

Sea Lion Security

SWIDS Deployed in the Persian Gulf



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All HANDS

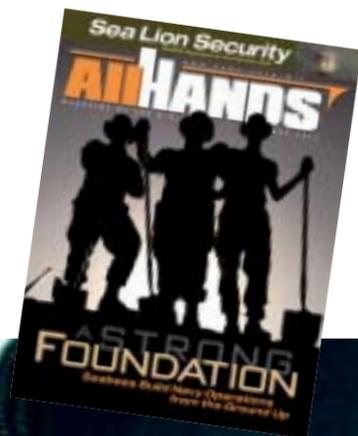
MAGAZINE OF THE U.S.

MAY 2003



A STRONG FOUNDATION

*Seabees Build Navy Operations
from the Ground Up*



34 Empowering Palau

May

[On the Front Cover]

Seabees from **NMCB 133** take a short breather from building a bunker to keep them safe from SCUD missiles and bombs.

Photo by PH2 Bob Houlihan

[Next Month]

From Navy mine counter-measures in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility to Diving and Salvage School in Florida and teenagers in Japan, *All Hands* covers the globe.

These Sailors from **Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74**, Gulfport, Miss., have come a long way to provide community construction, apprentice training, medical assistance and community relations programs to the people of Palau.

[Features]



Photo by PH2 Bob Houlihan

14 **Shiloh Shooters**

With eyes on their consoles and their fingers on the trigger, *Shiloh's Tomahawk Strike Team* defends America's interests.

18 **If You Build It They Will Come**

With more than 300,000 U.S. and coalition forces in the Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility, the Seabees assigned to CENTCOM have been busy. Building roads, camps, bridges and aircraft pads, these "Can Do" Sailors are ready to complete any mission thrown at them.



Photo by PH2 Bob Houlihan

26 **Running in the Shadows**

Highly trained and highly motivated, this team of California sea lions and their trainers, from **Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR)**, San Diego's Shallow Water Intruder Detection System (SWIDS) program are deployed to the Central Command Area of Responsibility (CENTCOM AOR) as underwater sentries to protect ships from terrorists.



Photo by PH2 Bob Houlihan

[Departments]

Speaking with Sailors – 6

Around the Fleet – 8

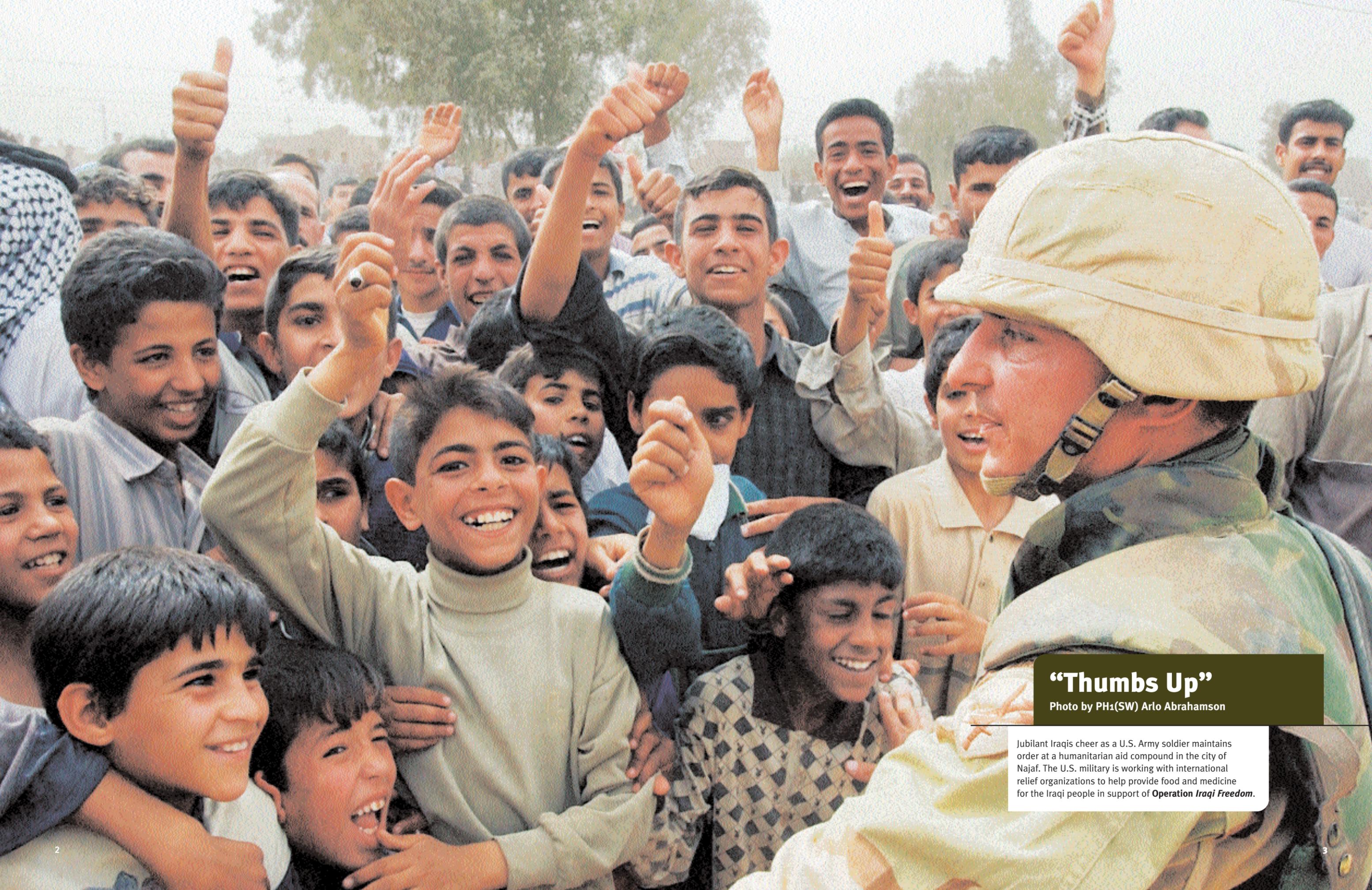
24/7 – 42

Eye on the Fleet – 44

Eye on History – 46

The Final Word – 48

Photo by JO1 Preston Keres



“Thumbs Up”

Photo by PH1(SW) Arlo Abrahamson

Jubilant Iraqis cheer as a U.S. Army soldier maintains order at a humanitarian aid compound in the city of Najaf. The U.S. military is working with international relief organizations to help provide food and medicine for the Iraqi people in support of **Operation Iraqi Freedom**.



Rest for the Weary

Photo by JOC Al Bloom

Fleet Hospital (FH) 3 staff members grab a quick break just outside the operating room during a lull between patients. Personnel of **FH-3**, the Navy's first Expeditionary Medical Facility to be deployed in a combat zone, conducted surgical procedures on more than 120 coalition forces, displaced citizens and Enemy Prisoners of War (EPW) during their first week in support of **Operation Iraqi Freedom**. **Operation Iraqi Freedom** is the multi-national coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Speaking with Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
MCPON (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott

These Questions are from a Recent MCPON All Hands Call on NAS Fallon, Nev.

Q: As a third class petty officer, what can I do now to begin preparing to make chief?

A: That's a great question, and one I love to hear from a junior petty officer! It is never too early to begin mapping out and planning your career path. And that's exactly what "Task Force Excel" is going to enable every Sailor to do.

You've heard a lot of talk about Task Force Excel, and the role it plays in our revolution in training. All Sailors will be given a clear career roadmap, outlining how they progress from seaman to master chief, or from ensign to admiral. The best way to ensure your advancement success is to always look toward the next step in your career and your professional development.

Another question I'm often asked by Sailors is, "What type of assignment should I be looking for in my next duty station?" I would recommend you look for the more challenging assignments. Not only are they the most rewarding, but they can also be beneficial toward advancement. Some of the most

rewarding tours I've personally had, were those that challenged me professionally, and offered a new experience for my family.

Q: Do people who are discharged from the Navy because of drug use count against a command's retention figures?

A: We used to count our attrition numbers — those who leave the Navy before the end of their enlistment — in with our retention statistics. To put the right focus on retention and attrition, those numbers are now measured separately. When we started doing that, we noticed that our retention numbers are actually very good. More than 70 percent of all Sailors who are eligible to reenlist do so. Drugs are not a reason for attrition in the Navy; they are a symptom. What I see in the majority

of these cases, is that Sailors who use drugs use them as a way out of the Navy after they've decided that their expectations don't align with the expectations of the commands in which they serve.

When it comes to drugs, we are not going to back off from the Navy's zero tolerance policy. There is a misconception that some drugs are harmless or can't be detected. The fact is, drugs like Ecstasy can do great harm, and they can be detected by the Navy's drug screening programs. 



Photo by JO1 Preston Keres

Speaking with Sailors is a monthly column initiated by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy as a way of reaching out to the men and women of the fleet, whether they are stationed just down the road or halfway around the world.

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Editor,

May I say what you have done with *All Hands* is great. I can't thank you enough. Not only have you brought back a lot of memories, the history is better than any book written. Thank you again

Garland Summerall, Ret.
1958/78

Editor,

I was browsing through the December 2002, *All Hands* magazine today, and I noticed the pictures in the "Eye on History" section. I was amused by the picture of a "young" Bob Hope, and of the Sailor with the beard, thinking, "Man, times sure have changed!" I saw the picture of the Sailors at Camp Robert Smalls, in 1943, and thought nothing unusual of it. The pic-

ture showed a group of Sailors enjoying some entertainer just off camera. Then it caught my eye — how the Sailors were sitting. At first I thought it was a defect with the picture, being so old, that it was too bright on one side of the photo. Then it hit me. Out of 100 or so Sailors in the photo, the only four white sailors were sitting in the front row. Behind them sat the rest of the crew, all black.

Segregation — and in my Navy. I was floored.

I have seen many things change in the Navy in my short 11 years — evals, training, education, how we treat our people. I sometimes think back to the "Good Ol' Days" and wonder how we ever managed to get anything done when I joined. Had I not seen that picture, I would have never thought

Mail Call

Letters to the *All Hands* Editor

things could have been that bad in my Navy. How the man sitting next to you in General Quarters at war, could not sit next to you in the Mess Hall a day later.

The racism in that picture is something foreign to me. I could not imagine a Navy today that is not made up of all of the different colors of the rainbow, working together as a team.

Times sure have changed. Seeing that picture today made me realize, now more than ever, that we should value our diversity. Not because we are all different, but because we are all different together. I

thought of all of the friends I have made in my career that I would never have been allowed to meet 60 years ago. I think of all of the times those same friends have come to my aid when I needed it, and where would I have been without them there by my side.

It's a different Navy today. Grown up. Professional. Dedicated. And thankfully today, fair.

MA1 L. Allen Wallis
NAS Keflavik, Iceland

Your Issue You Shoot It!



Any Day
in the
Navy
May 1st-31st

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“Walk With Pride,” Top Admiral in Arabian Gulf Tells *Tarawa* Sailors, Marines

With combat operations in Iraq winding down, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet made a brief visit to *USS Tarawa* (LHA 1) to talk to Sailors and Marines serving in the Arabian Gulf.

During a recent all hands call VADM Timothy J. Keating thanked every unit embarked on *Tarawa* for their contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Your arrival allowed me to report to the President of the United States on the day the war started, and I told him that you were ready to go,” said Keating. “It’s been hard work, but make no mistake, there’s nothing more important going on anywhere in the world except what you’re doing right here, right now.”

