



# NMCB-8

# NEWSLETTER



**U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT –  
– June, 2022 – Joint reunion with NMCB11 Charleston, SC. April 24th - 27th More  
information will be available on the battalion website soon  
Thanks Ron S.**

**JAMES O MILLER UTP2  
NMCB 8 2/6/67  
DIED TAM KY VIETNAM**

**RAY L WILLIAMS BUR2  
NMCB 8 3/13/67  
DIED CHU LAI VIETNAM**

**MICHAEL D ESTOK BUR3  
NMCB 8 5/13/67  
DIED CHU LAI VIETNAM**

**HARRY H MIDDAGH UT  
NMCB 8 4/25/68  
DIED BUNG KAN THAILAND**

**LOREN F STUDER SWF2  
NMCB 8 5/31/68  
DIED TAN MY VIETNAM**

**RUDY P KRISSMAN  
NMCB 8 7/10/68  
DIED PHU BAI VIETNAM**

**WILLIAM C LEGAT BU1  
NMCB 8 10/30/69  
DIED DANANG VIETNAM**



Well, we are finally getting out of quarantine and getting back to the new normal. I just paid \$6.50 for a gallon of gas, and had breakfast consisting of coffee, scrambled eggs, sausage, and fruit. It only was \$20.00.

Anyway, I hope everyone is doing well. We have been in hibernation mode since the outbreak of Covid, now they are talking about Monkeypox; can you believe this!

We have made a couple of changes that should work well for the association. See Ken's article. It concerns dues. Our organization is a nonprofit corporation. As we lose members, unfortunately, our costs stay the same. Our biggest cost is the newsletter and mailing. We would appreciate any donations to the organization. Remember, this is a tax-deductible donation. Please make it payable to: NMCB8 and send to Ken Bingham, 1773 Tamarin Ave., Ventura, CA 93003.

I have been in contact with our web manager, and we have combined the rosters to one roster. Please take a look. There will be corrections needed due to the combining of the ros-

ters. Please correct any items and send them back through the web site to be corrected. I have had various problems correcting the addresses and phone numbers in the roster, but I believe if you use the web site, Contact the Association, we will not have any problems. Also, if you notice someone else that has moved or their info needs corrections, please put them in the Contact the Association

We are planning to combine our reunion with NMCB 11. They are planning the 2023 reunion in Charleston, SC in April. We had a wonderful time there. Ron and I will be working out the details with Larry Hagler, the NMCB 11 reunion coordinator. This will enable both groups to increase the size and get better rates on any festivities. We will keep everyone informed through the web site. By combining the two Seabee battalions, this will help in all the work that is required in producing a good reunion.

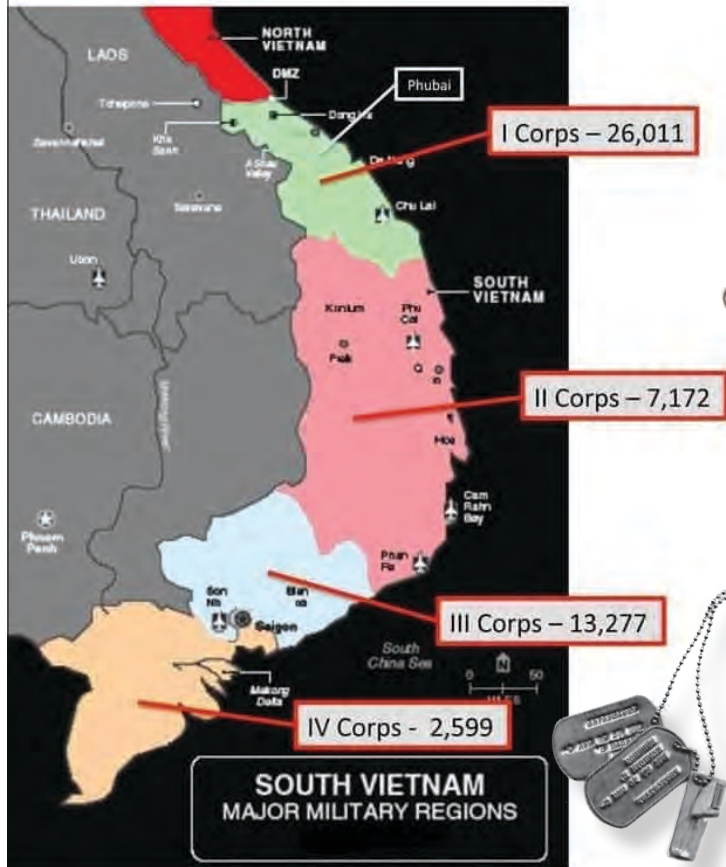
Ron and I are also monitoring all festivities coming up at Port Hueneme. Our plan is to have a small get together each year for members that would like to return to the main base but will not make the reunions. Since Covid, Seabee Days has been canceled. We will see about getting a Hotel with a Hospitality Room to meet everyone. This will tie in with the Base festivities and will be low key. Keep your eye on the newsletters and Web site for the latest information. —Arnie





## Number of Deaths (hostile & non-hostile) by Military Region

—I-Corp Was The Deadliest Area—



Other Deaths: Cambodia – 523, China – 10, Laos – 728, Thailand – 178, N. Vietnam – 1,120, S. Vietnam (region not given) – 6,602

**Note:** Most of the 26,000 Seabees that served in Vietnam, were in the I-CORP area supporting Marines and Army.

—Note From Your Treasurer—  
Read My Lips!

