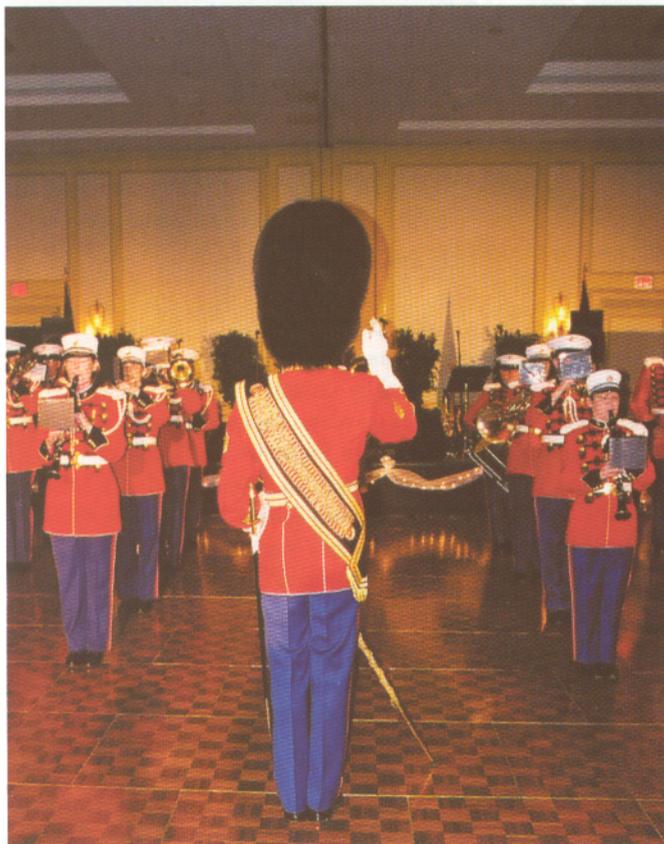


SCENES FROM A BALL 2003

This year, the world itself was the stage for the celebration of NAVFAC, CEC and Seabee birthdays

All over the world in 2003, celebrants gathered to observe the 161st anniversary of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), the 136th anniversary of the Civil Engi-

Below, RADM Johnson (left), VCNO ADM Fallon and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Seabees Harrell T. Richardson enjoy a moment after the VCNO is awarded an Honorary Seabee certificate. Bottom, the U.S. Marine Corps Band quite literally rocked the house for a thrilled audience.



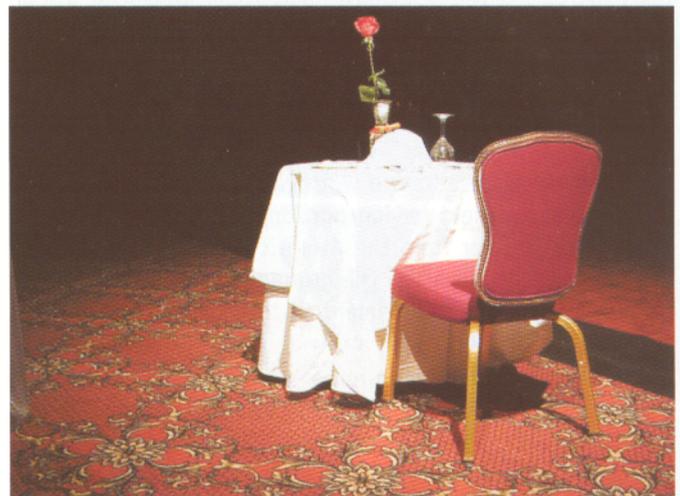
ner Corps and the 61st birthday of the Seabees.

Hosted by Rear Adm. Michael R. Johnson, Chief of Civil Engineers and Commander, NAVFAC, and his wife, Terry Johnson, the headquarters celebration was held March 15 in the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Crystal City, the familiar node of hotels and office complexes only walking distance from the Pentagon in Arlington, Va.

More than 650 attendees included Seabees, CEC officers and other service members, veterans and retirees from most of the eastern seaboard. Special guests included Acting Secretary of the Navy the Hon. H.T. Johnson, and special guest speaker, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. William J. Fallon.

Led by Commanding Officer Lt. Cmdr. Dale Uyeda, Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202 from Naval Submarine Base New London on Groton, Conn., hosted its well-attended Seabee Ball at the Mystic Marriott March 1. The event's special guest was Rear Adm. Michael C. Tracy, Commander, Navy Region Northeast and Commander, Submarine Group 2.

The headquarters anniversary ball featured a number of traditional and unique touches. The traditional "M.I.A." table, a special remembrance (below), was set with extra care. After a brief reception period, the dinner call was sounded by a bagpiper in full regalia (bottom, left). Not to be outdone in terms of pure lung power, a horn player from the U.S. Marine Corps Band (bottom, right) can definitely carry a tune.



U.S. NAVY PHOTOS BY LCDR SEAN KELLY & JOC DANIEL CHARLES ROSS IN ARLINGTON FOR NAVFAC; NICOLE HAWLEY IN MYSTIC FOR NEW LONDON; AND PH2 JACOB A. JOHNSON IN KUWAIT FOR TIMEE MEG



Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 5, 74 and 133, Naval Mobile Construction Force Support Unit 2, the Twenty Second Naval Construction Regiment (22NCR) and staff members of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Engineer Group gathered at Kuwait's Camp Moreell March 1 to mark the three-way birthdays.

The host of the desert event was Rear Adm. Charles R. Kubic, Commander, First Naval Construction Division and Commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Engineer Group, joined by Capt. William McKerall, Commander, 22NCR. The event's special guest was U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Conway, Commander of the 1st MEF.

The Seabees are deployed in the Gulf region to provide construction support to the 1st MEF and Central Command operations, including *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

Rear Adm. Kubic reminded the Seabees that they were celebrating their birthday in much the same way Seabees did the first year they were formed — in harm's way — when they provided contingency construction support to U.S. Marines during the battle of Guadalcanal. He encouraged the Bees to continue with the same valor as their predecessors, and turning to Lt. Gen. Conway, RADM Kubic said, "The Seabees never left you — and we never will." 🌐



Probably nowhere on the planet was the anniversary season celebrated with greater fervor than in the desert sand at Camp Moreell, Kuwait, hosted by RADM Charles R. Kubic (top, left) and featuring USMC LtGen James Conway (top, right), a traditional color guard and the bowed heads of an invocation. Seabees rendered honors (bottom, right) during the ceremony. At SUBASE New London, CBMU 202's LCDR Dale Uyeda (below, middle) hosted guest RDML Michael C. Tracy, base commander. No one has more fun at a Seabee Ball than Seabees (below, left), such as UT1 William Wyld and his wife Hadden.

