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Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR

March 2011

# NMCB 74 Seabee Chief Commissioned

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



*CDR Hayes administers the Officers' Oath to BUC Walton*

Walton thanked his wife and son for their support of him throughout his career, as well as those he has worked with and for. He said that being commissioned was the second best day of his career, paying respect to the chief petty officers in attendance.

"I stand here today, not to celebrate the next step in my career, but hopefully to inspire people to set goals and to chase those goals," said Walton. I know I wouldn't be in the position I am today with out great leaders that saw something in me, and great troops that made me look good.

Before taking orders to his first duty station as a Civil Engineer Corps officer, Ensign Walton will attend Civil Engineer Corps Officer School in Port Hueneme, Calif. in March.

Chief Builder Christopher Walton, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, was commissioned an Ensign in the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) during a ceremony held at Camp Mitchell on Naval Station Rota, Spain March 1.

Walton, a native of Maple View, N.Y., served just over 12 years in the Navy prior to his commissioning, two of those years as a chief petty officer. One of only five fiscal year 2010 limited duty officer selectees, he stressed the importance of setting goals as he addressed the attendees of the ceremony.

"You can't be lackluster. Just because you got to a goal that you met, you can't just put the brakes on. You've got to keep moving forward," said Walton. Always think about what your next step is going to be, prepare for it and be ready to take it, said Walton. You never know when it's going to come. Challenge yourself and you will be amazed at the things you can achieve."



*ENS Walton signs his commissioning paperwork*

# Message from the Commanding Officer



Fearless Friends and Families,

Halfway done! As we pass the midpoint of our deployment, the work your Seabees are doing here in Rota, throughout Africa, and now in Croatia continues to be phenomenal. You should be extremely proud of the superb job your FEARLESS Seabees are doing each and every day. The Water Well Team is changing people's lives by providing a fresh, clean water source in Ethiopia. Schools are being built by Det HOA that will serve as a lasting reminder of the Seabees. And in Spain, we are working on numerous projects to improve the base facilities, to include those on Camp Mitchell for all the Seabees that come after us.

As I mentioned, we had our Croatia Det push out this month, and they have started to construct an enormous 7 facility Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) training structure, that will allow American and Croatian Soldiers to train side-by-side in the future. Capt Hansen and Chief Alcantara have a great team that will make the Battalion and the Seabees proud.

As we hit our stride on this deployment, our remaining detachments are finalizing their planning and deployment preparations to leave in the coming weeks. Det Romania recently deployed in support of exercise Jackal Stone 2011. Det Macedonia, Tanzania, Morocco, and Senegal are all awaiting their opportunity to accomplish their assigned missions and expand the positive impact NMCB 74 is having in Europe and Africa.

One thing that is changing here in Rota is the weather. It looks like we survived the rainy season, with Spring finally arriving here in Spain. This is great news for your Seabees, both on the project sites and during their time off so they can explore southern Spain. Having lived here previously for several years, I can tell you this is the best time to be in Spain to see the culture and enjoy the area. For our Seabees down in Africa, despite the rising temperature and harsher living conditions, they have remained FEARLESS and have lived up to the Seabee "Can Do" legacy.

On 30 April, the Battalion will have a mid-deployment party in Rota and at all of our Det sites. Planning for the event is in full swing and it will be a good opportunity to relax for the day and look back at our accomplishments so far. I hope that all the families and friends of FEARLESS 74 can attend the mid-deployment party back in Gulfport on the same day. It should be a great time!

I hope everyone enjoyed celebrating the Seabees birthday this past month, even though it would have been much more enjoyable to celebrate it at home with our families. We had a great Seabee Ball here in Rota at a local Bodega with our guest speaker, RDML Brown, and HOA celebrated the Seabees Birthday with RADM Handley.

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact our Family Readiness Officer, Master Chief Kartz, our Ombudsman, or Family Readiness Group if you need assistance or if you want to spend time helping other Fearless families and friends while we are deployed. As I often remind our Seabees, please take care of yourselves and look after each other.

Stay FEARLESS!  
CDR Rich Hayes



# “Los Perros” de Alfa Company

## Horizontal Transforming

*By EOCN Savannah Delmont*



***EOCN Graves on the job at NAVSTA Rota***

Alfa Company takes pride in everything we do! Since assuming our duties in Rota, Spain, we have been studying for advancement exams, Seabee Combat Warfare Qualification tests and boards, standing weekly duty, maintaining our barracks to an unmatched level of perfection (Alfa standards), while keeping up with all our other daily tasks.

The Yard on Camp Mitchell is where many “Alfa Types” operate Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE), and the Equipment Operators (EOs) perform many duties on a daily basis. The most obvious is our number one mission priority: ensuring safety at all times! We must work safely, yet efficiently, and many times find a way to get the job done on a condensed schedule. Like solving a puzzle, operators adapt and overcome challenges by adding their personal touches to ensure the job is done successfully. By keeping an open mind and remaining eager to learn, you can become a more well educated and experienced operator.

Along with routine duties in the yard there are also many EOs working out on the projects. EO2(SCW) Anthony Wren is the Project Crew Leader in the Pier 3 project. He has been directing junior troops laying down a quality asphalt roadbed that will help the Spanish Soldiers access their fuel points more efficiently. The project has also provided great hands on training and an excellent learning experience for some of our highly motivated junior troops.

“This has been a great experience, I have learned far more than expected in such a short time and I am happy to be part of something that will be in Spain for such a long time,” said EOCN Michael Esche from Hamilton, New Jersey.

