

MCB#2 Reunion Association

*Newsletter for former MCB#2 Personnel
Thanksgiving - Christmas 1995*

WE REALLY HAD A GREAT REUNION IN LAS VEGAS!

We thank each person of the more than 300 that attended for their participation. A **VERY SPECIAL THANKS** is extended to the entire Tom B. Smith family for their personal and moving presentation, and The MCB#2 Reunion Association sincerely appreciates the wonderful gift of the memorial flag that has been flown over the Capitol.

In addition to the memorial flag we received a certificate from George M. White, FAIA Architect of the Capitol which certifies:

THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. This to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on July 4, 1995, at the request of the Honorable James V. Hansen, Member of Congress.

This flag was flown in recognition of the Seabees from Mobile Construction Battalion No. 2 for their contribution in the construction and formation of the Cubic Point Naval Air Station located in the Philippines at Subic Bay presented in memory of Tom B. Smith.

**In recognition of MOBILE
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION**

TWO. Hon. James V. Hansen of Utah
In the House of Representatives,
Wednesday, September 6, 1995.

Mr. HANSEN, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of America's unsung heroes -- the United States Navy Seabees. In Particular, I want to tell you the story of one such group of these heroes and the tremendous service they provided our nation over 40 years ago.

The story of USN Mobile Construction Battalion Two, stationed at Port Hueneme, and Cubi Point began in the spring of 1952. Commanding Officer CDR Charles C. Compton, and the 12 officers and 464 men of MCB Two, sailed for the Philippines aboard the USS Menard (APA-201) on June 9. The job of the battalion, and their colleagues of MCB's Three and Five,

Recognition Continued:

was to carve a new Naval Air Facility out of the hilly peninsula, called Cubi Point, adjacent to the Subic Bay Naval Station.

Over the next years, the men of MCB Two, clad in traditional Seabee greens or rubberized suits to fend off the relentless summer rains, constructed one of our nation's most important projects including the removal of the top 90 feet of Mt. Muritan, a rock mountain which blocked the approach to the future airfield. Major construction projects, including a large and remote ammunition storage facility, a tank farm built on top of a swamp, a new water system, and the Camayan Point-Cubi Point road, tested the skills, dedication and versatility of the Seabees. In all millions of cubic yards of earth were moved, reservoirs providing over 2.5 million gallons of water were built, and a new Naval Air Facility was born.

The facilities these unsung heroes built would serve our nation and her allies well for the next 40 years. The story of MCB Two and Cubi Point is repeated each year by Seabee units around the world. Never knowing what they will be doing next, the men of Mobile Construction Battalion Two remained confident in their ability to go anywhere at anytime and build

anything asked of them, for they were the Navy's "Fighting Seabees."

DENVER..... 1997 Reunion

The Mile High City was selected to be the site for the 1997 MCB#2 Reunion Convention. This is an excellent choice for our 1997 reunion. Advance work is already underway on this next reunion.... even as we speak. Oh, you knew that.... O.K.

DENVER AT A GLANCE

Denver, Colorado, was born during the great "Pikes Peaks or Bust" Gold Rush of 1859 when some flakes of pacer gold were found where the South Platte River meets Cherry Creek. With the discover of more gold in the mountains, Denver became a "boom town" with saloons, gambling halls, wagon trains lining the mud-filled streets.

Contrary to popular believe, Denver is not in the mountains but near them. The "foothills" (a gentle series of peaks ranging rom 7,000 to 11,000 feet high) rise 15 miles west of the city. The "Front Range", a string of snow-capped peaks that include Rocky Mountain National Park and Pikes Peak, is about 30 air miles west of the city. Denver itself is flatter than Manhattan, making it easy to walk in

Denver for 1997 reunion, con't:

the city. Denver is located in the center of the country, just 346 miles west of the exact center of the Continental United States.

The city boasts a mild, dry climate with more than 300 days of sunshine a year, more hours of annual sunshine than San Diego, or Miami Beach. Fall comes early in the Rockies; the colorful aspens are turning gold by mid-September.

Much of Denver's past has been carefully preserved and restored and can still be seen today. Denver's oldest street--at Larimer Square-- has been restored with gas lamps, arcades, carriage rides, and fine Victorian architecture.

Denver offers.....

* Convenient central location in the heart of the nation served by a new \$4 billion Denver International Airport..... * Fantastic shopping and Vibrant downtown.... * State Capitol, Denver Art Museum, U.S. Mint, Elitch Gardens Amusement Park of 23 acres..... and much more.

DESTROYER NAMED AFTER SLAIN SEABEE

The destroyer's namesake, a 23-year-old petty officer and a Seabee diver,

was killed by Arab terrorists during the hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut in 1985

By the Associated Press. PORT HUENEME, Calif. -- A decade after terrorists killed Robert D. Stethem, the Navy commissioned a guided-missile destroyer in his name Saturday at a ceremony attended by thousands.

