



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



March 20, 2008

## Happy 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday Seabees – Building a Legacy Since 1942

*“Whether supporting the Global War on Terror, supporting the Maritime Strategy through building relationships with other nations, or providing disaster relief to people in need, the positive impact the Seabees are making around the world has never been greater.”*

– Rear Adm. Richard E. Cellon, Commander, First Naval Construction Division

### Supporting the Global War on Terror

- Seabee regiments and battalions continue contingency operations throughout Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan in direct support of Marine Expeditionary Forces and Special Operations Forces efforts.
- Recent projects in theater include construction of base camps, infrastructure repair, and building renovations. Task-organized units provide force protection and mission-support projects, such as hardened dining facilities, Southwest Asia huts, and tension fabric structures at camps and Forward Operating Bases. Battalions also continue to run convoy security teams through the streets of Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

### Supporting the Maritime Strategy at home and around the world

- In the past year, Seabees continued in their role as the Navy’s goodwill ambassadors, completing community relations projects, repairing and constructing schools and medical facilities in Vietnam, the Philippines, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, and Thailand.
- In November 2007, Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) One provided direct disaster response support during the Southern California wildfires, constructing ten miles of emergency firebreaks and erecting a 500-person evacuee tent camp at NAB Coronado.
- Currently, in Eastern Africa, Seabees are working on Kenyan water wells and Ethiopian schools and a vet clinic. In Djibouti, Seabees of the Mobile Utility Support Equipment unit completed the largest expeditionary power plant since the Vietnam era, capable of powering nearly 4,000 residential homes.
- Seabees participating in Africa Partnership Station recently replaced school roofs in Cameroon and Gabon, renovated three schools in Sao Tome and constructed a medical clinic in Ghana.
- In the Pacific, Seabees recently renovated three schools on the islands of Mindanao and Basilan and have begun work on three schools in Marawi, Philippines.

### Seabees in high demand

- Because of the high demand for Seabee expertise, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 and the 25th Naval Construction Regiment were commissioned in Gulfport, Miss., last September.
- Seabee training has expanded its capacity to meet a 250% growth in Seabee accessions resulting from the increased demand on the Naval Construction Force.

### Key Messages

- As the Navy’s goodwill ambassadors, Seabees contribute to the Maritime Strategy of preventing war through humanitarian efforts that build trust and demonstrate goodwill.
- Time and again, Seabees have answered the call to aid victims of earthquakes, floods and hurricanes at home and abroad.
- Seabees play an essential part in the mission of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.

### Facts & Figures

- Admiral Ben Moreell officially established the Seabees on March 5, 1942.
- More than 15,000 Seabees have deployed in support of OIF/OEF, and about 2,800 Seabees are currently deployed to 17 countries.
- Except for the new units, every regiment and battalion has deployed for OIF/OEF, some several times.
- 1NCD has about 16,000 active and reserve Seabees.
- The Seabee motto is “Construimus, Battuimus,” meaning “We Build, We Fight.”