Starting from a rundown gravel driveway, and blossoming into a new and improved asphalt drive, the Seabees at project Pier 3 have done a fantastic job improving Spanish and American foreign relations.



***EO1 Brant on the job at NAVSTA Rota***

Another Alfa heavy project is our Airfield Renovation. EO2(AW) Wesley Avery is the project crew leader for this project. The tasking consists of removing a large mound of dirt to create a more level topography. In this case, the large mound of dirt is a very dangerous and inconvenient obstruction of view, which also creates unlevelled ground and potential drainage issues. The mission of this crew is to level out ground to alleviate some issues currently plaguing Naval Station Rota.

“It has been a good project to gain experience and knowledge on pieces of equipment that I don’t ordinarily get to operate on a daily basis and it beats cycling equipment,” said EOCN David Swinney from Lenoir City, Tennessee.

All in all, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74’s Alfa Company has fully engaged in this green deployment in many different aspects, and we will continue fulfilling the missions and tasks successfully until the day we head home, striving for the best at every moment.



***Alfa Paving Crew on the job at NAVSTA Rota***

# Bravo Company

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

*By CE2(SCW) Kelton Mortis*



***CECA Rose, BUCN Roegiers, BU1 Kitchen and BUCN Hardy on the job at a Sidewalk project***

The battalion has been in Spain for three months now, and the work Bravo Company has done around Camp Mitchell is evident. You turn and look around every corner of this Camp and you see Bravo Co. troops hard at work. If it is not building up the Bus Stops, the Walkways or the Gym Renovation, it's the guys working in Camp Maintenance improving the quality of life for everyone. Let's take a closer look at the different projects around Camp.

Let's begin with the guys working on the Gym Renovation. Led by BU2(SCW) Homer as Crew Leader and BUCN White as the Safety Petty Officer, this project is starting to take shape. The demolition phase is complete, and since the new drywall is in place and new electrical outlets all wired in, BUCNs Burns, Cook and Dimario are responsible for the painting of the interior walls. CE3 Yapó and CECNs Brown and McKee are taking care of all things electrical; making sure everything is wired properly and safely. So far, all the drop ceiling rails and the ceiling tiles are in place. They guys are currently awaiting the light fixtures in order to complete the re-facing phase before moving the new equipment in. Next, stop Bus Stops Projects....

Checking in with BU3(SCW) Gary Smith, Crew Leader on the Camp Bus Stop Project, he is really impressed with the progress that has been made on his project.

"Everything is moving on time and the guys have been working hard

and very motivated. It's a new experience for quite a few of the guys as well as a good training lesson for them," said Smith.

So far the guys have erected all the concrete blocks to the desired height and have just completed the overhead concrete pour.

"This has been a good learning experience for me, because the last time I worked with block was in "A" School two years ago. It's a good refresher and also a chance to assist in a project that will help the rest of the battalion," said BU3(SCW) Umbaugh.

With the weather warming up the completion of the project will be greatly welcomed as well as appreciated.

Meanwhile at the Galley Bus Stop, SW3(SCW) Dalton and his crew are working steadily to keep pace with the guys on Camp. So far they are about 40% on their project.

One of the easily over looked projects, but also one of the most needed project on Camp was the Walkway Project. Led by BU3 McCrary and her crew, they were able to replace two well needed sections of walkways leading to and from the barracks. Not only did they address a badly needed facelift but also a major safety concern.



***Bravo Company Seabees on the job at the Camp Bus Stop project***



# Bravo Company



*SW3 Dalton on the job at the Galley Bus Stop project*

They completely took out a huge section of the old cracked concrete walkway and replaced it with a freshly poured concrete section and gave her junior troops a well needed training experience. The concrete was laid down simultaneously with the overhead concrete pour at the Bus Stop.

Between CE2(SCW/AW) Appleby, UT2(SCW) Craddock, SW2(SCW) Nablo and BU2(SCW) Vanginkel, working in the Camp Maintenance Department, the camp and its surrounding residence are enjoying quality to the fullest. While dispatching junior Seabees to trouble calls ranging from washer/drier issues to electrical upgrades throughout the barracks or in work spaces to building or fixing any wooden request, these guys are making sure the troops gain much needed working experiences and stay gainfully employed.

Once again, look around camp and you can see where Bravo Company has its hands in a little bit of everything while keeping safety at the forefront of everything they do.



*BUCN Dimario on the job at the Gym Rehab project*



*BU2 VanGinkel, BU3 Gardour, BUCN Cook and BU3 Perez on the job at a Sidewalk project*



*CECN Marcantel on the job at the Galley Bus Stop project*

# Headquarters Company

## **Manning the Deck**

*By UT3(SCW) Josh Ledestich*

The quarterdeck is a time honored tradition of the United States Navy. Every ship and every command has one.

On this deployment to Rota Spain 2010-2011, the quarterdeck is a workplace for watch standers, military advisers, master-at-arms and duty sections. Among the professional watch standers are UT3 Cook, CECN Theus, MR1 Beasley, CECN Beaucmen, UT3 Ledestich and BU3 Fitzgerald. Their duties consist of standing Petty Officer of the Watch during working hours to ensure all calls and any emergencies coming through the quarterdeck are taken care of in a timely and professional manner.

“It’s nice standing watch on the quarterdeck, because I get to see all the people that come onto the quarterdeck and I get to be one of the first people the new personnel get to meet,” said CECN Theus.

