

Double Deuce

Vol. 2 / No. 5

Desert Issue

deployed

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Double Deuce

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

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From CMDCM: what we are doing here is a great thing

CMDCM Gilbert Jordan
Command Master Chief
NMCB-22

The day the war of global terrorism began, September 11, 2001, and the morning of July 18, 2005, when I left my family and flew from my home town to Port Hueneme, California to be mobilized in the support of global war on terrorism, are two of the most significant and memorable days of my life.

Since that September morning the lives of every Officer and Seabee attached to NMCB-22 has changed. Each and every one of you who are reading this message has and are doing your part to support this vital mission our battalion has undertaken.

We are drawing near the mid-point of our deployment and I can assure you the Seabees of this battalion have already made a positive and lasting impression with every unit in our area of operation.

The commanding officer and I have visited numerous detachments and in each and everyone we constantly hear,



CMDCM Gilbert Jordan

"Without your Seabees we'd be hurting. I knew nothing about the Seabees but now I know we can't be without them."

The appreciation is always heartfelt.

Our deeds and support are countless, whether we're providing heat to a cold Marine or Soldier who has just returned from an overnight mission or

building new forward base camps for the Iraqi forces, which will have a direct impact in the number of coalition forces in theater, our Seabees are there!

Was our deployment necessary, are we getting personal satisfaction, is it worth it? Everyone here and those of you back home in support of our mission can feel assured that the absence of your loved one and the work that we are doing is just.

I know in my heart that what we're doing out here is a great thing. Years from now we can look back and be proud of what we've accomplished: the Seabees of NMCB-22 have done our part to support the global war on terrorism in the hopes of keeping it here and not back home.

I will end this note by thanking you and yours for the hard work, long hours, the sweat and the tears we've all shared these last few months.

God bless you and God bless America.

Support from home astounding

LT William Stewart
Chaplain, NMCB-22

There have been so many people and groups donating "personal comfort" items, and entire care packages, to our Seabees, it's even hard to stay up with. The generosity of our folks

back home just continues to astound me.

One example is a group that has been coordinated by Rusty Chevalier, band director at Skiatook, Oklahoma, schools. He, his wife Rhonda, members

of the bands and folks throughout the schools and town there have pulled together and sent an enormous amount of supplies and care packages. Everything from gloves, watch caps,

Coalition Forces' top NCO recognizes NMCB-22 personnel for outstanding work ethic

Story and photos by J01 Leslie A. Shively

AL ASAD, Iraq – U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger, Multi-National Force – Iraq, paid a surprise visit to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Twenty-Two's quarterdeck, Nov. 11, speaking to Seabees and recognizing individuals for their service.

Mellinger mixed humor with serious remarks answering questions about Iraq, its people and the U.S. military's mission.

"They're eager to be in charge of their own country," Mellinger said. "Most of them understand they've got a responsibility to the greater whole. It's about showing them we're here to help develop a safe and secure environment. A lot of the projects you're working on directly influence that."

Just before presenting his coin, Mellinger described and explained its design.

"In the center is a map of Iraq with nine points and on the outside edge there are 11 points representing 9-11. On the other side is the symbol of Multi-National Force Iraq in English and Arabic."

As Mellinger handed a coin to Steelworker 1st Class Robert Wilson, he thanked the Seabee



Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger, Multi-National Force – Iraq, left, recognizes CM2 Derrick Majchszak's hard work with a hand shake and his command coin.

for his work and for being part of the Multi-National Force – Iraq. "There's a lot of magic being done around this country; no pun intended," said Mellinger as he shook the hand of Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Derrick Majchszak's (who's nickname is Magic) while giving him a coin.

Fellow Seabees witnessing the ceremony cheered Wilson and Majchszak with a loud "Hoorah" and raucous clapping.

After the coin presentation, Mellinger emphasized the significance of the tradition. "I presented coins to a couple of Seabees who'd gone out of their way, above and beyond to assist others. I've always got time to stop and recognize those that are making an extra effort. It's one of the privileges and joys of the job."

"We stayed after regular hours, set up lights and worked 'til right before midnight," said Wilson, explaining that he and Steel Worker 3rd Class Christopher Green who was not present to receive his coin at the ceremony, fabricated metal pieces to extend a vehicle's doors in order to solve a problem where the extra armor was not sealing the doors properly.