***No More Dues!***

To stream-line your association's volunteer efforts, we've decided to do away with dues. Most Association members are already **LIFE** members. A few are not. If your not a life member, that's okay. But if your part of the "IDOL RICH" and want to upgrade your membership, send \$100. The youngest member is probably 73 years old now. We are not gaining any new members, and it's doubtful that we will.

At the present, we have enough money for Newsletters etc. However, if we become short on our DONGS (*Vietnamese name for currency*), we will ask members for donations.

—Be well. Be Swell.

Ken Bingham, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. 1773  
Tamarin Ave, Ventura CA 93003



**In case you wondered what our minimum pay was in 1969**

<b>E-4 Basic</b>	<b>214.20</b>
<b>Hostile Fire</b>	<b>55.00</b>
<b>Foreign Duty</b>	<b>13.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$282.20/Mo</b>
<b>On call 24/7 - 365 = hourly wage was approx. \$0.03/hour</b>	



**Of course we had free meals and housing.**



# SEABEE

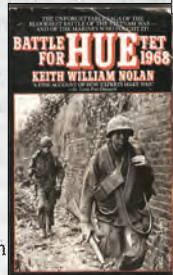
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Someone who does precision  
guesswork based on unreliable  
data provided by those of  
questionable knowledge.  
See also WIZARD, MAGICIAN

were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The units  
cited for their direct or indirect involvement in Hue in-  
cluded:

## Task Force X-RAY Headquarters

Headquarters Company, 1st Marines  
1st Battalion, 1st Marines  
Headquarters Company, 5th Marines  
1st Battalion, 5th Marines  
2d Battalion, 5th Marines  
L Company, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st and 2d Battalions, 11th Marines  
Provisional Platoon, 3d Tank Battalion  
A and A-T Companies, 1st Tank Battalion  
1st Engineer Battalion  
1st and 3d Motor Transport Battalions  
1st Shore Party Battalion  
7th Communications Battalion  
1st MP Company, 1st Marine Division  
Combat Intelligence Team, Headquarters Battalion, 1st  
Marine Division  
First Platoon, 3d Bridge Company, FMF  
First Platoon, 34th Bridge Company, FMF  
FLSGA  
FLC  
1st Force Advisory Team  
Hue Ramp Detachment, U.S. Naval Support Activity  
MCB-8 and MCB-121, U.S. Navy  
River Group 521, U.S. Navy  
D Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery Regiment, U.S.  
Army  
97th and 329th Transportation Companies (Heavy Boat),  
U.S. Army



The Marine infantrymen who won the Battle of Hue  
turned the city back to the ARVN and continued the rice  
paddy-jungle war they had known before. There was no  
rear to pull back to for a rest; the companies went right

269

Above: I believe that the MCB-8 PUC  
was downgraded to an NUC. Yes? No?  
Let me know. —kb

9/29/21

Hi Ken,

Just a quick note to  
let you know that I  
will not be able to  
attend the reunion.  
I called Ron and let  
him know, as well.  
I fell a couple of  
weeks ago and broke  
my left femur. I am  
not allowed to put  
any weight on it for  
six weeks, which puts  
us well past the reunion  
dates.

The space is a donation  
to the association's fund.  
It is only a small  
part of what we will  
have from hotel and

travel expenses.

Lastly, Ken, I want  
to thank you for all  
you have done and  
continue to do for the  
NMCB & family.

Sincerely,

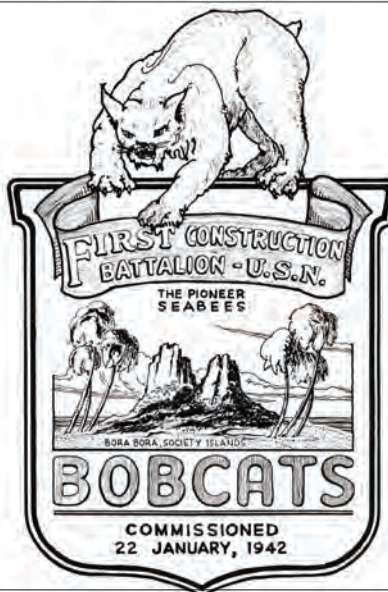
Miguel Rodriguez

P.S.

Ken would you please  
e-mail me the login/  
password for the NMCB  
web site?

Miguelrodriguez@aol.com

We all hope your healing well.



