



Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all the NMCB 14 Members. I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to be your new President.

Many of you know me and have for nearly 40 years. For those who may not, allow me to give you a short introduction. I joined the battalion in December 1984 as an EAC, transferring from NMCB 22 in Texas. I was promoted to CWO2 a few months later and then promoted to LT (jg), LDO in 1987. I left the Battalion in 1998 to serve at the US Southern Command HQ in Miami, FL. I was later recalled to active duty to SOUTHCOM and went on to serve at US European Command HQ and US Africa Command HQ, both in Stuttgart, Germany. I served a total of 45 years' with nearly 18 on active duty, retiring in 2010, but I always think of NMCB 14 as my home.

A reminder of who we are and what we stand for is found on our website. I quote,
"The Association is in keeping with the following goals:

- Camaraderie within the SEABEE community, inclusive of all Navy rates, ranks and designators
- Support of the inclusive SEABEE community.
- Communications with members.
- Historical restoration and preservation."

To these ends, we extend support to those in need through our Assistance Committee. Additionally, we support the education of our members or their families via scholarship grants. We also maintain a close association with each other through our annual reunion.

I would like to pose a question to you. "How can we develop and maintain a closer relationship throughout the year; Encouraging more participation in local Island events, sponsor regional activities, advertising nearby SEABEE Balls to attend, ...?"

I invite all of you to let me know of any suggestions about how we can improve our association. I know that communications are a big issue and will try to keep all of you informed and listen to your suggestions. Thanks, again and let's have a great SEABEE Year.

Bob Suggs

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Another reunion has come and gone. We had a really good turn out, and I believe everyone had a great time. Pete Herrick was our guest speaker this year. He gave a great speech and is truly an inspiration to us all. Thanks Pete!!!

I sincerely hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and that 2022 is a great year for you and yours. Looking ahead, remember this coming reunion will be held in Savannah. Start planning now as it will be upon us before you know it. I believe the tentative plan is the late October time frame.

During the last reunion, we gained a new president and a few directors. I'd like to heartily welcome our current President: Bob Suggs and our new Directors: Anthony Amesquita, Greg Vogel, and Dave Grass. Please wish them well and support them as they lead this association forward.

I'd also like to remind everyone that we are offering an NMCB 14 Alumni Association scholarship. The information and instructions to apply are posted on our website. That's all for now, please stay safe and again I wish everyone a happy New Year.

- Thomas

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Bob Suggs

E-mail: suggscr@aol.com

Tel: 954-604-4132

PAST PRESIDENT

Gregg Harkness

Tel: (407) 491-1863

E-Mail: g.harkness@earthlink.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Legler

Tel: (813) 451-7604

E-Mail: thomaslegler@msn.com

SECRETARY

Brandi Anderson

Tel: (386) 679-8932

E-Mail: secretary.nmcb14@gmail.com

TREASURER

Joseph P. Leahy

Tel: (609) 820-8723

E-Mail: capt1952@gmail.com

OMBUDSMEN

Debbie Croxton

Tel: (864) 643-6373

E-Mail: 14beestrong@gmail.com

Betty Nelson

Tel: (813) 376-3497

E-Mail: bettybud2000@aol.com

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Felix Acevedo Jr.

e-mail: felixacevedojr@yahoo.com

Tel: 407-595-4084

Daryl Lichti

E-mail: daryllichti2001@yahoo.com

Tel: 352-348-0669

Richard Hoibraten

E-mail: cj_20207947@gmail.com

Tel: 404-683-2834

James Cochran

E-mail: cmdcmcochran@gmail.com

Tel: 985-273-2066

Stephen Clark

E-mail: Shclark3X3@msn.com

Tel: 941-799-0707



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Wishing you all a happy start to 2022! The Board is hard at work planning the next Reunion so please keep an eye on your email and the website for any changes. We are so glad we got to see everyone in Tampa and cannot wait for our next event!

Sincerely,

Brandi Anderson

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As the year of 2021 is coming to a close I am sure that we have all felt the impact of the yet undefined Covid 19 virus and the challenges of employment and especially the ability to worship and share the joys of life.

