

Double Deuce

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Desert Issue

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Double Deuce

NMCB-22's bi-weekly newsletter
Al Asad, Iraq

CAPT Steven L. Young
CEC, USN
Commanding Officer

LCDR Michelle Breaux
CEC, USN
Executive Officer

CMDCM(SCW) Gilbert Jordan
Command Master Chief

JO1 Leslie A. Shively
Editor-in-Chief
Photography/Graphic Design

SW3 Christopher Green
Assistant Graphic Designer

BU3 Brandi Tomich
Battalion Photographer



From the Skipper: Care packages mean a lot to our Seabees

CAPT Steven Young
Commanding Officer,
NMCB-22

To the families and friends of our NMCB-22 Seabees:

With this edition of the Double Deuce, I wanted to write a short note to express my appreciation. We have been in the Al Anbar province for over a month now, and the letters and care packages are coming in regularly from all over.

It is very uplifting for our Seabees to hear from you and mail call is a special time. It is especially uplifting when they receive care packages. Speaking from experience, it's more than what is in the box.

As you can imagine, it's the surprise, anticipation and the thought and effort that goes



CAPT Steven Young

into mailing a package this far. I'm sure you receive appreciation from your Seabee, but I wanted to express my gratitude as well.

Many of the care packages are addressed to "Any Seabee" in care of the Commanding Officer.

When we receive those packages, they go on the first available convoy to our most

remote sites. The Seabees there live in what they build, and as you can imagine, the living and working conditions are hard. Their attitudes continue to be outstanding and the amount of work they do is just amazing.

I believe their positive attitudes come from the important work they are doing, but I firmly believe it is also related to support they receive from home.

When one of those care packages arrives at our remote site, the atmosphere is almost like Christmas. Your kindness and efforts lighten their load.

On behalf of the Officers and Seabees of NMCB-22, thank you for your thoughts, your prayers, and your generosity.

You help us work through the hard times and you remind us why we are here. You are the key to our success.

Camacho's mail bag contains cheer for troops

He may not have a big belly, wear a red suit or laugh with a loud "Ho, ho, ho," but Marine GySgt. Anthony Camacho played Santa for a day, thanks to the Colorado Columbines

Winnebago RV or Recreational Vehicle Club, who sent 18 boxes chock full of goodies and personal hygiene items to him, Nov. 2. Camacho is NMCB-22's Marine advisor.

The club received Camacho's name from MSgt. Joe Borst and his wife Cheryl. Borst is also a Marine advisor to the Navy. He and Camacho served in

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Marine's legacy of self-sacrifice inspirational

LCPL Aaron Austin was a close friend of my family. I can remember 18 years ago coming home on leave for the holidays and talking to Aaron, then a small three-foot tall boy. He was a little shy, but he was curious about and impressed by my Navy dress blue uniform.

Years later, I was not surprised to learn that Aaron had become a Marine. I had only seen photos of Aaron since that Christmas so long ago. The three-foot high kid that was so impressed with the uniform of a Seabee was now a twenty-one-year old, six-foot plus man, as strong as an ox.

Several months later I received the call that Aaron had been killed in the first push into Fallujah on April 26, 2004. Dressed in my blues, I paid my respects to Aaron's mother and rendered a final salute. Following Aaron's funeral, the local Amarillo paper headline read, "A Lion Laid to Rest," taken from a quote of his platoon leader who said that his Marines had "fought like lions" during the (first) battle for Fallujah.

Aaron's fellow Marines nominated him for a Silver Star for his heroic actions that day. While under heavy attack,



LCPL Aaron Austin

Aaron, a machine gun team leader, carried his wounded gunner from a rooftop. Wounded three times himself, Aaron then manned the machine gun and threw grenades at the enemy, only 20 meters away, until his fire team was safely off the roof. The Silver Star was approved and awarded posthumously in June 2005.

Why am I writing this? Well, there may be a time during this deployment when we may wonder, "Why we are doing this? Why are we here?" Not a day passes that I don't see the many young Marines walking about and think about Aaron. We are here for Aaron and other Marines like him that are so willing to sacrifice all.

As Seabees, our mission is to support Marines like Aaron, but more importantly, it is our responsibility to give 110 percent, and make those three-foot high future Marines back home proud.

- LT Richard Windham



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Gunny's mail bag

the same unit, Alpha Battery 1st Battalion 14th Marines for 17 years.

Camacho said the club wanted to do something special to help out the troops in Iraq. Club members also wrote notes to Seabees and included books, magazines and calendars in the packages.

"This is great. They really took care of us," said Camacho. "It was totally unexpected," he continued, noting that this type of caring shows Americans back at home support the troops completely. "They're behind us 100 percent."



GySgt. Anthony Camacho opens his 18 boxes of goodies.

Camacho handed out snacks to personnel in company spaces at Al Asad, then repacked snacks and personal hy-giene items for shipment to NMCB-22 personnel at a combat operations post in Al Anbar Province where there is nothing but sand presently.