## BRONZE STAR TO BALDWIN

[1966]



In an awards ceremony held  
at Camp Miller, July 9th Com-  
modore A.R. Marschall awarded  
the Bronze Star with Combat "V"  
to EOC R.R. Baldwin, for his  
actions during the Tamky mortar  
attack.

Chief Baldwin carried James  
O. Miller through heavy enemy  
mortar and small arms fire to  
an aid station, with no thought  
given for his own life.





Vietnam "Hearts and Minds" and brick-laying trade school.

There I was sometime ago. And sometime after Viet Nam. Looking for work at the Local Union Hall in Sepulveda Ca.

While chatting with some co-workers I noticed someone I knew. As he walked out the door, he was being heckled by some of the Local Yokels. As I caught up with him in the parking lot I yelled, Bingham is that you?

Not looking back as he made his way to his car, he grumbled something nasty. I yelled again, Ken Bingham is that you! He finally turned around, took one look at me and said, Schell is that you.

Well, that was nice meeting my old "Bravo" Co. Bro. We exchanged phone numbers and went on our ways. Sometime later we talked and he invited me to meet him on the base in Port Hueneme.

After driving through the main gate, I saw Ken sitting in front of the "THE OLD SEA BEE" Museum. I parked and met him there. He gave me a tour of the museum and showed me what he was doing. I was very impressed with all his work and dedication with the Sea Bee Preservation.

I'll write more about NMCB-8 while I was there in 1966-67. I've got some nice photo's of Chu Lai to share with everybody. 'Till then, Construmus Batumus and stay safe. Harold (Chip) Schell CEW3

Thanks Chip,  
Send Chu Lai Images to:  
Rick Reese —*kb*

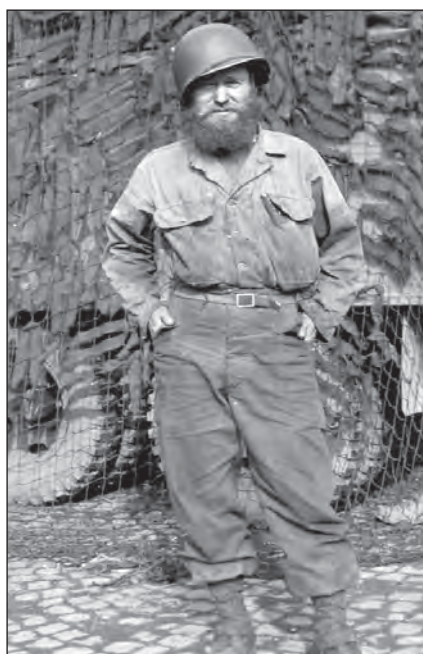
The speed with which the Seabees could make one operational led the Marines to consider them a tactical component.



**MCB 8 COMMANDER GETS PROCLAMATION FROM OXNARD MAYOR**  
Cmdr. John F. O'Leary, commanding officer of MCB 8, receives a proclamation of Oxnard's appreciation from Mayor William Soo Hoo after the battalion returned from Vietnam over the weekend. Watching the presentation are Capt. Robert D. Thorson, commanding officer of the Port Hueneme Seabee Center, left; O'Leary's daughter, Denise, 8; Lt. R. D. Roberts, officer in charge of MCB 8 advance party; and Mrs. O'Leary. Story and photos on Page 9.



**SON OF GOV. SPIRO T. AGNEW (R-Md)—BU3 James R. Agnew operates a jackhammer during repairs on concrete bridge where newsmen from the major U.S. news networks interviewed him after his father's selection for the Republican Presidential ticket as vice president, CN D. L. Smock works with the blow torch on the same crew.**  
—Photo by PH3 B. A. Farley



WW II Seabee

## MCB-8 REUNION

**JOINT 2023 REUNION  
WITH NMCB11  
CHARLESTON, SC.  
APRIL 24TH - 27TH**

**More information  
will be available on  
the battalion website  
soon**

**Thanks Ron S.**





## —From Billy Boggs—

### Dual Citizenship

As I sit to write this, I find myself at a campsite on the banks of Trout Creek deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. We are at the cusp of the 4th of July. As I hear the katydids begin their nightly chant of song, I can't help but think about how life has been so good to me. Being born a citizen of this great nation, I have come to know that we not only have a citizenship to these United States but also a citizenship to our God. Recently, we participated in the primary election for our state and local officials. I was saddened to see in our local newspaper that the participation in this sacred right we have was neglected by the vast majority. If anyone knows the cost of this sacred right, we certainly have a good idea. As members of our society we have been told by Jesus that we have a Dual Citizenship, for he said "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's. If we are to preserve this great republic, we must do what Jesus told us to do.

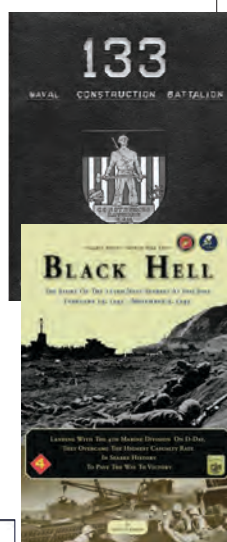
In the love of Christ, —Billy



LSM 206 loaded with A Co 133's Shore Party equipment & 3 D8s at approx. 0935 were landed on Red Beach 2 instead of Yellow 1.



