

# DESERT

# BUZZ

# NEWS



# Commodore's Corner

Men, Women, Families, and Friends of 30NCR,



Greetings from sunny Afghanistan. By the time you read this, it will have been well over a month since we departed beautiful Port Hueneme, spent a few hot days in Camp Moreell, and arrived here in Kandahar August 17.

It already seems like a month ago that we completed a very thorough turnover with 25NCR and took over the reigns August 24. I have been extremely impressed with how fast our troops have come up to speed, built up their situational awareness and settled into their deployment routine. Morale seems to be very high. It is evident that everybody on the team realizes the importance of their individual jobs and the impact that our team will have on the mission here. I could not be more proud of these hard charging Seabees.

It has been inspiring for me to watch how hard our troops have worked during this first month on the ground. The hours are long, the sun is hot, the electricity in our facility has been sporadic, but we are getting the job done.

I think our folks realize that while our conditions here are spartan, we have it much better than most of our forces based at outlying Forward Operating Bases (FOBs), and that recognition motivates us to do our very best to support our troops at the tip of the spear. The "Can Do" reputation of the Seabees is well known and appreciated across the entire theater, as evidenced by the never ending accolades I receive from Supported Commanders as I get around from FOB to FOB.

NMCB 74 arrived here only days before we did, and they are doing a great job so far. We also are looking forward to the pending arrival of a large contingent from NMCB 22 to our ranks.

In closing, I want to say thanks to all of you out there who have taken the time to send cards, letters, emails, and care packages to our troops. It's amazing how a piece of mail or an email from home can brighten even the toughest day on deployment. The support our troops get from home is what keeps them plugging away. Until next time, take care and God Bless.

--CAPT Kelly Schmader

# Words From The CSO

Greetings 30NCR Families and Friends,



I hope you're well wherever this family gram reaches you. Whew! We've been on the go since departing Port Hueneme, starting with our adventurous, unscheduled overnight layover in Fort Riley, Kansas. So we made it to Kuwait for additional training and acclimation a bit later than planned, but safely nonetheless.

Kuwait you ask? Aside from the 110 degree temperature, irritating sand storms and most of our folks sharing berthing with 12-14 of their closest friends, Kuwait is a lovely garden spot. No really, it's a necessary part of our deployment and 22NCR (Fwd) and NMCB 24 were gracious hosts at Camp Moreell.

We've been in country for 20 days as I write and have quickly come to realize the importance of how we fit into the larger mission and providing support to five subordinate units from three services, Army, Navy and Air Force.

Relative to our fellow Seabees at other locations, our Kandahar accommodations are palatial. So if your loved one has complained about arduous living and working conditions, they're not being truthful. In all seriousness, it's been amazing to watch our Seabees, your Seabees, step in with enthusiasm to pick up where 25NCR left off without missing a beat.

Speaking of 25NCR, there's good news and bad news. The good news is that they went above and beyond to set us up for success so we're very appreciative. The bad news is they set expectations pretty high around here so we have huge shoes to fill. No doubt in my mind however, Task Force FORAGER will advance the ball down the field even more.

I'm happy to report that everyone is doing well. Morale is very high as we're getting into our deployment battle rhythm. From our perspective, if the pace keeps up (and we're relatively certain that it will), we'll be headed west in a flash. Until next time, be well!

--CDR La Tanya Simms

# Command Master Chief's Corner



30NCR Team,

The plan has unfolded and we are well into executing the mission. Our deployed side is busy, working long days and weeks, but strangely enough the more time we devote to work the faster time goes by.

The planning of construction support missions seems endless at times but the staff in each department is focused and understands their part of the play. They tackle each mission with professionalism, experience and the attention to detail that is required in this environment.

Our personnel are maintaining good physical standards and sacrificing their personal time for self-improvement. Physical training seems to be ramped throughout the command.

Our home front team is doing equally as well, the support has been great, and when assistance or help has been needed, our remain-behind element has rallied in support. Emilyn Co is doing a great job for us all, and is ever ready with the assistance of Chief Engineering Aide Joe Collado and Chief Mass Communications Specialist Shane Montgomery to lend assistance.

Be proud of our team and what we are all contributing. The hard work, dedication and strong sense of patriotism of your loved ones are making this deployment another success story for Seabee history.

