



Vol. 2 No. 2

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR

February 2011

# Seabee Team 1, 'Most Fearless'

By MC1(SCW/SW/AW) Ryan G. Wilber



*BUCN Burns puts up a jump-shot*

Two Seabee basketball teams from Naval Mobile Construction (NMCB) 74 went head-to-head in what was considered by many to be the biggest rivalry game of the season at the Naval Station Rota, Spain base gym Feb. 4.

Seabee Team 1, considered the younger of the two teams and led by Team Captain BU2 Christopher Owens, was made up of UTCN Akini Alexander, BUCN Jamarius Becton, YNSN Anthony Brown, BUCN Creadell Burns, CECN Cedric Carson, PS2 Christopher Davidson, CECN Emmanuel Lemmon, SWCN Colton McCasland, BU3 Robert Newell, CM2 Jack Richards and EACN Chaneaqua Robinson, and coached by EA1 John Piper. Seabee Team 2, led by Team Captain HMC James Burnett, was made up of CEC James Blue, CDR Richard Hayes III, LS1 Lester Hurst, YNSN Joshua Maddox, YNSN Jordan Marbury, CE2 Kelton Mortis, HM1 Jesse Palacios, BUCN Erryl Roches, LCDR Omarr Tobias, BUCN Christopher Vance, LTJG Tommy Vaughn and CE2 Randal Walker, and coached by player/coach CE1 Jean Guerrier.

At game time, Seabee Team 1's record was 2-and-1, while Seabee Team 2 had not lost one of their previous three games. Seabees filled the stands as the two teams warmed up, clearly showing expressions of excitement and anticipation. Their enthusiasm was not lost on the players.

"Everybody came out to show their support for Seabee 1 and 2, so either way, win or lose we're going to have fun," said Brown.

Nearly every player interviewed predicted that his or her team would be victorious. Vance of Seabee Team 2 predicted a solid 10-point win, while Robinson of Seabee Team 1 stated that her team had already won and they we're just "going through the motions."

"My prediction is that the most fearless team will win," said NMCB 74 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Richard Hayes III of Seabee Team 2.

The score stayed close and the fans repeatedly came to their feet cheering and shouting during the first half of the game, but Seabee Team 1 was clearly outrunning Seabee Team 2. At halftime Seabee Team 1 was up 21 to 19 and the fans were motivated.



*Both teams together after the game.*



# 'Most Fearless'

"I am excited. I'm rooting for both teams. I can't just go with just one team, because I know people on both teams," said Construction Mechanic 1st Class Saint Record. "I am loving it. This is awesome," added Chief Yeoman Sonya McClendon.

Owens dominated the boards and Burns found his rhythm as Seabee Team 1 continued to outrun Seabee Team 2 during the second half. Both teams played hard and had their shining moments, but at the buzzer the scoreboard pronounced Seabee Team 1 victorious, 47 to 40.

Teamwork was the recurring theme mentioned when players made predictions concerning who would be victorious, and teamwork is what Team Captain Burns attributed to his team's win, along with individuals "showing out when it was time to show out." Coach Piper expressed his extreme pleasure with his team's performance.

"I'm glad for the guys. They actually played. I just coached. They played, they came out, they gave all they had, they played their butts off, and I'm proud of them," said Piper.

It is clear that participation in the base basketball tournament, whether as a player or as a spectator, has increased camaraderie among the troops and raised morale. Not until the championships will we find out if these two teams will meet again, but until then Seabee Team 1 can claim the title of "Most Fearless."



*CE2 Mortis puts up a jumpshot while defended by CECN Carson*



*CECN Lemon handles the ball against LS1 Hurst and HM1 Palacios*



*YNSN Brown shoots a lay-up.*



*BUCN Roches sets a pick for BUCN Vance against BUCN Becton*

# Message from the Commanding Officer



Hello friends and families of Fearless 74, and greetings from Spain. Your Seabees have really started to find their deployment tempo, got some significant work-in-place and are making a name for themselves throughout the African continent and once again in Rota. In both the Africa Command and European Command areas of operation, our Seabees are making significant improvements to the facilities and structures that people depend on every day, and as always their work will last for years to come.

At every project site that the Master Chief and I visit we are genuinely impressed by the teamwork and professionalism of the crews. I could not be prouder of how well the junior leaders have stepped up to take charge of their projects and train the new troops.

With all the great work going on, time seems to be flying by. It is hard to believe we are already thru February. I hope everyone had a nice Valentine's Day. Although it is still cold enough for a jacket in the morning and evenings, the mid-day weather is starting to be quite warm and sunny here in Rota, while the report from Africa is - hot and sunny as usual.