I am truly grateful for the veteran's and spouses who came to the work day at the "Major Leon Davenport Veteran's Center" and that we could all share in the fellowship, the "Chili cookoff" and opportunity to work as a team.

Thank God for the visits I have been able to make and prayers for the many veteran's and community that are in need of assistance.

It brings to mind the opportunity for all of us to reflect and give thanks for our many blessings and yet also to remind us of the value of human life and as Christians the reason for Christ's coming into the world which was to guide us into the understanding that we need each other and to share in love, knowledge, and that unity is necessary for survival.

I would ask that we all unite in spirit and love and comradeship to lift America and to seek God's Grace and Peace in all that we do not only in the present but also in the future.



In God's Grace Peace,

Pastor Richard Hoibraten
U S Navy Seabees Chaplain

NMCB 14 Alumni Association Challenge Coins



Front

If you are interested in purchasing an NMCB 14 Alumni Association Challenge Coin to help support us, they are available for \$10 plus \$1 shipping and handling.

Contact Gregg Harkness (g.harkness@earthlink.net) for ordering information!



Back

ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

A new year and again a new chance to start again!! Is that GREAT or what?

Well, maybe not all of us are having such a good start or your having some issue that is lagging over from last year.

The NMCB 14 Family is here for you. We have two highly Trained Ombudsmen that are here to help Navigate through any issue you may have. If they can't assist directly, maybe they can point you in the right direction. If you just want to talk, they can help with that too.

Speaking of help an issue that we all can relate to is Suicide prevention. ALL of us know someone who has Needlessly taken his or her life. It is so heartbreaking to the Family, Friends. We all need help in our lives in certain points of our lives, there is no shame in asking for help. I urge you, I beg, I plead, I Pray, that if you find yourself with thoughts that will hurt yourself or others Call 1-800-273-8255 veterans Hotline.

While I am not trained in this manner, I am here if you want to talk. No matter what, I urge you to call a buddy call a friend Talk it out Just don't take your life we need you here!!!

Debbie Croxton, Ombudsman

14beestrong@gmail.com
864.643.6373

Betty Nelson, Ombudsman

bettybud2000@aol.com
813.376.3497

Richard Hoibraten

NMCB 14 Alumni Association Chaplain
cj_20207947@gmail.com
404.683.2834

Daryl Lichti, Assistance Chair

352-348-0669
aryllict2001@yahoo.com.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**



**Military
Crisis Line**

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISLAND X-3 MILITARY BALL

The Island X-3 7th Annual Military Ball is coming up!

Mark your calendars for 05 March 2022, square away your formal clothes (Military—Dinner Dress, Civilian—Black Tie Optional) and join your brother Seabees of Island X-3 in Blairsville, Georgia!

The event will be hosted at The Ridges Resort in Young Harris, Georgia and tickets will be on sale at a discount until 01 March 2022!

For more details, contact

Ed Crenshaw (eeebret@windstream.net) or Bob Ramay (bobramay@windstream.net).



*Celebrate
The Seabees
80th
Birthday*

7th Annual Military Ball
All Services & Civilians
Organized By
The Navy Seabees
Island X-3, Blairsville, Georgia
Saturday, March 5th, 2022
The Ridges Resort, Young Harris, GA



Time:
Social Hour: 1730
Dinner: 1830
Ceremony: 1930
Dancing: 2000-2330

Attire:
Military: Dinner Dress
Civilian: Black Tie Optional
Ladies: Evening Wear

Speaker:
CMDRMC (SCW)
James McKinney USNR



Cash Bar:
Dinner Buffet:
Hotel:
The Ridges Resort
On Lake Chatuge
(706) 896-2262
www.theridgesresort.com
Young Harris, Georgia
Ask for the Seabee Rate

Ticket Sales POC:
Ed Crenshaw (706) 897-2649
eeebret@windstream.net
Bob Ramay (706) 400-9245
bobramay@windstream.net
Mail Checks to:
Bob Ramay
280 Deer Foot Rd.
Blairsville, Georgia 30512

Tickets:
On Sale Until March 1, 2022
Active Duty/Res E1 - E5 \$30.00
All Others \$50.00 (\$5.00 Discount per Ticket Purchased by 1/31/22)
Guest pay same ticket price as their escort
Tables of 8: \$350.00 (\$300.00 by 1/31/22)
Make Checks Payable to:
NSVA Island X-3 Blairsville



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?