Stay strong and loyal, CONSTRUIMUS BATUIMUS!

-- CMDCM Tom Cyr

## Chaplain's Corner



We are now a few weeks into the deployment and adjusting well to our surroundings, our fairly comfortable living conditions, and the mission at hand. For some, this might be the first time you've had to deal with a deployment, but for others it's just another of many. Whatever your circumstance, deployments test us all and I can think of no better encouragement to you than to emphasize the need for character.

First and foremost, please know that God loves you and deeply values you as a person uniquely created in his image. He truly wants to have a personal relationship with you! His wonderful promise to us is, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. And I will be found by you" (Jer. 29:13-14a).

The sometimes lonely days of deployment are a crucial time to take God up on His promise. Strive to know Him and love Him because good character will be one of the many benefits of a right relationship with God. Some of the qualities God forms in our hearts need to be guarded. Honor, courage, commitment, morality, integrity, and loyalty are values to be carefully and consistently kept. Other qualities are to be freely and fully given. Love, generosity, compassion, understanding, patience, and forgiveness are but a few that we would do well to share.

It takes both guarding and giving to be a person of character and only God can help us consistently do both. As Aristotle once wrote, "To enjoy the things we ought and to hate the things we ought has the greatest bearing on excellence of character."

As we seek God, and he delights to let us find Him, from our lives and personalities will flow an unselfish sense of right and wrong, strong convictions, a lifelong commitment to your spouse and children, discipline and determination, a refusal to quit when the going gets tough, love for our country's freedom, respect for authority, and a joy of life the Apostle Peter describes as "inexpressible and full of glory" (I Pet. 1:8). Why just endure a deployment when, with God's help, you can overcome and grow stronger through it? I encourage you to take God up on His invitation. He awaits your RSVP.

--LT CDR DAVID SLATER



# Pre-Deployment Celebration

(more photos of family celebration on page 21)

# 30th Naval Construction Regiment Deploys in Support of U.S. Forces Afghanistan



Seabees assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment sit aboard a C-130 headed for Afghanistan.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Seabees from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30NCR) departed Naval Air Station Point Mugu, Calif. August 12, 2009 beginning an Afghanistan deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

The regiment, commanded by Capt. Kelly Schmader, will provide critical construction support for U.S. Forces Afghanistan and NATO forces.

“My responsibility is to coordinate engineering efforts in support of RC South [southern Afghanistan],” said Schmader. “As

coalition forces continue to push out further from established FOBs [Forward Operating Bases], it’s the engineers who facilitate that [movement] through construction of life support and operational requirements.”

30NCR will command and oversee the work of more than 3,000 Navy, Army and Air Force military engineers from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 homeported in Gulfport, Miss., 19th Engineer Battalion based in Fort Knox, Ky., 4th Engineer Battalion based in Fort Carson, Colo., and 809th

(cont. next page)

Seabees assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment sit aboard a C-130 headed for Afghanistan.