Please continue to take care of each other in homeport. Your thoughts, prayers and support make it possible for us to do our job overseas. I encourage you to use the Family Readiness Group for any issues on the home front. They provide a great way to fellowship, share information and provide mutual support. We miss you all and look forward to our reunion following deployment.



# “Los Perros” de Alfa Company

## **“A Long Way From Home”**

*By EOCN Savannah Delmont*

Under most circumstances dealing with deployments are hard on us all, being away from friends and family, working long hours and trying to perform to our utmost ability. It is important to have events to look forward to such as morale raising activities. Fortunately Alfa company’s MWR representatives have come together to set up trips and plan different ideas to raise the spirits of NMCB 74’s hard charging Mechanics and Equipment Operators.

On Jan. 29, 49 people from Alfa company departed from Camp Mitchell to the Spanish city of Sevilla, home of the worlds third largest cathedral. We all pitched in our share of money and rented a bus through Air Naval Station Rota’s MWR. The drive was approximately two hours long and we stopped about halfway at a little mom and pop café to get brunch.

Equipment Operator Constructionman Apprentice Dylan Rowe was asked what experiences he gained out of this adventure to Sevilla.

“I feel like I gained a lot more culture and understanding of this beautiful country viewing its many historic landmarks,” said Rowe.

Once we arrived in Sevilla we all split up into our groups and ventured off. While spending hours touring the glorious Spanish city people experienced mouthwatering ethnic foods, stunning architecture and enjoyed the hospitality of the friendly locals. The Giralda cathedral is one of the many attractions, which boasts a large bell tower overlooking the city. It is full of gold architecture and serves as the final resting place of Christopher Columbus. The Cathedral was constructed from 1401–1519 and was first a Muslim mosque.

Plaza De Espana was another point of interest many seemed to enjoy during the trip. This Plaza is where a scene of Star Wars Episode Three was filmed. Many enjoyed the wonderful view of the plaza and its spectacular gardens, located in Maria Luisa Park, while taking a horse-drawn carriage ride. The tile in the plaza is world famous for being hand made and for its vibrant colors.



***The Giralda Cathedral in Sevilla***

Although I could go on and on about these historical sites, these were just two of the many things to see in Sevilla and definitely a once in a lifetime event Alfa Company was able to experience together.

“The only complaint I heard about the trip was that people wished they could have stayed a longer period of time,” said Equipment Operator 3rd Class John Connell, Alfa Company’s MWR representative.

Over all the trip to Sevilla was a major morale booster that brought Alfa, our family away from home, together. While missing our loved ones tremendously we can use these positive activities to keep our spirits up until we can come home to them.

With the success of this trip it is a goal for us to find time to plan at least one trip each month for our strenuous workers to have some rest and relaxation time off base.



***The Plaza de Espana in Sevilla***

# Bravo Company

## **Chuck's Column, Hitting the Nail on the Head**

*By CE2(SCW) Kelton Mortis and BU3 Kathryn Gardour*



***BUCR Cook on the job at the Gym Rehab project***

The last time we checked in on Bravo Company, the troops were busy getting projects out of the Planning and Estimating phase and onto the actual jobsites. It should be no surprise that to hear that one of those projects is already completed and the guys have moved on to the next.

As the weather has started to get better, so has the work-pace and the end result for the crew over at the MWR Kennel Project. As a matter of fact, the crew has completed the extension, as well as the entrance way and turned over the newly improved Kennel. The staff as well as the crew were delighted with the final results, and the crew are happy to have contributed to continued improvement of the base and the quality of life for the animals that will use the facilities here on NAVSTA Rota, Spain.

BUCN White was very proud of the job that was accomplished.

"I am proud and happy that the project was a success and that we were able to contribute our skills and time in making a difference here in Rota," said White. Now we are just looking forward to the next project, and hopefully that one will be as successful as this one was."

Sounds to me like a job well done.

Checking in with the guys working over inside the Camp Gym, they are moving and shaking things up inside there. Previously, they had started demolishing the interior to make room for the new equipment. This time around, the cardio room has been given a facial, with a new drop ceiling in place and the walls being repainted, the crew is vigorously working out the electrical layout of the major space.

BUCNs Cook, Dimario, Burns and Brumley have been working hand-in-hand alongside CE3 Yapo, and CECNs Brown and McKee to ensure that both the electrical and the drywall are within code to avoid rework and avoid any safety violations. With a junior crew, this project is looking very successful and professional in its early stages. Keep up the good work.