From the battalion's archive, "The invasion of Iwo Jima began February 19, 1945. NCB 133 accompanied the invasion force, with two tasks: to secure the beaches after the first assault troops went ashore and to serve as the shore party maintaining supply lines to the Marines on the forward battle lines. After the invasion began, NCB 133 was tasked with repairing the island's three bombed-out Japanese airstrips, which were needed as soon as possible for use by Allied bombers. The Kangaroos were ashore by 4 p.m. on D-Day. Although the initial landing was relatively easy, the Japanese held their first line of defense and delivered murderous fire from their guns high on Mount Suribachi, and the entire beach was covered by mortar, artillery and machine-gun fire from the surrounding hills. The Seabees were in a position even more precarious than the Marines on the front lines; but they took what the enemy threw at them, and carried on the job of establishing and operating supply lines to the fighting men. When the Marines captured the first airstrip, the runway was sufficiently repaired to be used by light observation planes. On the same day, the order came to begin rehabilitating the second airstrip, which was to become the longest in the Western Theater. After the first weeks, work went on day and night on the two airstrips.



WW II 133rd NCB Cruise Book, and Black Hell, the story about them landing on Iwo Jima with the 4th MARDIV.

Both books available on Amazon Books, and in bookstores everywhere.

Book sales help support the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation. Please donate,  
PO Box 657, Gulfport, MS 39502

(228) 575-3858

info@seabeehf.org

### From John Matchison

Some images from Vietnam you don't forget. Our CO mandated that as we drove off Quang Tri CB [Combat Base], we wore our steel pot, flak vest and bandoleer of 5.56. I remember driving/riding past the Seabees laying an asphalt road outside Quang Tri City. A couple were stripped to the waist, riding on top of road graders and steam rollers. Hard to forget their bravery and confidence as they gave us a safe, local highway.

### Lucio Lopez—USMC

Them Seabees can get it done, after VC blew up Liberty bridge west of DaNang in summer of 69' Seabees rebuilt that sucker in record time. Golf 2/1 1st Marines 2nd platoon Sierra Squad Nam Grunt

## Black Hell Book Reviews From Amazon Books

### PowderMonkey

Great book. Quite a reference book as well. My father in law was a Seabee on Iwo Jima. Incredible history book about a bunch of guys with big brass ones, who put their butts on the line for God and country and their fellow sailors and Marines.

### Lisa R (Blair)Grignon

Bought it for my Seabee husband, who is also a Disabled Veteran; he loves and recommends reading!! Loves me for this!!

### Harold Pique

Being a son of the landing party Seabee that landed on Iwo Jima and Okinawa and which never talked about the war I am interested on learning just what he did. This book did shed some light on what they went through. Very good book.

### Seabee Gene

Good book.

Being a retired Seabee, this book proved to be very interesting. Even after all these years I learned a lot of fact and details about the Seabees and Marines I didn't know.

### Dennis Ockerman 5 stars Linda Lea

Found my fathers picture!

### Shirley A. Williams

5.0 out of 5 stars 133rd Seabee Battalion  
My husband says this is the best account yet of what really happened on Iwo

### Timothy F. Buckley (Senoir Chief (Ret.))

5.0 out of 5 stars NCB 133 and the Battle for Iwo Jima

Black Hell covers the plight of the brave SEABEES on Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) 133, the SEABEES fought alongside the U. S. Marines to secure Iwo Jima. You will go back in history as you read the interviews of the SEABEES of NCB 133. The USMC received a Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) for the battle. Although the SEABEES fought alongside the Marines they did not receive a PUC. The SEABEES of NCB 133 are still fighting the get the well-earned PUC however they remain the Unsung Heroes of IWO JIMA.





## GOING HOME

ADVANCE PARTY  
DEPARTS FOR HOME

In the pre-dawn hours of June 14th, a very important group of men departed the camp on the first leg of a two day journey back to the land of milk and honey.

Under the leadership of LT R. D. Roberts, the Advance Party, consisting of 21 men, is now in the States making preparations for the arrival of the main body.

Faced with long and difficult hours of work ahead, this fortunate group is well qualified to handle the task set before them. They will be the people responsible for processing us rapidly in order to facilitate the taking of leave, technical training, crew training, and military training.

Good luck to all of them.



"I WANNA GO HOME, WANNA GO HOME" — Members of the Advance Party bind the last mount-out boxes together prior to their departure for the States. The 21-man group left Chu Lai on June 14th.

This will be our last News-letter from Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Before your sons and husbands return to you, I want you to know what an outstanding job they have done here and how very proud I am to be their Commanding Officer.