NMCB14 ALUMNI ORGANIZATION

HOME MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ABOUT US DIRECTORS & OFFICERS RESOURCES CONTACT



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ORGANIZATION

2022 REUNION: SAVANNAH, GA TBA

7th Annual Military Ball



7th Annual Military Ball
All Services & Civilians
Organized By
The Navy Seabees
Island X-3, Blairsville, Georgia





If you've not seen it yet, do yourself a favor and check it out!

<https://www.nmcb14alumni.com>



The Fighting Seabee

The Navy needed fighters
And they needed engineers,
So they organized the Seabees to
pin back the enemy's ears,

They took welders, riggers, boilermen,
and cooks and bakers too;
They signed them in the Navy,
which was the thing to do.

With Tommy guns and rifle,
we Seabees learned to shoot;
And to use a big machete knife,
and other things to boot.

They taught us how to march and drill,
They taught us how to dress;
We learned Commando tactics
and we bucked the line at mess.

We learned the Navy lingo;
we called it "deck" and "swab";
We learned just how to "knock it off"
like any other gob.

They taught us all these many things
in thirteen weeks or less,
And what they didn't teach us,
the rest we had to guess.

We finished out our training
and we sailed to Island X,
We had all our equipment stowed
below and on the decks.

The enemy held the island
when at last it hove in sight;
We knew that they were ready,
so we got prepared to fight.

We landed under heavy fire,
and there was plenty hell,
It kept us busy most the day,
just dodging every shell.

We soon had wiped the enemy out
and then we went to work,
Each Seabee did his duty--
not a one was seen to shirk.

We built a mighty landing field,
a barracks and a dock,
About a hundred miles of road
we made from solid rock.

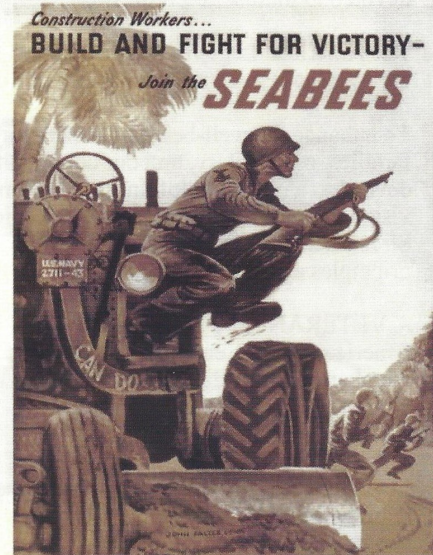
We got things finally squared away,
'twas pretty to be seen,
Then we went back to the beachhead,
where we saw our first Marines.

They had followed in behind us,
though they said they got there first;
We had everything completely fixed,
they could even quench their thirst.

From the Halls of Montezuma,
to the shores of Tripoli
It used to be the Leathernecks,
now it's all Seabees.

And when we reach the Pearly Gates
and stand at Heaven's scene,
There'll be a Seabee waiting there
to greet the first Marine.

Author: unknown

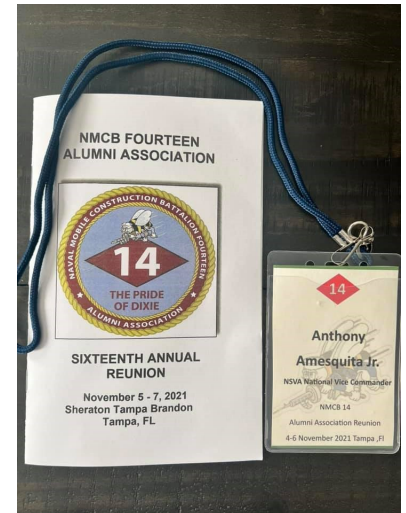


Ask about new Volunteer Plan
APPLY TO YOUR NEAREST NAVY RECRUITING STATION
You may also volunteer for service with the Army Engineers. See your nearest Army Recruiting Station