Keating told the packed crowd of Sailors and Marines in the ship’s upper vehicle deck that their hard work and effort has made a difference to an oppressed nation.

He said that in Baghdad, the Iraqis have been profusely thanking the Sailors and Marines they have encountered on the streets.

“They give them big bear hugs, grown men are crying and young children come up to our folks and kiss their hands. They are so glad you all showed up to do your very important work.”

Keating’s visit to *Tarawa* came as part of a whirlwind tour to several amphibious assault ships in the region that included *USS Nassau* (LHA 4) and *USS Bataan* (LHD 5).

During the visit, he also briefly met with the senior Navy leaders aboard – which included RADM W. Clyde Marsh, commander, Task Force 51 and *Tarawa*’s Commanding Officer CAPT Jay Bowling. Although he took time to meet with the upper brass, Keating spent most of his brief visit talking to the troops.

“I think he was very encouraging,” said Personnelman 2nd Class Theresa Bender from Bowling Green, Ky. “He made me realize that we’re playing a part in a larger picture, and that this is an important job we’re all doing out here.”

“It says a lot for what we’re doing out here when higher ranking officials like him come aboard to thank us,” said Lithographer 3rd



VADM Timothy Keating, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command/Commander 5th Fleet, provides words of encouragement to Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).

Class Richard Perez, from Buena Park, Calif. “It makes me realize how our work is contributing to the world as a whole.”

Before finishing the all hands call, Keating reminded his hosts that they have another duty when they eventually return home.

“When you all get home, you will know in your heart of hearts that you made a difference, each one of you,” he said.

“And that ought to matter to you, because for the rest of your lives, you will know that you were part of the magnificent effort to liberate an entire nation and to bring freedom to these folks. And it’s okay to walk around with a lot of pride in your step.”

For related news, visit the *USS Tarawa* (LHA 1) Navy

NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/tha1.

Story by JOC William Polson who is assigned to the public affairs office, *USS Tarawa* (LHA 1)

GTMO Celebrates 100th Anniversary

A special ceremony was recently held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the lease agreement between the United States and Cuba.

The lease, signed in 1903 by then-President Theodore Roosevelt and Cuban President Estrada Palma, grants use of 45 square miles of land and water by the United States. A reaffirmation of the lease in 1934

stated that the United States was to pay \$2,000 in gold each year, the equivalent today of \$4,085.

The lease is still in effect in terms of how we operate today, said CAPT Robert A. Buehn, base commander. Both the United States and Cuba must mutually consent to terminate the lease.

U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo), is the oldest U.S. base overseas and the only one in a communist country. The Cuban-American relationship began in 1898 when U.S. Marines linked up with Cuban insurgents to drive back Spanish troops. This led to the liberation of Cuba from Spain.

Since their arrival more than 100 years ago, Sailors and Marines at Guantanamo have served with distinction, making significant contributions to the defense of the United States, the cause of freedom and the promotion of American values — “values which are universal and are reflected in the work of the men and women stationed here,” said guest speaker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Daniel W. Fisk.

Diplomatic relations with Cuba were cut in 1961, when Fidel Castro assumed leadership of Cuba. Many Cubans sought refuge on the base, and U.S. Marines began patrolling the base fence line, and continue to do so today.

Family members and some employees were evacuated from Guantanamo in October 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Then-President John F. Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine around the island until the Soviet Union removed its missiles.

“Nowhere was the tension of the Cuban Missile Crisis felt more acutely than it was here,” said Fisk. “Some have said that Guantanamo Bay nearly sank under the weight of the increased troop presence during that time.”

In the 1990s, the base became a haven for Haitian and Cuban refugees. At the height of the migration, the base temporarily housed more than 50,000 refugees. The base continues its role in planning for possible future migrations and in the control of illegal migration in the Caribbean.

“Equally significant, for more than 40 years, the U.S. base at Guantanamo has stood as an outpost of freedom, reminding all Cubans of the fundamental rights and free-



CAPT Robert E. Buehn, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, salutes during the playing of the National Anthem as the Naval Station commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of the lease agreement between Cuba and the United States.

doms we hope will one day be restored to them,” said Fisk.

Since January 2002, the base was given an additional mission.

“You’re at the forefront of the war against global terrorism,” said Fisk. “The base is not only providing the least worst place to detain and interrogate captured illegal combatants from the Taliban and al Qaeda, it is also providing logistical support to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.”

Fisk didn’t leave out GTMO families.

“We know well the stresses and hardships that come from

overseas deployments, so I want to recognize the important contribution made to the base by the families who accompany the members of our military and civilian team to Guantanamo. You have our heartfelt appreciation for the sacrifices you are making to be here. Your presence and your support and is equally essential to the success of the mission performed by those assigned to this base,” he said.

Students from the base high school concluded the ceremony with a re-enactment of the lease

Tarawa Crew Gives Helping Hand to Stranded Fishermen

Several hungry fishermen in the Indian Ocean recently received an unexpected gift from *USS Tarawa* (LHA 1) 12 days before Valentine’s Day, and found that the ship with a big deck had a crew with heart to match.

The San Diego-based amphibious assault ship was en route to the Arabian Gulf as part of a scheduled six-month deployment, when approximately 400 miles off the coast of India, a fishing vessel was spotted drifting off the starboard side. This ordinary situation took an unusual twist when the crew, a small group of local nationals, waved desperately to catch the attention of someone on *Tarawa*.

“A call came over the bridge-to-bridge radio, ‘U.S. Navy warship. We are in need of food and water,’” said Officer of the Deck, LTJG Jacquelyn Hayes. “I told them to stand by.”

After the distress call was relayed to *Tarawa*’s Commanding Officer CAPT Jay Bowling and CAPT Ronald Thomas, Commodore of *Tarawa* Amphibious Ready Group, the request for aid was approved and a relief package was prepared.

“The crew of the fishing boat requested enough food to last for only two days, but we felt it was best to give them four days worth of food to ensure their safe trip home,” said Mess Management Specialist 1st Class Austin Wilder.

“We gave the fishing boat 15 pounds of assorted fruits, 15 large pieces of fried chicken, 15 egg rolls, bread and plenty of water,” said MSCS Brian Russell. “It was easily enough food to last for four to five days.”

“Considering how much food

Around the Fleet

a ship full of Sailors and Marines can eat, what we gave them was just a drop in the bucket," said **MS2 James Ernst Jr.** "It was the only decent thing to do."

The relief package was loaded into a search and rescue helicopter. "We were already at flight quarters, so it was a simple matter to fly the stuff over," said Hayes.

Minutes later, a grateful crew of the fishing vessel waved as **Tarawa** continued on its mission to the Arabian Gulf.

"It was a great feeling to be able to help someone during times like these," said Wilder.

For related news, visit the **USS Tarawa (LHA 1)** Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/lha1. 

Story by JOSN David Senn who is assigned to the public affairs office, USS Tarawa (LHA 1)

Navy SEAL Joins 299 Others to Break World Record

Twenty-one thousand feet above the Arizona desert, a plane carries a **U.S.**

Navy Sea, Air, Land (SEAL) commando, one who never cared much for riding in planes and is eager to get out of this one.

Master Chief Boatswain's Mate (SEAL) Lu Lastra is not on a typical flight. He sits deep in thought, mentally visualizing the mission at hand.

Finally, the waiting is over. "Green Light!" A voice pipes from the rear of the plane. Now it's time to meet up with 299 of his peers while falling toward the ground at speeds of more than 120 mph.

Lastra is currently assigned as a demonstration parachutist with the **U.S. Navy Parachute Team**, also known as the **Leap Frogs**, in Coronado, Calif. Recognized as a skydiving expert, he was hand-selected to participate in the world record-breaking 300-person freefall formation, or "300-way," in Eloy, Ariz.

"Skydiving on your own is challenging enough," Lastra said, "but add 299 more people

and you have an air traffic controller's worst nightmare."

Making matters worse, according to Lastra, is that in this airspace, there will be no one on a radio directing all 300 people. Each participant has to fly on their own, around 299 other people, to their exact position in the formation. Each jumper has to fly their own body—no small feat for a species without wings.

"All of the skydivers have participated in the sport for many years," said Lastra. "Many are either national or world champions, some are both. Even with thousands of jumps or years of experience, you can never get complacent with the sport, due to its inherent dangers."

Lastra said he was honored to be a part of the attempt. This would be the second time he has participated in an event of this magnitude. In 1998, he was part of the 246-person freefall world record in Ottawa, Ill. Unfortunately, Lastra's 246-person world record fell the following year when 282 skydivers broke the 246-person world record in Upon, Thailand.

"I knew the 300-person mark would be hard to accomplish." Three hundred people in the sky

may be a lot of traffic, but Lastra was very confident the group brought together had the ability and the drive to get it done.

And they did. On the 11th of 30 planned attempts, a new world record was set — 300 people linked together for more than seven seconds, flying.

The effort did not last very long. After flying together for seven seconds, the participants reached 7,000 feet in altitude and had to separate from each other to safely open all 300 parachutes. All parachutes opened by 2,000 feet and, eventually, everyone landed safely. Mission accomplished.

While Lastra enjoys the challenge of competing in events like this, his current job is as the team chief for the **Navy Parachute Team**. He is the senior enlisted member of the **Leap Frogs** in both years of service and number of jumps.

"I've been a SEAL for more than 21 years," said Lastra, "and being on the Leap Frogs, I get an opportunity to tell America's youth about what I have been able to do in the Navy. I love the thought of motivating and encouraging our youth into possibly joining the military."

The SEAL job is not for everyone, Lastra said. But, by answering their questions, he helps them decide if it is, or guides them towards other job opportunities in the Navy. "The military has given me opportunities I would never have had. Joining was the best decision I have ever made," Lastra said.

For related news, visit the **Naval Special Warfare Navy NewsStand** page at www.news.navy.mil/local/nsw. 

Story by JO1 Kristina Brockman who is assigned to the public affairs office, Naval Special Warfare

USS Oak Hill Works to Fight Hunger

As troops build up in the Arabian Gulf, **USS Oak Hill (LSD 51)** remains at home, but Sailors aboard the amphibious assault ship are taking on a different type of battle.

Every Wednesday afternoon, Sailors from the "Nations' Protector" have been fighting hunger in the Norfolk area by volunteering at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. There, the volunteers perform a variety of different jobs, including condensing baskets of canned goods and sorting out damaged food items.

Senior Chief Hull Technician (SW) Dwayne Bruns, Oak Hill's community service coordinator, said with **Oak Hill** back in port, the crew is doing as much as it can.

"As long as we're in port, we're going to find some way to give back to the community," said Bruns.

Tricia Hochhalter, sorting supervisor at the food bank, said she appreciates all the help she can get.

"Volunteers are very important," Hochhalter said. "Without the volunteers, we wouldn't be able to sort through the food to get it out to the clients."

Bruns said **Oak Hill** Sailors have been very enthusiastic about having the chance to be a volunteer.

"It's a great opportunity for the command and each individual Sailor to give something back to this area and to make other people feel good," said Bruns.