The USS Stethem is the first U.S. Navy Ship commissioned at Port Hueneme's Naval Construction Battalion Center in its 53-year history.

Stethem's mother, Patricia, presented her son's Bible as a gift to the vessel.

"We never solicited this, but it's been a happy point in our lives since this happened to Him." Stethem's father, Dick, said of the ship-naming.

The 8,600 ton, 505-foot ship, built at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss., will be based in San Diego.

The guided-missile destroyer glided into the Port of Hueneme last Tuesday to prepare for the pomp and ceremony of the commissioning. An estimated 5,000 attended, including several admirals.

Red-white-and blue bunting was draped around the \$900 million warship and the ceremony featured a 17-gun salute and blasts from the ship's horn.

MCB#2's Advance Party to Atsugi

On September 15 of 1950, the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion #2 was commissioned at Port Hueneme, California. At that time the personnel complement was three officers and one hundred enlisted men. Twenty days after the battalion was commissioned an advance party of three officers and nine enlisted men was winging it's way westward over the Pacific toward the site of the battalion's first job.

On 12 October 1950, the advance party arrived at Atsugi, Japan on the Island of Honshu. The airfield at Atsugi had been a major training base for Japanese Naval flyers during World War II, and had been captured almost intact. It was here that General Douglas MacArthur first set foot on Japanese soil.

The big task for the advance party was to make a complete survey of all buildings and facilities at the base and estimate the amount of work to be done. This was a difficult job. Buildings were in poor repair. Steam distribution systems were inadequate and had to be revamped. The electrical system had to be modernized and its capacity had to be increased.

Sewage treatment was practically non-existent. Roads on the base were in very bad shape. Only the steel skeletons of the hangers on the air strip could be salvaged. The runway itself had to be rebuilt. There were no parking aprons and the taxiways had to be rebuilt.

In addition to repairing existing buildings and facilities, a number of new buildings had to be built. A new control tower and operations building was necessary. A parachute loft had to be erected, as did a photo lab building and a number of other structures necessary to house future air facilities of the base.

Our advance party was the beginning of an MCB#2 tradition. They smoothed the way for the main body. We owe those men a great deal of gratitude, as they showed early on what MCB#2 was capable of being able to do in the Korean War effort. Some of that group are now deceased, but those who are still with us can take great pride for a job well done.

The Commodore's Barge

Our leadership consists of:

Chairman: STONEY SERRETT

Committeemen

PETE ELLIOTT

TED SPEROS

RICH NELSON

MALCOLM PEARSON

BEN PAINTER

SCOTT WILLIAMS

Roy T. Cone, Secty-Treas.

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From **OUR CHAPLAIN**
Herff Epperson

We are in a wonderful time of year with Thanksgiving and Christmas coming.

THANKSGIVING IS THANKSLIVING

The art of thanksgiving is "thanks living". It is gratitude in action. In gratitude for your won good fortune, you need to return some sacrifice of your life for others.

It is thanking God for....

- * the gift of life by living triumphantly.
- * your talents and abilities by accepting them as things to be invested for others.
- * all that people have done for you by doing good things for others.
- * accept opportunities as challenges
- * happiness by helping make others happy
- * beauty by helping make the world beautiful
- * inspiration by being an inspiration to others
- * health and strength by care of your body
- * creative ideas by encouraging creativeness in others... particularly the young
- * each new day by living it to the fullest.

The *right Christmas* means....

- * making room for Jesus (there was no room in the Inn. Luke 2:7)
- * making room for Worship. (The wise men said, "we have come to worship" Matt 2:2)
- * giving gifts that show love (The wise men offered Him gifts... Matthew 2:11)
- * telling the good news about Jesus (The shepherds returned telling of all things they had seen and heard.... Luke 2:20)

I wish for each of you and your family and loved ones, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your friend and fellow Seabee..... Herff Epperson, Chaplain

RICH NELSON
Thank You, Sir

Rich, in behalf of the membership and the committee of MCB#2 Reunion Association, let me take a moment and thank you for your four years of outstanding work as Committee Chairman. You did a great job, and everyone needs to know how valuable your leadership was to our association. We sincerely appreciate and look forward to your continuing work in the planning and leadership committee. Thank you and SALUTE!

Stoney Serrett

**Dave Budworth's Seabee
Video is available.**

Dave Budworth had his slide video copied. This video was made by Jim DeLaney, who produced the Seabees 50th year video in 1992. Several people said they would like to have a copy of this video which was shown in Nashville and in Las Vegas, and Bud has agreed to share it with us.