When speaking to the troops around camp, the one thing they all have in common is their high expectation for the Camp Bus Stop. Significant improvement has been made regarding this project. For starters, the foundation is now in place as well as four feet of exterior block walls. It took a little time for this to happen given the constant amount of rain we had, which slowed the progress down a little, but at the same time it helped by strengthening the foundation's concrete mix.

The crew lost its crew leader, BU2(SCW) Spear, as he had to PCS, but gained a well experienced replacement in BU3(SCW) Gary Smith. His crew kept pace and flawlessly erected the block walls without skipping a beat. The crew is in good spirits and is excited to get the job completed before the weather begins to warm up.



***BUCR Hersherberger on the job at the Galley Bus Stop project***



***From left, BU3 Umbaugh, BUCR Hardy, BU3 Gardour, BU3 Hancock and BU3 Smith at the Camp Bus Stop project***



# Headquarters Company

## **Expressions of Love from Home**

*By BU2(SCW) Justin Comer*

February has been long associated with expressions of love and affection throughout many ages. Across the world, people present tokens of admiration through candy, flowers and gifts.

One person came up with an idea to lift the spirits of everyone in the company, whether they had a Valentine or not. On Valentine's Day Culinary Specialist 2nd ... Roberson secretly placed a card and candy on each person's bed in the company.

"It was really cool that she thought about everyone. It was a real nice thing for her to do," said Builder 2nd Class Glaister Corlett.

"I just wanted to boost the morale of the company and see a smile on everyone's face," said Roberson.

Almost anyone you talk to says that communication with loved ones and friends back home is the thing that most helps them overcome the separation of deployment, however, a gift of flowers or candy on the 14th doesn't hurt.

Some get gift's and other sorts of things from loved ones at home. Almost everyone says communication is the biggest part that helps overcome that feeling like there's something missing. CS1 Shavers received one such shot from cupid's arrow in the form of an arrangement of flowers secretly sent to comfort her during the holiday.

"I didn't expect to get anything, but I was flattered that my husband thought of me by sending flowers," said CS1 Class Nicole Shavers.

According to CM2 Gerolan Kilgore, opening a package makes a person feel like they are home for a couple of minutes. A package can evoke the mental image of a spouse or child packing the box and thinking of the deployed loved one.

"It's like a box full of hugs," said Kilgore



***SW2 Golden celebrates her birthday with Supply Dept***

For LS3 Delgadillo this is the first experience of separation during any holiday, while for others, such as SW2 Golden the frequency of absence has created pseudo family traditions. She and her husband celebrated not only Valentine's Day deployed this year, but her birthday and their sixth anniversary. They refer to the day as Valenberthery.

"It's rough because we've never had to experience being apart before," said Delgadillo. "It's a new experience.

Whether you're new to the experience or used to being away, most of us would agree that it's hard being away whether we ignore the feeling or fight it. In the end Headquarters Company comes together to help one another when in need. February is the month that brings out the true "love feeling" amongst us.



***CM2 Kilgore displays his Valentine's gifts as he works in the Training Office on Camp Mitchell***



***MC1 Wilber displays his Valentine's gifts in his barracks room on Camp Mitchell***

# Det. Africa Partnership Station (APS)

## **Charterhouse of Jerez de la Frontera**

*By BUCN Daniel Jordan*



*Charterhouse of Jerez de la Frontera*

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 has been tasked with many projects this deployment. From dog kennels to the average sidewalk, NMCB 74 is doing everything they can to improve the beauty of the already beautiful Rota, Spain.

One thing in particular that NMCB 74 has been tasked with is the repair of a 15th Century monastery know as Charterhouse of Jerez de la Frontera or la Cartuja de Jerez de la Frontera if you speak Spanish.

Construction of the Charterhouse began in the 15th Century, leading to its Late Gothic style, but its architecture also gained Baroque aspects of the 17th Century. The building was finally completed in the 17th Century and has been recognized by the Spanish Government as a Historic-Artistic Monument.

Andres de Ribera designed the Renaissance entryway, and is known to display the purest canons of Andalusian classicism. The monastery also held paintings from the great artist, Francisco de Zurbarán, though now most of his paintings have been taken down and moved

to La Museo de Cadiz. Francisco was one of many great artificers of that era to work on the Charterhouse, including Alejandro de Saavedra and Jose de Arce.