They also stand the position of Messenger of the Watch. The messenger is in place to send word if anything were to arise throughout the battalion.

“Being on the quarterdeck is the perfect opportunity to study for my Seabee Combat Warfare qualification,” said BU3 Fitzgerald.



***MR1 Beasley and UT3 Cook on the job at Camp Mitchell***

The third and final watch is Duty Driver. The Duty Driver is the most popular person during the work day. He or she will drive close to 100-miles a day ensuring that “Fearless Beavers” make it to their appointments, projects, housing and the Post Office on time.

“Duty driver is definantly the most demanding watch for us because you’ll be driving to medical for one person then within five minutes you have four more people waiting to be picked up,” said Cook.

Inside the quarterdeck in the back there is an office where the battalion’s military adviser, Gunnery Sergeant Neal, and the battalion’s Master-at-Arms, MA1 Lynch, works with BMC Long, NMCB 74 Chief Master-at-Arms. MA1 Lynch, along with LN1 Reid, who is located in the administration building, is in charge of all command investigations. BMC Long and MA1 Lynch also oversee all the watch bills to ensure all duties are being stood properly and they distribute and administer all urinalysis for the command.

The DMA quarterdeck staff is comprised of a small yet motivated group of Seabees. With all the different personnel that change throughout deployment, the quarterdeck is and will always be a main hub for the battalion to always have a place for signing out for liberty, looking at command policy’s, checking the plan of the week or finding out information pertaining to the command.



***BMC Long and MA1 Lynch on the job at Camp Mitchell***



# Det. Croatia

## Boots on the Ground and Work in Progress

By UTCN Jackie Bartz



*Det Croatia crewmembers on the job*

Being attached to Main body for almost three months isn't what Detail members are used to, as past Details have usually gone straight to the site right away. Since the beginning of this deployment, it has seemed to take forever to push out. Then, all the sudden... bam, the week was nipping at our heels!

On Monday, March 7, members assigned to AP boarded a plane headed to Croatia. The rest of the Detail followed on Sunday, March 13.

Work immediately began that following Monday, and so far everything is going great, even the weather. Although it has been raining more often than not, members of Detail Croatia were very relieved to see that all the snow is melted. The Detail has been very busy getting the site set up, doing pre-fab, and setting forms. The Detail is also working side-by-side with about 30 members of the Croatian Army.

"They are very interesting people. This is a rewarding experience I am happy to be a part of, and it's something I will never forget," said BU1(SCW) Alfano.

Many members of the Croatian Army speak English, so communication is not difficult and we get to learn a lot about each other in the process. The Deputy of the of the Croatian Army and the Croatian Army's Chief of Staff came to the job site on Wednesday, March 16, to welcome Detail Croatia to the country and take a look at the work going on. Their warm welcomes and fair wishes were greatly appreciated among the Detail.

So far, the Detail has been working strongly, trying to accomplish as much as they can while in country. They have been moving



*CE3 Foster and CECN Cusay wire up a block saw*

forward at a very quick pace, and the tight schedule makes it hard for much anything else. Members have passed their evenings by playing football and soccer with members of the Croatian Army and talking with their families. Detail Croatia is getting into a routine here, and hopefully it continues to run smoothly for the remainder of this mission.

Members of Detail Croatia are more than excited to be here, with work to do everywhere they look around. Even though they've only been here a week, positive attitudes are plenty, and morale seems to be boosted even higher. Detail Croatia is a prime example of troops hitting the ground running, and they've had a great start so far.

With the coming months ahead here in Croatia, we can only expect the positive work ethics of Detail Croatia to get stronger as they continue pushing through the mission.



*BU3 Desalvo and UT2 Delaramente on the job in Croatia*

# Det. Horn of Africa (HOA)

## **Rear Adm. Handley Celebrates Seabee Ball in Horn of Africa**

*By MC2 Michael Lindsey*



***Seabees in line for the Seabee Ball meal at Camp Lemmonier***

More than 200 Sailors, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Detail Horn of Africa (Det. HOA) Seabees and Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa service members celebrated the U.S. Navy Seabees’ 69th birthday with a ball held March 19 at the 11 Degrees North Recreation Center.

The evening’s guest of honor, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Mark Handley, commander 1st Naval Construction Division (1NCD), traveled from Virginia Beach, Virginia, to attend.

During his address to the crowd, Handley spoke about the Seabees future and legacy, suggesting that the Seabees of the past were historical “giants” who formed the foundation for modern-day Seabees. He illustrated his point with a quote from Sir Isaac Newton “If I have seen further, it is only because I have stood on the shoulders of giants”.

Recent years have been busy for Seabees, Handley said, due in part to the recent troop surge into Afghanistan, which saw more Seabees deploy than had since the Vietnam War. According to Handley, the Seabees’ mission supporting CJTF-HOA is as important because it helps prevent future conflicts.

Handley concluded his presentation by thanking the Seabees and their families for their support.

As a longstanding Seabee tradition, the Seabee ball includes a cake-cutting ceremony during which the oldest Seabee gives the first piece of cake to the youngest, symbolizing the passing of the Seabee Legacy to future generations. Master Chief Troy Kellerman, NMCB 74 Det. HOA’s senior enlisted leader and Master of Ceremonies, was happy to participate.

“The Seabees that came before us gave us a legacy and without them we wouldn’t be able to do what we do today,” Kellerman said. “It was an honor to participate in that symbol of passing the cake.”

