

# Double Deuce

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Desert Issue

deployed

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## Double Deuce

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

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## CNO visits NMCB-22 and tours projects in Iraq

Story and photos by JO1 Leslie A. Shively

AL ASAD, Iraq – Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mike Mullen and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Terry Scott visited Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Twenty-two spending time with Seabees and getting updates on projects, Jan. 2-3.

Mullen first toured a major runway repair project where he met and talked with Seabees at their worksite. The battalion is replacing sections of concrete.

"He shook my hand, asked my name and where I was from," said CM3 Rolando Sobrepena.

"He gave me encouragement and I appreciated that. He also knew details about the project, which surprised me and the long hours we work."

Mullen then visited the base Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center to speak to Seabees and Navy Corpsmen where he expressed his gratitude for

their service and discussed leadership values.

"The goal for all of us is to be a leader. There is probably no where I could go today and not see the impact of teamwork – the ability to make things happen



BU2 Harlan Adkins, right, shakes Adm. Mike Mullen's hand while SW2 Christopher Green looks on. Mullen visited NMCB-22's runway repair project during his tour of battalion projects in Iraq. Below, EO1 Donald Bradford, right and SW2 Christopher Green, center, talk with Mullen.



Adm. Mike Mullen, left listens while Capt. Steven Young discusses the battalion's repair of a runway at the air base. CM2 Rolando Sobrepena, front, operates a circular saw, cutting forms for wet concrete. The nearly finished, 60-day project has been a major undertaking.

in impossible situations. The key driver to solving problems is leadership and I believe everyone in the Navy has leadership potential, whether he or she is an E1 or someone more senior at the Flag level."

He also mapped out a vision for the Navy saying that

balance and planning were the key elements for the future.

Friendly and outgoing, Mullen enthusiastically solicited questions from his audience.

Builder 1st Class Ricardo Trevino quickly stood and asked about the future of the Seabees. Mullen responded that the future was



very bright, mentioning his visit to crater numbers nine and 10 on the runway repair project.

Many questions from the Seabees concerned mobilization, education and health benefits.

# Deployed couple reunited briefly

**C**M3 Elizabeth Lopez had a brief visit with her husband, Marine SGT Alejandro Montez, with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, at the Al Asad air base, Iraq. The couple married just prior to deploying. Lopez arrived first with Montez following. "We have a lot in common, the military being one, said Lopez. "The fact that we can share that is awesome." Both are currently stationed in Iraq and unexpectedly crossed paths in Al Asad, where they had a day to enjoy each other's company before moving on to separate missions.



# CNO visit

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Education benefits have increased through the G.I. Bill for mobilized reservists under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) or Chapter 1607. According to the Veterans Benefits & Services website, this new program makes certain individuals who were activated after Sept. 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or increased benefits.

"In Desert Storm, we didn't have benefits like these including Warrior Transition," said Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Eugene Payne, who served at that time with the U.S. Marines 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, and is presently serving with NMCB-22. He said Mullen's visit and talk was very informative.

Warrior Transition is a program that helps activated reservists move back into a civilian lifestyle.

Mullen made a point to assure Sailors whose questions he could not answer on the spot, would get them, and requested they fill out cards that included each Sailor's contact information and questions.

After his presentation the CNO and MCPON traveled with NMCB-22's commanding officer, Capt. Steven Young to an outlying camp the battalion is completing in Western Iraq for the Iraqi Security Force. The group was given a brief and walk-through of the project and shared an MRE (Meals, Ready to Eat) lunch with Seabees at that work site prior to departing.



MCPON Terry Scott, left, takes notes while he talks with EO3 Georgia Hartley, who asked several questions about educational benefits for Reservists. He promised to find and send her the answers.