According to Hochhalter, the food bank receives about 100 volunteers a week from the

Time Capsule

This month we look back in the *All Hands* archive to see what was going on in the month of May. To view these issues in more detail on the Web, go to www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/



43 Years Ago – 1960

This cover of *All Hands* shows the Navy's second **Polaris**-firing Fleet Ballistic submarine, **USS Patrick Henry SSB(N) 599** plowing through Long Island Sound as she returns from an Atlantic cruise. This nuclear-powered sub was commissioned in April 1960. This issue also looked at a new weapon that operates like a western six-gun. It is the automatic field artillery piece, the 115mm-boosted rocket XM-70. This weapon delivers shells at the rate of six rounds in two-and-one-half seconds. The weapon is air lifted by helicopters and taken to the ground troops who need it most. The XM-70 weighs 3,000 pounds and has a more effective range of more than the Howitzer.



26 Years Ago – 1977

This cover of *All Hands* features a **Tartar** missile being fired from the **Tartar-D** surface-to-air launcher on the forward deck of the nuclear-powered, guided-missile cruiser **USS California (CGN 36)**. *All Hands* also explained what it was like to be an **Air Traffic Controlmen (AC)**. While ACs are a small part of the Navy, they hold a very important job.

ACs work long hours reading screens and deciding when and where planes should land. And, ACs must know various aspects about all aircraft, such as: Can it land safely with a crosswind?, Does it have a fast or slow landing speed? or How long a runway does it need to land on? With all these questions it's easy to understand why only a few Sailors are ready to take on this responsibility.



18 Years Ago – 1985

The cover of this issue of *All Hands* features a Sicilian farmer who lives near Naval Station Sigonella, the hub of naval air operations in the Mediterranean. In this issue, *All Hands* reported on in-depth on Soviet submarines. These subs were almost the length of two football fields and had about 20 multiple warheads each. These lethal **Typhoon**-class boats are key players in the silent contest for control of the ocean depths. In 1985 Moscow also had the worlds largest submarine fleet numbering more than 380. In all, the Soviet Navy had 75 ballistic missile submarines. More than 30 of these vessels were capable of striking the United States from Soviet home waters.

Shipmates



Machinist Mate 1st Class (SW) Marc Medina, assigned to the Public Works Department (PWD), Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Italy, was selected 2002 Regional Sailor of the Year. Medina

is the leading petty officer (LPO) of the Seabee Division at PWD. He is also a member of the Command Training Team, an instructor for the Navy Rights and Responsibilities and Petty Officer Indoctrination classes, a facilitator for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse for Managers class, the PWD Drug and Alcohol Program advisor, PWD Sponsor Coordinator and the Command Career Counselor.

Ricky's Tour

By JO2 Mike Jones

mikejones43@hotmail.com



Around the Fleet

military, local church groups and high schools.

Those volunteers allow the food bank to sort through an average of 5,000 pounds of food every day. Hochhalter said most of that food goes toward feeding the elderly and children six years and younger.

In the hour-and-a-half *Oak Hill* was on the job, the Sailors sorted through about 1,700

Navy Salvage and Diving Teams Assist in Shuttle Columbia Recovery

As the search for remnants of the *Space Shuttle Columbia* continued, Navy salvage and dive teams were on scene to provide assistance searching several

voirs, the Navy was requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist in salvage and diving operations.

Due to the scope and complexity of the diving environment, it appropriate for the Navy to come in, said **CAPT Jim Wilkins**, supervisor of salvage and diving.

Using divers from Navy Mobile Diving and Salvage Team 2 from Norfolk, and Naval Reservists from **Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2, Detachment 409**, from Cleveland. The Navy is the lead agent in the underwater search and recovery efforts. Augmenting these efforts are

divers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Environmental Protection Agency, Texas Department of Public Safety, Houston Police Department and Galveston Police Department.

"Before the Navy showed up, many of these agencies were already on scene and did an excellent job establishing the initial operations," said Wilkins. Also on scene are civilian contractors that operate and analyze data from side-scan sonar being used to map dive sites, and identify and locate potential shuttle material for the divers to recover.

Though Navy divers are



BM2 Arick Hiles, a naval reservist from **Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2**, Cleveland Detachment, hands a compact sonar unit to **DC1 Ralph Leete**, also from **MDSU-2**. The sonar unit, an **AN/PQS-2A**, is a handheld sonar device used to aid in the search of the Toledo Bend Reservoir for debris from the *Space Shuttle Columbia*.

Photo by PHAN MAIE ERIC J. TILFORD

Shipmates



Hospital Corpsman First Class (SW/AW) Kevin Dean, assigned to the Yongsan Health Clinic, Seoul, Korea, was selected as the Commander, Naval Forces Korea (CNFK) Sailor of the Year

2002. Dean extended his command responsibilities to include teaching CPR training, providing medical support for command activities and instructing junior Sailors at the Petty Officer Indoctrination Course. He is a charter member of the CNFK First Class Petty Officer's Association, and a member of the Navy Flag Football Team. Dean recently completed his second Master's Degree in Education from National-Louis University.

pounds of food, an amount Hochhalter said would take her a whole day to do by herself. She depends solely on volunteers to get most of the food sorting done in her area, since she is the only paid worker in the department.

Bruns said the enthusiasm of the Oak Hill volunteers has been very high.

"It shows how our Sailors care about the community that they're living in," he said.

For related news, visit the **USS Oak Hill (LSD 51)** Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/lsd51.

Story by JO3(SW) Brandon W. Schulze who is assigned to the public affairs office USS Oak Hill

lakes in a region of Texas that is normally known only to avid fishermen. The Navy's presence in this extensive effort could aid in finding clues that could bring closure to this national tragedy.

Agencies from all levels of federal, state and local governments, as well as numerous civilian organizations and volunteers, joined together in efforts to recover material from *Space Shuttle Columbia* that tragically came apart over the skies of Texas Feb. 1.

Significant and very thorough methods are being used to search an approximately 240-mile by 10-mile path believed to contain shuttle material. Since much of the search area contains lakes, rivers and reser-

accustomed to working in the most arduous conditions, they are quickly discovering that diving in a forested, flooded reservoir is one of the most difficult environments they have yet encountered. "We are rewriting the book on Navy diving operations," said **Chief Warrant Officer 2 Roger Riendeau**, officer in charge of the **Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2** detachments. Other members of the team agree.

"Working in an environment with trees and stumps is not like working in the ocean, and not what our equipment is designed for," said **Damage Controlman 1st Class (DV) Alex Tumaniszwilli**.

"However, we have a mission, and we're constantly working on ways to adapt our techniques and work in this environment." Even with these difficult conditions, their leadership has faith and confidence that they will accomplish the mission.

After the initial survey, it was apparent that the world's best divers would be required to accomplish the mission, said Wilkins, and the mobile diving and salvage units, and other agencies responded in spite of current taskings and requirements in other parts of the world. ❧

Story by LT John Daniels who is a public affairs officer at the Navy Office of Information Southwest

Ney and Hill Food Service Award Winners Named for 2003

Acting Navy Secretary **Hansford T. Johnson** recently announced the 2003 winners of the **Navy CAPT Edward F. Ney Memorial Awards** and the **Marine Corps Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Memorial Awards** for

Afloat General Mess Winners in the Atlantic Fleet are:

Strategic Missile Submarine -
First Place: **USS Maryland (SSBN 738)** (Gold)
Runner-up: **USS West Virginia (SSBN 736)** (Gold)

Attack Submarine -
First Place: **USS Augusta (SSN 710)**
Runner-up: **USS Annapolis (SSN 760)**

Small Afloat -
First Place: **USS Underwood (FFG 36)**
Runner-up: **USS Simpson (FFG 56)**

Large Afloat -
First Place: **USS Emory S. Land (AS 39)**
Runner-up: **USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7)**

Minesweeper -
First Place: **USS Gladiator (MCM 11)**
Runner-up: **USS Pioneer (MCM 9)**

Cruiser/Destroyer -
First Place: **USS Cape St George (CG 71)**
Runner-up: **USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79)**

Amphibious -
First Place: **USS Tortuga (LSD 46)**
Runner-up: **USS Portland (LSD 37)**

Aircraft Carrier -
First Place: **USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)**
Runner-up: **USS Harry S Truman (CVN 75)**

Afloat General Mess Winners in the Pacific Fleet are:

Strategic Missile Submarine -
First Place: **USS Florida (SSBN 728)** (Gold)
Runner-up: **USS Georgia (SSBN 729)** (Gold)

Attack Submarine -
First Place: **USS Los Angeles (SSN 688)**
Runner-up: **USS Key West (SSN 722)**

Small Afloat -
First Place: **USS Gary (FFG 51)**
Runner-up: **USS Salvor (ARS 52)**

outstanding food service in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Formal presentation of the awards will be made during the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) conference April 13, in Dallas.

"The Ney awards encourage excellence in Navy and Marine Corps food service programs with the objective of improving the quality of life for our Navy and Marine Corps personnel," said **RADM Justin D. McCarthy**, commander, Naval Supply Systems Command. "I commend all of these commands for their hard work and commitment to excellence."

Large Afloat -
First Place: **USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6)**
Runner-up: **USS Coronado (AGF 11)**

Cruiser/Destroyer -
First Place: **USS Cowpens (CG 63)**
Runner-up: **USS Stethem (DDG 63)**

Amphibious -
First Place: **USS Rushmore (LSD 47)**
Runner-up: **USS Mount Vernon (LSD 39)**

Aircraft Carrier -
First Place: **USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)**
Runner-up: **USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)**

Ney Ashore General Mess Winners are:

East Coast -
First Place: Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, Virginia Beach, Va.
Runner-up: Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine.

West Coast -
First Place: Naval Station San Diego, Calif.
Runner-up: Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, Calif.

Overseas -
First Place: Naval Station Pearl Harbor Silver Dolphin Bistro and Brig Galley, Pearl Harbor.
Runner-up: Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

Hill Award Winners are:

Best Garrison Mess Hall: Mess hall 710 Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz.

Best Field Mess: Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

Best Reserve Field Mess: Headquarters and Service Battalion 4th Force Service Support Group, Marietta, Ga.

Best Garrison Mess Hall runner-up: Mess Hall 222 Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan.

The Ney Awards were established in 1958 and the Hill Awards in 1985 by the Secretary of the Navy and IFSEA to improve and recognize quality food service in the Navy and Marine Corps. IFSEA is a food service industry trade association whose members include executive chefs, operators, dietitians, consultants, managers and owners of catering firms, restaurants, hotels and clubs.

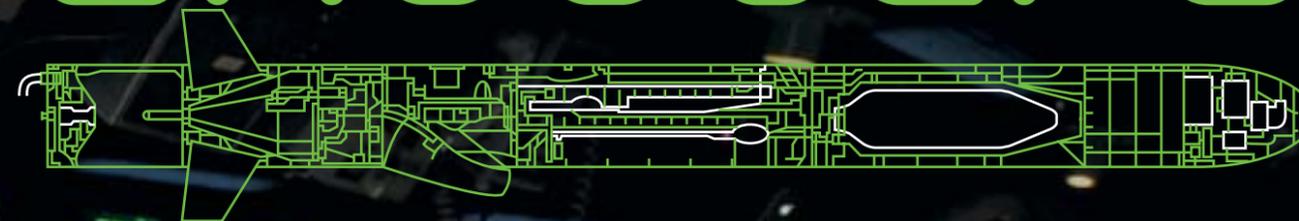
The Ney and Hill awards recognize overall food service excellence by evaluating key areas in customer service, restaurateurship, cleanliness and management. An indepen-

dent team reviewed food preparation, management, administration, equipment safety, sanitation, plastic waste and disposal evaluated each category. The evaluation teams were made up of senior Navy and Marine Corps mess management specialists and representatives from IFSEA.