According to Constructionman David Earley, NMCB-74 Det. HOA and member of the Ball Committee, the planning began almost two months before the celebration.

“We raised money with fundraisers to buy the decorations and the prizes by delivering breakfast in bed on weekends,” said Earley. “We had appetizers, a cake cutting, games - and we also had some cool prizes to give away. Everyone I talked to at the ball said that they were surprised and that it exceeded their expectations.”

Among the guests were Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF-HOA) Commander U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Brian Losey; CJTF-HOA Deputy Commander U.S. Army Brigadier General William Glasgow; U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti James C. Swan; Japan Ambassadors to the Republic of Djibouti Jun Shimmi; and Camp Lemonnier’s Commanding Officer U.S. Navy Captain Darius Banaji.

During his visit, Handley toured the recently completed Ecole 5 primary school, one of NMCB 74’s many regional projects. Handley said the school was a “shining example” of Seabee efforts helping to build African partnerships.

“This story [of the school] is being repeated throughout the entire area of responsibility - not just here in Djibouti, but Kenya, Ethiopia and elsewhere,” said Handley. “This really is a tribute to the mission here.”



***CMCN Smotherman and CUCM Kellerman cut the cake with RADM Handley and CAPT Banaji.***



# Det. Horn of Africa (HOA)

## **Seabees in Ethiopia, Ambassadors in Hardhats**

*By MC2 Michael Lindsey*



***BUCN Miller and BUCN Johnson on the job in Ethiopia***

Approximately two dozen Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Detail Horn of Africa (Det. HOA) are currently working on several water wells and a new school for the people of Ethiopia, but is not just these physical things they hope to leave behind. These Seabees hope to be remembered as welcome neighbors and good ambassadors once they are gone.

Currently deployed to Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), the Seabees there are drilling and repairing several water wells and are building a school from the ground up. Lt.j.g. Jose Mora is the officer-in-charge for the Seabee detachment in Ethiopia who says he is happy to have the unique opportunity.

“So far we have provided clean water to remote villages that were getting their water from the same sources as their animals.” said Mora. “We are also building a new school house to help a community educate their youth... I can say that I have never done anything more rewarding than what we are doing here.”

CJTF-HOA’s mission in Ethiopia is a part of the U.S. Maritime Strategy of building partner nation capacity. Their goal is to increase trust and confidence among the people in their own government, enabling it to create and maintain a stable,

secure environment where education and prosperity takes hold and violent extremist ideology is rejected.

Mohamed Ahmed Hashi is an Ethiopian native who has worked as a linguist and driver for CJTF-HOA since its establishment eight years



***Ethiopian children play in the water***



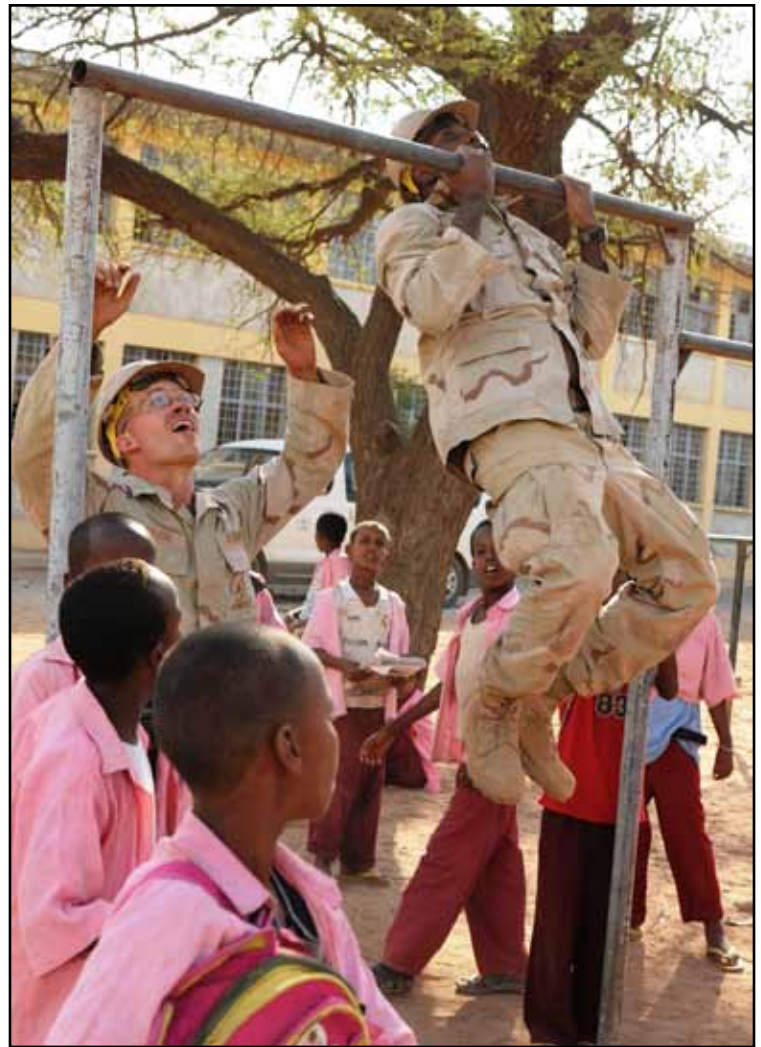
***EACN Boyd on the job in Ethiopia***



# Det. Horn of Africa (HOA)



*Water pours over the well's splash plate*



*BUCN Wilkins and EACN Boyd do pull-ups  
with the Ethiopian children*

ago. He has seen many different facets of CJTF-HOA and its success over the years and can bear testament to the importance of their mission.