Since I assumed command of MCB EIGHT on April 2nd of this year, I have had many opportunities to observe their performance and they have earned the sincere respect and admiration of a Commanding Officer, who is the first one to admit that he's not very easy to please.

I have seen them work in stifling heat and humidity, in water up to their waists, at all hours of the day and night, on high steel and in deep excavations, over roads subject to mines, at a pace that no others I know of could sustain and then volunteer to work extra hours and on Sunday afternoons.

I have seen them at shows we've had in camp, at formal military ceremonies, at beach parties and in the chapel. I have seen them killed, wounded and injured. I have praised them and I have administered



1967

CDR J.F. O'LEARY

discipline and punishment to them. They can only be described by saying that they are the Seabees of MCB EIGHT.

Those of you at home should be very proud of them too. I sincerely wish that I could have each of you visit here so that I could personally take you around and show you what they have accomplished and let you see them at work. But you'll have to take my word for it. So be very proud of them and treat them well when they come home to you. They are the finest. And thank you for helping to make them that way.



Dear Mr. Bingham,

The April 2015 edition of the NMCB-8 Association's newsletter put out a call for funds to pay for its web site upgrade.

The enclosed check is being submitted in memory of my father, Frank K. Belling (EOCS retired). He was an EOC "plank owner" when MCB-8 was recommissioned in November 1960. I am sure he would want to lend support if he was still with us. Keep up the great work.

Regards,  
K.M. Belling



Sept. 1967

ENS DAUTEL

ENS Sherman W. Dautel, Assistant Alpha Company Commander, is a Purdue graduate. He comes to the Battalion from the Civil Engineer Corps Officer School and hails from Richmond, Indiana. Mr. Dautel is married to the former Miss Patricia Murphy from Twin Falls, Idaho.

## WELCOME HOME

15 Sept.  
1966

A FAMILIAR SCENE—Reunions were many when the men of EIGHT came home after eight months of unparalleled construction achievement.

**You Heard About The Five-Piece Rock Band?  
They Fell Down Stairs And Made A Hit Record.**



## How To Catch A Polar Bear.

1. Cut a hole in the ice.
2. Put four peas equidistant around the hole.
3. When the Polar Bear comes to take a pea—  
**Kick him in the ICE-HOLE.**





From Lt. Seth Koenig, Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs

**H**ow the Navy builds a livable camp with a real airstrip on a chunk of floating Arctic ice. 07 March 2022

U.S. NAVY ICE CAMP QUEENFISH - Ice Camp Queenfish represents unprecedented advances in both speed of construction and expeditionary capability. with the ability to support more than 60 personnel, the camp is the forward operating base for Ice Exercise 2022, the latest installment of the Navy's biennial exercise designed to research, test, evaluate and improve operational capabilities in the Arctic region.

Sailors, Marines and members of Arctic Submarine Laboratory carve a hole into Arctic sea ice using a six-inch auger to prepare

for a submarine to breach the ice at Ice Camp Queenfish during Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2022.

220304-N-ON977-1037 BEAUFORT SEA, Arctic Circle (March 4, 2022) – Sailors, Marines and members of Arctic Submarine Laboratory carve a hole into Arctic sea ice using a six-inch auger to prepare for a submarine to breach the ice at Ice Camp Queenfish during Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2022. ICEX 2022 is a three-week exercise that allows the Navy to assess its operational readiness in the Arctic, increase experience in the region, advance understanding of the Arctic environment, and continue to develop relationships with other services, allies, and partner organizations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alfred Coffield/Released)

### Now this is an extreme makeover.

On Feb. 28, it was a three-and-a-half-mile long chunk of ice floating more than 160 nautical miles offshore in the Arctic Ocean. By March 3, it was a thriving - if rustic - U.S. Navy encampment with a command center, sleeping quarters, cafeteria, restrooms, internet and a 2,500-foot-long runway supporting multiple daily flights.

Ice Camp Queenfish represents unprecedented advances in both speed of construction and expeditionary capability. with the ability to support more than 60 personnel, the camp is the forward operating base for Ice Exercise 2022, the latest installment of the Navy's biennial exercise designed to research, test, evaluate and improve operational capabilities in the Arctic region.

"Although the ice camp and air strip are built in just a few days, it takes a tremendous amount of practice, planning and hard work by many highly trained people ahead of time to be successful," said Rear Adm. Richard Seif, commander of the Navy's Undersea Warfighting Development Center in Groton, Connecticut, and ranking officer at ICEX 2022.

"The camp is built on multi-year ice, and the runway is built on first-year ice," said Lt. Colleen Wilmington of the U.S. National Ice Center, part of a team that used satellite technology and coordinated

scouting flights to identify an ice floe for Queenfish construction.

"The multi-year ice is thicker and it ensures that the floe is stable enough to support the camp for the duration of the exercise," she continued, "whereas that first-year ice is easier to groom for a runway - it's smoother and not as pocketed."

Once the team found the right ice floe, a Royal Canadian Air Force Twin Otter plane and contracted skied aircraft landed at the site with a small initial team, two tents and equipment to groom the runway, such as customized all-terrain vehicles, cultivators, disc rakes and snowblowers.