"I was helping out Marine and Army personnel coming off of convoys – putting new tires on their vehicles and such," Majchszak said.

NMCB 22 Seabees' efforts appreciated

Story and photo by EA2 Jeffrey D. Boyd

CAMP MOREELL, Kuwait – Three members from NMCB 22 Camp Moreell Detachment recently received individual letters of appreciation from the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps and Kuwait Air Force.

Utilitiesman Master Chief (SCW/DV) Craig Nelson conducted training Oct. 29 for Kuwait Air Force (KAF) personnel on the proper use of newly acquired electrical ground test equipment that allowed the KAF to return a critical weapons testing facility to operational condition. Nelson's letter of appreciation was presented by the Directorate of Logistics & Supplies, Kuwait Air Force.



UCCM(SCW/DV) Craig Nelson, left, CM1 Monte Barrows and HM1 Robert Burns hold their letters of appreciation.

Construction Mechanic 1st Class Monte Barrows worked during off-time hours to meet an emergency need for signage at the Army LSA's newly built Chapel facility. Barrows' hard work

made it possible for the Chapel to open on time and successfully hold Sunday services. For his efforts, the 112th Chaplain Detachment of the U.S. Army Central Command – Kuwait presented Barrows with a letter of appreciation.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) Robert Burns contributed directly to the medical readiness of the Landing Support Detachment, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, United States Marine Corps on 7OCT05 by traveling to Kuwait City to ensure that all Marines in the detachment received flu shots. Burns' letter was from the officer-in-charge of the detachment.

Phillips' visit uplifting: he's a visionary with a smile

Story and photos by JO1 Leslie A. Shively

Rear Admiral Robert Phillips, commander of the First Naval Construction Division, accompanied by Capt. Paula Brown, commander for the First Naval Construction Regiment and Commander, 30th NCR (rear) spent the day with NMCB 22, Nov. 12, thanking Seabees face-to-face for their hard work, handing out command coins, making speeches and having a good time.

Although Phillips' visit was meant to assess performance, he also came to consider battalion requirements and pass along information about important matters so he and his staff can better support the mission according to Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Spinler.



Above: CM2 James Mendez, left, proudly wears RADM Robert Phillips' cover for the camera. Mendez has an ongoing bet with his brother as to who can be photo'd with the highest ranking officer. Mendez won this one he said. Below left: CAPT Steven Young chuckles as CMDMCM (1NCD) Kevin Timmons jokingly puts a stethoscope to RADM Phillips back and below right, Phillips puts RP1 Eugene Payne through a mock exam during his visit to the medical dept. Bottom photo: RADM Phillips shares a joke with EO3 April Cannon, right, LCDR Michelle Breaux and CAPT Young.

"He was open as to the direction Seabees are going and promotions for enlisted troops," Hospital Corpsman Chief Teri Ford, NMCB 22's medical administrative chief.

Phillips also spent time touring projects and each shop on the Seabee compound. He talked, joked and listened to each Seabee wanting to converse.

He said he believes in a style of management that brings

him up close and personal with what is going on in the field.

"I want to touch every troop I can. Troops are the ones that make it happen. My gosh – they work in 120 degrees in full battle rattle with smiles on their faces. They need to feel comfortable with their leadership," Phillips said.

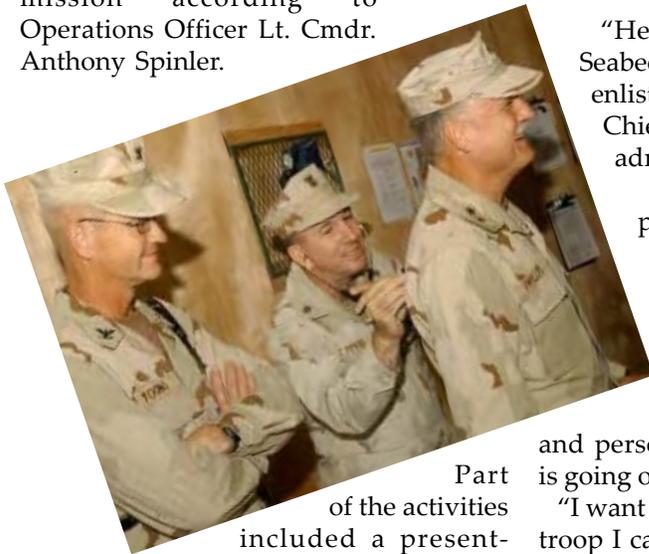
He delighted in surprising Seabees and recognizing accomplishments, taking

Engineering Assistant 2nd Class Lorena Soriano aside during a visit to the materials testing lab where she works.