## SAILOR OF THE QUARTER FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER 2005



**DT1 MARIANNE MORTON**

## JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER 2005



**EOCN KRYPSTLE DOUGHTY**

# Any day in Camp Moreell, Kuwait

BU2 Kenneth Reeves,  
SW2 Agapito Martinez doing a COC  
remodel project



SW2 Agapito Martinez,  
back gate watch

EO3 Alisha Scott — Air Force project



Humvee convoy arriving  
from Fallujah



IT2 Sean Caughman and EA2 Corey Coles  
making cable connections on NIPRNET and  
phone line upgrades



SWA Hut hall of mirrors

## Photos by: EA2 Jeffrey Boyd

# The is, isn't, can't, and can do of the Operations Department

Story by LCDR Anthony Spinler, S3



LCDR Anthony Spinler

When the troops write home and say they are building this or that, heading somewhere north or south, taking this here or there, or talk about coming home on....you can bet the S3 shop has a hand in it. In general, you could call us the hand of the battalion. We hand out the tasking, give orders, type emails and documents, calculate this or that, and sign this or that. Working with our higher headquarters or adjacent units we are the

hand they shake to agree that we can do this mission or the hand that goes out to ask for help when we need it. Sometimes we have to hold up our hand because the buck stops first in Ops. Best of all Ops often gets to be the hand that gives pats on the back when the job is done.

Being so involved some might think that the Operations Department personnel are all-knowing about what is going on in the battalion. However there is so much going on at all of our projects sites and Seabees taking the initiative everywhere to accomplish the mission and helping the adjacent war fighters. At the operations level we might be lucky to know 700 out of 1000 facts regarding our equipment, materials, travels, and accomplishments of our Seabees. You start out in each situation believing you do not know what is going on making the mission of operations the finder of information and the great question asker. We constantly work to figure out what is going on, where we are at, where we need to go, and what we can do about it.

It starts with the Planning & Estimating staff. EO1 Tim Malinovsky and BU1 Stanislaw Moszynski are very experienced construction and project managers. They determine man day and materials needed for the scope of the project often drafting, planning, and calculating. Their words become my words; they deserve all the credit.

To kick the projects off we write a FRAGO to the company tasking them and then there is constant writing and tracking the department's Requests for Information and Field Adjustment Requests for all the projects. This is done by LTJG Sean Lanier, our Future Operations

Officer (S3B). On several occasions he has gone with adjacent units onto the roads and assessed bridges and even lead one mission to repair a critical route we use to take materials to our projects up north. A skilled and experienced engineer, he was also instrumental in the crater repair concrete design. Many of the problems of the future rest on his very broad shoulders.

The information of today and yesterday ends up on ENS Tyson Thompson's apropos shoulders. As the Assistant Operations Officer (S3A), he writes our daily SITREP and weekly PHOTO SITREP to higher headquarters. Around that he works on anything, the issue of the moment, and is the true "the S3 needs you to do this guy." He too is an excellent engineer and source of humor we enjoy working with.

Projects need material and MR1 Aleta Leon tracks every piece of material that goes for each project. Tirelessly with great attention to detail, she does the Material Draw Requests and works with the Materiel Liaison Office to help load the tractor trailers (TT) moving materials to our projects. These TTs are arranged by EO1 Jason Rounsaville working with a number of units on base. Often these units call and ask for Chief, Officer, or Staff Sergeant Rounsaville. He can ask for anything and only makes me come and shake hands and kiss babies when it gets tough. We wouldn't have anything to build without these two Seabees.

Although the Operations Department is in Al Asad, our projects have ranged all over Western Iraq. To move a convoy of materials anywhere takes the TMT (Tactical Movement Team), but for them to do their job it takes the Embark Team. LTJG Ray Mendez is the embark officer as well as the TMT Company Commander. Taking over for two officers in the previous battalion, he has made the planning and efforts of embark and the execution of our TMTs seamless.

Every leg of every convoy requires a manifest and that electronic paper is generated by CE2 Gabriel Valdez, the manifest coordinator. So far we have had over 126 convoys with over 1564 escorted vehicles (I only know this because he told me, he keeps great records). Not just for convoys, he has also has to do this for all our flights moving Seabees around the Area of Operations or AO. He knows where you are going.

The Operations Department is also responsible for monitoring the quality of that construction. EA2 Lorena Soriano is responsible for Quality Control and materials testing. Taking concrete samples and performing test

# S3 shop

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breaks, she graphs all this data to ensure this material will hold up to rigors of the millions of aircraft that will take off, taxi, and land on what NMCB-22 has accomplished.

Working along with quality there is of course Safety. UTC C.E. Crozier reports to the Commanding Officer as our battalion Safety Chief. Day-to-day he works with Operations though to make certain each of our projects are doing everything right to keep our valuable Seabees safe. His initiative, humor, and variety of methods at which he works to communicate and ensure we continue to focus on safety and not become complacent is exemplary.

