

Brown takes on NCBC Chief of Police role

By **Brian Lamar**
NCBC Public Affairs

There's a new sheriff in town. Well, almost. Ken Brown, a 25-year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department has accepted the Chief of Police position for the Naval Construction Battalion Center.

The civilian position of chief of police is the third highest ranking security post on the base, falling under the civilian Assistant Security Director position and the military Security Office position.

Brown has developed a large network of friends and colleagues with his 25 years of experience in law enforcement with the Gulfport Police Department, working his way up to the rank of Commander.

"My goal is to continue to build upon the success that has already been demonstrated before I arrive," Brown said. "The foundation for an excellent department has been laid and I want to continue to lead, guide and mentor the department into the future."

During his time in the local area as a policeman, Brown was in charge of the following police divisions: Criminal Investigations Division, Narcotics Division, Patrol Division, Traffic

Division, Airport Division, K-9 Division, Street Crimes Unit (NET), Crime Scene Unit, Special Events Unit, and SWAT. He also served as the Office in Charge of the following units; Internal Affairs Division, Criminal Investigations Division and District 1 Enforcement Services.

"The contacts and networking I've done over the last 25 years give me a diary of people I can call on for assistance at all levels of law enforcement," said Brown.

Although crime is low on the Seabee base compared to surrounding communities, Brown believes he will find unique challenges with the position.

"I will definitely have to throw things into a different gear. The absence of crime on base speaks volumes for the professionalism of the base and the department," said Brown. "Policing in the vein of protecting our Naval population not only from crime-related instances, but also anti-terrorism and force protection, will provide me unique challenges," said Brown.

He also served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve from 1986 to 2011 in Security Forces, retiring at the rank of Master Sergeant after serving as the senior noncommissioned officer in charge of the 403rd Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Section at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.



Brown started working at the NCBC Security Department in January 2019 as a Watch Commander before his recent promotion to Chief of Police this month.

Military members bring training, workmanship, leadership skills to civilian job market

By **Ryan Labadens**
NCBC Public Affairs

The transition from military to civilian life can be an exciting but uncertain time for service members if they're not sure what they want to do once they separate from the military. The Fleet and Family Support Center onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, however, has several services available to help Seabees and other service members with the transition back to the civilian world that can help make them even more of a catch for civilian employers.

According to Jason Davis, FFSC work and family life specialist, military members do have certain advantages when it comes to securing employment on the civilian side as opposed to someone who may have never served. Not only do Seabees and other military members bring a wealth of quality skills to prospective civilian employers – skills that they obtained through their technical training and real-world applica-



NCBC Sailors talk to potential employers at the base's annual Seabee Base Job Fair at the Naval Operational Support Center July 23, 2019. (U.S. Navy Photos by Ryan Labadens)

Hiring Seabees Continued On Page 2

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tion – but they also bring with them the leadership and managerial experience they acquired over their years of service in the military.

“What employers desire from the Seabees [and other service members] is that dedication, timeliness and their ability to bring in their current skills and pick up new ones along the way – which is pretty much what any military member has to offer these employers,” said Davis.

Davis noted that the Navy and FFSC provide various programs, workshops and other information for service members to show them what employment opportunities are available outside the military, and how they can take advantage of various education options available to help market themselves and improve their chances of landing the jobs they want in the civilian sector.

FFSC hosts job fairs throughout the year (and a large annual job fair like the one held July 23) as a way of giving service members a chance to connect with outside employers, and to give employers the chance to see the talent that these service members bring to the table.

Sometimes some civilian career fields may still require prospective employees to have certain civilian certifications and education that military members may still need to acquire.

Angeline Delgado Francis, FFSC work and family life specialist, mentioned that one opportunity FFSC offers military members to assist them with finding out what else they need to do along the road toward obtaining civilian employment is the Career Exploration and Planning Track

(CEPT) workshop. This Department of Labor workshop offers service members and their spouses the chance to identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop a plan to achieve career goals in and out of the military.

Participants who attend the two-day workshop complete personalized career development assessments to help narrow down their occupational interests, aptitudes and work values, which provides participants with a variety of possible career paths, depending on their responses. Workshop facilitators guide participants through a variety of career considerations, including labor market projections, education opportunities, and apprenticeships for the career fields they may want to pursue once they leave the military.

Francis said that workshops such as the CEPT can also provide tips on the types of certifications and licensures military members can obtain while still in the military, as opposed to waiting until after they separate to acquire them.

“[Commercial driver’s license] is a big one – the CDL for equipment operators and some of our construction guys who operate heavy equipment. There’s a program through the State of Mississippi that allows them to get that done prior to leaving the military for free instead of using their G.I. Bill to pay \$15,000 for a six-week course outside the military,” Francis noted, citing that as just one example of the types of civilian certification options military members can pursue while still serving.

Francis also mentioned that education workshops, such as the two-day Higher Education Workshops offered by FFSC, can help active-duty, separating and retiring military and their dependents learn what higher education opportunities are available to them. These workshops can help guide them in choosing degree programs at institutions along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and nationwide; learn about funding options available to them through the military; understand how their military training can be applied toward college credit; and help them with completing the admissions process for various institutions.

Davis noted that it’s important for service members to take advantage of the resources the military has to offer so that they can bring their knowledge and experience to employers on the civilian side once they leave the military.

“A lot of programs are already there for Sailors to utilize, so it’s important for them to reach out and take advantage of them before they separate or retire,” said Davis.

Service members and dependents who would like more information about education and career planning opportunities the military has to offer can contact the Davis or Francis at the Fleet and Family Support Center (Bldg. 30) at 228-871-3000.



Motorcycle Training Requirement Update

Advanced Training

Refresher Training

Old Requirements

Within 60 days of Basic Rider Course Level 1

Every 3 years

New Requirements

Up to 1 year following Basic Rider Course Level 1

Any Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Course every 5 years

Basic Rider’s Course Level 1 and 2 are still required for all motorcycle riders.
Advanced Rider’s Course is still required for sport bike riders.