



# RHUMB LINES

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March 30, 2009

## Navy Seabees – Global Presence and Engagement

*"I was out at Dikhil (in Djibouti) yesterday, where 17 Seabees are building a school. In many respects, in their own way, those 17 Seabees doing their mission out there achieve as much for us as a battalion of infantry on the ground looking for bad guys."*

– **Army Gen. John P. Abizaid, Former Commander of U.S. Central Command**

Seabees of the [Naval Construction Force](#) are engaged globally, carrying out the vision of "With compassion for others, we build – we fight, for peace with freedom." Capable of constructing operations bases, airfields, roads, bridges and other support facilities as well as underwater construction, the Seabees play an essential role in supporting fleet and combatant commands and carrying out the Maritime Strategy. For more than 67 years Seabees have been protecting the nation and serving the U.S. Navy with pride. In 2008, Seabees:

### Supporting Overseas Contingency Operations

- Seabees have increased their support to efforts in Afghanistan in recent months. Elements of one regiment and two battalions are constructing berthing facilities and HESCO Barrier blast walls to [improve security](#) for coalition and special operations forces. They are also performing camp maintenance, quality of life, and camp expansion projects at [forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan](#).
- Recent projects in Iraq include construction of base camps and forward operating bases, road, airfield and bridge repairs, building renovations and electrical and [force protection upgrades](#). Task-organized units of various sizes provided force protection and mission support projects such as dining facilities, berthing facilities, and tension fabric structures at established camps and expeditionary forward operating bases.
- Seabees run [convoy security teams in Iraq](#), ensuring that supplies and personnel are safely transported to numerous camps and bases. Seabee convoy teams traveled more than 197,000 miles in Iraq in 2008.

### Supporting the Maritime Strategy

- In the Horn of Africa, Seabees constructed schools and clinics in [Djibouti](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Uganda](#) and [Comoros](#). They also provided much needed water to drought stricken regions of Kenya by [drilling water wells](#).
- Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB)133, NMCB 5 and Amphibious Construction Battalion 1, embarked aboard USNS Mercy (T-AH-19) constructed a community center and renovated health clinics, an orphanage, aid posts and schools in the [Philippines](#), Vietnam, Singapore, Timor and Micronesia.
- Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202, embarked aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), constructed berthing facilities, repaired schools, bridges, medical clinics and a nursery, [installed playground equipment](#) and improved drainage in Nicaragua, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic and Guyana, in addition to providing hurricane recovery assistance in Haiti.
- Seabees executed construction projects during the USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS Tortuga (LSD 46) and USS Mustin (DDG 89) humanitarian deployments, repairing schools and medical facilities in [Ghana](#), Liberia, [Guatemala](#), [El Salvador](#), [Peru](#), the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand.
- Seabee divers from Underwater Construction Teams 1 and 2 embarked on USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51) participated in joint diver training with several Caribbean nation military divers.

### Key Messages

- Time and again, Seabees have aided victims of earthquakes, floods and hurricanes at home and abroad.
- Serving as goodwill ambassadors, Seabees help reduce the influence of terrorist organizations by demonstrating American goodwill through humanitarian efforts.

### Facts & Figures

- 2009 has been designated as the Year of the Seabees/Civil Engineer Corps. Events begin April 4 at the Navy Memorial and run through March 2010.
- More than 18,000 Seabees have deployed to support Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. All 21 Seabee battalions have deployed at least once.
- 2,600 Navy Seabees are deployed worldwide to more than 20 different locations.