"To build the runway, they break up the hard pack snow with some of the cultivating equipment, then employ a powerful snowblower to remove the rest of the snow from that surface," said U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Dave Swensen, part of a Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center team that helped build the camp alongside specialists from the Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory (ASL) and **Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 11, among others.**

Once the ice camp runway was completed, the site began receiving supplies from a contracted CASA 212 airplane.

"We then move on to the tent set-up, establishing berthing tents, a mess tent, command tent and the infrastructure to support all the personnel who are working at the site," said Swensen.

Ice Camp Queenfish is more expeditionary and flexible than in years past, said Howard Reese, director of the ASL.

As recently as 2014, when the ice camp was made up of larger and heavier wooden-framed tents, it took about two weeks to construct once a sturdy-enough ice floe was discovered, he said.

Now, with smaller and lighter huts held up by aluminum, carbon fiber or inflated beams, not only can the ice camp be built in about five days, but it can be quickly moved if necessary.

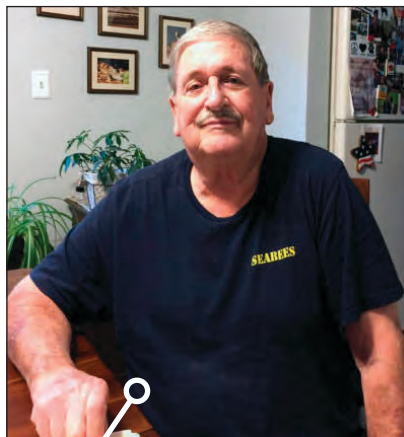
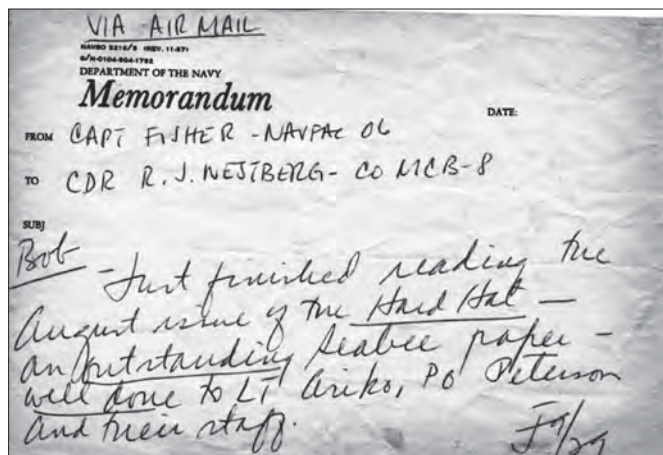
"Ice Camp Queenfish stands as a testament to our ability to rapidly place credible Navy and Marine Corps forces in even the most austere and inhospitable environments anywhere in the world - including the Arctic region," said Seif.

ICEX 2022 is a joint combined exercise that takes place over the course of a month north of the Arctic circle, with personnel stationed at the temporary Ice Camp Queenfish, as well as in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, and two operational U.S. Navy submarines. ICEX allows the Navy to assess its operational readiness in the Arctic, increase experience in the region, advance understanding of the Arctic environment, and continue to develop relationships with other services, allies and partner organizations.



The Seabees are no strangers to building and exploring in arctic regions. The above books are available from Amazon books, and from book stores everywhere. kb





—OH OH—

Three top commanders of a US Navy Construction Battalion (Seabee) unit were dismissed last week due to “a loss of confidence in their abilities” following an investigation.

The triad of officials overseeing Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 — commanding officer Capt. Jeffrey Lengkeek, executive office Cmdr. Michael Jarosz, and command master Chief Matthew Turner—were fired Friday, with the service citing a “loss of confidence in their abilities to effectively perform their leadership roles” in a press release.

Lt. Cmdr. Paul Newell, a spokesman for Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, told Navy Times that the three men’s ouster followed “a formal command investigation.”

*Will they get EXTRA DUTY filling sand bags for bunkers?*



### FENES (MCB-4) SEABEE AT CON THIEN VIETNAM.

SWF3 Fenes was a part of a small detachment of Seabees sent out to build a camp at Hill 158, in Con Thien for the US Army Special Forces Detachment A-110 (Mobile Strike Force). His job was to construct and maintain the drilling rig used to create a water well that would supply fresh, potable water. Despite translating to “Hill of Angels” in Vietnamese, Con Thien was hell on earth. Con Thien was the northernmost U.S. outpost nearly two miles away from the Demilitarized Zone. The North Vietnamese fired an average of 105 mortar shells every day at the US encampment. One of their main targets was the water well drilling rig SWF3 Fenes was working on. In the pre-dawn hours of May 8, 1967 at 0200, the North Vietnamese Army battered the American troops with 2,000 mortar rounds for 15 minutes under the dark of night without any moonlight. A numerically superior group of North Vietnamese then infiltrated the defensive positions at Hill 158 blowing past the Civilian Irregular Defense Group and wiping out an entire Marine platoon in the process. They