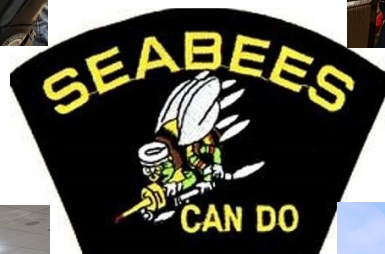




Reunion 2021



Reunion 2021



1942



2022

80 Years of CAN DO



**Seabees of the 14th NCB building a bomb shelter—
Guadalcanal 1942**



**Seabees of NMCB 14 offloading materials—
Camp Shelby 2020**

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NMCB 14

Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) 14 was commissioned July 14, 1942 as the 14th Naval Construction Battalion out of Camp Allen Norfolk, Virginia (Naval Construction Training Center) in support of WWII. The battalion's first commanding officer was CDR T. F. Reilly, Jr. The total number of personnel deployed from the 14th NCB was 991.

The 14th NCB departed September 9, 1942 by ship and arrived in Noumea, New Caledonia on September 30, 1942. There they were tasked with building new facilities and constructing airfields. Their tasking changed on October 20, 1942, as resources were needed at Aola on Guadalcanal to build new facilities and construct airfields in support of operation ACORN RED ONE. The 14th NCB arrived in Aola Bay on November 4, 1942 after surviving an attack by an enemy submarine. While at Guadalcanal, they were constantly attacked by enemy air raids. Even amidst the attacks, the 14th NCB continued to survey the grounds for an airfield and create a temporary camp to accommodate the personnel there. Once the area was clear, the troops departed Aola Bay and on November 26, 1942 landed on Koli Point. Shortly after reaching Koli Point, the 14th NCB began work on the famed "Mahogany Bridge" where they successfully completed the connection of the Koli area with the Lunga area in less than two weeks. The 14th NCB also prepared an emergency landing strip in 13 days.

The next big project for the 14th NCB was the 6-24 runway (Carney field) and the Northwest Taxi-way. This project began on December 28, 1942 and was completed by March 23, 1943. A huge reconstruction project was required due to damage caused by heavy rains in May of 1943. The reconstruction of the Mahogany Bridge plus the stabilizing and resurfacing of the 6-24 runway were priorities, however camp repairs and improvements were also made at this time. All of these projects were completed by June 15, 1943.

After detachment from Acorn Red One and being reassigned in July 1943, the 14th NCB was tasked with building another bridge known as the Metaponia Bridge. This bridge was completed in 18 days. The 14th NCB was relieved by the 61st NCB, and departed Guadalcanal on November 9, 1943. After a 3-day port visit to Pearl Harbor they arrived in the United States at Camp Parks, California on December 11, 1943.

The 14th NCB departed for their second deployment on October 21, 1944 and arrived in Pearl Harbor on October 29, 1944. There they continued where they left off in November 1943, again under the command of CDR Reilly. The 14th NCB stayed in Pearl Harbor doing various projects until February 1945 when they made preparations for departure to Saipan.

The 14th NCB landed and reported to the 8th Naval Construction Brigade and 35th Naval Construction Regiment on April 1, 1945. At that time, they began staging for Okinawa, Japan. The Battalion landed on Okinawa on May 15, 1945. There they did what they'd become known for, "build and fight." In June 1945 the 14th NCB performed several projects such as, the Minecraft Storage Refuge, the Ship Pier Storage Yard and the Tengan Auxiliary Pier. Also, during this period (June 27, 1945), the Battalion began reporting to the 10th Naval Construction Brigade and the 44th Naval Construction Regiment.

On July 15, 1945 the 14th NCB fell under a new commanding officer, CDR C.J. Simandl. Under his command they performed many tasks. They worked on the ammunition Piers, Chimu MoGas Farm (Sealines), GSK Warehouse, and the other ongoing projects assigned to the battalion before he took over. CDR Simandl remained their commanding officer until the deactivation of the battalion on April 12, 1946.