“For the most part, I have seen happiness from the peoples faces and gratitude from the Ethiopian government, but I have also seen a few instances when I go to do campaigns like MEDCAP and VETCAP and I would see people wearing an Osama Bin Laden shirt or something like that... some locals are trying to spread that idea, you might say they have their own civil affairs missions going on too.”

Hashi said that he is amazed by the dedication of the Seabees, especially of the water well team who work around the clock in the dirt during their drilling operations, and was fortunate enough to be present at the time the team finished their first well in the remote village of Jedane.

“The Seabees did magic when they hit the pump for the first time! You should have seen the people’s faces. When you give people water in their village, people who actually walk kilometers and kilometers just hoping to find water, usually dirty water, imagine how that changes their life. It’s the greatest gift you can give to anybody,” said Hashi.

Not far from Jedane is the other half of the detachment, a crew of Seabees building a school from the ground up in the small town of Gende

Gerade. The building will be a 108-foot by 30-foot, single story brick and concrete structure divided into four classrooms. It was designed by a local Ethiopian engineering firm to match existing buildings in the area.

Chief Builder Christopher Jefferies is the mission commander for the project and says that they are often visited by curious students coming from one of the overcrowded school buildings nearby. He explained that when his crew has free time they engage with the children by playing soccer or holding pull-up contests.

“Since our arrival we have been treated like family by everyone that we’ve come into contact with,” said Jefferies. “The students at the school are wonderful and provide us with constant entertainment. At times, it’s hard to figure out whether the students are more interested in us or the construction of their new schoolhouse.”

Hashi said the Seabees in their hard hats represent an America that wants to help people and that they are excellent ambassadors to Ethiopia.

“Those kids will grow up and say ‘I learned in a school that was built by Americans,’” said Hashi. “And then maybe one day they’ll see American military walking by and remember the Seabee who was there building his school when he was a kid. Imagine the connection.”



# Det. Macedonia

## March Current Events for Macedonia

*By BUCA(SCW) Bret Redfearn*



*BUCN Redfearn on the job at Camp Mitchell*

The Seabees of Detail Macedonia are gearing themselves up to push out soon in order to provide humanitarian support. Several projects are soon to be underway with the keen leadership skills of LT Pruneda and CEC(SCW) Blue, who anticipate that the school rehabilitation and pole barn projects will be vital assets to the quality of life and will be a mission that will win over the hearts and minds of the local Macedonians.

During the previous months the members of Detail Macedonia have been working diligently to provide training and hands on experience in the planning and estimating, layout and form construction, and finishing to better prepare themselves for the upcoming projects. UTCN Gatke and UTCN Delasalas have been working in and out of their rate to assist in the completion of the Armory Tile project by installing new plumbing fixtures, assisting with tile layout and painting.

Many new leaders are among us and are working hard to prove themselves in their rate and leadership. BU3(SCW) Stevens has gone above and beyond in performing his duties as a 3rd class petty officer while planning and estimating for the majority of the projects. He's known for taking care of business.

Construction work hasn't been the only focus for the Detail.

"Overall, the goal is to have all of Detail Macedonia SCWS (Seabee Combat Warfare) trained and qualified," said CE3(SCW) Dean, Detail Macedonia SCWS Coordinator.

So far BUCA Redfearn is the only det member to complete the SCWS qualification, but the race is on; one down 12 more to go. Who will be the next to take charge and uphold this strong Seabee tradition? Only time will tell but the stakes are high for those who don't complete their (SCW) qualification by the time their enrollment date is up.

Under the new instruction it is stated that all service members of eligible to earn a pin must complete the requirements before their allotted time runs out. To prevent any adverse action against any Det Macedonia Seabees,



*BUCN Roches on the job at Camp Mitchell*

# Det. Macedonia



*BUCN Whelan and BU2 Ring on the job at Camp Mitchell*

Speaking of projects, there was another one that sprang up on us towards the end of this month; the Softball Demolition Project. Members under the leadership of CE3(SCW) Dean removed existing fences and dug outs, and overall cleaned up and backfill. CM3 Rowland said he enjoys operating equipment for a change.

“Unlike my last command, Camp David, NMCB 74 definitely offers a lot more opportunities,” said Rowland.

With all that hard work it sure can get tough if your not physically fit. Luckily for us we have a well rounded PT program, consisting of Cross Fit, running and weight lifting. SW2(SCW) Speice is our Det CFL and he leads a well rounded PT, which is vital to mission readiness.

“I think its a good change of pace and its a challenge for us all, because were using all of our muscles to do the workouts and not doing the same old thing,” said BUCN Wymer.

SW2(SCW) Speice has been mentoring troops in any way possible. Not qualifying for a warfare device can carry long term consequences, including test eligibility, retention and evaluations. Tough to think such a little pin can have such a massive impact on your career, but believe it.

After several days of planning and estimating for the finish of the tile project, it is finally on its way to completion under the leadership of BU3(SCW) Gilchrist as the Crew leader, BUCA(SCW) Redfearn as the Project Safety and BU2(SCW) Ring as the Project Supervisor.

Along with the leadership comes vital assets of a strong crew. BUCN French, BUCN Oates, BUCN Roches, BUCN Whelan, UTCN Delasalas, UTCN Gatke and not to forget our fearless CM3 Rowland who has been working out of his rate to perform tasks and reveal his true leadership as a Petty Officer of the United States Navy. Even the GMs at the armory have learned a thing or two.