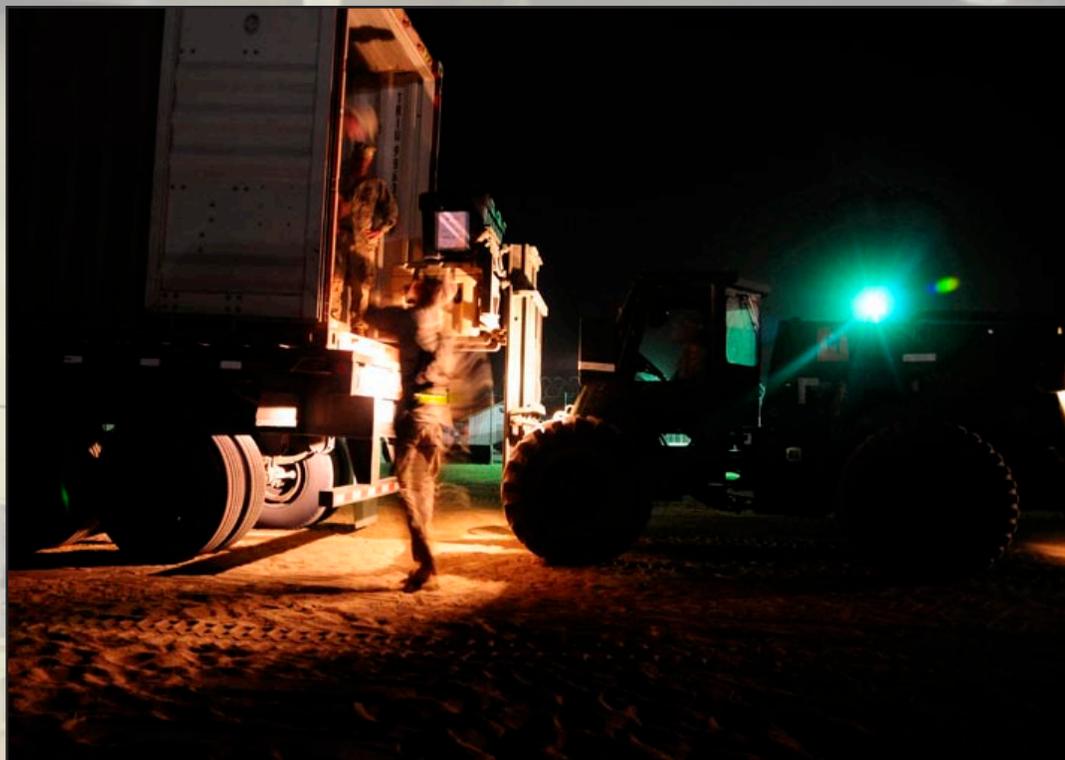


Expeditionary Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron based in Billings, Mont. The units are expected to complete projects including road repair, route clearance to include mine clearing, forward operating base construction and water well construction.

“The regiment will support the missions of these units by planning construction projects, determining priority of effort in coordination with higher headquarters, assessing and reporting unit capabilities and best utilizing the capability and capacity of units,” said Cmdr. La Tanya Simms, 30NCR Chief Staff Officer.

For the regiment, which is made up of both active and reserve component Sailors, this will be the first deployment to Afghanistan after two deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and 2007.

“I’m just anxious to go and get the work done,” said Engineering Aide Constructionman Wesley Hetrick who is out of the Shermansdale, Penn. Navy Operational Support Center. “I feel like I have to do my duty as a young American citizen.”



Seabees assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment offload gear in Kuwait.



Right: A Seabee assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment walk to their temporary berthing in Kuwait during an acclimation and weapons training period.

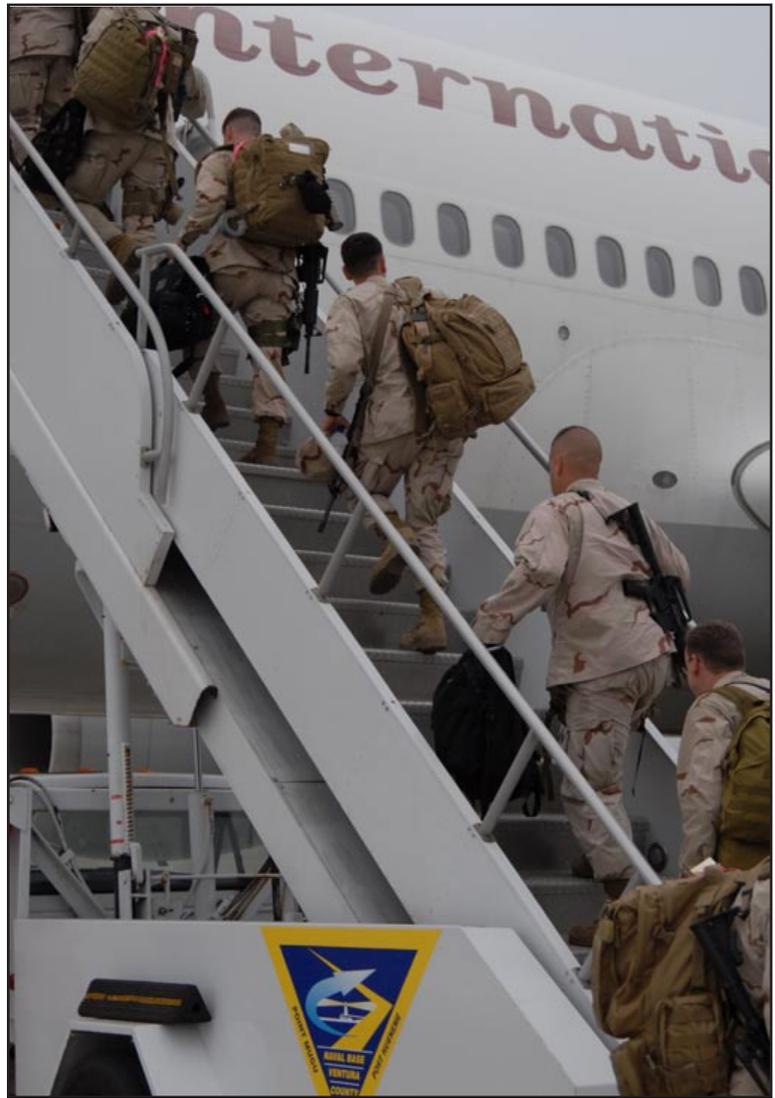
# Deploying To Kansas?