We offer this 30 minute video available to you for \$25.00 each post paid. Yes, we can make a few bucks for the Denver reunion at these prices. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery after we get your 25 bucks.... (No, not to take time to check on your check and see that it don't bounce, but to get the video copies made. <grin>.)

From Yesteryear 1942

I got a copy of the original sheet music "*SONG OF THE SEABEES*". The music was distributed by Bureau of Yards and Docks, United States Navy. The back page is especially interesting. See below.....

**JOIN THE NAVY, The
Construction Regiment's
SEABEES**

The "SEABEES" are the men who enlist in the Construction Regiment of the U.S. Navy to build the advance and mobile bases outside the continental limits of the United States.

The "SEABEES" will be thoroughly trained in military tactics and when assigned to duty will be able to engage in combat should the occasion arise.

The U.S. Navy has opened enlistments, with ratings, for men with construction experience for enrollment in class V-6 of the Naval Reserve for assignment to headquarters and construction companies in a Construction Regiment. These headquarters and construction companies are comprised of mechanics, carpenters, electricians, power plant operators, blacksmiths, metalsmiths, drillers, divers, warfbuilders, etc. Acting appointments are made to persons between the ages of 17 and 50 in various ratings up to and including Chief Petty Officer, depending upon the age, experience and other qualifications of the personnel enlisted.

The enlistment period is for the duration of the war. The salaries for these enlistments range from \$54.00 to \$126 a month and include housing, food, clothing, transportation, medical and dental care, and other incidentals to which enlisted personnel

are entitled.

**APPLY TO YOUR NEAREST NAVY
RECRUITING STATION FOR
INFORMATION.**

Here is a real OPPORTUNITY for two-fisted, red-blooded Americans to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with the combatant forces in the "SEABEES," the newest arm of Uncle Sam's Navy.

Daily Devotional Book Offered Free To You!

Just got the word from Herff Epperson, our chaplain, that one of our members would like to provide a paperback copy of "*My Utmost For His Highest*" by Oswald Chambers available absolutely free to any member or his spouse in MCB#2 Reunion Association. This daily devotional book is absolutely one of the best there is. Yes, I can recommend this book without hesitation. You will enjoy reading this daily devotion..

You can get your choice of burgundy or pink binding. Please specify....

To get a free copy..... send a postcard or note to

Herff Epperson
4717 Blossom Street
El Paso, Texas 79924

Free Devotional Book Con't

and he will get your copy on its way.

Herff says while I am writing this to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season in his behalf. Okey Dokey..... done it, Herff.

Lost Buddy Department

We have a request from Russel Harding wondering if anyone knows the where-abouts of...

??? Kaperzak
Bob Sepulva

Welcome..... New Members

We are always excited to find some our long lost buddies. Here are some new finds..... that want to get into all the fun that we have.

Jack Schrader
Thomas W. Roy
Ralph Binney
Robert Colqhon
Glen Grimes
Russel Harding

Gentlemen.... we give you our warmest welcome into our organization. We have a ton of fun here.... and we hope that you will enjoy our group.

Yes, I know it takes a bit of time before memories begin to come back and we start to remember the names of those we worked with back in the "olden days". But rest assured, we have a good time enjoying the friendship of one another.

Older Jokes For Older Folks

An old man see his old Seabee friend sitting on a park bench weeping. "How have things been with you Bob," he asks his old navy buddy. "Great, I just married a beautiful young woman." "Wonderful! But then why are you crying?" Bob, "I can't remember where I live."

Aged husband wife sitting on the front porch. Wife: "I certainly would appreciate a vanilla ice cream cone." Husband: "I'll hobble right down to the drugstore and get you one dear." Wife: "Now, remember, I want vanilla. you always get chocolate. Write it down.... Vanilla." Husband: "I can certainly remember vanilla. The store is only two blocks away." The Husband comes back with a hamburger and hands it to his wife. She looks at it disgustedly. " I knew you'd forget the mustard, " she said.

See. I told you they were "old jokes."

Non dues paying members... Can YOU Help?

We have a favor to ask of our non dues paying members..... can you help?

The newsletters cost between \$1.00 and \$1.50 each to print and to mail to you. We send 4 newsletters per year. If you don't feel that you can pay the dues of \$12.00 per year.... do you think you could send a donation to help us with our mailing costs. Rest assured we will not waste your money.

ECHOES from our crew.....

I am so glad Stoney found Jim before the last reunion. He had planned to attend, but had a severe stroke just previous. They said he'd never walk or talk again, but he is going strong and doing everything even driving. We really enjoy the newsletter. James was wondering if you could find a Clause Hunt from Green Fork, Indiana. His last known address was Los Angeles, when he was a Lt. on the police force.

Jim and Bev Lortie

The only way I can be sure of being current with my regular dues is to pay up for 10 years in advance. Will donate a little more as time goes on.