For related news, visit the Naval Supply Systems Command Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/navsup.

Story from the public affairs office Naval Supply Systems Command

Shiloh Shooters



With eyes on their consoles and their fingers on the trigger, *Shiloh's Tomahawk Strike Team* defends America's interests.

The message comes in, and this time it's for real. It's time to rock and roll. The team is assembled, mission planning is completed and consoles are manned. Eight long months of deployment time have led up to this moment, and the strike team and the ship are ready. The final word comes down and a button is pushed. "Missiles away!"

"It's a pretty big project," said **Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Jeffrey Witherow**, *USS Shiloh's (CG 67) Tomahawk Strike Team* supervisor. "The best thing I can say about *Tomahawk's* is that it's a real team effort, both off-ship and on."

Shooting orders come down from the upper chain of command and lay out exactly what the *Tomahawk team* is going to do. Once those messages get to the ship, the strike team is assembled on station in the Combat Information Center (CIC), by setting Condition 2 Strike. This designation basically means a ship is setting a *Tomahawk team* up for action, so everyone knows what's going on. Other people with jobs related to a launch also know they have to get ready and be on station.

"The actual planning process usually takes several hours," said **Witherow**. "There's a whole sequence of events that has to happen and be reported up the chain of command before a launch."

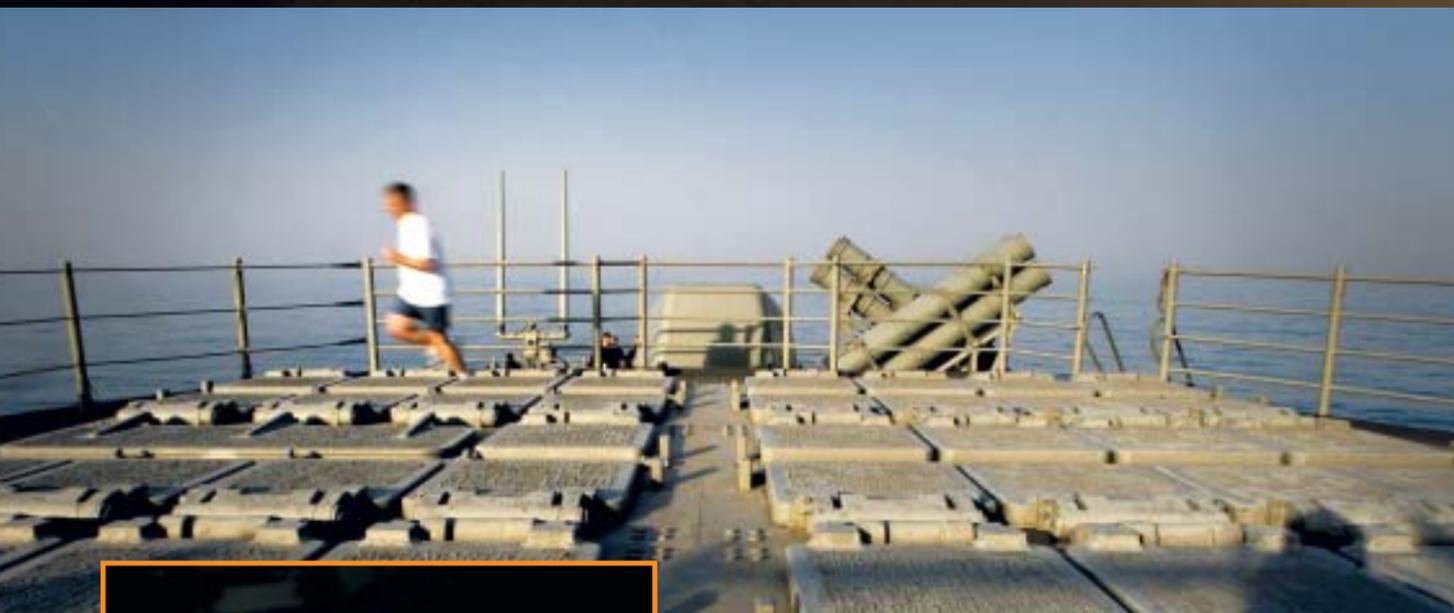
Shiloh has four stations or consoles that perform the *Tomahawk* Land Attack Missile (TLAM) function, two engagement consoles where the over-water portion of the missions are planned, and two casualty control/launch consoles. During an actual missile launch, there are operators manning both launch consoles, so if the primary shooter has a casualty, the other operator can take over and continue launching.

▲ "Defending my family and our freedoms is the main reason I'm out here," said **FC1(SW) Jeffrey Witherow**, *Shiloh's Tomahawk Strike Team* supervisor. "I wholeheartedly believe in our way of life and that Iraq is a danger to that."

Shiloh Shooters



▶ **USS Shiloh (CG 67)** fired two **Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM)**'s during the opening days of the war in support of **Operation Iraqi Freedom**.



▲ **Though a tranquil place** where many crew members run and do PT, the missile decks can be readied quickly for a missile launch.

◀ **With battle orders close at hand**, *Shiloh's* crew has been deployed for more than eight months, but is ready to answer the call to war.



There are two versions of the TLAM; the Charlie that carries a unitary 1,000-lb. warhead and has a range of 1,000-plus nautical miles, and the Delta that is capable of deploying up to 166 bomblets at different locations within its 700-nautical mile range.

"Defending my family and our freedoms is the main reason I'm out here," said **Witherow**. "I wholeheartedly believe in our way of life and that Iraq is a danger to that. It means something to fight for freedom and to do what the boss says, because it has an effect on a lot of different people."

Eight months on-station in the

Arabian Gulf can seem like an eternity, but these *Shiloh* Sailors know that they are out there making a difference in the world and ensuring the safety of their families back home.

"It's my turn to be out here. My family has been in the military fighting in wars since way back," said **FC3 Aaron Bernat**, the junior member of *Shiloh's Tomahawk Strike Team*. "It's hard to be away from our loved ones, but it's our job. That's what I told my son when I left. It's my turn." ❧

Houlihan is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands

▲ **GM3 Kyle Allcock** mans the forward Vertical Launch System (VLS) aboard **USS Shiloh (CG 67)**. *Shiloh* is deployed and on-station in support of **Operation Enduring Freedom**.



► **As the afternoon sun sets,** Seabees from **NMCB 133** finish a bunker designed to keep them safe from SCUD missiles and bombs.

With more than 300,000 U.S. and coalition forces in the Central Command Area of Responsibility (CENTCOM AOR), the Seabees assigned to CENTCOM have been busy. Building roads, camps, bridges and aircraft pads, these “Can Do” Sailors are ready to complete any mission thrown at them.

IF YOU BUILD IT
THEY WILL COME

IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME

▼ **Third-country nationals** are constantly guarded when working on the camp to make sure they aren't wandering into off-limit areas or asking too many questions.



◀ **MR3 Jose Freytes** uses a grinder to cut pieces of metal from a discarded bumper. The metal will be used to fabricate tractor keys that have been broken or lost.

for when we have to work with on-site materials," said **Equipment Operator 1st Class Karen Clough**.

The Bees are building soil-stabilized roads, and it takes a certain type of fill dirt with the right mixture of sand and clay to build them correctly. Dry cement is mixed with the fill dirt and after it's all compacted, the Bees roto-till it all together with a soil stabilizing machine and then add water. The end result is a concrete-topped road without having to bring in concrete vehicles.

"Anywhere else, they'd just deliver us the materials, but here we dig it up ourselves and see what we find," said **Clough**. "We got lucky this time around. Hopefully we'll get lucky every time out here."

The training the Seabees are doing is designed to take the element of luck out of the equation.

"The Seabees' mission is primarily to support the Marines," said **Clough**. "If we can build them roads, then we can get them where they need to be, by the truckload, and that's the name of the game."

Hidden in an out-of-the-way corner of the camp is one of the Seabees best-kept secrets: the people who keep everything running—the mechanics and the machinery repairmen. Most of the equipment is older than the people working on it, and due to the increasingly heavy tasking, the machinery gets abused, sometimes running 24 hours a day with little time between shifts to grease it.

"The mechanics are vital to what we're doing here. They play a major role in keeping us going. We couldn't survive without them," said **Clough**.

"I'm one of only three MRs in the battalion, and we keep everything running," said **Machinery Repairman 3rd Class Jose Freytes**. "We have a lot of things here that get broken and we can't get the new parts on time, so we make

"We're all out here to do this mission, and support our country and the President of the United States,"

said **Senior Chief Utilitiesman (SCW) James Trocke**, project manager for **Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133**. "We're ready to step up to any contingency and support any elements that may need us out here in-country. As Seabees, we have to remain flexible."

With four Seabee battalions in the AOR, there is a massive amount of construction going on, as well as

preparing to follow the Marines wherever their mission takes them. Plans are being drawn, contingencies are being laid out. The "Bees" are ready to roll.

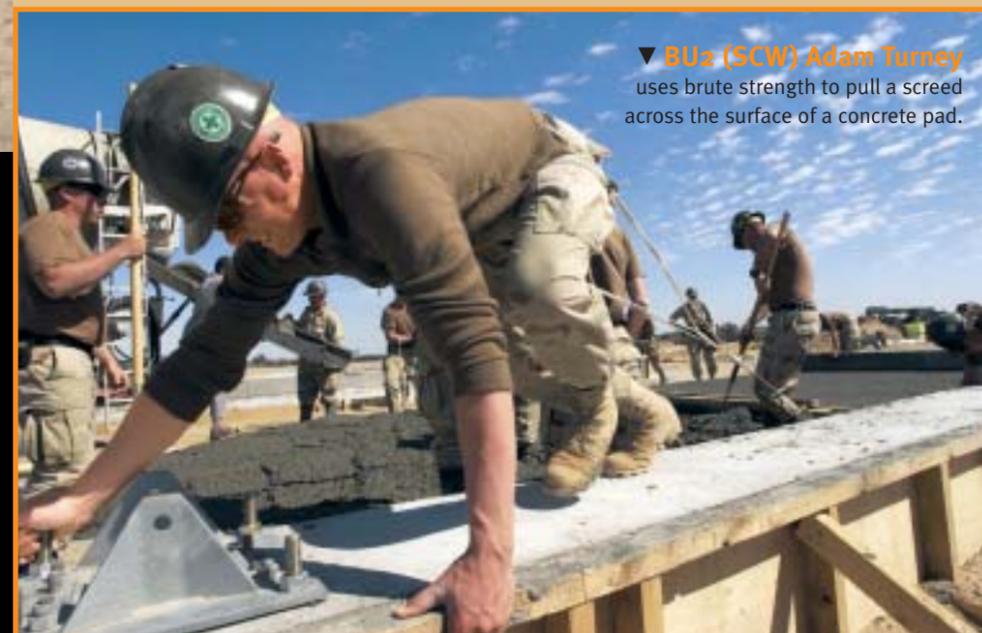
Around **Camp Moreell**, named after **Ben Moreell**, the founder of the Seabees, there are a lot of people doing the every day tasks to keep things up.

"Right now, we're continuing to build this camp to improve things for the troops—

better berthing, quality-of-life issues," said **Trocke**. "Every day we do little things around the camp and the AOR just to make things better for the troops out here."