“Just watching you guys has been a great learning experience. Who knows, maybe one day I can use what I’ve learned on deployment on my own house,” said GM2 Sanders.



*BUCN Oates on the job at Camp Mitchell*



# Det. Morocco

## New and Improved Work Space

*By BUCN Ana Serrano*



***CE2 Walker on the job at Camp Mitchell***

Det Morocco teamed up with Det APS this month to begin a renovation project for the relocation of our Operations Dept. There is no doubt that through the strong work ethic of these Seabees, Ops will have a new and improved work area in short time.

This 505 man-day project consists of two phases and will be worth more than 227K.

The first phase requires the crew to fabricate a 13' x 30' foot office inside the Central Tool Room (CTR) building. This renovation requires rough carpentry, drop ceilings, lights, interior drywall, A/C units, tile, doors and finished carpentry. The MLO staff will occupy this office and be able to work side by side with the staff in CTR. Once MLO relocates, the team will tackle phase two.

Phase two's scope includes: renovating the old MLO office space and the construction of 11 individually partitioned offices in a 40' x 100' space that is currently being used as storage. In addition to all the

renovations done for phase two, this evolution calls for the second floor to be closed and shored up in order to meet the basic load requirements of 50 pounds/square foot, along with the installation of a backup generator.

With this renovation and relocation, the Operations Department will soon be able to have the advantages currently enjoyed by the other departments, which is to work in close proximity to the other Seabees. BU2 Andrews, the Crew Leader on this project, was asked what his expectations are.

"My expectations for this project are to meet the dead line with the best quality as possible and build up the skills of the unskilled," said Andrews.

As one of the commands top priority projects, this will prove to be a challenge as well as a great opportunity for troops in West Africa.



***CE3 Berkey on the job at Camp Mitchell***

# Det. Romania

## Successful March for Det Romania

By UTCN Elliot Schultz



*Det Romania Seabees on the job on NAVSTA Rota*

The month of March has proven to be a very enthusiastic morale builder for Det Romania. From finishing projects efficiently to taking on new ones, the troops continue to hold a positive attitude and display successful results.

Thanks to the hard work of the Det, the NEX has a more efficient way to load goods into the warehouse. The crew moved in and placed a concrete pad to expand the sidewalk and connect the NEX to the garden center. Even working in the worst weather conditions, the supervision of BU2 Mason guided the crew on to reach their goal.

The day of the concrete pour turned out to be a nasty one. Cold and raining, many heads were left wondering how the project would end up. Tending to the concrete slowly and carefully was the key to working with the conditions. The crew put in extra hours to make sure the quality was 100-percent. Working late and through lunch every little step of the way showed once again that our first priority is the mission.

“I am very proud of the work that my guys did. With the weather we were given I was nervous on how the placement would turn out, and my guys stuck with me, worked hard and it impressed the whole chain of command. I can’t express enough how pleased I am,” said Mason.

Many compliments rained down from the higher-ups on how good the sidewalk turned out. “Congratulations Det Romania”.

Still lacking word on the exact date of departure to Romania, Det Romania has been tasked with another project. Working to get experience in leadership positions, a new team has formed for the next evolution. CE2 Finn is taking the lead as the Project Supervisor, BU3 Forde has been assigned the position of Crew Leader and SW3 Baldwin has the job of Safety Petty Officer.

The mission at hand is a rehabilitation of a fence at the Rota Airfield. The fence is located behind air terminal B2 Waiting Area and the Taco Bell. The area is one of the first things incoming planes see when they land. It is important that the appearance is neat and presentable. The fence will be white with black trim expanding

approximately 255-feet long and 10-feet high. The fence will also be gated for passage way in and out.

“I am excited to get this project rolling. With the work ethic I have seen from our troops, there is no doubt in my mind that it will be a success,” said Finn.

The project will be kicking off very soon.

March has been a busy month all together. Many of the troops took their rating exam, and SCWW is still a top priority for those who have not yet achieved the pin. Hard work is being put in for studying during many of the troops off time as well as their on time. Positive guidance is always being delivered from the chain of command to ensure the success of each individual.

During this month the Det has acquired a new member, Senior Chief Hollister. He has stepped on board as the new AOIC. The troops are very pleased to have him and look forward to working with him.

As the Det pushes forward through the deployment, they will continue to overcome obstacles and strive for the best. They are a strong group of well bonded individuals and you can expect nothing less than the best from them.



# Det. Senegal

## Rain, Rain Go Away...

*By CE2(SCW) Marshall Boos*



*BUCN Maldonado, UTCN Dawkins and BU1 Parker on the job at NAVSTA Rota*

It's March, and things are moving here in Rota, Spain. It is about that time in deployment where most of the Seabees are well settled into a routine. Whether it is getting up to go to work, jumping on the bus to go eat chow, or returning from work to go to the gym. Most Seabees are feeling the days starting to pass on by a little faster each week.

Though time might be passing by a little fast for us, we all miss our families back home and often spend time thinking of our return home.

Our Fuel Road Project has come along great. After fighting a few days with the rain, the crew was able to get back on track.

We have laid down all of the curb pieces and finished placing the turf stone. The crew worked extra hard to make sure the project was completed as close to on time as we could with the rain.

We have started a new project SPO-900 MWR Pool Rehab. We are planning on removing the current water slide and diving board. They will be replaced with two new water slides and a new diving board. Hopefully when summer finally hits the kids on the base, and the Seabees here in Rota, will have a fun place to hang out.