Whatever is accomplished by the Operations Department happens only with EOC Jerry Beltz, the Embark Chief, EAC Albert Leddy, the Engineering/Materials Chief, and SKCS Larry Johnson, the Supply Liaison Chief. One moment they are doing one of these tasks mentioned to help someone here or guiding another set of activity there. They are everywhere and work almost every night. Often it is working with our higher headquarters or the other departments that they solve the many problems that would prevent us from doing so well. When they say that officers plan and chiefs execute that sounds easy, but these chiefs make it easy for me. I can really say this is where we need to go and they make it so.

As the Operations Chief (S3C), UCCM Juan Gamboa, knows the work and knows each Seabee. Much to the chagrin of many a company chief and officer, he decides if we will use a certain skilled Seabee on this project or can companies switch this person for that one. He is in charge of manpower and he has the final word. Some say that word is often no, but the magnitude of his responsibility is great for we all know that our greatest asset is our Seabees. Even more than that, he is my chief. His support and effort are worth more to me than all the project accomplishments. Together this is the finest team of individuals I have ever served with.

Together we serve the battalion and get to hear what others say about us. We have visited det sites and had other units say, "Your eight Seabees did more than the previous 80." The S3s from other units have said to me that they can't believe what we do and how we turn a "moon-dust nowhere" into something so fast. One time another Seabee from an adjacent unit arrived at one of our det sites and said that when he arrived, members of the unit there said, "Great! More Seabees, you guys are great, what are you going to do here?" The best part about being the Operations Department is just hearing that. Well Done 22!

## Even NSTR Is Intel

Story by LT D. Brian Epstein, S2

*Being the Intelligence Officer for the Battalion has probably been the most important billet I've filled to date. Many nights of restless sleep are consumed over concern that our folks might not have all the information they need to be safe or successful in their mission. - LT Epstein*

Following the old yarn about Military Intelligence being an oxymoron, the term "Nothing Significant To Report" (NSTR) is still considered to be intelligence. It's not exactly what you'd hear on the 10 o'clock news, but if nothing has happened that could mean progress.

The job of the Intelligence Department (S2) is to gather and disseminate information critical to our mission. Now everyone is saying to themselves, "Duh!!" But what makes this job so important is that it entails so much information that has to be gathered, considered relevant or not, then relayed to those who need to know.

There are two main concerns of information, the first of which is what enemy and friendly units are in our AO (Area of Operations) and where they are located. The second area of concern is the enemy activity intelligence received from Higher and Adjacent units.

Imagine this ... there are tens of units that operate in our AO, each having their own Intel Dept., and each having significant information about a particular region; could be large, could be small. Sorting through all of this information and finding what is and what is not pertinent to our mission is no small feat, and often takes hours per day to sift through.

Consolidated reports are created from the information received and are sent to our detachments and TMTs (Tactical Movement Teams). These reports detail what is happening in the regions and/or along the roads of their operations. These details are specific occurrences and future projections of political instabilities and insurgent and local populace TTPs (Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures) against our forces.

However, it works both ways. Not only are each of these detachments and teams notified of recent occurrences, but they in turn inform us of significant events of which they are familiar. All of this information, shared up and down the chain of command, is what makes up Intelligence Reporting.

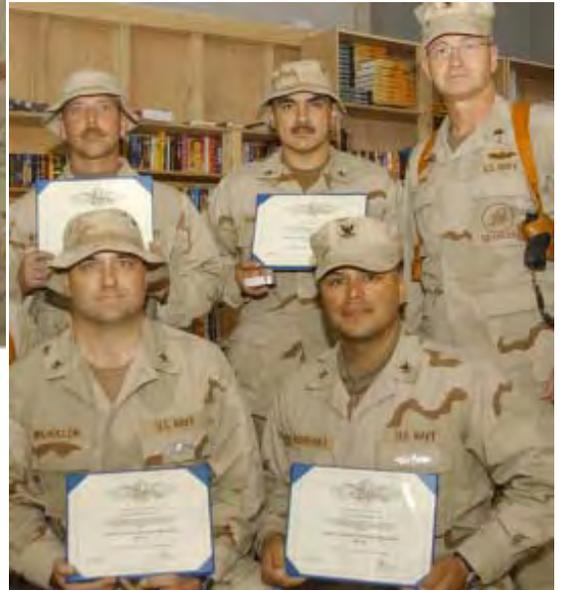


SWC Baltazar Gutierrez, left and LT D. Brian Epstein, right in the Intel or S2 Shop

