand
3. Captain's mast
4. Court-martial

39. After capturing an enemy soldier, you can take which of the following articles from them?

1. Weapon
2. Watch
3. Personal photograph
4. Food

40. Under the laws of armed conflict, POWs are allowed to perform the following task.

1. Shield you from enemy attack
2. Search for, clear, or place mines
3. Carry heavy equipment
4. Dig foxholes for their own protection
41. (True/False) Parachutists are considered combatants and can be fired upon while they are still in the air.

1. True
2. False

42. Under the laws of armed conflict, Seabees can take which of the following actions without approval from higher authority?

1. Burn civilian homes
2. Pose as Red Cross volunteers
3. Destroy the noncombatant food and water supplies
4. Refuse orders to commit criminal acts

43. Conduct for U.S. Service members as POWs is specified the following articles of the Code of the U.S. Fighting Force?

1. I and VI
2. II only
3. III, IV, and V
4. II and V

44. Conduct of Seabees on the battlefield is addressed in what article of the Code of the U.S. Fighting Force?

1. I
2. II
3. III
4. IV

45. What article of the Code of the U.S. Fighting Force dictates that “I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.”?

1. II
2. III
3. V
4. VI
ASSIGNMENT 1

History and Organization of the Seabees and the Laws of Armed Conflict

Directions: Select the correct answer from the list of alternates below each question in the end of chapter assignment. Write in the answer next to the corresponding question number below. Use this answer sheet as a reference to completing the online assignment related to this assignment.

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Additional Resources and References

This chapter is intended to present thorough resources for task training. The following reference works are suggested for further study. This is optional material for continued education rather than for task training.

Doctrinal Reference for the Naval Construction Force, U.S. Navy NTRP 4-04.2.1
Enemy Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees, U.S. Marine Corps MCRP 4-11.8C
The Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad, U.S. Army FM 3-21.8
Trainee Feedback

Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) makes every effort to keep their courses up-to-date and free of technical errors. If you have a suggestion, found an error or inaccuracy, please write, FAX or email us by using the form below. Use one form for each comment and be sure to fill in the information as accurately and detailed as possible. Thank you for your assistance.

Write: CSFE
NCF Training Division (N7B)
3502 Goodspeed St.
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Trainee Feedback Form

Course: Seabee Combat Handbook, Volume ____, NAVEDTRA: __________
Course Date: _______ Chapter Number: ______ Page: ______
Paragraph: _____ Sentence: _____ Figure: ______ Frame/View: ______

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(optional) Supporting reference(s): __________________________________
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Your email address, if a response is requested: ________________________