Our Det Fitness Leader is pushing us hard to get us ready for the PRT coming up. We have been doing our mock PRTs, plenty of pushups and lots of running. So far, it looks like we will all be performing very well when the PRT comes around.

Some unfortunate news, we lost some of our team members due to a change of plans for Det Senegal. Our Equipment Operators: EO2(SCW) Tetrault, EO3 Colquitt, EOCN Barrows, EOCN Olszewski, and our Construction Mechanic's: CM3 Brott, CM3 Austin and CMCN Cummings have been reassigned back to Alfa Company. They are a great pack of workers and their absence will not go unnoticed in Det Senegal.



*UTCN Lampinen on the job at NAVSTA Rota*

# Det. Water Well

## NMCB 74 Water Well Repairs More Than Just Wells

By HM1 Michael Smaltz

When the Seabee's of NMCB74 Water Well Team got their assignment, they loaded the appropriate gear and repair parts and set off for the Ethiopian Village of Legota Mirga. The task was simple and clearly defined; repair an existing well.

After arriving at the well the site, the repair party, led by EO1 Dennis Hill, immediately set to work disassembling the pump housing and draw pipes. Once the pump assembly was dismounted, the reason for the pump failure was clear. The pump rod was set to low causing it to strike the bottom of the pump with every stroke of the pump arm.

After shortening the pump rod by four inches, and replacing the existing pump with a deep hand well pump, the Seabee's also decided to replace the draw pipe with a one of a smaller diameter. Hill explained that the relative speed on which the water can be pumped is in direct relation to the diameter of the pipe.

"If you decrease the pressure, the speed will increase" said Hill.

As one part of the team began to replace the draw pipe in the well, another began to weld together a bump stop and security



*CMC Tim Taylor inspects the broken hand tools of the local farmer*

chain onto the well. When the villagers of Legota Mirga saw the Seabee's ability to join metal together, word quickly spread and farmers with broken hand tools began to arrive, asking for the Seabee's help. CMC Tim Taylor quickly gathered the broken farm tools and authorized their repair. Taylor said this is something we can do to help these people help themselves. It's not always about water wells.

The work of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 builds partner nation capacity and enhances regional stability through construction engineering support in accordance with the U.S. Navy's maritime strategy. The Water Well team's efforts promote a better tomorrow for Ethiopians by partnering with local governments to provide clean water, functional schools, better roadways and improved medical facilities for the populace.

These projects contribute to the overall CJTF-HOA mission to build partner nation capacity and promote trust and confidence within the local populace.



*EO1 Hill, EO2 Helstrom and CM3 Durcholz lower the tank portion of the hand pump onto the draw pipe*



# Stories from Camp Mitchell

## Main Body Seabee Ball 2011

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



Seabees at Naval Station Rota celebrated the 69th anniversary of the Seabees and the 144th anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps with a formal dinner and ball at Grupo Estevez in Jerez March 18.

More than 250 Seabees, line officers, enlisted members and civilians attended the event to honor the proud heritage and service of the United States Navy Seabees as the U.S. military's expeditionary engineering and construction force of choice.

Guest Speaker, Rear Adm. Paula Brown, Deputy Commander, First Naval Construction Division, recounted the historic work that Seabees have accomplished around the globe since their founding in 1942, including the

heroic actions of Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin Shields, Medal of Honor recipient and Chief (posthumous) Steelworker Robert Stetham, Bronze Star and Purple Heart Recipient.

"The Seabee Ball carries a long heritage of bringing Seabees together for a night of camaraderie in which we celebrate not only the distinguished history of our construction force, but the remarkable work that the Seabees are doing all over the world today. It is an additional pleasure to have an opportunity to celebrate this year's Seabee Ball with fellow forward deployed 'Fearless' Seabees, and those stationed overseas", said Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Richard Hayes III.



*RDML Brown, LCDR Lyons, ENS Uglow and LCDR Tobias*



*CEC Richards and LTJG Hahn*

# Stories from Camp Mitchell

## NMCB 74 – We Build, We Fight... We Entertain

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



*Rota's Idol 2011 UT3 Josh Ledestich performs an original song*

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74's main body site at Camp Mitchell in Rota, Spain hosted "Rota Idol," an American Idol-like singing competition, March 25.

Enthusiasm for the event was generated in Spain due to the overwhelming success of "Afghanistan Idol," the singing competition the battalion put on last year. According to NMCB 74 Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Tom Lyons, troops began to approach him with the request for a Rota Idol shortly after arriving in Spain.

"You asked for Rota Idol, were giving it to you," said Lyons as he addressed the troops during the show's opening.

Thirteen contestants performed for a crowd of more than 150 Seabees during the three-hour event. Staying as true to American Idol as possible, the audience voted by ballot for their favorite performer.

Utilitiesman 3rd Class Joshua Ledestich won over the audience with his original remake of Save Tonight by Eagle-Eye Cherry he called "Wear Hardhats" and was named "NMCB 74's Rota's Idol."

"For that night, everyone came together just to be together. I encourage this command to keep doing it annually. It's the best MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) event, and command event that I will ever be a part of," said Ledestich. "I felt like a rock star for like two seconds. It was pretty cool."



# Stories from Camp Mitchell



*YNSN Maddox performs*

NMCB 74's Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) team took advantage of the large audience and used the opportunity to educate troops and raise money. A donation box was placed at the front of the barbecue, where food was prepared by the battalion's Second Class Petty Officers Association, and sold concessions during the show. The team rose nearly 600-dollars by night's end.