During the Peninsular War of 1810, French Invaders used the monastery as barracks and damaged most of the architecture that had been assembled over the previous three centuries. Years of hard work and trial by the Spanish people has restored the monastery to its original condition and in 1856 the building was designated as a National Monument and was one of the first dozen buildings in Spain to be given such a prestigious designation. Its long Roman Catholic monastic and spiritual traditions have been carried on by the Sisters of Bethlehem, the Sisters of Assumption of the Virgin, the Sisters of Saint Bruno and by the Carthusian Fathers for more than five centuries.

NMCB 74's Det APS has been tasked with the planning and estimating for the repair of the monastery's roof. APS is glad to take part in the repair of the building, adding their names to the Honorable list of architects to work on the Charterhouse of Jerez de la Frontera.



# Det. Croatia

## Let It Pour???

By UTCN Jackie Bartz



*BUCA Wymer on the job at the NMC concrete pour*

Many skill sets are required for a quality poured concrete pad and sidewalk, the ability to work at a quick pace, take direction and keep a level head are just a few. For many, a pour can seem intimidating if you've never done it before. Pouring concrete is back-aching work at times and the phrase "manual labor" comes readily to mind.

On February 4th, members of Detail Croatia poured concrete for a 30-foot by 30-foot pad and a 50-foot sidewalk at the Navy Munitions Command (NMC) on Naval Station Rota, Spain. The job took a total of three concrete trucks to complete the pad and sidewalk.

With members already in position for the first batch of concrete, the truck backed up and Detail Croatia sprang into action. Project Supervisor BU2(SCW) Pataky was ready and prepared to task and instruct when needed.

"The crew worked very well together and little instruction was necessary. Everything went smoothly," said Pataky.

There are many phases for concrete from the pour to the completion. Once the concrete comes down the chute, crew members must immediately rake it into the forms. If the concrete is too thick, this task can be quite difficult. Detail Croatia had a

brief problem with too thick concrete, but luckily it was easily fixed by adding water to the truck's revolving drum.

"The most difficult part of this project was spreading the thick concrete. It made it a lot harder to move quickly," said BU3 Baldwin.

After raking, the screeding process begins, which makes the concrete level to the forms. Screeding on a 30-foot by 30-foot pad gets tiring very quickly. After the screeding, mag and bull floats (depending on the size of job) are used to smooth the surface of the concrete.

Now it's time to wait... and wait.

Proper time must be allotted if a finish is required. The concrete has to reach certain hardness before a broom finish can be applied or the quality will be compromised. Members of Detail Croatia stayed at the project site well into the night waiting for the concrete to dry properly.

"I think the project was very successful. The crew worked very well together. It was also a great learning and eye opening experience to prepare for what we will be doing when we get to Croatia," said BU2(SCW) Preston.



*From left, BUCA Anair, UT2 Delarmente, BUCN Dolan and BUCR Mercure on the job at the NMC concrete pour, while SWC Alcantara supervises*



# Det. Croatia

The project was turned over to the customer on February 16th, , and the sidewalk and pad turned out great. Members of the Navy Munitions Command have been ready to use the new addition to the building for a long time now and Detail Croatia hopes that NMC gets great use out of the sidewalk and pad.

With the successful outcome of this project, Detail Croatia is more confident for the future concrete tasks ahead of them. When the Detail pushes out to Croatia, the projects there are similar to this pour, but with block buildings being constructed as well.

Detail Croatia continues to give support to Main body as needed, and another concrete project is in the early planning stages.

With the timeline winding down for Detail Croatia to push out, members are happy to stay busy in hopes it will make time here in Rota go a little faster. Detail Croatia can't wait to get their hands dirty!!



***BU3 Moore and BU3 Tiamzon on the job at the NMC concrete pour***



***EA3 Strange on the job at the NMC concrete pour***



***BU3 Gutschmidt on the job at the NMC concrete pour***



# Det. Horn of Africa (HOA)

## **22 NCR and NMCB 74 Supports Maritime Strategy in Africa**

*By MC2 Michael Lindsey*



*UT3 Gresham on the job with Commodore Donovan  
at Camp Lemonnier*

Navy Capt. Kathryn Donovan, Commodore 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (22 NCR) and 22 NCR Command Master Chief Joseph Perrone, recently traveled from Gulfport, Miss. to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti to visit the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Detail Horn of Africa (Det. HOA) Feb.17-18.

NMCB 74 Det. HOA is currently deployed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) to assist in building partnerships in partner nations where the U.S. and coalition forces have common strategic interests.

Donovan and Perrone met with Rear Adm. Brian Losey, commander CJTF-HOA, and members of his staff to discuss the

role of the Seabees in Africa, and how they can best be utilized to accomplish the Navy's Maritime Strategy.