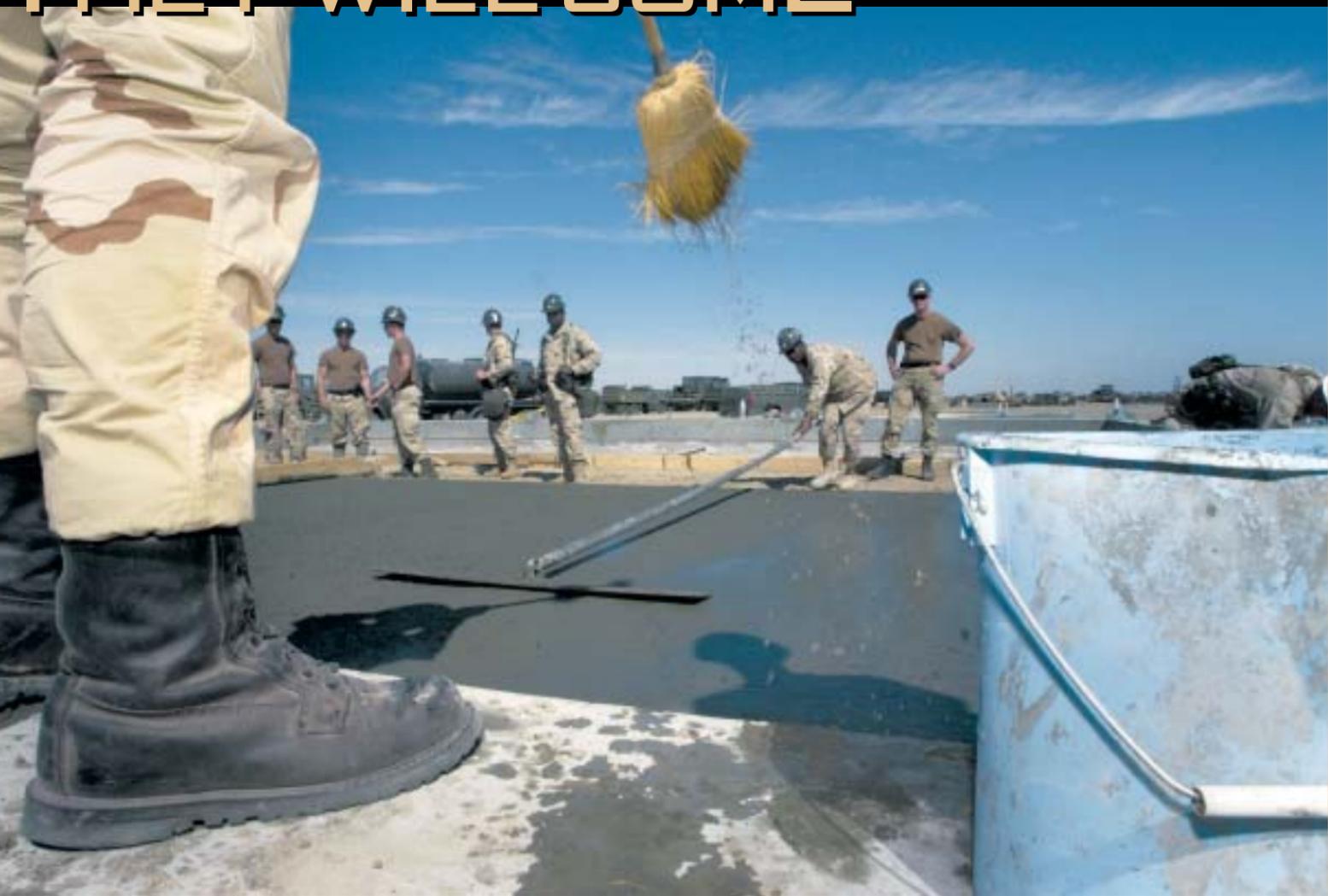
Getting a large amount of equipment and supplies to where you need them in a short time takes trucks — lots of trucks, and trucks need roads.

"We're building horizontal roadwork and trying out procedures we can use

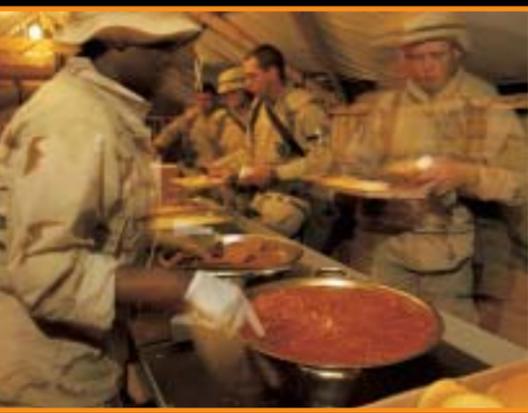


▼ **BU2 (SCW) Adam Turney** uses brute strength to pull a screed across the surface of a concrete pad.

IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME



▼ To keep the surface workable, a Seabee from NMCB 133 uses a broom to splash water on the concrete.



◀ The galley tent is a busy place at Camp Coyote. MSs serve Unitized Rations, Ground (URGs) for breakfast and dinner.

the whole piece from scratch.”

The importance of these masters of metal is apparent almost every day. “We just fabricated a drive shaft for one of our vehicles that was down and we couldn’t get the part on time. Without that piece, the vehicle won’t move and jobs don’t get done,” said Freytes.

“We took a piece of steel sewer pipe

of the same diameter, filled it with sand for balance, welded it to the ends of the existing piece, and that truck was moving again instead of having it down for weeks waiting for a part from the United States.”

As you look around, concrete stretches all around you for acres. And only 90 days before it was nothing but rolling sand dunes — now it’s a 12-inch thick, 19.9-acre parking lot for fighter jets. Six-acres of AM-2 matting, a Lego-like snap-together material has been added to the end of the concrete pad, creating

Only one group could work this construction magic in what seemed like an overnight project: The Seabees.



► MR3 Jose Freytes, one of three MRs in his battalion works magic on a daily basis to keep the Seabees’ vehicles and equipment running. If he can’t get a part in a timely manner, he makes it from scratch.



▲ Seabees use huge cranes to pour concrete for an aircraft staging area capable of being used by aircraft as large as a C-130. The area is the largest single battalion concrete project since World War II and will be used to support future operations.

additional aircraft parking and taxiways. Only one group could work this construction magic in what seemed like an overnight project: The Seabees.

“That pad was absolutely crucial to the MAW’s mission,” said Marine Brig. Gen. T.B Robling, 3rd Marine Air Wing (MAW) deputy commander. “That pad will hold just about all the MAW’s aircraft, including F/A-18s and AV-8 Harriers.

“It was tiresome, lots of long hours since we were on such a tight deadline,” said Builder 3rd Class Kristalyn Nelson, “but we joked around a lot and tried to keep morale up and it worked really well.”

The crews had to move nearly 1.5 million cubic feet of earth. Some portions of the concrete pad had to be raised more than six feet to make it level. The earth leveling work had to be done six inches at a time. Putting fill material



▼ SW3 Peter Fontaine, of NMCB 133’s Air Det., taps the excess concrete off his edging tool after all the concrete is in place.

down, rolling it flat, checking it for compaction and then placing six more inches down. During this one project, the Seabees clocked 12,000 man-days. That’s more than an entire battalion accrues in a normal six-month deployment.

“We collapsed the local market’s fill material,” said BUC(SCW) Wayne Jensen, one of the site foremen. The local concrete makers couldn’t keep up with the Seabee’s either. “We poured approximately 1,000 meters of concrete a day, for 44 days,” said BU2(SCW) Castillo Huggins.

The four companies hired would bring as much as they could each day, but it was never enough. “We poured as much as they supplied,” said Jensen. “We could have been done sooner if they had supplied more material sooner.” BUC(SCW) Ray Roberts echoed.

NMCB-74 managed to complete the largest, single-battalion construction

IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME

▼ **It was the largest Seabee concrete pour since World War II.** The aircraft parking pad is almost 20 acres in size and had 200 personnel working 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week, for almost 90 days.



When the work was completed and the first wave of airplanes rolled onto the fresh concrete, there was great pride among the Seabees of NMCB 74.

project in the last 30 years, working non-stop through dust storms, rain-storms and very cold temperatures. "When I looked at it after it was done, I got a real feeling of accomplishment. We all just came together as a crew to get the job done. If we had to do it again, we'd do it even quicker. We'll get anything they can throw at us done. We're committed to this job," said **Huggins**.
When the work was completed and the first wave of airplanes rolled onto the fresh concrete, there was great pride among the Seabees of NMCB 74. "What made it all worth while was when the first F/A-18

pulled onto the pad," beamed **Jensen**.
The fighters have somewhere to park today because a few Seabees followed their tradition. They built something, out of nothing, in the middle of nowhere, with lots of heart and sweat.
While the main mission of building is at the top of the list, you can't build if it's not a safe environment.
"It's a really big responsibility," said **Master-at-Arms 1st Class Thomas Caanan**, NMCB 133's command investigator and the only rated MA with the battalion. "Everyone's safety is pretty much in our hands."

Keeping the Bees safe is a full-time job, and the security force at **Camp Moreell** takes that job very seriously. "We maintain the entry control point at the entrance to the camp, and have rovers throughout the camp to promote good order and discipline and to make sure no one is messing with our fence line," said **Caanan**. "But our primary tasking is convoy security. "Anything that goes out of the camp needs to have some sort of protection, and that's us," **Caanan** continued. "It's a big job, lately with an increase in the number of convoys that are going out,



so we're feeling pretty thin inside the camp with having to pull people who may have been rovers and switching them over to convoy detail."
Though the main focus is directed towards the perimeter, the Seabees keep an equally vigilant watch within. "On watch, we're always looking for things that don't belong; third country nationals without escorts, extra wires hanging from a vehicle, holes in the fence line, anything that doesn't look right," said **Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Rebecca Ingram**, a Seabee assigned to security. "We're just here to keep everyone safe. That's our main job."

▲ **Pouring concrete** is one of the largest parts of a Seabee's life in the Middle East.
"It's interesting being out here in the desert," said **Caanan**. It's different. In the fleet we're usually offshore launching planes or missiles. We're in the AOR, but we don't actually get to see much of the country. Right here, we're out in the sand doing the job and seeing the people, so it's definitely a different experience in my career. I wasn't expecting it, but I'm glad I'm here to do it." ✍

Houlihan is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands



Running in the

Shadows



They're highly trained and highly motivated. They are the sea lions and their trainers who make up the Shallow Water Intruder Detection System (SWIDS). Although an unconventional tool, the SWIDS program is a crucial part of the ongoing war on terrorism, both at home and in the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

▲ **Zak shows his teeth** during one of many training swims taking place in the Central Command AOR.

Photo by PH1 Brien Aho

Running in the Shadows



As the swimmer makes his way through the dark

waters of the Persian Gulf, only one thing is on his mind — destroying those he hates. He tows behind him a deadly package of explosives to attach to one of the haze-gray hulls in the distance. As he gets closer, he is confident the dark night and the dark water will hide his passage.

Suddenly, huge eyes and sharp teeth block his view. It's something he has never seen before in these waters, but as quickly as it appeared, the apparition is gone. Then he feels something hit his leg and suddenly he's caught in a spring clamp. Moments later bright lights shine his way and a boat full of armed Sailors pull into view. Divers drop over the side and take him into custody before he can deliver his deadly package. Once again, **Zak** has done his job.