# AWARDS

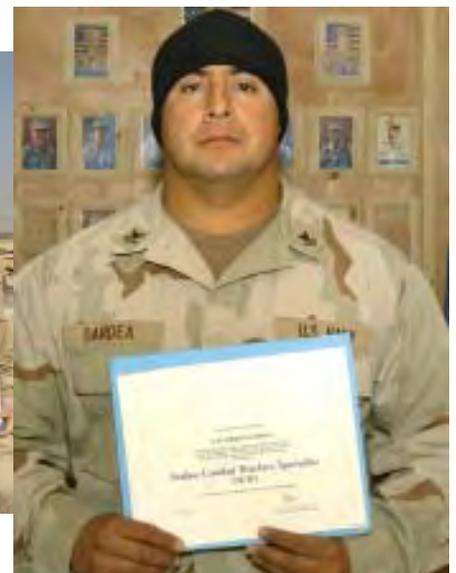
ACOSTA, F	BU2	Letter of Appreciation	DODD, B	EO1	Seabee Combat Warfare
ADKINS	BU2	Frocking	DOMINGUEZ	E0CN	Frocking
ADKINS, E	BUCS	Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal	DONAHUE	HM1	Seabee Combat Warfare
ALDAYA	BUCN	Frocking	DOUGHTY, K	E0CN	Junior Sailor of the Quarter
ALDRIDGE	BU1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	DURAN, N	EM2	Certificate of Commendation
ANDERSON	SM1	Seabee Combat Warfare	EKDAHL	EA1	Seabee Combat Warfare
ARBONA	SN3	Seabee Combat Warfare	EPSTEIN	LT	Seabee Combat Warfare
ARNING, M	CE1	Certificate of Commendation	EVANS, J	EO2	Seabee Combat Warfare
AVILA	CM2	Frocking	FEARN, J	YN2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
AVILA, A	CM2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	FLEISCHMAN	CE2	Frocking
BAGGERLY	CMCN	Frocking	FLOWERS, L	ET3	Frocking
BAHL	BU2	Seabee Combat Warfare	FREDERICKS	EO3	Seabee Combat Warfare
BAKER	SK1	Seabee Combat Warfare	FRY	CMCN	Letter of Commendation
BRAVO	CS1	Seabee Combat Warfare	GARCIA	BUCN	Frocking
BENAVIDES	BU3	Frocking	GARDEA	UT1	Seabee Combat Warfare
BIRD	BU2	Frocking	GARRETT	BU2	Frocking
BIRD	BU2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	GLOCK	CM1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
BROWN	BU2	Frocking	GODFREY	BU2	Seabee Combat Warfare
BUCHOLZ	BU2	Frocking	GODFREY	BU2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
BUCHOLZ	BU2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	GONZALES, V	EO2	Seabee Combat Warfare
BURLEY	BU2	Frocking	GORDON, R	CEC	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
CABALLERO	E0CA	Letter of Commendation	GORMANN	EO3	Letter of Commendation
CALDERON	SN	Frocking	GREEN	EO3	Marine Meritorious Mast
CANTU	CM2	Frocking	GREEN	SN3	Frocking
CARDENAS	E0CN	Frocking	GREGORY	BUCN	Frocking
CARRANZA	UT3	Frocking	HANNAH	CM1	Letter of Commendation
CEPEDA	SN2	Seabee Combat Warfare	HARRIS	SN2	Frocking
CHEE	SN3	Frocking	HERRON	SN2	Frocking
COLE	CM2	Letter of Commendation	HOAGLAND	EO2	Frocking
CONTRERAS	CM2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	HUNTLEY	EO1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
CONTRERAS	CM2	Letter of Commendation	JIMENEZ	UT3	Letter of Commendation
COCK	UT3	Letter of Commendation	JOHNSON	SKCS	Seabee Combat Warfare
CORTEZ	BUCN	Frocking	JOHNSON	SNC	Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
CRAIG	SN2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	KALBAUGH, B	CE2	Certificate of Commendation
CRAIG	SN2	Seabee Combat Warfare	LANIER	LTJG	Seabee Combat Warfare
CROSSWHITE	SN2	Frocking	LATHAM	UT2	Frocking
CUNADO, E	EO3	Seabee Combat Warfare	LEDFORD	EO1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
DELGADO, J	CM2	Frocking	LEWIS	BU3	Letter of Commendation
			LOPEZ	UT3	Seabee Combat Warfare