"Command Master Chief and I came to see what '74' was doing, to improve relationships with CJTF-HOA, and see what future work we can get for the Seabees," said Donovan. "When I met with Adm. Losey he couldn't say enough about all the work NMCB 74 has done here and how the Seabees are one of his most effective units that he can send out to make a quick decisive impact."

During their visit, Donovan and Perrone were able to see firsthand the work going on at the Ecole 5 primary school construction project in Djibouti. They both said they were impressed with the hard work NMCB 7 and NMCB 74 put in to make so much progress on the school.

"It's this type of project that builds relationships between our troops and the locals nearby. Once the project is completed, these local school children will remember us and we'll have left a positive impression," said Donovan. "This is executing the Maritime Strategy of building partnerships with our host nations and it's just amazing, the strategic benefit we will get from this."



*SW1 Allred directs a question to Commodore Donovan  
at Camp Lemonnier*



# Det. Morocco

## One Team-One Fight

By BUCN Ana Serrano



*BU2 Hoffman on the job in the Det. Croatia office*

Currently deployed to NAVSTA Rota, Spain, NMCB 74 is making a difference within the EUCOM/AFRICOM AOR. We often hear the statement “One Team-One Fight,” and this saying is definitely true when it comes to NMCB 74 Detail Morocco. The 21-person team came together to help out a fellow shipmate who has proven himself to be a hard charger when it comes to leadership and motivation.

As Det. SCWS Coordinator and a fire team leader, BU2 Hoffman has dedicated the majority of his time on the completion of several project packages for upcoming job tasking. Due to the shortage of computer availability BU2 made the choice to use his own personal laptop to solve the issue, but it proved to be quite un-reliable after about six weeks and it became even more challenging for him to get his work done in a timely manner.

On Monday February 7, Detail Morocco gathered together to give him a brand new personal laptop computer. Everyone in the Det pulled together and donated money in order to purchase the much deserved equipment to show their appreciation for all the amazing work he has been accomplishing. The surprise and gratitude was evident on his face when the gift was presented to him.

“I was absolutely stunned, because my wife and I recently purchased a computer for my son and I could not afford another. When the Det presented me with a brand new Dell computer, I honestly felt like George Bailey in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. I am extremely grateful for the complete gratitude and compassion of the Det. I am proud to serve with the best generation ever and to wear this uniform,” said Hoffman.

“What better way to show great camaraderie and heartfelt thanks to a fellow Seabee than by letting them know that you are thinking of them and that you truly care. This type of gesture just shows how kind and close the Det really is. I am so very proud

to not only lead, but also be a part of such an extraordinary group. HOORAH!,” said SWC Reeves, Det. Morocco assistant officer-in-charge.



*From left, UT3 Hilfers, BU2 Hoffman, CECN Escobar, BUCN Serrano, UT1 Gerty, EO3 Washko, CM3 Allam, SWCN James, SW3 Stevenson*

# Det. Romania

## Building in Rota, Planning for Romania

*By UTCN Elliot Schultz*



*SW3 Liggett and BUCN Arias on the job at the NEX Sidewalk project*



*SW3 Baldwin on the job in the Det office*

Throughout the month of February, Det Romania has continued to prove that they are a valuable asset to NMCB 74. As a Det, they have completed tasks and also provided support in other areas for the battalion.

CE1 Tanner has been welcomed as a new member to the Det. She has taken the Ops position. Showing great leadership skills and professionalism, the new first class petty officer has already proven to be an outstanding superior to the troops. Welcome aboard CE1.

The NEX sidewalk project has kicked off and is in full gear. Ground was broken on Tuesday February 8th. BU3 Ammons has stepped up as crew leader to run his first project.

Dividing the crew members into different elements of the project has proven to work efficiently. Some of the troops have started by hand excavating the ground where the concrete will be poured. Keeping the depth precise and level is important to the quality of project.

Other troops have started the prefabbing of the forms for which the concrete will be poured into. As the safety petty officer, BUCN Vance has been exemplifying a superb awareness to identifying potential on-site hazards. Everyone is working as a whole and putting in the effort needed to make the project another successful job well done.

Preparation is still a main priority before pushing out to Romania. With a possibility of eating UGRs, proper training is needed to

prepare the food. SW3 Weller and SWCA Mcasland have been accepting training from the CSs on cooking the meals. The crew has also been working down at CTR organizing items needed for the mission.