Zak, a 375-pound California sea lion, is part of a team of California sea lions and their trainers, from **Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR)**, San Diego's Shallow Water Intruder Detection System program deployed to the Central Command Area Of Responsibility (CENTCOM AOR) as underwater sentries to protect ships from terrorists.

"If you were a bad guy and saw a big wet smelly black thing with big eyes and big sharp teeth patrolling the area you wanted to get into, you'd think twice about going in the water," said **CDR Jon Wood**, Naval Forces Central Command Special Operations Branch head.

The sea lions are trained to attach a

▲ **Zak moves through the water** carrying a device during one of the training patrols.



spring clamp to intruders. Able to swim in short bursts of up to 40 knots, the sea lions are so good at their job that the clamp is on the swimmer before they are aware of it.

For the past 44 years, the Navy has been studying and working with mammals, such as **Zak**, through the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program. (Begun in 1959 at Marineland of the Pacific with a Navy scientist and a Pacific white-sided dolphin named Notty, the Navy studied the hydrodynamics of the dolphin.) By understanding how dolphins move in the water, perhaps they could improve

torpedo, ship and submarine designs.

As time went on, California sea lions and Beluga whales were added to the program and trained to deliver equipment to divers, locate and retrieve equipment, detect and mark underwater mines and conduct underwater surveillance.

According to **Wood**, sea lions are now used almost exclusively because of their very sensitive underwater directional hearing and low-light level vision. They are easily trained for a variety of tasks, and are capable of repetitive deep diving.

"These particular sea lions are Mark V

◀ Animal trainers from SPAWAR

work with **Zak**, a 375-pound California sea lion, before a SWIDS patrol in the CENTCOM AOR.

▼ **With such a cute face**, it's hard to believe these highly trained sea lions are one of the Navy's best tools for swimmer detection.



animals that were initially trained to do deep water recovery, but have been retrained in an enhanced capability," said **Wood**. "They can actually find swimmers that may be a threat to our ships and can swim along the piers and in the shallows to locate things most of us would never see or hear," **Wood** continued.

The Navy saves a lot of money by using the sea lions to help recover things that have fallen in deep water such as practice torpedoes and mines that can then be re-used.

"When the focus shifted to provide force protection out in the field, we decided to shift their training focus in that direction," said **Brenda Bryan**, SPAWAR, San Diego's head animal trainer.

Navy marine mammals have also been used to search for people and objects like cars under the water. In 1993, a Navy-trained sea lion in Charleston, S.C., helped the local sheriff's department find a car that had fallen into a river. Although human divers had tried many times without much luck, the sea lion,



◀ **Brenda Bryan**, head animal trainer for SPAWAR, adjusts her headgear prior to a training patrol with **Zak**.

▼ **Zak leaps** back into the boat after completing a long patrol.

with its acute hearing and ability to see in near darkness in the water, found it on the first try.

“A lot of hours go into the training. It usually takes a year and a half of training until the animals will be ready for SWIDS,” said **Bryan**.

“In the beginning, most of it has to do with getting them used to wearing a harness and holding a bite plate in their mouth. Then it progresses to attaching a device to an intruder,” she continued.

The close relationship the sea lions have with their trainers is what keeps them from just swimming away. The

life they lead is good, since they don’t have to worry about predators and they get to take naps more than wild sea lions would.

“Mainly we build relationships with them through the years. They’ve learned to trust us and they see that all positive things come from being with us,” said **Bryan**. “It’s their own choice, and they choose to come back to us every single day.”

Each time a SWIDS team deploys, an Army veterinarian with a mobile veterinary hospital is sent out with them to provide constant care for the animals.

They receive frequent physicals, are inspected daily for nicks and cuts they might receive swimming among the piers and ships and their diets are strictly monitored. Each sea lion gets a set amount of food each day to make sure they maintain their weight.

“The animals are treated incredibly well,” said **Wood**. “Their food, restaurant-grade fish, is flown in regularly from the states.”

“These guys have a great reputation for not being aggressive,” said **Bryan**, “but any wild animal can become aggressive at any time, so you really need to be aware of what you’re doing.”

A sea lion’s demeanor is similar to that of dogs, they’re out to please their trainer, they really enjoy the work they do and they look forward to going out on patrol every day.

“The biggest reward of working with these animals is that they’re fun to be around and always out to please you,” said **Bryan**. “When you’re both having a good time, it’s just completely fun.”

Although an unconventional tool, the SWIDS program is a crucial part of the ongoing war on terrorism. “The capabilities that we’re demonstrating here with SWIDS is very applicable to homeland defense and the protection of our troops and ports overseas,” said **Wood**. “In today’s high-threat environment, I see this program growing.”

Houlihan is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.



▲ **Positive reinforcement** in the form of tasty restaurant-grade fish and a strong desire to please their trainers keep the sea lions coming back each time they go on patrol.

Empowering PALAU

Navy Seabees Take to the Pacific Islands to Help a Country Grow

SO THERE I WAS, SITTING IN THE AIRPORT, WAITING FOR THE FLIGHT that would take me to a dot in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. One dot comprised of nearly 200 smaller dots about 830 miles southwest of Guam. To be honest, I barely knew where the Republic of Palau was, let alone what I would find when I got there.

The facts: I knew I was doing a story on Navy Seabees — but not just any 'Bees. These 13 guys are some of the best **Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74**, homeported in Gulfport, Miss., has to offer. Their mission was broken down into four separate parts — **Civil Action Team** community construction, apprentice training, medical assistance and community relations programs. But what they were doing exactly, was still somewhat of a mystery to me, even as I boarded the only flight going from Guam into Palau.

I had been told what to expect — hot weather, crystal clear water and long hours. I was caught by surprise though when it reached 104 degrees with what felt like 5,000 percent humidity by 10 a.m.,

in Palau; at least during the days I was in town. The ocean looked cleaner than the water in our office drinking jugs, and was packed to the hilt with what seemed like every ocean critter known to man. And as for the long hours — well, let's just say these guys worked hard, and played hard as well, in this tropical paradise full of fishing and diving opportunities rivaling any other location in the world.

That's not what drew me to this story though. Rather, it was the unique chance to see that "Can Do" spirit at work in a unique location — at least from a Navy standpoint. There isn't a whole lot of haze gray hull that has made it this way since World War II, which makes for a unique relationship between the Sailors and the locals.

▲ **It's hot and humid**, but BU1(SCW) **Scott Hubler** and the rest of the Ngiwal team know the hard work is worth it; and in a matter of days this school will have a new water storage tank.

“Here, we’re self-reliant, making our own water and pretty much depending on ourselves. It doesn’t get any better than being a chief of a CAT team.”



▲ Palm trees line a section of oceanfront road as the ‘Bees make their way to a local town for part of their mission. ► The morning briefings in the galley keep the crew up to speed with the progress of the deployment and the goals for that day’s work. ▼ Helgah Sharp has been cooking meals for the Seabee teams for five years and truly enjoys her part in the overall mission, but “not as much as they enjoy my cooking,” she said with a big smile.



“When this country thinks of the Navy, they think Seabees,” said **Chief Builder (SCW) James Chasse**, the assistant officer in charge of **Civil Action Team (CAT) 7401**. “For the most part, we are the only Navy they know.”

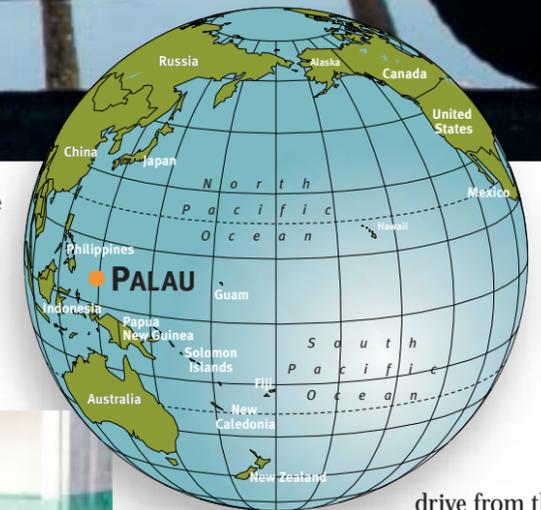
That relationship is what makes this mission a chance of a lifetime for this community.

“This is the top deployment we’ll ever get,” said **Chasse**. “Here, we’re self-reliant, making our own water

and pretty much depending on ourselves. It doesn’t get any better than being a chief of a CAT team.”

It was ironic **Chasse** would mention water, because during this trip, one of the more significant projects they were

working on was a water storage tank at an elementary school in the state of Ngiwal (pronounced KNEE-WALL). Although it’s located only 26 miles away, it’s a three-hour



drive from the



◀ The children are happy to see the Seabees arrive and race next to the truck as they pull up to the elementary school.

gates of the base camp.

After navigating a loaded pickup truck through pothole-ridden dirt roads, thoroughly mixing our innards from the bumpy ride, we drove into Ngiwal just as the sun was going down.

Kids were greeting the ‘Bees with smiles and laughter, while the adults were

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“Here, there is the opportunity to talk to the kids, teachers and locals. I think meeting the people and experiencing their culture is probably the best part. It’s awesome to be able to learn from them as much as they learn from us.”



▲ “When you see a kid filling a water bottle from the rain off the roof, because they aren’t sure about the water supply, that makes you want to do as much as you can,” said **BUC(SCW) James Chasse**.

waving, asking what movies the Navy was playing for them and their children that evening. Lucky for them, this night was a double feature – “Ice Age” at first for the young and the young at heart, followed by Adam Sandler’s new release, “Mr. Deeds,” for the comedy relief.

You see, this deployment was about much more than Seabees marching into a location, going to work all day and



▲ **As the Navy works** to install a water storage tank next to the school, children line up behind a barrier to watch the action before the morning bell sounds. “I wish the kids would learn something from the Seabees, instead of just standing around watching,” said Principal Lorenza Olkeriil.

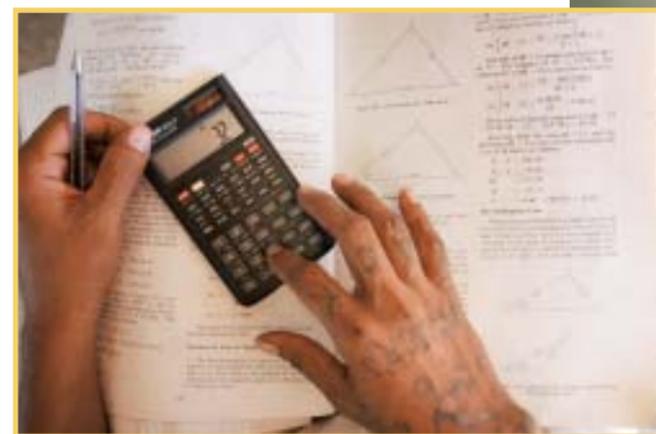
heading back to their rack for some rest. This trip was different. The locals gained something different ... the troops gained something different.

“On regular battalion projects, you don’t get to interact with civilians as much,” said **Steelworker 1st Class (SCW) William Bell**, who in his 12 years of service has had the rare pleasure of participating in two CAT deployments. “Here, there is the opportunity to talk to the kids, teachers and locals. I think meeting the people and experiencing their culture is probably the best part. It’s awesome to be able to learn from them as much as they learn from us.”