I really give you guys a lot of credit for your time and effort it takes to get everything together so guys like me

can just enjoy. Thank you for bringing us together to reminisce.

Al "Cat" Borys

We have made reservations and all we have to do is to get to Vegas. Reading through the newsletter brought back some fond memories of my service time with MCB#2 at Atsugi.

Ben Hoskinds

Sorry, I couldn't make the Reunion, but I'll try to make the next one in Denver. Hope everyone had a good time, and I am sure that they did. Please note my new address (Thank you, Thank you for the new address.... this sure helps keep us from losing you!)

Jack L. Adams

We were talking about music, and bands with Chuck Chapman of Yakima, Washington, and he says that he is a member of the Yakima Valley Community Band which is one of four United States bands selected to perform in Switzerland during the Summer of 1996.

Received MCB#2 newsletter from Stoney.... can't wait to see all my former shipmates in Vegas. I was a brand new PNI with the MOB. Found out that I live about 2 miles from Tom Padden.

Perry and Carmenza Saunders

I will be looking for former shipmates,

ECHOES continued.....

truck drivers, and the "pineapples" from Hawaii at Vegas.

John Shuster

Here are my dues.... Sorry, I had to miss the reunion because Doris had a stroke July 25. Maybe we can make to Denver. It was nice to see names from Midway.... I remember Ray Nethercott and Lefty Williamson.

Art Leable

Just a short note with a donation check for the MCB#2 Reunion Group. I sure had a good time in Las Vegas, and it was great to see a lot of good ole friends again. I am looking forward to DENVER. (Thank you for the BIG BUCKS, Sam.)

Sam Regusa

I am looking forward to the Las Vegas trip. I was unable to attend the past reunions because of my job. Now, I am retired.

(You'll wonder how you ever had the time to work.... see below)

Walt Waddell

Sorry, I'm late on dues, tickets, etc. Just too much to do since retirement. (See what I mean, Walt?)

Willie McCarley

Don't know what I owe in dues.... here is 2 years.... We should get a card and

charge a little extra. (Emil, this note is your card... <grin>) Emil S. Bazzole

Sorry, I can't make the reunion in Las Vegas. The dates conflict with business obligations.... but I will be thinking of all my MCB#2 Friends. Maybe next reunion.

Jim Dekeyser

A special word of thanks for Stoney who found me a year ago. I am glad he did.... and see you in Vegas
Ray P. Nethercott

Thanks for all the interesting news about MCB#2. Due to health problems, I have not been very active lately. Back in the early 1940's I went through Quonset Hut Building And Maintance at Providence, R.I..... then to northern Ireland. I was with CDR V.G. Stevens when we built the air strip in Cubi Point. I have an x-ray film of a 16 foot python that crawled into our monkey's cage and swallowed our pet monkey.

I ordered a white Seabee Flag from the Seabee museum and flew the flag from my home flagpole until last month. While I was at church, someone took my Seabee Flag and stole it. Reported it to Oshkosh police... but no flag recovered. Eugene A. Walton

Looking forward to Vegas and the reunion. My daughter and her husband

ECHOES continued.....

are going to keep me from doing any "mischief" while at Vegas. Anyway, I am looking forward to seeing everyone again in Vegas. I'm not a "spring chicken" anymore at 79.... maybe just a "stew chicken" now. (Tony, think you might be better classed as an "old duck", instead of a "stew chicken".... really enjoyed you at Vegas.... Roy T.)
Tony Yrizarry

Looking forward to Vegas... have everything ready.
Bill Kersbergen

I was excited and surprised to read about the MCB#2 reunion in the *Shift Colors*, Volume 40 newsletter. Looking forward to the reunion.
Al Burkhardt

I just found out about MCB#2's organized reunion in the *Shift Colors* paper. Hope to see a whole bunch of Seabees at Vegas.
Ed Hofmann

Roy, sorry about my laziness in keeping up with my dues.... I think Tony Marcella found me 3 years ago. Have a good one.

A. "Rube" Rubinich, Jr.

Had a **GREAT TIME IN LAS VEGAS**, and am looking forward to Denver in 97. Since you did such a good job of "poor mouthing" about not having any money.... I figure I had better catch up on my dues. Keep up the good work, and the newsletters.

Norris A. McDaniel

Roy, thanks for taking my check for the next two years dues. (I take checks of *every variety* for dues). it was great seeing everyone this week. See you all again in Denver.
Bob Doezie

If you know of someone who has one of the petitions to have the Seabee stamp produced by the U.S. Postal Service, please send me one. I haven't given up on it. Fred Cozad

MCB#2 Reunion Association
c/o Roy T. Cone [roycone@phoenix.net]
815 Chadbury Ln.
Seabrook, Texas 77586-4301

Forwarding And Address Correction Requested



Send To:

Williams, Scott
7221 Trading Post Lane
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128