The regiment arrived in Kansas a few hours after leaving the Naval Base Ventura County flight line. However, the plane experienced mechanical difficulties after landing in Kansas to pick up Soldiers who were also headed to Kuwait.

After shuffling in and out of the plane several times and most vexing of all “hurrying up and waiting” for several hours, we boarded the plane for a lap around the landing strip before the plane’s flight crew realized the bird just could not fly. We then called it quits and resigned to wait for mechanics to fix the plane.

Lucky for us, Fort Riley was able to accommodate the regiment overnight and kick started our partnership with the Army for this deployment. And for many of us the chance to hear our first Hooah!  
(more related photos next page)







# Weapons BZ0

Some hit the bullseye at the range in Kuwait, others were happy just to hit the paper!



# 30NCR Assumes Engineering Mission In Afghanistan From 25 NCR



Soldiers assigned to U.S. Forces Afghanistan, 19th Engineer Battalion, 4th Engineer Battalion and 143rd Joint Sustainment Command sit in the audience during the Transfer of Authority ceremony.

Chief Staff Officer. “30NCR has assumed responsibility for oversight of all of the engineer effort being executed by troop labor from three branches of the military [including] Navy, Air Force, and Army.”



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 (NMCB 74) measure a piece of lumber. NMCB 74 is one of the units turned over to the regiment.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30NCR) assumed command and control of construction operations from the 25th Naval Construction Regiment (25NCR) in a brief Transfer of Authority ceremony August 24, 2009 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Keynote speaker for the ceremony was Brig. Gen. John McMahon.

“TOA stands for Transfer of Authority. Although the words authority and responsibility aren’t interchangeable, in essence it’s the transition of responsibility from one unit to another,” according to Cmdr. La Tanya Simms, 30NCR

The ceremony marks the start of 30NCR’s mission, which is to provide command and control over several units as they provide engineer support to U.S. and NATO servicemembers.

30NCR has big shoes to fill as 25NCR departs with an excellent reputation for military engineering success. “I could not be more impressed with 25NCR’s accomplishments in southern Afghanistan,” said Capt. Kelly Schmader, 30NCR Commander. “25NCR has set us up for success and our troops are anxious to build upon their achievements.”



Army engineers, assigned to the 19th Engineer Battalion, frame a wall. The 19th Engineer Battalion is one of the units turned over to the regiment.

# Promotions

Lt. j. g. Kevin Darmody poses for a photo with Capt. Kelly J. Schmader, 30NCR Commander, after a brief promotion ceremony in the regiment's conference room. Darmody received a tube of sunscreen, a gag gift, from Schmader after his promotion.



## ‘Glad to be Promoted in Afghanistan’

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Ensign Kevin Darmody, son of Jan and Tom Darmody and a native of Tampa, Fla., was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade August 22, 2009.

Darmody graduated with a high school diploma from Marin Academy in San Rafael, Calif. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection from the University of Maryland at College Park and a Master of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Redlands in Redlands, California.

Darmody, assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment, was promoted in Kandahar, Afghanistan while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I’m glad to be promoted in Afghanistan and in the regiment,” said Darmody. “We’re in charge of all the [military troop] construction in RC South [southern Afghanistan] and those are some pretty big shoes to fill. I think this promotion will definitely help me fill them.”