"They have no access to personal things – soap, shaving cream, toothpaste -- all that kind of stuff," explained Camacho, who said he planned to write a very special thank you note to the club for their kindness.

Camp Moreell Seabees share “Can Do” spirit

Seabees from Alpha Company, NMCB 22's Camp Moreell Detachment “treated” the Army with one of the things ‘Bees do best – horizontal construction at the Army’s logistical support area in Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait.

Roads, runways and other types of work using heavy equipment such as graders or bull dozers are horizontal construction. Buildings and structures are vertical construction in the Seabee dialect.

As an Army/Navy joint venture, with the Army supplying materials and Seabees supplying equipment, “Can Do” manpower and technical expertise, installation of a pedestrian entranceway and a loading/unloading zone in front of the newly-opened chapel and soon-to-open Base Exchange, or BX was performed.

Site preparation included grading the area and spreading approximately 66 cubic meters of gravel into a 13 centimeter-deep bed covering 522 square meters in front of and between the two structures. The gravel bed helps control airborne dust and dirt during the arid season



and will provide a dry and stable approach around the buildings during the rainy season.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency’s world fact book online, Kuwait’s dry desert climate produces intensely hot summers with sandstorms and dust storms throughout the year, occurring most often between March and August. During short, cool winters

sudden cloudbursts from October to April bring heavy rain and deep mud which can damage roads and buildings. The weather poses hazards, potentially limiting use of the chapel and BX. This project will enhance the quality-of-life of employees and patrons of both amenities. As a reward for their efforts, NMCB-22 Seabees were the first customers in the BX.



- article and photos by EA2 Jeffrey Boyd
Camp Moreell Public Affairs Coordinator

NMCB-22 Seabees build camps out of dust

- By JO1 Leslie Shively

A horizon of sky and dust greeted Seabees on their first day of work at a camp near the Syrian border. Just weeks later a base camp for the Iraqi Security Forces, emerged from the flatted and bleak landscape of Western Iraq.

With little more than hand tools, NMCB-22 Seabees are building small cities in areas that are otherwise wasteland, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. That includes everything from berthing spaces, places to cook food, eat, shower, do laundry, store water and fuel, plus manage waste. Providing electrical power is also part of the plan.

“The primary mission of our detachment is to assist in the construction of Iraqi Security Forces installations,” said Construction Electrician 3rd Class Richard Taylor. “The ultimate goal of these facilities is to enable Iraqi Security Forces to function on their own without U.S. assistance.”



Photo by CE3 Richard Taylor

“It’s an elemental part of reducing U.S. forces in Iraq,” said Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Spinler, NMCB-22 operations officer.

Two major challenges confront these Seabees.

First, the earth is not sand, but very fine silt that behaves like talcum powder.

“It gets into everything, gets very gummy and very hard to maneuver equipment,” said Spinler. “You have to put down a lot of construction to ensure you have firm footing and you

constantly have to manage that as you do your construction.” He said gravel helped provide a workable surface.

Second, materials needed to do the job must be convoyed to the site. “When we came on board, the materials were not on site. We had to transport all of the materials.”

Support staff are pitching in to help build as well. “These activities help the battalion be at more than 100 percent effective according to Spinler.

NMCB-22 Awards Presented

NAME	RATE	AWARD	NAME	RATE	AWARD
PRIBBLE	EO1	OVSM	RAMON	UT2	LOC
HARRIS	LTJG	SCW	NUSSBAUM	CM2	LOC
LOWACK	LTJG	SCW	MENDEZ	CM2	LOC
RIVERA	CE3	CERT OF APP-64 TH	MCDANIEL	BU2	LOC
GONZALES	CE3	CERT OF APP-64 TH	CAMPBELL	CM2	LOC
PEREZ	CECN	CERT OF APP-64 TH	OSGOOD	BU2	LOC
BURGESS	BU3	CERT OF APP-64 TH	FREDRICKS	EO3	LOC
HOGLAND	EO2	NAM	BROWN	BU2	BALIKATAN
WOOD	UT2	SCW	RAMIREZ	BU2	BALIKATAN
COLBY	SW1	SCW	TARANGO	BU2	BALIKATAN
VALDEZ	CE2	SCW	WILLARD	BU2	RES. GD. CON.
SCHEUERLE	BU3	FROCKING	JONES	BU1	NAM
HANNAH	CM1	NAM	ORGA	CM2	NAM
ARNING	CE2	SCW	RANDOLPH	EO2	KBR
BLACKSHEAR		BMCS	DELGADO	EO2	KBR
		SCW	DOUGHTY	EOCN	KBR
ROBERTS	CE2	SCW	CROSS	EO3	KBR
WILLARD	BU1	SCW	GONZALEZ	CM2	KBR
MAPES	HT1	SCW	WILLARD	BU1	NAM
RODRIGUEZ	LTJG	SCW	SMITH	HM2	SCW
GILBERT	EO3	LOA	ROSCOE	CE1	SCW
RECORD	CM1	LOC	BAHL	BU2	SCW
BRITNER	BU2	LOC	ESCOBAR	EO3	LOC
GODFREY	BU3	LOC	WOODRIDGE	BUCN	LOC
HANKS	EO3	LOC	LAWRENCE	HM2	NAM
FREDRICKS	EO3	LOC	LEON	MR1	NAM
CROSS	EO3	LOC	ROUNSAVILLE	EO1	SCW
BROWN	CM2	LOC	CROSS	EO3	SCW
MALAY	CE1	SOQ	BRYAN	BU3	JSOQ(3 RD)
WALLACE	CE2	JSOQ	MALINOVSKY	EO1	
WOOD	UT2	LOC		SOQ(3 RD)	
BARROW	CM1	LOC	MAYFIELD	EO2	KBR
BYINGTON	EO1	LOC	DULWORTH	BUCN	NAM
GLOCK	CM1	LOC	BELTZ	EOC	OVSM
MEEKER	EO1	LOC			
METZ	EO1	LOC			