commenced firing upon the Seabees and Green Berets. Without any hesitation or thought for his own life, SWF3 Fenes grabbed an M-14 rifle and joined an M-60 machine gun team to return fire while enemy bullets were flying past them from all angles. Hearing cries of help from two Green Berets that were stuck at a nearby 50 caliber machine gun position, SWF3 Fenes valiantly jumped up with his Battalion’s Corpsman and ran out to pull the Green Berets back to safety. One Green Beret took a bullet to his neck while the other had no injuries. Not only did they survive but SWF3 Fenes’ aggressive and selfless actions helped defend the Seabee and Special Forces position at Con Thien all while remaining cool under fire. The fighting continued as the sun rose up until the North Vietnamese retreated by 0900. Fenes had an estimated 145 North Vietnamese kills. For his heroic actions on that day, SWF3 Fenes was awarded the Silver Star & the Bronze Star with Combat “V”. His fellow Seabee UT1 Lloyd O’Banion also received a Silver Star. They lived up to the Seabee motto that day – They built and they fought.

**(Submitted by John Ratomski.)**

(Actually, she threw him up onto the bus.)



## —MCB-8 Recommissioned on Sept. 25, 1951—

After the war, the Battalion was transferred to Hiroshima. It was deactivated in January 1946.

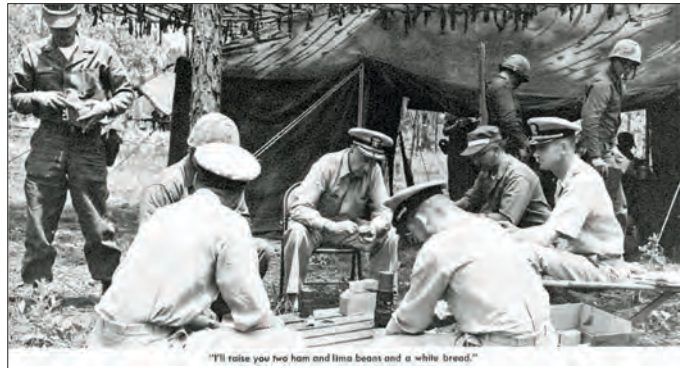
The second Eighth Battalion, numbering 800 men, was commissioned on Sept. 25, 1951, as one of the then "new look" battalions emphasizing mobility. In less than four years of service, the first MCB-8 was deployed six times and completed a great many complicated and diverse construction projects.

At the first deployment site—Guantanamo Bay, Cuba—Eight lived aboard the APL-48, known as the "Crab Apple", while engaged in building a new Seabee camp, roads, and in many other projects. By sailing the "Apple" to Gitmo, Eight became the first construction battalion to become a member of the Atlantic Fleet.

In succession, other deployments were as follows: Port Lyautey, Morocco; Bermuda; Argentina, Newfoundland; again to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the construction of 152 units of housing; and finally once again to Port Lyautey, for the last deployment. MCB-8 was decommissioned June 27, 1955.



The "Twist"



"I'll raise you two ham and lima beans and a white bread."



Sessions was surprised...

Take that *sombitch*!



I s a a a i d—shut the hell up—over!

Those were hectic days, those first days in Davisville, from November 1960 to April 1961, before the Battalion departed for Camp Lajeune.

To the 202 stalwarts who were on hand at recommissioning, were added many more, as the Battalion began to look like same. There was plenty going on ...

The emphasis was on training—training in both the military and construction fields.



...what happens without them.



## —Iwo Jima, Feb. 19, 1945—

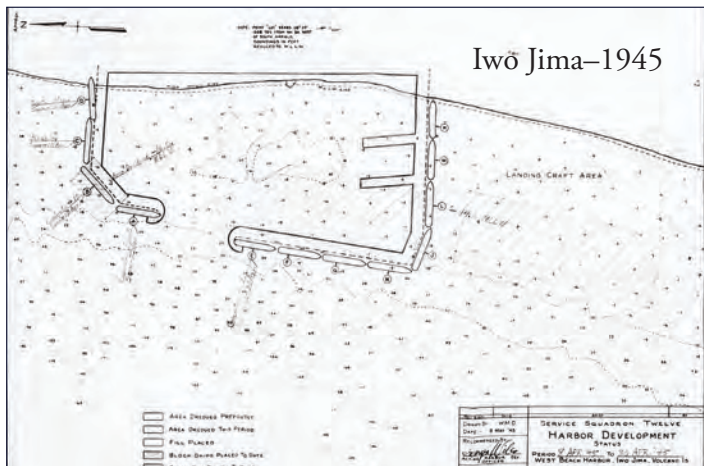
Three months after Iwo Jima fell, the U.S. Navy began constructing an artificial harbor around the island, but swiftly abandoned those plans in June 1945 after a typhoon struck the artificial breakwater, causing severe damage to the structure.