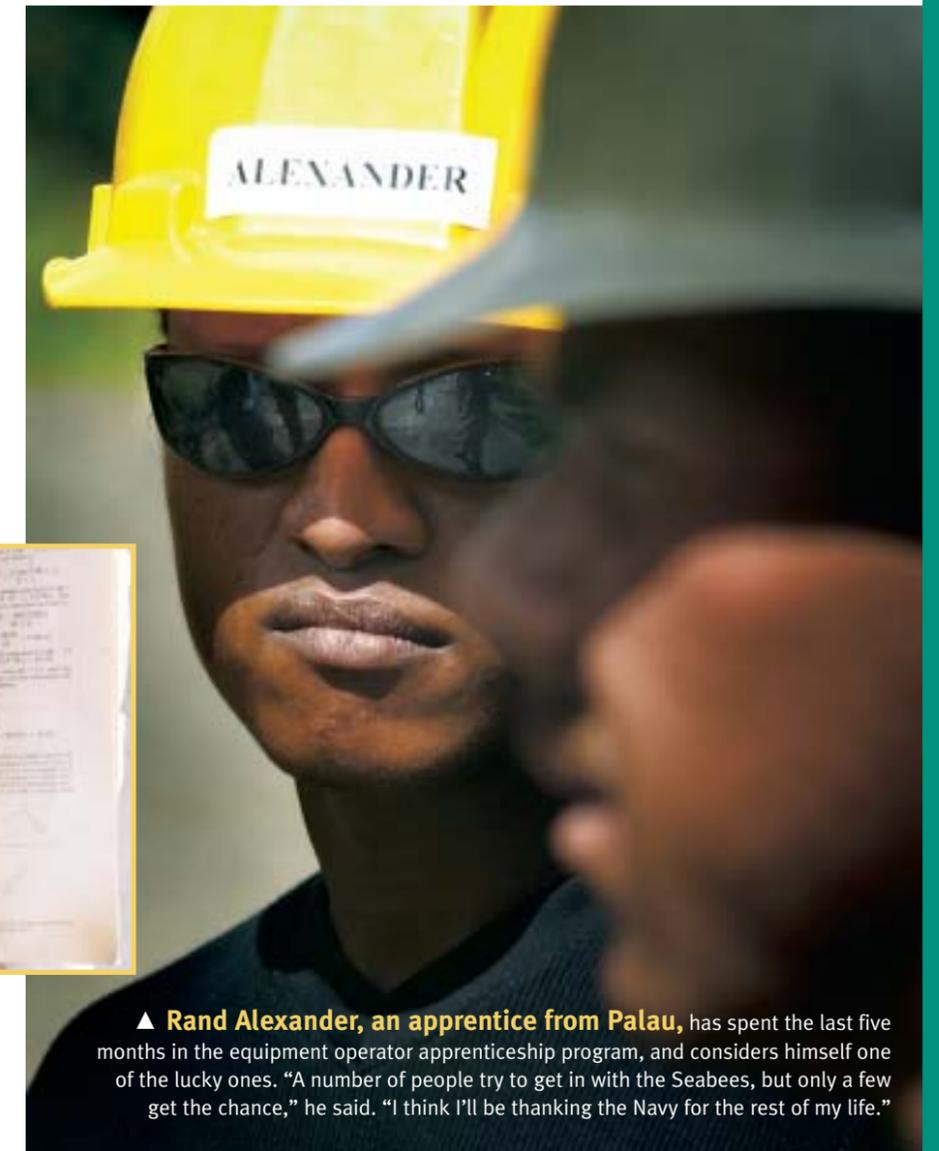
Cultural education wasn’t the only learning happening in Palau either. One of the main reasons the military is involved with these deployments is to train the locals in the various construction trades.

Through the apprentice training program, the ‘Bees are able to teach 15 locals residents valuable job skills they need to help with future island projects.

Every morning during the week, the CAT team’s well-traveled green pickup would make it’s way back into camp with a full load of eager students in the back, ready to take on the day’s instruction in hopes of a better future. “A lot of Palauans



▲ **Like many Sailors** who try to learn the engineering aide rate, the math sometimes stumps the local apprentices. But also like the successful Sailors, they continue to plug away at the challenges to reach their goal and gain certification.



▲ **Rand Alexander, an apprentice from Palau**, has spent the last five months in the equipment operator apprenticeship program, and considers himself one of the lucky ones. “A number of people try to get in with the Seabees, but only a few get the chance,” he said. “I think I’ll be thanking the Navy for the rest of my life.”



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Empowering PALAU

What was special about performers was just how easy it was for them a new or different way of doing things. working in this environment, it is crucial for them to do just that.

▲ **HM1(SCW/FMF) Matthew Clark**, NMCB 74's Independent Duty Corpsman, shows Gaudensia Tommy some possible symptoms to look for before providing treatment to **EO2(SCW) Jeffery Atchison**. ▼ **Like a father watching his son** as he rides a bike for the first time, the Seabees keep a keen eye on the apprentices while they operate the equipment making sure they learn properly and don't get hurt in the process.



are poor and don't have a good education," said Elizer Elwais, a native from the island of Peleliu. "Just by taking a test, we can work with the Seabees and get a certification to help us go out and get a job."

It's not an easy task for the locals, many of whom only have an elementary education.

"It's tough to understand the job through books," said Elwais, despite having a high school education, "so we like to get hands-on training and the Seabees do that for us."

According to **Chasse**, after completing the apprenticeship they will not only have an "A" school education in their rate of instruction, they'll also have a full year of hands-on training on top of it, preparing them quite well for pursuing employment in the construction field.

"We're thankful for this service and what they offer," added Elwais. "They respect us, and we respect them. It's a good thing for everyone."



As the day wound to an end, and the apprentices were driven back into town, and there was time to assess what I had actually seen.

Outside of the obvious hands-on schooling that has flashes of typical Navy training – safety briefings, book tests, etc. I witnessed something a little unexpected. After talking with the Sailors, I

began to realize they too gained something special from this trip.

"They're getting a whole lot more out of this place, because they're learning to network and work with a whole lot less," said **Chasse**.

"It's a true growing experience," added **Bell**. "You always have to think outside of the box."

▲ **Many of the locals** come to the Seabees camp in the evenings to play basketball or work out in the gym. This creates yet another opportunity for the Sailors to develop bonds with the people they are here to help.



And for the help keep something to

▲ **Passing the time while on deployment** to a remote location can be challenging; but EO1(SCW) **Shane Breyette** pulls out his guitar and strums a few chords of Jimmy Buffett and other artists to stay entertained. ▼ **Everyone knows** who the Seabees are and what they are doing for the Republic of Palau; and when they see the green trucks coming down the road, they are quick to wave and say hello.



Now, I am always hearing that saying, “think out of the box,” but much of the time it’s tough to really see it in action. What was special about these top performers was just how easy it was for them to find a new or different way of doing things. While working in this environment, it is crucial for them to do just that.

They don’t always have all of the needed supplies and/or tools to get a job completed at a scheduled time. So they adapt and overcome by either rescheduling, or more impressively, by finding alternate ways of conducting business.

There are definitely some unique challenges that must be dealt with when you’re living and working on islands in the middle of nowhere. It’s not uncommon for things to take a little longer than expected. **Chasse** would often say, in a way only a chief could articulate, “The only down side is dealing

locals and the Sailors who this mission alive, there is definitely be gained from the hard work and dedication they give each day.

with “island time.” Whatever it takes in the United States, you need to double it, add 30 percent and don’t get upset if it’s late.”

There are no worries there though. During my trip, it seemed the Seabees never wavered, despite being faced with many hurdles. I assumed it was because they always kept their eye on the mission and their purpose for working on these dots in the Pacific Ocean.

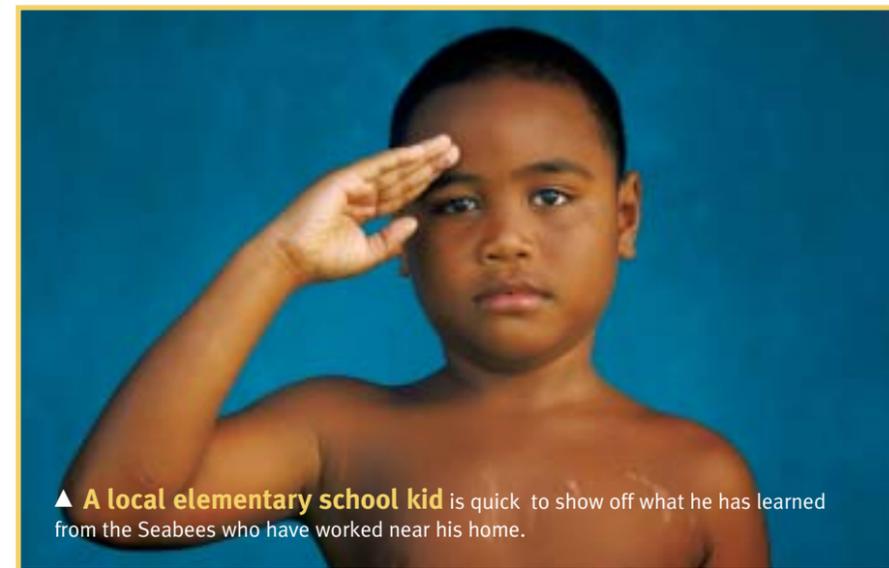
“I don’t think the people here have the resources or money to do what we do here for them,” said **Chasse**. “There is more than 100 years of experience on this team, and if you got that on the outside, you’d end up paying a whole lot of money.

“We’re not here to make a buck though,” **Chasse** added. “We’re here

Empowering PALAU



▲ **Sunny skies and palm trees** are the offices for the ‘Bees as they conduct their business in Ngiwal.



▲ **A local elementary school kid** is quick to show off what he has learned from the Seabees who have worked near his home.

to promote better living.”

And for the locals and the Sailors who help keep this mission alive, there is definitely something to be gained from the hard work and dedication they give each day.

“To steal a quote from the Peace Corps,” said **Chasse**, “this is the toughest job you’ll ever love.”

Keres is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands

If It's Broke, We'll Fix It

Everyone has heard the saying "We're operating from the tip of the spear." Well, what happens when you break down on the tip and can't afford to go all the way back to the end of the handle to get repaired?

That's where **Hull Technician 3rd Class (SW) Chris Bonn** and his shipmates in the HT shop aboard **USS Frank Cable (AS 40)** come into play.

Homeported in Guam, they stand constant watch, ensuring the players on the front line stay there and continue with their assigned mission.

"If we weren't here, everyone would have to go back to the United States for repair," said Bonn.

Being stationed aboard this forward-deployed submarine tender is a heavy burden, especially when the ships you repair play critical roles much of the time in operations halfway around the globe, and steaming back to stateside homeports is not an option.

With **Frank Cable** in the region, it's not uncommon for them to come to you. When they do, the work schedule is drastically increased.

"When we were in Japan," said Bonn, "we worked everyone else's schedule. We could work for three weeks trying to get a

ship ready to pull out, and as soon as we finished, there's another ship pulling in. In our last stay in Yokosuka, we had two weekends off out of the five months we were there. Our job is to make sure that the fleet on our side of the world is ready and able to get underway and carry out their mission at all times."

There are rumors out there that when **Frank Cable** is back in homeport they become a tropical vacation spot with little to keep them busy. That couldn't be further from the truth according to Bonn.

"Hardly ever work? That's funny!" he said. "We work continuously on all ships, at all times. My shop worked through our Christmas stand down to make sure jobs were finished."

Bonn and his shipmates definitely have the work ethic expected in today's Navy. It's also safe to say they have good reason to be proud of what they do on a daily basis, every day of the year.

