



# US Navy Civil Engineer Corps Collegiate Corner



1 December 2014

Collegiates,

Congratulations on your selection to the United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps! You will be joining a diverse and talented group of engineers and architects whose sole purpose is to serve the facilities, engineering and construction needs of the Navy and Marine Corps team. Between now and your arrival to OCS, it is our goal of the Accessions team to make sure you are knowledgeable about the CEC and are prepared for the challenges ahead. Each month, we will send out this newsletter to keep you informed about current events in the CEC, leadership development and to answer questions you have with regards to the Navy, CEC, Seabees etc. Each of the Accessions Officer's contact information is below for you to contact or pass along for questions, comments and concerns. We're looking forward to you joining the ranks and until then, best of luck studying!

- CEC Accessions Team

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## LEADERSHIP TRAITS

The Marine Corps uses the below list of traits in defining what qualities all leaders embody and aspire to. In addition to the core Navy values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, each month we will briefly discuss one of the leadership traits.

**Justice** - the practice of being fair and consistent. A just person gives consideration to each side of a situation and bases rewards or punishments on merit. Be honest with yourself about why you make a particular decision. Avoid favoritism. Try to be fair at all times and treat all things and people in an equal manner.

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## PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

What does it take to become a licensed engineer or architect? If you don't know the process or haven't started it yet, now is the best time to start! We recruit only engineers with an ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accredited engineering degree, accredited by the EAC (Engineering Accreditation Commission) or architects with a NAAB (National Architectural Accrediting Board) accredited degree. Look up the requirements at <http://www.abet.org/accreditation/> for engineers and <http://www.naab.org/accreditation/> for architects.



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## HISTORY EXCERPT

Each month the CEC prints a newsletter keeping our community informed about changes within our community and this recent newsletter included some Seabee heritage. I've enclosed it at the end of this month's newsletter.

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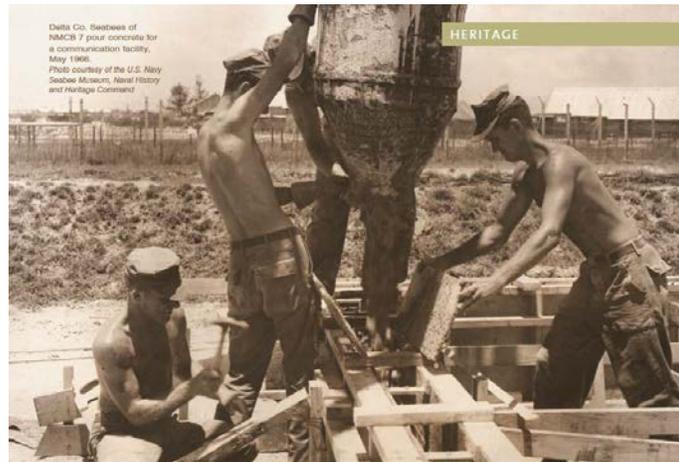
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## *History and Heritage*

### Seabees in Southeast Asia



Delta Co. Seabees of NMCB 7 pour concrete for a communication facility, May 1966.

(Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command).

In 1964, the U.S. military buildup in South Vietnam interrupted the normal peacetime deployment pattern of the Naval Construction Force. By fall 1968 worldwide Seabee strength had grown to more than 26,000 men, serving in 21 Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs), two Construction Battalion Maintenance Units (CBMUs) and two Amphibious Construction Battalions (ACBs).

As nearly 800,000 Vietnamese emigrated from north to south, an exodus known as the “Passage to Freedom,” the United States organized Navy Task Force 90, comprising more than 50 ships.

As members of Task Force 90, ACB 1 built and operated a recreation facility for U.S. personnel. Another detachment constructed a Refugee tent camp and accompanying water and power supply facilities at the mouth of the Saigon River. For this achievement, ACB 1 Seabees were awarded the Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation.

In summer 1956, a Seabee construction battalion team arrived in the newly established Republic of Vietnam to survey some 1,800 miles of existing and proposed roads. Two solid months of seven-day-a-week labor in extremely rough territory helped build many roads crucial to the conduct of the war. During 1963, Seabee teams constructed small support points throughout the interior to counter Viet Cong political influence in villages in South Vietnam. The teams also built U.S. Army Special Forces camps, performed civic action tasks and conducted military engineering projects.

Seabee activity in South Vietnam grew. ‘Bees served throughout 22 provinces scattered from the Mekong Delta along the Cambodian border and the Central highlands, to the North Vietnamese border. While they were primarily builders and instructors, Seabee Team members were sometimes directly involved in battle. Perhaps the most famous battle occurred June 1965 at Dong Xoai. When Viet Cong troops overran a Special Forces Camp containing 400 South Vietnamese and allied Asian troops, 11 men of a U.S. Army Special Forces team and nine men of Seabee Team 1104 were wounded or killed.

One of the dead was Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin G. Shields. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry in carrying a critically wounded man to safety and in destroying a Viet Cong machine gun emplacement at the cost of his life. Not only was Marvin Shields the first (and so far only) Seabee to receive the nation’s highest award, but he was also the first Navy man to be so decorated for action in Vietnam.

By the end of 1965, Seabees had pioneered three major advance bases in the northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam. From these bases, combatant forces received critical support necessary for increasing attacks into the interior. In the words of then-Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze, the Seabees “contributed mightily to constructing the vast infrastructure necessary for a major war in a primitive, remote area.”

By Naval History and Heritage Command