"I thought I was in trouble," Lorena said laughing. "He shook my hand and gave me a coin. It was pretty exciting. I wasn't expecting it and felt overwhelmed."

"I found him to be very personable – he actually got down and talked to the troops," said Ford.

"I can't lead from behind a desk or with email," said Phillips explaining his leadership style. "Look behind you and make sure people are following you, otherwise you don't have a vision. "



Part of the activities included a presentation with a question and answer session for leadership.

"We're improving infrastructure and it's important to give the people of Iraq an opportunity for choice, democracy and a better way of life. That is what our men and women are doing," said Phillips. He also discussed the status of the Navy, both from an active and reserve perspective.

"It was very good," Spinler said. "We learned things that will keep us in tune with issues for the active duty as well as the reserve side while giving us plenty of time with him."



Pride in workmanship important to NMCB-22 SOQ

Story and photos by JO1 Leslie A. Shively

Equipment Operator 1st Class Tim Malinovsky was chosen as NMCB-22's Enlisted Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ) for the Third Quarter of Calendar Year 2005 out of a field six talented and committed Seabees.

Cited for maturity, dedication, character, contribution to the battalion and the Navy Reserve as the Seabee Combat Warfare Subject Matter Expert, Malinovsky was also recognized for something beyond his military achievements.

"The driving factor is Malinovsky has a positive 'can do' attitude everyday," explained CMDCM Gilbert Jordan, who administers the SOQ selection board and votes during tie-breakers.

"I always try to perform at my best level," said Malinovsky, adding he takes pride in the work he does as a civilian and for the battalion.

Outside the battalion, he's senior project manager for a general contractor in San Marcos, Texas doing estimating, planning and writing contracts with subcontractors. He also directs superintendents who run project sites and liaisons between company owners, architects and engineers.

His early experience in construction began with his stepdad, laying concrete foundations. He said he is gratified when passing a building today they'd worked on 10 or more years ago.

As a Seabee, being a member of NMCB-22 is almost a family tradition for Malinovsky. His older brother, Michael was an equipment operator with NMCB-22 for eight years.

Malinovsky joined the Navy through the Sea-to-Air Mariner or SAM program in December 1991, completed active duty boot camp and Equipment Operator "A" school,



E01 Tim Malinovsky

then moved into the Reserves as a member of NMCB-22. He drills in Austin.

The battalion was activated in July and Malinovsky arrived in Iraq in September where he is currently in charge of planning, estimating and quality control for the Engineering/Materials Management Division of NMCB-22's Operations Department.

Serving with NMCB-22 is a source of satisfaction for Malinovsky in many ways. He said camaraderie with other Seabees is great. Traveling and experiencing what others live through on a daily basis help him appreciate what Americans take for granted.

"It means a lot to me that we're here, in Iraq. These people have a big hardship to overcome while everybody back home has a perfect lifestyle and environment," Malinovsky said.

Malinovsky pointed out how the Iraqi Security Force drives pick-ups with sheets of plate instead of armor to defend against bullets and roadside bombs as an example.

"They're not protected at all, yet are willing to put their lives out there, wanting to do better, wanting to keep the bad guys away. We're here to help them and give them that leg up to get on their own," he said.

He suggested the news doesn't cover the whole story – the rebuilding and success our military is bringing to Iraqi people, such as the 61 percent turnout across the country during November's referendum vote.

"I would like to see more of the good stuff published to let Americans know what we're doing over here. It also builds morale and reinforces the troops' efforts."

Support

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and portable showers to keep our folks warm and clean, to snacks and candies that make a hard day just a little brighter, to cards and writing supplies to send warm wishes of love back home.