"There is pride in knowing the work I have done is being sailed around the world," added Bonn. "Even though we are not on the front lines of the war, we still feel the effects of it here and it's a good feeling doing our part." ✉

Keres is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands

Eye on the Fleet

Eye on the Fleet is a monthly photo feature sponsored by the Chief of Information Navy Visual News Service. We are looking for **high impact**, quality photography from **Sailors** in the fleet to showcase the American Sailor in **action**.



◀ Early Bird ▶

An F/A-18 *Hornet* aboard *USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74)* is readied for launch during early-morning flight operations.

Photo by PH2 James Farrally II

Buddy Check ▶

Seabees assigned to *Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40* practice changing out air filter canisters to make sure there's a good seal around their gas masks.

Photo by PHAN Lamel J. Hinton



◀ Room to Spare ▶

Seabees of *Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40* load equipment onto an *Air Mobility Command C-5 Galaxy* cargo plane.

Photo by PHAN Lamel J. Hinton

Dress Rehearsal ▶

HM3 *Joshua Schuster*, a Search and Rescue crew member, evaluates the vital signs of "victim" HM2 *Hollie Bray* during a rapid extraction training exercise at Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla.

Photo by JO2 Scott New



Test of Fire ▶

Students at Fleet Training Center, San Diego work as a team to extinguish a Class Bravo fire, while an instructor observes their performance.

Photo by PH2 Angela Gonzalez



To be considered, forward your high resolution (5"x7" at 300 dpi) images with full credit and cutline information, including **full name, rank and duty station**. Name all identifiable people within the photo and include important information about what is happening, where the photo was taken and the date. Commands with digital photo capability can send attached .jpg files to: navynewsphoto@hq.navy.mil

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For more photos pertaining to naval history, go to www.history.navy.mil.



◀ **1962**
Sailors line up for chow on board **USS Northhampton (CLC 1)**.



◀ **1984**
ICC Jack Herbster surveys his future work center on board **USS New Jersey (BB 62)**. When completed, his space will contain some of the Navy's most sophisticated equipment.



1956 ▼
Two Marine wiremen of the 5th Division race across an open field, under fire, to establish field telephone contact with the front lines on Iwo Jima.



1956 ▶
MR1 John J. Devaney, from North Fond Du Lac, Wis., learns to use a metal lathe at Metal Works "C" School, San Diego.

1944 ▶
At Humbolt Bay, New Guinea, detachment troops move "on the double" down the beach, passing stores of supplies abandoned by the Japanese during their retreat.



◀ **1977**
The reflection of an **AV-8A Harrier** fixed-wing, vertical short take off/landing strike fighter can be seen on the goggles of **ABC Chester "Sam" Potter** on board **USS Iwo Jima (LPH 2)**.

Why We Do What We Do

This speech was given by Navy Seaman Anthony McCarty at the graduation of the U.S. Navy's Intelligence Specialist (IS) "A" School Class 90 on May 31, 2002.

Seaman Anthony McCarty said ...

"Today I was asked to speak to you all, as a representative of Class 90. I was asked to speak on our reasons for joining, our inspiration, our spirit and any wisdom we've picked up along the way. These are all heart-felt subjects, full of emotion for all of us. Bear with me if I get a little corny.

I believe we all joined for our own reasons. After all, we came into the Navy as individuals. Whether because of money for college, patriotism, family tradition, need to prove oneself or that Wendy's wasn't hiring, we all came into the service with our own hopes and dreams and desires. For whatever reasons we had, we all made the same decision, heard the same promises from our recruiter, signed on the same dotted line and took the same oath. From that moment on, we were united by that choice, the choice to leave our friends, family and lives, and literally sail off to distant shores.

Joining when I did, I'd always asked if September 11th was the reason I joined the Navy. ... I had already joined by then, I was in DEP (Delayed Entry Program) at the time. I realized I would be responsible to stop things like this from happening again.

Here at IS 'A' School, we've heard time and again that we are at war. But it's a war unlike anything the Navy has fought before. It's not a war at sea, they have no Navy, and we have the greatest fleet that's ever been afloat.

It's not a war in the air, they have no air force, and we would fly circles around them even if they did. It's not a war on the land, they have no standing army as such, and when we do meet them on the ground, it's a matter of how few casualties we might take, not a matter of if we will win. This is a war fought in the caves of third world countries, in the streets of our major cities, in the communications in the airwaves, in the depths of the Internet, in quiet nighttime covert operations, and on the screens of CNN. The only way they can beat us is by being smarter than us, trickier than us, by coming up with something we hadn't thought of, or hadn't prepared for.

The only way they can beat us is by having better intelligence than us. In short, as the newest members of the intelligence community, the war is ours to win or lose.

Instead of running from this responsibility, I hope you embrace it. I think it would amaze most IS 'A' students to find out how many

people truly do envy you. You're young, you're intelligent, you're in a war with a horrible enemy that needs to be stopped, and you're in a position to truly affect that conflict. You have the love and thanks of a grateful country. You have a job that can lead you to anywhere on Earth, doing anything. You have all the elements of a great story in your life. Without taking away from the seriousness of what you do, or sounding like a recruiting commercial, you truly have the chance to live an adventure, if you choose to look for it.

By far the greatest challenge in writing this speech was trying to define the spirit I've seen in both my class, IS 'A' School, and the Navy as a whole.

I've met so many people who give of themselves selflessly and seemingly on instinct. One person in particular I would like to thank is Chief Jordan, on behalf of all the BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition/School) candidates.

This is a man who wakes up every morning at 3:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, and leads us in two hours of intense PT. He does this for no other reason than he doesn't want a group of young men to give their all and fail. But he is by no means the only person I've seen give themselves in small acts of heroism everyday.

I've seen the staff and instructors teach their trade with patience, humor and devotion. I've seen it in my classmates and shipmates. It's humbling to look around you and see so many people who give of themselves. It makes you want to try harder to be a better person, just to fit in.

There's one quote I have kept with me since I joined the Navy. Months before I left for Boot Camp, I had the chance to go to Coronado, Calif., and tour the BUD/S facility. My recruiter was a SEAL and a BUD/S instructor, and he pulled some strings for me. There is a T-shirt shop in Coronado, one that sells shirts to all the graduating members of various BUD/S classes. Each class has their own T-shirt design, and there is a book filled with all the patterns of the T-shirts, some of them going back decades. Most of them were hoo-yah macho stuff, or funny little witticisms, but there was one that stood out in my mind. I memorized it, and put up in my locker at BUD/S.

It came the closest to capturing for me what it is to be in the Navy, and to do the job all of us in IS 'A' School will start to do. On the back of the T-shirt was a silhouette of a lone man, holding a rifle, standing watch on a hill.

Above him was a small quote, and these are the words I'll leave you with. It was quote from the Bible, Isaiah 6:8: And I heard the voice of the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send, and whom will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am. Send Me.'" ❧

"One Nation, One Moment"



Photo by Ken Pech

In an act of national unity, remember those Americans who gave their lives in service to their country



Memorial Day
Monday, May 26, 2003
3:00 p.m. (local time)

www.remember.gov

Memorial Day...

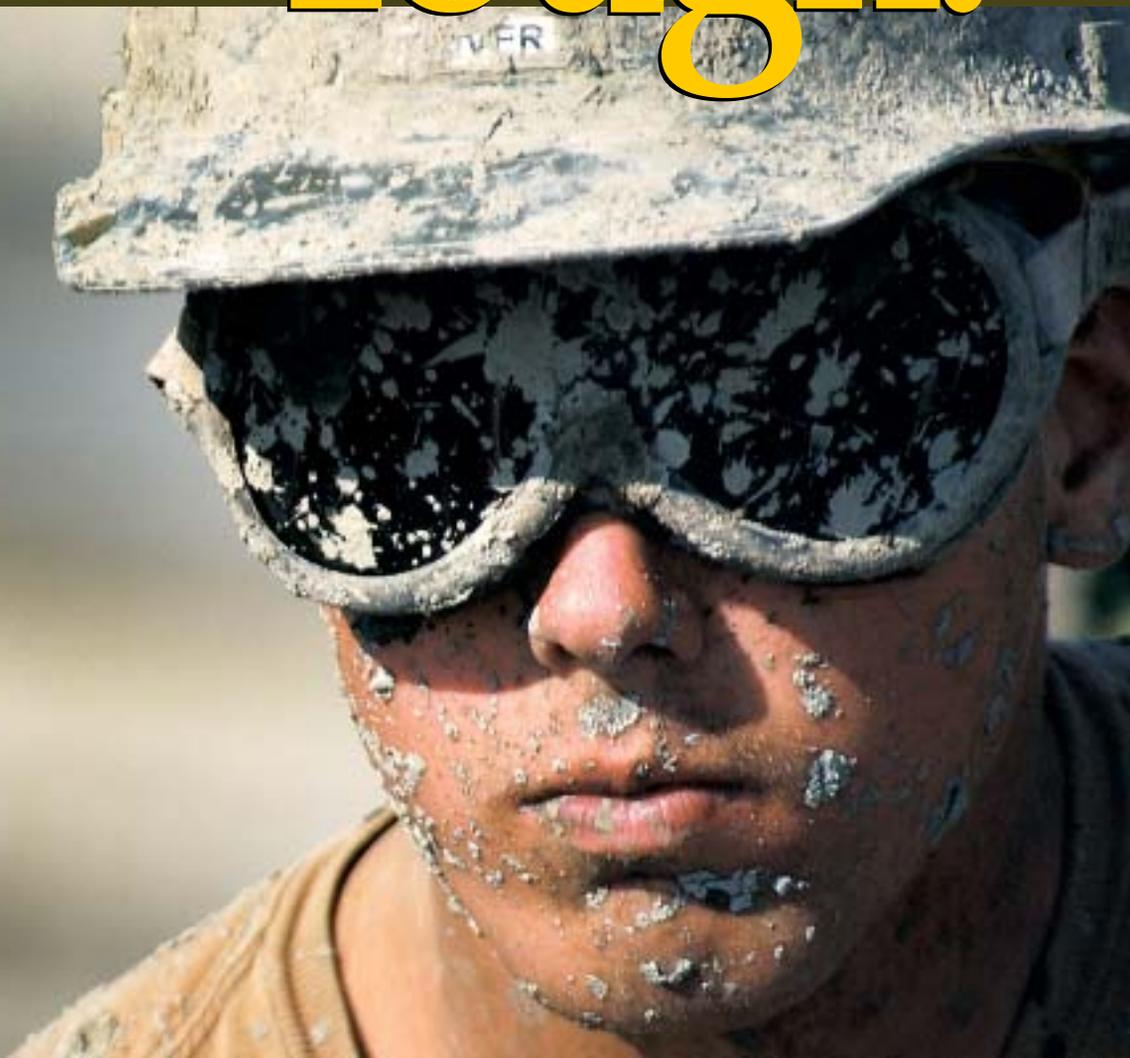
Please pause with Americans at home and abroad to honor the men and women who died for your freedom.

At 3:00 p.m., simply STOP what you are doing for a minute of reflection to honor America's fallen. If you are driving, turn on your vehicle's headlights.

When you participate in this National Moment of Remembrance, you are helping reclaim Memorial Day for the noble purpose for which it was intended.

The White House Commission on Remembrance was formally established by an act of Congress.

his
Recruiter
warned him
it would be **Tough.**



But, he's up to the challenge of being a...



...are you?