Aside from tools needed for the trip, numerous amounts of fitness equipment has been acquired. The troops have gathered stationary bikes, treadmills, ellipticals and weight machines. PT is going to remain a top priority in addition to the projects.

In the office, the leadership has continued to submit schedules and reports for coordinating the mission. There have been a lot of long hours and hard work that has been greatly appreciated from the senior petty officers.

Always willing to help, members of the Det have devoted time to helping other members of the battalion. Junior troops of the Det have played a helping roll in numerous working parties at CTR. You can simply pass through and see a junior troop like CECN Scott calculating man-day hours to help out a project for Bravo Company. No matter what is going on for each and every day, the troops are always aware and mission ready.

There is still no exact date for when the mission to Romania will launch. Until leaving, they will continue to work hard and complete what is needed and asked of them. Many good things are coming out of this group to better them individually and the battalion as a whole.



# Det. Senegal

## February, The Month of Love

By CE3(SCW) James Jackson



*SWCA Wilson and BUCA Maldonado on the job at the Fuel Access Road project*

In last month's article, I reported that we would have two SCWS boards this month, but due to changing priorities with the advancement exams coming up in March, the SCWS boards will have to be pushed back until after the exams.

Last but not least, we will be saying goodbye to CE2 Bradley Hinton. CE2 Hinton received the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement medal as a member on Det. Senegal for his service since arriving to the battalion. He will be separating from the command and he will be returning back home to Michigan after six years of honorable service.

And on another note for you romantic types out there who are looking to surprise your significant other with a little French here is how to say "I Love You" in French, "Je T'Aime".

In the month of February, we have had a few new additions to the NMCB 74 family.

BU2 Bryant and his wife are the proud parents of a 7-pound 8-ounce, 19 1/2-inch long bouncing baby boy. He and his better half named their new bundle of joy Grayson Walker Bryant. Back in the month of January, SW1 Manning and his wife welcomed a beautiful baby girl to their family, whom they named Adaline Marie Manning. She was born on Jan. 11 at 3:20 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, weighing 8-pounds 3-ounces and stretched out to be 21-inches long.

For other updates, the fuel access road project has been a slow and tough battle against the elements, with the weather here lately having been a lot wetter than in the recent weeks. It has really almost brought the project to a screeching halt. But even with that being said, the project is still charging forward at 55-percent WIP (work in place) and the completion date for the project is still looking good. With one pad out of two completed, the end is etching near.



*BU3 Fisher and EO3 Colquit on the job at the Fuel Access Road project*

# Det. Water Well

## NMCB 74 Completes Water Well in Horn of Africa

By HMI Michael Smaltz



*EO2 Clayton and EO1 Hill on the job in Ethiopia*

Seabee's assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Detail Horn of Africa's (Det. HOA) Water Well Team, completed their first well in the village of Jedane, Ethiopia after 19 days of 24-hour operations Feb.11.

The well will provide water to more than 3,400 locals and their livestock who until now have been walking more than 2,000 yards to draw their water from a 15-foot hole in the ground.

Detachment Water Well arrived in Ethiopia in mid December, 2010 and spent the first month planning and preparing for the mission ahead. The drilling began Jan. 24, with the crew divided into three five-man tours (pronounced towers) and working around the clock for a total of 19 days. Chief Construction Mechanic Tim Taylor, assistant officer-in-charge, said that in order to strike water they had to drill through dirt, clay and some very tough layers of granite to reach a total depth of 302 feet.

Despite some setbacks during the drilling process, the Seabee's "Can Do" attitude and American ingenuity prevailed. Taylor modified two water pumps allowing them to work in unison

to generate enough power to keep the mud flowing and the tours drilling.

"The bore hole was drilled once with a 9 7/8 inch bit and was then reamed with a 12 1/4 inch bit to 260 feet. During our second pass with the 12 1/4 inch bit the mud pump gave way at 238 feet," said Taylor.

After tests for potential of hydrogen and chloroform levels revealed that the water was suitable for human consumption, the team placed the well housing unit and concrete pad, which contained a water trough for the animals.

Mr. Qadir, Jedane's Deputy Tribal Chairman, was in attendance for the opening of the well.

"This is a good day for us! It's so wonderful to have clean water, and I am very happy for this well because my people are very thirsty," said Qadir.

Mr. Abdi Malik, the District Water Manager said that he was so impressed with the well he is considering drafting plans to install an electric pump in the near future.