Groups and people such as these are truly showing the love, kindness, and generosity that has always made the United States a great country.

It is impossible to list everyone who has given and contin-

ues to give; there are just so many. I pray these folks will realize what a tremendous impact they have made on our guys and gals serving their country so far away from home. We Seabees will be forever grateful:

Mrs. Karen Gill & Troops Now and Tomorrow, Inc.
Mrs. Peggy Johnston & The Ladies Auxiliary to the
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Perez family sends smiles across the miles

Story and photos by JO1 Leslie A. Shively

Grimming from ear to ear, Engineering Aid 2nd Class Eduardo Perez greeted his wife, Marichu, daughters five-year old Marla Ivana, one-year old Marianna Evelyn and family friend Minnie Trujillo, in Corpus Christi, Texas, halfway across the globe.

Currently stationed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Twenty-Two, Perez assists in managing the concrete quality assurance and control program for the unit in Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

"Daddy!" bubbled Marla happily as she pushed her nose against the computer screen when the call connected.

Laughing and sharing small talk, the Perez family was communicating live via a new computer-based video teleconferencing service offered on base to the military through the Freedom Calls Foundation.

"I love them so much. Family is very important – they're what keep me going," Perez said just prior to placing the call.

"It helps to keep in touch. Sometimes being able to see somebody is better than a phone call," said Army Specialist Anthony Schuman, video teleconferencing coordinator with the 67th Administrative Support Group.

"Lots of soldiers get to see their babies for the first time and I've had two soldiers whose parents were deaf and couldn't interact on the telephone, so they came in and could actually sign to their parents and have direct interaction, rather than through an interpreter," Schuman said and Perez agreed.



"It's like a picture worth a thousand words when I see them, right there, that minute, that second," Perez said.

Teleconferencing has been available in Al Asad at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department for about three and one half months said Schuman. Taji and Fallujah also have services.

"It's all 100 percent free to the soldier.

They're a non-profit organization which depends on donations," Schuman said. Military members sign up at an MWR or families can log on to www.freedomcalls.org.

Although Perez keeps open communication with his family, he said the video conference was special.

"Great! I just got to see my family," said Perez, smiling again, but holding back the tears.

"It's very emotional."

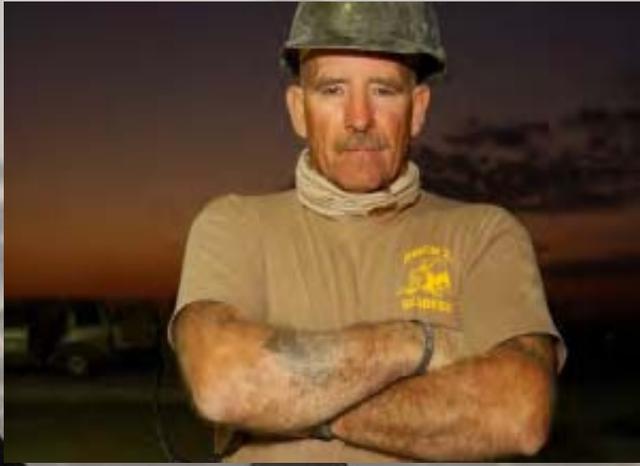


Above: EA2 Eduardo Perez blows cyber kisses to his wife and daughters during a video tele-conference. He is currently serving with NMCB-22 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Video teleconferencing for military members is a free service provided by the FreedomCalls Foundation. Left: Perez and a tele-family portrait.

Mrs. Heather Davis & Members of the Elnora
Eastern Star
Mr. Chuck Allred & Allred Hardware Store
Mrs. Maria Jordan, Ms. Ross & Students of Americas
High School
Mrs. Vansessa Pribble
Ms. Jenny Long
Mrs. Veronica Warwick

First United Methodist Church-Rowlett
First National Bank – Garland, Dallas and
Desoto branches
SBC Communication – Network Operations
Center Irving
Garland Chamber of Commerce
Mrs. Linda A. Ramirez





- photos JO1 L.A. Shively

...around Al Asad...



- photos JO1 L.A. Shively

ON POINT:



Camp Gannon



Photos by
IT2 Chen Wai
Wong