According Darmody who is an Action Officer in charge of the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul, his job is to determine which engineer unit gets tasked with each project.

“It was great to be promoted, especially while deployed [in Afghanistan] where we can really make a difference,” said Darmody. “I’m no longer a wet behind the ears ensign and hopefully won’t be seen that way now.”

Darmody, joined the Navy Reserve in Sept. 12, 2007 through the direct commissioning program.



## Promotions (cont.)

# Texan Promoted in Afghanistan



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – As a young teenager growing up in Arlington, Texas, Monica Rojas, the daughter of German and Twila Rojas, imagined working for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), but instead elected a career in the United States Navy. Rojas, now 26, is assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30NCR) which is homeported in Port Hueneme, Calif. and currently forward deployed to southern Afghanistan.

Rojas was promoted to the rank of lieutenant junior grade on August 27, 2009 in a ceremony held at the regimental headquarters in Kandahar, Afghanistan. She is a graduate of Lamar High School and holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of North Texas.

Rojas became intrigued with the military after attending Army Officer Basic Training while working as a Government Service employee. She joined the Navy Reserve two years later and received a direct commission to the rank of ensign. About her decision to join the Navy over the other services, Rojas remarked, “I felt that the Navy had the best Direct Commission Program.”

Rojas received mobilization orders to 30NCR while still in Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, Ga. and shortly thereafter deployed to Afghanistan with the regiment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. “My family thought I was crazy to join the military during a time of war, but I’m excited about being in Afghanistan. It’s a once in a lifetime experience that not everyone can comprehend,” said Rojas.

Rojas’ job as the regiment’s Financial Officer is to put together acquisition and procurement packages for both the regiment and subordinate units.



Lt. j. g. Monica Rojas recites the officers oath to Capt. Kelly J. Schmader, 30NCR Commander, at a brief promotion ceremony in the regiment’s conference room.

# Profile on a Sailor: EACN Wesley Hetrick

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Engineering Aide Constructionman Wesley Hetrick is a Reserve Component Sailor from Shermansdale, Penn., assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30NCR) and deployed to Afghanistan.

Hetrick holds a Bachelor of Science in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC) design technology from the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Penn. He was born in Great Lakes, Illinois, where his father was stationed.

“My dad was in “C” school when I was born,” said Hetrick. “He was a Gunner’s Mate in the Navy.”

Hetrick’s father went on to be stationed in Norfolk, Va. where he finished his five-year contract. For Hetrick, his father was the biggest influence in his life.

“Growing up, I always looked up to him and he taught me a lot of the things I know today. Ever since I can remember he always took me out hunting and I’d always help him build or weld whatever was needed for the truck or tractor.”

Hetrick wanted to join the Marine Corps with his friends after graduating from high school.

“My girlfriend convinced me to go to college [instead of enlisting in the Marine Corps],” said Hetrick. “My friend from high school who did join the Marines died in a convoy in Fallujah and that was a kick in the pants to do my part. I’m young and willing. If people like me don’t go, then who

will.”

In November 2006, half-way through college, Hetrick made the decision to enlist in the Navy.

“I was too out of shape for the Marine Corps so I joined the Navy,” said Hetrick joking. “I was three years into college in the construction trade so I figured the Seabees was the way to go.”

Hetrick is currently deployed with the regiment to southern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He doesn’t mind being deployed.

“Everyday here is a big display of air superiority. Tracer rounds from gunships illuminate the night skies and during the day you can spot almost any type of aircraft. It’s definitely something you don’t see back home.”

Hetrick’s job in Afghanistan is to serve as a military liaison between the regiment and civilians who design structures that will be built by military engineers. He also maintains and updates electronic engineering records of Kandahar Airfield (KAF) and all Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in southern Afghanistan.