*CM3 Britt and UT3 Goodrum on the job in Ethiopia*



# Stories from Camp Mitchell

## Detachments Maintain Culture of Fitness with Resistance Bands

*By MCI(SCW/SW/AW) Ryan G. Wilber*

Seabees are no strangers to being sent down-range in small, autonomous detachments and finding themselves with little or no exercise facilities available. Recognizing that fact, Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 headed over to the Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain Base Gym for resistance band training Feb 15.

Seabees are also well known for their “Can-Do” attitude when it comes to solving a potentially difficult problem. For Construction Electrician 1st Class Chivas Mathews, a detachment squad leader, his problem is meeting the demands of readiness set by the Navy, his solution (to the physical fitness piece at least) is physical training with resistance bands.

“It is my responsibility that these guys in any given situation will have an opportunity to be able to maintain their physical fitness, especially with the rules of the PFA (Physical Fitness Assessment) and BCA (Body Composition Assessment) getting a little more strict and PTS (Perform To Serve) kicking in,” said Mathews. “I want to make sure these guys, even if they’re in the middle of nowhere and they’ve got to blow off some steam, other than do push-ups and sit-ups with rocks and stuff like that, they have something they can put in their toolbox that they can utilize out in the field.”

According to Stephanie Whipple, NAVSTA Rota’s fitness coordinator, resistance bands are one part of the Navy’s new Navy Operational Fitness and Fueling Series (NOFFS) program; a fitness program designed to be used by Sailors on ships, forward deployed Seabees and many others. Whipple and her colleague, NAVSTA Rota’s Fitness Specialist Meghan Batteau, facilitated the training and are available to give specialty classes to any command attached to NAVSTA Rota that want to use their services to enhance their troops physical fitness.

“We are here for any forward deployed or people stationed here to train them; TRX (Total Bodyweight Resistance Exercise), bands, anything we can do to keep the guys fit,” said Whipple.

The resistance band kits come with various sized bands and a set of instruction cards with exercise descriptions, all packed in a small backpack type bag for easy transport. Batteau said that the bands offer a Seabee a good way to maintain their physical fitness wherever they may find themselves.

“If they don’t have access to regular gym equipment, these are a really great alternative. They’re lightweight, easy to transport and you can work every muscle group with them,” said Batteau.



*Seabees receive resistance band training at the NAVSTA base gym*

From the perspiration visible on the Seabee’s exercise uniforms, it was clear that resistance band training presented physical challenges that the participants may not have anticipated. A few, personally versed in weightlifting and cardio, even started out with some of the heaviest bands and had to move down to lighter bands before the session was over in order to finish with good form.

Overall the participants had nothing but positive things to say about their experience.

“I think it’s going to do us wonders if you stick to the program. It’s a pretty diverse program and it doesn’t take much to actually get it done. I was definitely surprised on how well it worked us out,” said Utilitiesman 2nd Class Nathan Bane, NMCB 74 detachment crewmember. “It was real intense. I was burning. I was sweating. The whole group was sweating. They put on a real good class here at MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation),” added Mathews.

With training completed and a resistance band kit in their possession, these Seabees are ready to maintain the battalion’s “culture-of-fitness” standards while forward deployed, and using the NOFFS system of physical training taught by experts employed throughout the Navy, it is certain that many detachments will follow in their footsteps.

# Stories from Camp Mitchell

## NMCB 74 Completes First Project on NAVSTA Rota

By MCI(SCW/SW/AW) Ryan G. Wilber



***BU2 Call, BUCN White and BUCN Hardy on the job at the Dog Kennel project***

The “Fearless” of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 completed an expansion to the dog kennel on Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain Feb 16. This marks the first completed project for the Seabees assigned to the Main Body site during the battalion’s 2010-2011 deployment.

The expansion was originally intended to enhance the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) kennel service, but due to financial considerations the MWR service was discontinued before the project was complete. The space will now be used by the NAVSTA Rota security force to board working dogs in transit to and from theater.

“Originally, there was an actual MILCON project to build them [security forces] a dog kennel area. Now that we were able to expand this one we don’t have to use it and they will get the facility much quicker than if they had to wait for that project to be executed. So, they are actually getting their kennel a year or two sooner than they would have,” said Lt. Matthew Baird, Seabee project manager for Naval Facilities Public Works Rota.

This deployment is the first “green” deployment for NMCB 74 in three years, and many Seabees view it as a time to learn new skills. For a battalion, a “green” deployment is a deployment in which the focus is not on fast-paced contingency construction, but on nation building and community relations, where the crews can take time for on-the-job training to perfect their skills.