RNMCB 14 was commissioned on July 1, 1961. The Battalion readiness support site was established in Jacksonville, FL where it is located today and was composed of 10 units located in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama rightfully earning it the title "The Pride of Dixie".

The Battalion was re-designated NMCB 14 in July 1991, and was made up of 9 detachments in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico. Between 1961 and 2004, NMCB 14 performed reserve training at such locations as Davisville, RI., Camp LeJeune, NC., Little Creek, VA and Camp Goshen VA., Gulfport, Camp Swampee and Pascagoula MS, Charleston SC, Camp Pendleton CA, New Orleans LA., Pensacola, FL. and Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The Battalion also deployed overseas to locales like Spain, Germany and the Panama Canal Zone where they took part in jungle warfare training. Other training performed during these deployments and annual training cycles included: developmental and organization training, operation capability analysis, amphibious assault training, military/technical skills and various construction projects.

In March of 2004, NMCB 14 was called to active duty under the command of CDR John D. Prien III in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The Battalion deployed 397 members to Al Anbar Province Iraq, via Camp Morrell Kuwait. During their seven-plus month deployment they participated in numerous civil-military operations including: construction of three Iraqi Border Police outposts along the Iraqi border, a major camp improvement project in Husaybah for the Marines, a 50 Southwest Asia (SWA) hut berthing project, a massive 125 SWA hut expansion project completed in less than two months, a police academy, a detention center, an outreach center, improvements to an Iraqi National Guard training facility and they took the lead in teaching Iraqi youth construction skills in the Iraqi Construction Apprentice Program (ICAP) which NMCB 14 graduated the first class in the country. Just weeks prior to the end of the deployment, CDR Prien was promoted to Captain by the Commander of the First Marine Expeditionary Force (IMEF) Engineer Group (IMEG), RADM Charles Kubic.

The Battalion returned from Iraq and arrived in Gulfport, MS on October 29, 2004. On November 2, 2004 a change of command ceremony was held in which CAPT John D. Prien III was relieved by CDR Scott Shiver. CDR Shiver continues to carry on the fine tradition of NMCB 14 and prepares the battalion for the next time they are called on to "build and fight."

From Naval History and Heritage Command (<http://history.navy.mil>)

NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

During the 2003-2004 Iraqi Freedom deployment of NMCB 14, seven of its Seabees were killed and 34 wounded. In 2004, a Purple Heart Ceremony was held at NAS Jacksonville, Florida where NMCB 14 has its headquarters. It was well-attended by the military community, as well as retired and former members of NMCB 14. As a result of this gathering, **Capt. Bob Brockway** organized a small group of key retired officers and enlisted personnel to form an alumni association with a primary mission of aiding the families of those NMCB 14 personnel who were killed or wounded during Iraqi Freedom and any future conflict casualties.



On March 12, 2005, a meeting of the organizing committee was held at the Best Western Hotel & Suites in Orange Park, Florida. Those in attendance were **Jack Araneo, Bob Brockway, Randy Bushey, Ron Helton, Al Kenny, Bill Purkis, Joe Schweigart, Bill Tydings, and Mike Wood.** Neil Orange, who also was part of the organizing committee, was not able to attend. An organization was set up and interim appointments were made to the Executive Committee (Board of Directors and Officers). The initial purpose of the Association was in keeping with the following goals:

1. Camaraderie within the Seabee community, inclusive of all Navy rates, ranks, and designators.
2. Support of the inclusive Seabee community.
3. Communications with members.
4. Historical restoration and preservation.

Join us online!

NMCB 14 Alumni Association

Web Address:

<http://nmc14.alumni.com>

Facebook Page:

<http://facebook.com/groups/146833558670743>

Got something to contribute? Contact the editor:

Pat Allfrey—p.allfrey@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

WWII Life	03
Life Members	167
Annual Members	05
Subtotal	171
Memorial Members	38
TOTAL	213