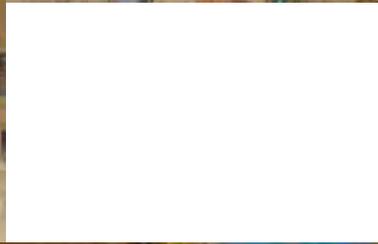




# AWARDS

MARTIN	EO3	Seabee Combat Warfare	RODRIGUEZ, J	SM1	Seabee Combat Warfare
MARTINEZ	EO3	Frothing	SAND	UT1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
MAYS	OMCN	Seabee Combat Warfare	SCHEUERLE	BUJ	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
MAYS	OMCN	Frothing	SCHUMACHER	EO2	Frothing
MCANALLY	SMON	Letter of Commendation	SCHWABE	EO2	Frothing
MCCUTCHEN	EO2	Seabee Combat Warfare	SEMMLMANN	UT1	Seabee Combat Warfare
MEADOR	BU3	Frothing	SHOLETTE	BUON	Frothing
MEADOR	BU3	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	SHULTZ	CM3	Letter of Commendation
METZ	EO1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	SMITH, E	BM3	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
MILHOLLON, D	EO3	Seabee Combat Warfare	SMITH, G	HM2	Meritorious Mast
MILLER	CE3	Frothing	SMITH, R	HM3	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
MIZE	CM1	Seabee Combat Warfare	SPINLER, A	LCDR	Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal
MONAREZ	SW3	Letter of Appreciation	SPRAGGINS	EO2	Frothing
MONK	CE3	Frothing	STEBBINS	CM3	Letter of Commendation
MONTOYA	SW3	Frothing	STEPHENS	EO3	Seabee Combat Warfare
MORTON, M	DT1	Sailor of the Quarter	TATE	CM2	Letter of Commendation
MOSZYNSKI	BU2	Frothing	TAYLOR	EO2	Frothing
MOSZYNSKI	BU2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	TAYLOR	BU3	Letter of Commendation
MUELLER	EOCN	Frothing	TEEL, L	BJC	Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal
MUSE	EO3	Frothing	THOMPSON	ENS	Seabee Combat Warfare
NUSSBAUM	CM2	Frothing	TURNER	CM2	Frothing
ORGA, B	CM2	Seabee Combat Warfare	VALDEZ	CE2	Frothing
ORGAZ	UT1	Seabee Combat Warfare	VANARSDEL	SK2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
OSGOOD	BU2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	WAGNER, D	SK2	Seabee Combat Warfare
PACHECO	HM3	Seabee Combat Warfare	WARMICK	CM2	Seabee Combat Warfare
PADILLA	BU2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	WASHINGTON	BUON	Frothing
PEREZ, A	GM1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	WATSON	CM2	Frothing
PEREZ, I	BU2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal	WATSON, J	CM2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
PUGH	EOCN	Frothing	WEST	CM3	Frothing
REDDEN	CE2	Frothing	WHITLEY	CM3	Frothing
REEVES	BU3	Frothing	WILKINSON	CM3	Frothing
ROBERTS	CE2	Frothing	WILSON	SM1	Seabee Combat Warfare
ROBERTS, C	CE1	Certificate of Commendation	WONG, C	IT2	Certificate of Commendation
ROCHA	EOCN	Frothing	WOOD	UT2	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
ROCK	OMCN	Frothing	WOOLDRIDGE,	BUON	Seabee Combat Warfare
RODRIGUEZ	BU3	Frothing	YOUNG	EO1	Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
RODRIGUEZ, A	SW2	Seabee Combat Warfare			





# CULT TAKES



# ...CNO's New Year's visit...



# ON POINT: Al Asad



photos by: YN2  
**Joy  
Fearn**