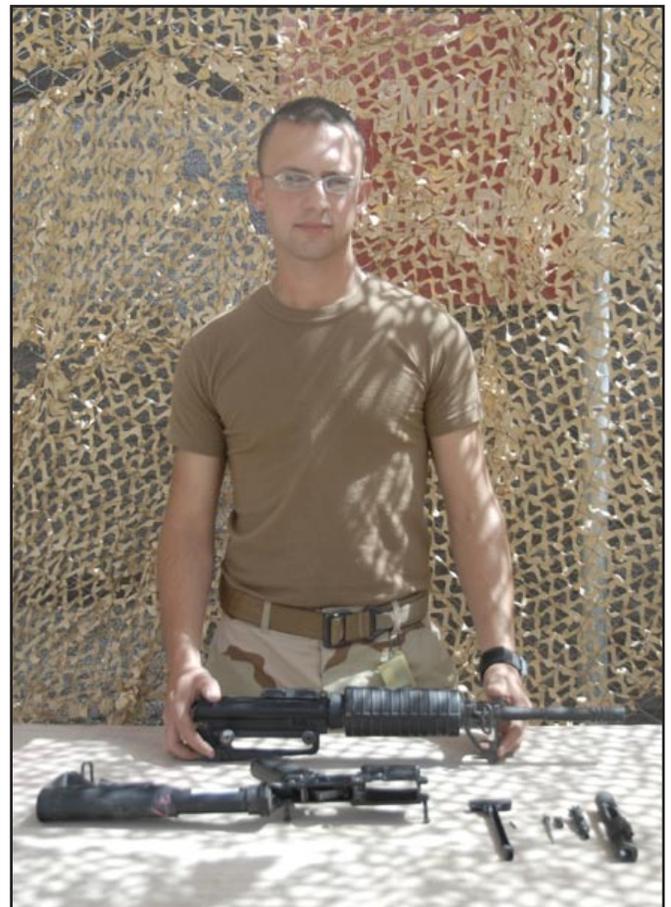
“It’s busy here. When we aren’t drawing for

the civilian engineers, we are updating the [blueprints of the] FOBs or KAF itself.”

Hetrick spends his limited free time here in KAF working out and thinking about what he’s going to do when he gets home.

“I’m going to go on vacation to the Bahamas shortly after getting home. Then I’m going to get started on my business designing and installing residential HVAC. I miss my family, friends, and my dog but I’m ready to stay here as long as I have to and do my part.”

Below: EACN Wesley Hetrick poses for a photo while inspecting his weapon.



# R1 Administrative Department



Lt. Eric Vega  
Administrative Officer

Administrative Department or Admin is the department that sometimes gets overlooked and does not always get the recognition. We are not out on the project site constructing FOBs; instead, we are in the office taking care of the Seabees, Soldiers and Airman that are. We work very hard to prevent or correct personnel, administrative and pay problems, while at the same time supporting their needs.

We take care of the regimental staff and support the units attached to us. We provide personnel accountability, prepare general correspondence, process awards, fitness reports and evaluations, coordinate ceremonies and special visits, and process emergency leave in a timely and accurate manner.

Lt. Eric Vega, originally from Los Angeles, Calif., is the administrative officer for 30NCR.

From Fall 2008 to Spring 2009, he deployed with the regiment to Fallujah, Iraq. Yeoman 1st Class Roderick Williams, from Long Beach County, Calif., is the admin department leading petty officer. He is responsible for the office's daily routine. Yeoman 1st Class Tanya Tedeschi, from Southern California, is the command secretary and awards yeoman. She handles scheduling for the commander and processes awards for recognition. Yeoman Seaman Apprentice Cosme Hernandez aka "Salsa King," from Mission, Texas, is the most junior sailor in the command. He is responsible for tracking all personnel from our subordinate units and the regiment, and does what we tell him to do.



# R3 Operations Department



CUCM Robert S. Moons  
Operations Chief

Hello family and friends of the Operations Shop 30th Naval Construction Regiment. We are all doing well and received a fantastic turnover from the 25th Naval Construction Regiment. They have done a fantastic job here executing priority projects and supporting the efforts of the warfighters in our Area of Operations (AO). Our shop now carries the ball into the next phase of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I'd like to explain a little about how the Operations Department is broken down and what we do. In our Operations Shop we are broken down into codes or function areas. We have our Future Ops section and our Current Ops sections. I'll go into our Future Ops or R35 section first.

