



Builder 3rd Class Hammos D. Pugh, left, from Gulfport, and Builder 2nd Class Brian T. R. Thomas, from Viera, Fla., both assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, discuss plans for a construction project while participating in a field exercise in which the battalion is evaluated in various areas of readiness prior to a deployment cycle. NMCB 11 is a Seabee battalion specializing in contingency construction, disaster response and humanitarian assistance.

NMCB takes to the field...

By MC1
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NMCB 11 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 deployed to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in May to begin its evaluated field exercise (FEX). FEX consists of scenario based training and assessment to certify the battalion as the “ready battalion.” Seabees demonstrated knowledge and skills by satisfactorily completing pre-defined tasks, and appropriately reacting to drills facilitated by Naval Construction Group (NCG) 2.

The battalion had to build up its self-contained base of operations at Camp Shelby with everything from command posts, a combat operations center, galley and shower facilities. Operations ran 24 hours per day, with Seabees also manning fighting positions and watch-stations.

“We are performing very well,” said Cmdr. Lore Aguayo, Commanding Officer of NMCB-11. “Our evaluators are providing a lot of great constructive criticism and input on how we can be better, and every single day I see us making those improvements. Even with the rain we’ve had

over the last couple of days our Seabees have maintained high readiness and a high level of motivation. I’m very proud of what they’re doing.”

One unique aspect of this FEX is the multi-layered command and control that Aguayo is exercising. This three-tiered approach adds an additional layer of complexity to command and control and to communications up and down the chain, and it better resembles the way battalions operate when deployed to various locations throughout the world, according to Aguayo.

Because battalion personnel are comprised of various levels of experience, newer Seabees rely on the more experienced personnel for help. One of a number of Seabees who will be experiencing their first FEX is Builder Constructionman Amira A. Ramelize. “Being at the ECP (Entry Control Point) and making decisions has been the hardest part so far, but it’s fun,” said the Brooklyn, N.Y. native.

The length of FEX depends on how well the battalion performs. Any evolutions that produce unsatisfactory results must be repeated. Once NCG-2 is confident that NMCB-11 has demonstrated the re-



U.S. Navy Potos by MC1 Jonathan Carmichael, NMCB 11 PA

quired proficiency in all areas of evaluation the exercise will end, and NMCB-11 can return to Gulfport. NMCB-11 is a Seabee

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