"We wanted to make a little bit of money and get the word out there about what the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is about. This is a cause that is near and dear to my heart, and helping with these fund raisers is a to give back for when they helped me," said Builder First Class William Lathan, MNCB 74's NMCRS assistant command coordinator.

In the end it takes Seabees from every company in the battalion working together to put on a first-rate show such as the one held at Camp Mitchell, which once again showcases the "Can-Do" spirit of Seabees as they build, they fight or as in this case – entertain.



*2nd place winner, CM1 Record, performs*



*NCC Stalling, YNC McClendon and LCDR Tobias judge Rota Idol*



*3rd place winner, BUCN White, performs*

# Stories from Camp Mitchell

## NMCB 74 'Bees Get Story Time Buzzing

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

Four 'Bees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 buzzed over to the Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain Morale Welfare and Recreation Library to participate in their weekly reading program March 29-30.

Utilitiesman 3rd Class Cheri Roscoe, Builder Constructionman Bret Redfearn, Utilitiesman Constructionman Jordan Delasalas and Utilitiesman Constructionman Apprentice Leslie Anderson all happily volunteered their time to read to the children.

The weekly reading program, simply referred to as "story time," happens every Tuesday at the library and typically between 10 and 12 children participate, but this week nearly 75 kids showed up over the two days to listen to the Seabees read.



*BUCN Redfearn reads to children at the library*

According to Head Librarian Ms. Agar Fernandez, the weekly story time theme is based on calendar events and holidays, so this week she invited the Seabees to read during the month of their founding.

"We try to bring people from the different commands into the library to share their experience with the kids, and read to the kids," said Fernandez.

Since the children were a bit too young for a history lesson on the "Fighting Seabees," the group did the next best thing; they read a couple of books about bees. The correlation was not lost on the children either, as demonstrated by one child who stated that he could see a bee on their uniforms.

"I think it was really rewarding just to see how they reacted. When there were sad parts they reacted sad, when there were happy parts they reacted happy, and just having them run around acting like bees; I think they had fun doing that," said Redfearn. "There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a child's smile."

Although story time is geared toward more than just teaching the children about the military organizations attached to the base, Fernandez says she enjoys having the commands participate and plans to continue requesting their involvement.

"We like it, we think the kids enjoy it and the parents also enjoy it. That military people read to the kids, I think they enjoy that a lot. I think it's something good for them, and we're going to try to implement it as much as we can," said Fernandez.



*UTCN Delasalas reads to children at the library*



# NMCB 74 Recognition Photos



*EOCA Johnson awarded a CO's coin  
in Kontali, Djibouti*



*BU3 Richardson awarded a CO's coin in Ethiopia*



*BU3 Lima awarded a CO's coin in Ethiopia*



*BUCN Miller presented as Bluejacket of the  
Quarter, 2nd Qtr 2011*



*EO2 McAvoy awarded a CO's coin in Ethiopia*



*CE3 Biggs awarded a CO's coin in Ethiopia*



*ITSN Compton pinned SCWS  
at Camp Lemonnier*



*BU2 Burke awarded an  
Army Achievement Medal at Manda Bay*



*CE2 Palacios presented a CO's coin  
in Manda Bay*



*BU3 Rara presented a CO's coin  
in Manda Bay*



*RADM Handley presents UTCA Clark  
with his command coin in Djibouti*



*RADM Handley presents UT3 Gresham  
with his command coin in Djibouti*

# NMCB 74 Recognition Photos



*UT1 Johnson awarded an  
Army Achievement Medal at Manda Bay*



*RADM Handley presents BUCN Rech  
with his command coin in Djibouti*



*RADM Handley presents CECN Perez  
with his command coin in Djibouti*



*EO2 Ambers pinned SCWS  
in Jerez, Spain*



*BUCN Redfearn pinned SCWS  
in Jerez, Spain*



*ENS Changcoco pinned SCWS  
in Jerez, Spain*



*CM3 Hysong presented as Junior Sailor of the  
Quarter, 2nd Qtr 2011*



*EO1 Blas presented as Sailor of the Quarter,  
2nd Qtr 2011*



# NMCB 74 Deployment Photos



*CMCN Storie and EO2 Polly on the job at Camp Lemonnier*



*BUCN Roegiers on the job at Camp Mitchell*



*RP2 VanAsselberg assists HM1 Palacios and LSSN Cattoi as they prepare for their Rota Idol performance*



*EO3 Wilcher and EO1 Peters on the job at NAVSTA Rota*



*BUCN Manzanero on the job in Djibouti*



# NMCB 74 Deployment Photos



*CM1 Voelpel, EO2 Dennis and EOCN Earley on the job in Kontali, Djibouti*



*BU3 Meier on the job in Kontali, Djibouti*



*BU2 Mason and BUCS Harfman participate in the Jail-n-Bail for a NMCRS fund raiser*



*EOCN Swinney on the job at NAVSTA Rota*



*EOCN Hofmans on the job in Djibouti*



# NMCB 74 Deployment Photos



*CECA Rose and SW3 Dalton on the job at NAVSTA Rota*



*EACN Samson on the job at NAVSTA Rota*



*SWCA Gregory on the job in Djibouti*



*LS2 Cavin, LS2 Rajo and LSSN Watkins  
on the job at Camp Mitchell*



*CM3 Short on the job at Camp Lemonnier*

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.