“A green deployment is actually very positive. It gives us a chance to do a lot of things that we don’t really get to do when we go over to the CENTCOM (Central Command) area. It rounds out the repertoire as a builder, as a steelworker, or any other rate there is,” said Builder 2nd Class Ronald Call, dog kennel project supervisor.

As is often the case amongst crews working together on a project, hard work brings them together and challenges bring out the well-known “Can-Do” attitude. According to Crew Member Builder Constructionman Payton Hardy, this time it was no different.

“It was tough sometimes, but overall it was a really good learning experience,” said Hardy. “We were like a little family and worked really well together.”

Baird says he has been happy working with NMCB 74 thus far, and has plans for many more projects for them in the coming months.

“They’ve been very responsible and very eager to get some work in the ground, so that’s good since we’ve had a backlog of projects we’re trying to feed to the battalion to keep



***SWCN Malpartida on the job at the Dog Kennel project***



# NMCB 74 Recognition Photos



*SW3 Liggett frocked at Camp Mitchell*



*HM1 Palacios announced Sailor of the Quarter at Camp Mitchell*



*CM2 Alvarado announced Junior Sailor of the Quarter at Camp Mitchell*



*SW1 Manning awarded a NAM at Camp Mitchell*



*LS2 Cavin awarded a NAM at Camp Mitchell*



*LS3 Delgadillo awarded a NAM at Camp Mitchell*



*CE2 Hinton awarded a NAM at Camp Mitchell*



*LTJG Vaughn awarded a NAM at Camp Mitchell*



*CM1 Record awarded a NAM at Camp Mitchell*



*CE1 Tanner awarded a NAM at Camp Mitchell*



*LTJG Vaughn pinned SCWS at Camp Mitchell*



*CE3 Berkey pinned SCWS at Camp Mitchell*



# NMCB 74 Recognition Photos



*UT2 Bane pinned SCWS at Camp Mitchell*



*CE3 Parsons pinned SCWS  
at Camp Mitchell*



*LT Harbuck pinned SCWS at Camp Mitchell*



*BU2 Bragwell receives a Commodore's  
Coin at Camp Lemmonier*



*BU3 Finch receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*BUCN Eppley receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*BUCN Peoples receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*BU3 Brown receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*CE3 Arteche receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*SSG Clark receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*EOCN Uhls receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*CM3 Herrick receives a Commodore's Coin  
at Camp Lemmonier*



# NMCB 74 Recognition Photos



*SPC Dewees receives an LOA  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*YN3 Marbury receives a Commodore's Coin  
at Camp Lemmonier*



*SW3 Tyson receives a Commodore's Coin  
at Camp Lemmonier*

## Jerez Half Marathon



*BU3 Gutschmidt wins the female first place trophy  
for her age group*



*UT3 Brice finishes her first half-marathon*



*Front from left, BU3 Gutschmidt, UT3 Brice  
Back from left, Capt. Hansen, LT Kendall, CDR Hayes,  
BU2 Jorgensen, UT2 Delarmente and BU3 Pipoly*



# NMCB 74 Deployment Photos



*BU3 Lima on the job at Camp Lemonnier*



*BU3 Smith and BUCN Hancock on the job at Camp Mitchell*



*E03 Miller and CMCN Leon on the job at Camp Mitchell*



*Alfa Company challenges the USMC obstacle course on NAVSTA Rota*



*EOCN Johnson and SWCA Gregory on the job at Camp Lemonnier*



*CM1 Voelpel on the job at Camp Lemonnier*



# NMCB 74 Deployment Photos



*E03 Morris directs a Djiboutian Combat Engineer at Camp Lemonnier*



*BUCN Miller & BUCN Johnson on the job at Camp Lemonnier*



*CM3 Brott on the job at Camp Mitchell*



*BU3 Medovsky on the job at Camp Lemonnier*



*SWCA Gregory on the job at Camp Lemonnier*

# NMCB 74 Deployment Photos



*EA3 Xu and BU2 Call on the job at NAVSTA Rota*



*ET3 Aldrich, CMCN Cummings and EOCN Barrows on the job at Camp Mitchell*



*YNSN Maddox on the job at Camp Mitchell*



*CECN McKee at the range on NAVSTA Rota*



*CS2 Roberson on the job at Camp Mitchell*

If you would like to submit photos to be used in The Beaver Tale or our Cruise Book, email high quality photos to MC1 Ryan Wilber ([ryan.wilber@eu.navy.mil](mailto:ryan.wilber@eu.navy.mil)). Please include a brief description of what is taking place and who is pictured in the photo. (rate, first and last name). Thank you.