NMCB-22 Sailor of the Quarter



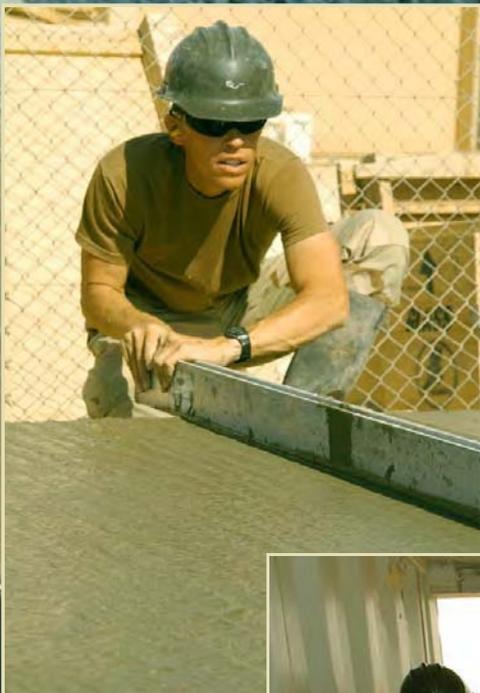
EO1 Timmy Malinovski

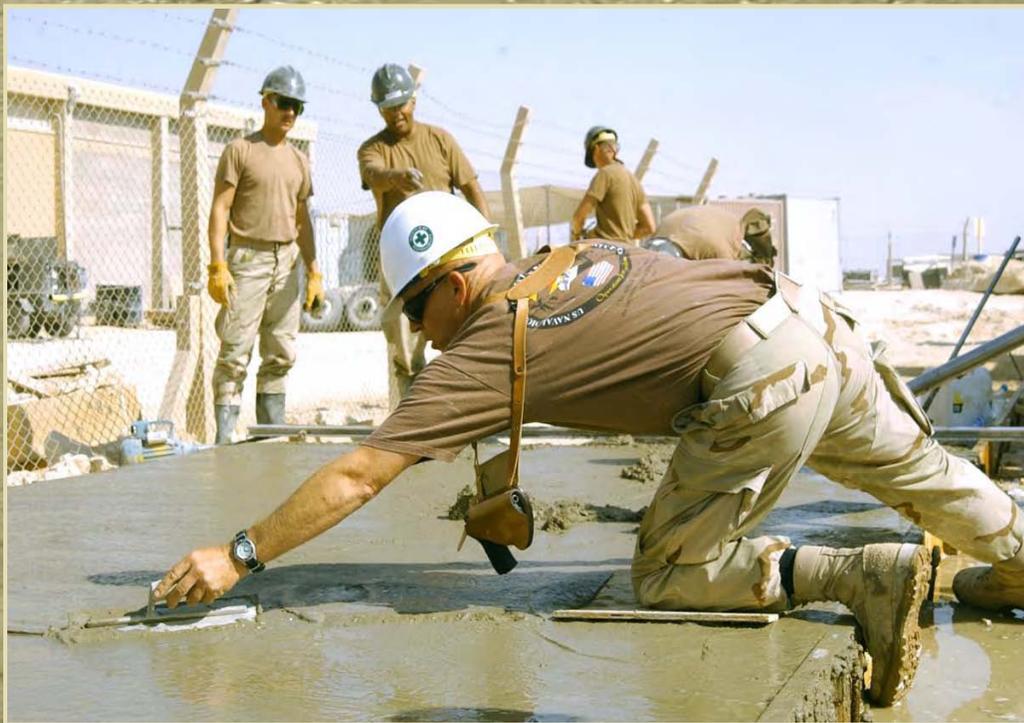
NMCB-22 Junior Sailor of the Quarter



BU3 Curtis Bryan







...around Al Asad...



ON POINT: Photos from the front lines of training



photos by
BU1
Christopher



Willard