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Don't settle for Sediments: Thinking about storm water drainage

By Noah Noble
NCBC Public Affairs Intern

Exactly how impactful can rain be for a Navy Base? For most workers, heavy pours bring a comfortable day inside the office building. For construction workers, it means a day off the job. For the Naval Construction Battalion Center's Environmental Division, it means another saturated day of work.

Kenton Lottinger is the storm water manager at NCBC and oversees the 15 outfalls on base. The biggest risk to these outfalls is erosion and sediments.

"Sediments," said Lottinger, "which are coming from construction and in our case: training sites. Here, we have crane and dozer fields that are used by the Seabees for training."

Sediments are byproducts of construction zones, often filled with dirt or concrete particles. These particles are

washed away during rain fall and carried through the base's outfalls, which eventually end up in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lisa Noble, the environmental director at NCBC, explained the problems faced by sediment pollution.

"It's a risk to aquatic life," said Noble. "The sediments cloud the water and accumulate in ditches and ponds. You're limiting the water flow in these areas because of this accumulation. You're also lowering the quality of the water."

Large build-up of sediments pouring into the gulf damage not only the water, but the inhabitants. Marine life can have sediments clog their gills or even cloud their food sources, and this leads to a breakdown in the ecosystem.

To prevent this breakdown, the Environmental Division installs run-off management devices that aim to prevent sediments from leaving the work zones.

"Silk fencing and waddles in ditches re-



strict the flow of water," said Lottinger. "That's largely the key (to why we install these devices): to slow the flow."

Storm water management is just one in a myriad of ways the Environmental Division works on a daily basis to keep the base and our gulf coast healthy and clean.

FFSC class assists Naval personnel during transition to civilian life

By MC3 Kohen Gillis
NCBC Public Affairs

Every year, thousands of military members transition out of the service and back into civilian life. Many of those transitioning are unaware of the benefits and resources available to them when they get out.

"Really, I didn't know how much the Navy would help me when I decided to get out," said Josiah Vaccaro, a Sailor who left active duty in December 2018 after serving four years. "The class I went to really helped me put my best foot forward after I left."

The class Vaccaro mentioned is called the Transition Goals, Plans, Success (TGPS) program, formerly called the Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

The TGPS program provides separating and retiring service members, as well as their families, with the skills, tools and self-confidence necessary to successfully re-enter the civilian

work force, pursue higher education, technical training or retire.

The goal of the program is to provide professional career development throughout the military career life cycle. Every service member is eligible for, and will have full access to, transition services and must meet career readiness standards prior to separation.

"We encourage service members to take the class at least twice," said Angeline Delgado, the work and family life specialist at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport's Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC). "There's so much information covered in the class it's like trying to drink from a firehose. We say to come to the class twice so you have more than one opportunity to really soak in and digest the information. Hopefully if you missed something the first time, you're able to pick it up the second time."

Some of the topics TGPS covers are finances, certifications, training, needs, employment, higher education, technical training, entrepre-

neurship and transition timelines.

"The most helpful thing I took away from the class was how to use my benefits for college," said Vaccaro. "I was already using tuition assistance, but TGPS helped me get everything in order for attending classes back home."

According to Delgado, some of the biggest concerns for transitioning service members is fitting back into the civilian world.

"Every class I teach, I have everyone write down what they're worried about the most when they get out," said Delgado. "After they write it down we make the pieces of paper into airplanes and throw them around the room so no one knows who wrote it. Our top two responses are almost always finances and feelings of belonging. We try our best to educate them on the way they can reach out and find help if they need it."

FFSC holds TGPS classes every first full week of the month and is available to all service members regardless of rank.



Solid Curtain CITADEL SHIELD

February 4 - 15, 2019

NMCB 133 Opens the Door for Wiggins Police Department

MC2 George Bell
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 along with the city of Wiggins, Mississippi held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 15, 2019.

The ceremony marked NMCB-133's completion of a renovation project for the Wiggins Police Department and Municipal Court House. The project included completion of multiple tasks including interior framing, rough in and finish of electrical and plumbing features, interior sheet-rock, suspended ceilings, and various floor finishes for the twenty-one interior spaces, nine restrooms, kitchen, utility room, and three hallways in the 7,417 square foot facility.

Wiggins Mayor Joel T. Miles and Cmdr. Luke Greene, commanding officer of NMCB-133, were both in attendance for the ceremony and expressed how impressed they were with the finished product of the project.

"I remember coming in for the first time in early 2018 with the walls studded out and no sheetrock up yet trying to visualize how the building will look at the end," said Cmdr. Greene, "from then until now, what an amazing transformation this building has had."

The renovated facility will incorporate the judicial branch of the city as well as all city law enforcement officials. The project also provided a labor cost savings to the city equal to approximately \$600 thousand.

"I don't believe we ever would've been able to get back in here without the help of the Seabees," said Mayor Miles, "it is great and deep gratitude that I say thank you."

NMCB-133 is preparing for the battalion's next deployment in early 2019.



Mayor Joel T. Miles, left, Police Chief Matt Barnett, Builder 1st Class Samantha Vossler, and Cmdr. Luke Greene, commanding officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated police station completed by NMCB-133. The ceremony marked NMCB-133's completion of a renovation project including interior framing, sheetrock, suspended ceilings and other tasks throughout the facility. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class George M. Bell/Released)



Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 turned over newly renovated police station to city of Wiggins during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the station. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class George M. Bell/Released)



Mayor Joel T. Miles, left, and Cmdr. Luke Greene, left, commanding officer of (NMCB) 133, deliver remarks during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated police station completed by NMCB-133. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class George M. Bell/Released)

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