Future Ops is just that. These guys spend their day with an ear to the ground listening for the latest rumblings about projects here on Kandahar Airfield (KAF) and throughout the AO. We refer to them as the "Good Idea Fairy Catchers." Armed with the latest technology in Fairy Nets, you can see them scurrying about the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and Combat Outposts (COPs) looking for projects that need action. The leader of the Future Ops section is Lt. Josh Perry along with Master Chief Utilities Constructionman Master Chuck Church and Chief Steel Worker William Middleton. All kidding aside, these guys are the ones who are projecting the "We Build, We Fight" part of the Seabee motto into the battlefield.

After a project is solidified and the "table is slapped," the construction effort moves to the Current Operations side of the house known as R33. These are the guys that are the liaison between the FOB mayors, customers, and Seabees who are going to do the work. In this shop we have broken into Chief and Officer teams to spread the workload and keep the war effort humming.

Lt. Tony Houston and Chief Steelworker Michael Bonifer are teamed up to support the Marine Corps in the Helmand Province. Lt. j.g. Kevin Darmody and Chief Utilitiesman Jason Hutchinson are teamed up to support FOBs and COPs in our Eastern sector. Ens. Carl Clemenich and Chief Builder Darien Austin are teamed up to support projects here on KAF.

The teams are all managed by Lt. Cmdr. Michael Bates and Senior Chief Builder Charlie "FRAGO" Luna who writes the orders for our units and sends them up for final approval and release. This job can be difficult as these guys not only have to manage the daily antics of their own personnel, but keep track of all ongoing projects while keeping day to day regiment work going. Rounding this shop out we have Engineering Aide 2nd Class Mario Tejero who provides just in time drawings and plenty of coffee to keep these guys going.

Moving to our next shop we have the "Brain of the Operations" shop, the actual R3 shop itself. The shop is made up of the Regimental Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Lance Flood, his ever so faithful sidekick Lt. Rob "The Klinger" Kleinman, and myself Master Chief Utilities Constructionman Bobby Moons. Our daily workload consists of not only shaping the battlefield and an hourly list of meetings that seem to never end, but pushing information out to our subordinate units and our R33 and R35 shops to execute. The war never stops here, along with the power point slides and Situation Reports that Kleinman develops. We're keeping quality of life and operational capabilities at the peak of efficiency for the troops in Regional Command South (southern Afghanistan).

We in the Operations Shop are all looking forward to a challenging and rewarding deployment and are proud to be here. The "Leaders of the PAC" have arrived here in KAF and are all safe and sound. I'll be keeping notes and building the next "OPS TOPS" for my next article. We all hope you enjoyed learning a little bit about what we are doing here in Afghanistan and I send you our warmest regards.

--CUCM (SCW/FMF) Robert S. Moons

# R4 Logistics Department



Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Jors  
Assistant Logistics Officer

30th Naval Construction Regiment's (30NCR) Logistics Department, through teamwork and enterprise, accomplishes minor logistical miracles on a daily basis. Whether the department is executing the enormous spend plan that lingers in the \$75 million range each month or acquiring office supplies, computers, and other material for the staff, they maintain a solid sense of humor despite the sometimes hopeless logistics situation in Afghanistan.

Cmdr. Jim Hendley, who reported aboard in July, leads the Logistics Shop. He is new to the Seabees but his six years of expeditionary logistics experience with the U.S. Navy SEALs brings unparalleled knowledge to the table for the Naval Construction Force (NCF) in Operation Enduring Freedom. He leads five divisions with support from Logistics Department Chief Senior Chief Storekeeper Ronald Antiquiera and Assistant Logistics Officer Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Jors.

Lt. j.g. Monica Rojas leads the Finance Division with support from Storekeeper 1st Class Mark Co, Storekeeper 1st Class John Paul Deguzman and Storekeeper 2nd Class Idongesit Ekpo. The Finance Division is responsible for compiling the monthly spend plan, tracking and preparing all the Joint Acquisition Review Board packages for Task Force Forager commands and any acquisitions not tied to a construction project.

Storekeeper 1st Class Leon Pizzaro and Gunner's Mate 1st Class Jeffrey Wright co-lead the Non-Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) Table of Allowance Division. They team up to manage the inventory of all tool kits, weapons and ammunition that belongs to the NCF in Afghanistan.