The beach where U.S. forces landed in 1945 is now over 50 feet above sea level” and the relics of that devastating war are “‘moving’ from offshore relics to eerie onshore monoliths.”

**Note:** *A detachment from the 8th NCB landed with the first waves. The entire Battalion came ashore later.*



**Volcanic activity raises Japanese island, exposing sunken Second World War ships.**



**Iwo Jima—1945**



**WW II Iwo Jima—8th NCB Camp Site, 1945**

**CAMP SITE**



**WW II Seabees get busy with bayonet training.**



**JAP DEFENSE CRUMBLES**



**WW II Seabee about to go through Marine Training at Camp Lejeune, N.C.**



**Down the ship's nets and on to the Higgins Landing Crafts**



## WW II—8th NCB—Hawaii Then Iwo Jima



"AIR FIELD UNDER WAY"



Down Boy-Down



### 8th NCB IWO JIMA

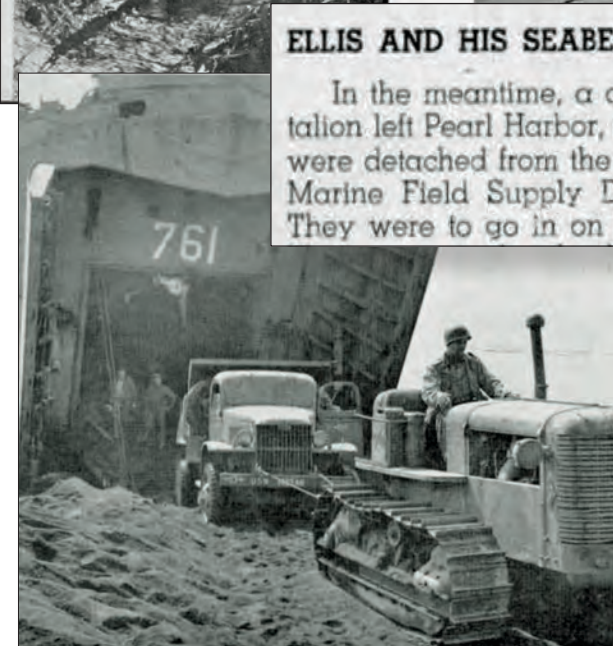
Our first sight of land was not Iwo, but Minami Jima. We skirted this barren volcanic peak, the southernmost of the Volcano Islands, and soon were off the short of Iwo itself.

Latitude 24°47' North, longitude 141°19' East; the little dot on the map at that spot is Iwo Jima. The beach assault on February 19th involved the support of more than 800 ships and climaxed 74 days of continuous pre-invasion bombardment by ships and planes. The little island lies just 652 nautical miles from Tokyo. To soften it up for the Marines, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers shelled its defenses for two days, knocking out the enemy's big shore batteries and driving the Jap defenders from the beaches. Planes from carriers joined Liberators and Superforts from Saipan to drop tons of bombs on the island military installations.

Despite the intense and prolonged shelling and bombing, Jap resistance was strong. The little men had dug into caves and prepared for a bloody fight. At the time the Battalion arrived the Fleet was still pouring heavy fire into the north end of the island and planes were roaring overhead sending rockets into the north positions of the "fat pork chop sizzling in the skillet," as one observer puts it.

### ELLIS AND HIS SEABEE MARINES - - -

In the meantime, a couple of weeks before the Battalion left Pearl Harbor, Chief Ellis and twenty-five men were detached from the Eighth and assigned to the 8th Marine Field Supply Depot as equipment operators. They were to go in on the invasion with the Marines.



Some of the Seabee dozer operators had to run over their own dead comrades (Marines and Seabees) to come ashore during the invasion.

8th NCB Seabee Camp on Iwo Jima.

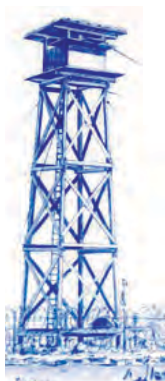


NMCB-8 Seabees' Association  
1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003

"UNHAPPINESS IS THE HUNGER TO GET.  
HAPPINESS IS THE HUNGER TO GIVE."  
*Majesty of Calmness by William George Jordan 1898*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:



By Artist/Architect  
Rick Clark.



I had the highest of respect for the job the Seabees did in Nam. As a retired Marine I cannot believe I said that about any Navy Element. Just [kidding] ya. ....

—Tom McCarthy Sr.

**—NMCB-8 Association Roster Update—**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



The mailing list and roster for the NMCB-8 Association needs to be continually updated. Only through a current roster can we ensure your receipt of the newsletter and information of current and future reunions. If you have had a change of address within the past year, you can update this information by filling out the above form. Please include your e-mail address, if you have one. Detach the form at the dotted line and return to:

Ken Bingham, 1773 Tamarin Ave., Ventura Ca. 93003. If you have e-mail and want to make your update electronically, please do so.

Send updates by e-mail to; jorden2323@msn.com.

Thanks for your support!