Senior Chief Equipment Operator Frank Palmer and Senior Chief Construction Mechanic Vernon Forrester lead the CESE Management Division with support from Construction Mechanic 1st Class Clarence Boulais and Construction Mechanic 2nd Class James Goode. They take on the herculean task of managing hundreds of pieces of construction equipment spread throughout southern Afghanistan. From water well rigs to 30-kilowatt generators, they ensure all equipment is mission ready or parts are on order to make it so.

Ens. Michael Andrews leads the Material Liaison Division with close support from Senior Chief Kirk Ruetten. Their supporting cast includes Construction Electrician 1st Class Diano Raigumal and Utilitiesman 2nd Class Heranio Wagayen. They ensure materials are received and shipped to the forward operating bases and combat outposts in order for the subordinate units to execute their construction missions.

Coming soon to the Logistics Department will be the Embark Division, which will move from the Operations Department in October, based on doctrinal changes from 1st Naval Construction Division.

We look forward to a stellar deployment by consistently supporting our builders and fighters throughout southern Afghanistan. And we also look forward to the end of the deployment when we reunite with friends and family. Until we come home, we promise to stay safe and keep in touch. Thanks for all your support.

--Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Jors

# R5 Plans Department



Lt. Col. Richard E. Sloop  
Plans Officer

30th Naval Construction Regiment (30NCR) Plans Department designs, programs and estimates contingency construction projects for execution by U.S. military engineers, LOGCAP and local contractors. The entire Plans Department consists of 40 military personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force and several civilians from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Along with personnel organic to 30NCR, the department is assembled from three direct support U.S. Air Force (USAF) Facility Engineer Teams (FET) and one government service USACE Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST). The

USAF FET deploys to support base camps with engineer services and construction management. A USACE FEST deploys with integrated capabilities such as infrastructure planning, engineering design and assessment, and real estate and environmental engineering. 30NCR personnel assigned to the Plans Department perform or support the full range of planning, programming, engineering and construction management responsibilities.

# R6 Communications Department



Lt. Shanewit Nopkhun  
Communications Officer

As the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30NCR) took the helm of engineering units in southern Afghanistan a few weeks ago, the Communications Department (Comms) has hit the ground running. Comms conducted a smooth and effective turnover with the 25th Naval Construction Regiment and went through the initial growing pains of learning new procedures, locales and points of contacts.

The Communications Department is comprised of six personnel who provide support to a total of five Army, Navy and Air Force subordinate units operating throughout the region in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Leading the Comms crew is Chief Information Systems Technician Katrina Franklin. The other members of the staff are Information Systems Technician 1st Class John Grady, Electronics Technician 1st Class Terry Lebermann, Steelworker 1st Class Loren Clint and Electronics Technician 2nd Class Derrick Maldonado.

Collectively, with countless hours of pre-deployment training and years of experience, the Comms shop is ready, willing and more than able to execute their mission.

“We spent all of homeport training and preparing for this deployment including a few exercises that utilized real-world Comm assets” according to Maldonado. “I think we’ll be able to handle any issue that comes our way.”

From e-mail accounts to cell phones and network troubleshooting to software and hardware requirements, the Comms shop has been busy supporting our subordinate units and the regiment. And with a new subordinate unit incoming the pace is not expected to slow down any time soon according to Lt. Shanewit Nopkhun, Communications Officer.

“The staff has been through a lot and everyone brings a wide array of skills to the table,” according to Franklin. “But as you know with Comms, always expect the unexpected, you never know when the emergency requirements will pop-up.”

Not surprising, the veracity of that statement is a testament of the events that have already taken place during our short time onboard. With the dynamic environment the regiment faces each and every day, the only certainty in our forecast is a busy schedule... but that’s just another busy day for us.

## R02M Medical Department



HMC Michael Broomfield  
Medical Chief

Chief Hospital Corpsman Michael Broomfield is the 30th Naval Construction Regiment Medical Chief. He directs medical forces and provides medical logistics support for the Naval Construction Force and Army engineer units in southern Afghanistan. He also provides medical policy while ensuring that subordinate units follow U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Naval Forces Central Command plans, guidance and evacuation procedures in theater.

# MCPON Visits 30NCR





# MCPON Visits 30NCR (cont.)

