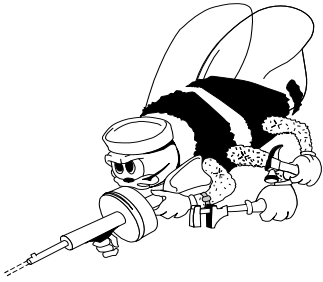


MCB 2 Reunion Association

Volume 11, Issue 5

Web site: <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

November 15, 2016



SEABEES

A Newsletter for Former US Naval

Mobile Construction Battalion 2 Personnel

and host to CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1, CBMU 101, CBMU 553 and CBMU 577

September 12-14, 2017!

Mark the Date and Start Making Plans! See Pages 3 & 4!

See You in Las Vegas!

LOTS TO SEE AND DO IN LAS VEGAS!

Bring your sun glasses and good walking shoes as there will be plenty of sun and walking. Some suggestions have been for a group to attend a show or maybe go to the Pawn Stars' store or possibly going to Counts Custom Cars bar to possibly meet the stars on that reality show. I have tried to arrange a meet and greet with both show stars but they cannot schedule something like that for the public. Individuals can drive to their businesses and maybe meet the stars, but no guarantees. I also wanted to schedule a tour of Red Rock Canyon, but it required a fair amount of walking to see the petroglyphs to make the trip worthwhile, so that is out. Everyone can make their own tour or show arrangements, or just visit with your friends in the wonderful Palace Station hospitality room.

1

Las Vegas! The Place to Be!

Walk the Strip after dark and see the sights! The mall in Caesar's next to the Mirage is a fun shopping mall and the volcano at the Mirage is fun to see. The Treasure Island next door with a walkway to the Fashion Show Mall is fun shopping, then across the street from the TI is The Venetian where you can take a gondola ride. The Bellagio Hotel water display is marvelous and across the street is the Paris Hotel with the half-size Eiffel Tower, both sights not to miss.

Don't miss the overhead light show downtown at the Fremont Street Experience every hour on the hour after dark. This is always a fun show and the Neon Museum is nearby. The Stratosphere tower is

See *Sights!* (Continued on page 2)

The Commander and Staff

Our leadership consists of:

**Commander
Pete Elliott**

Staff:

Paul D'Angelo
Vic Jaccino
Don McLain
Rich Nelson, Vice Commander
Malcolm Pearson
Stoney Serrett, Commander Emeritus
Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas./Publisher

See our web page:

<http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

(Continued from page 1) Sights!

fun for those that are not bothered by heights. There are also rides that hang out over the edge or shoot you straight up... wheee! Just about across the street from the Stratosphere is the Gold and Silver Pawn Shop where the Pawn Stars might be found. For those that like a carnival, Circus Circus has a lot to offer on the second floor. This would be on the way to the Stratosphere Hotel, the Neon Museum and the Fremont Street Experience.

The Mob Museum is also an interesting place to visit and close by is the Atomic Testing Museum. Both are fairly close together. So there is a lot to see and do in the couple of days were are in Las Vegas. Don't miss getting out to see these sights, and I hope to see you there!

Scott

Duct tape is like the force: it has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

SEABEES

*October - January
Dates to Remember*

-
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Oct. 12, 1950 | MCB 2 began arriving in Atsugi, Japan |
| Oct. 13, 1775 | Birthday of the U. S. Navy. |
| Oct. 16, 1942 | Eight men from 6th NCB killed in action on Guadalcanal, first Seabees KIA in WWII. Seabee Bucky Meyer awarded Silver Star posthumously, first medal awarded to a Seabee by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. |
| Oct. 21, 1995 | USS Stethem commissioned, named for SW2 Robert Stethem killed by terrorists. |
| Oct. 27, 1943 | MM1 Tassone of the 87th Battalion attacked and buried a Japanese pillbox and 12 Japanese with his 20t 'dozer on Mono Island. |
| Oct. 31, 1941 | First Headquarters Construction Company authorized by Admiral Nimitz, forerunner of Battalions. |
| Nov. 5, 1951 | MCB 5 arrives at Cubi Point for the first time. |
| Nov. 8, 1942 | Seabees land in North Africa with American assault forces. |
| Nov. 8, 2016 | Election day! Whew! It's finally over! |
| Nov. 10, 1775 | U.S. Marine Corps Birthday |
| Nov. 11 | Veteran's Day |
| Nov. 12, 1942 | Naval battle of Guadalcanal begins. |
| Nov. 30, 1944 | CBMU 627 formed at Cherbourg, France to operate Rhino ferries. |
| Dec. 1, 1937 | RAdm. Ben Moreell becomes Chief of Bureau of Yards and Docks. |
| Dec. 7, 1941 | Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. |
| Dec.8, 1941 | U.S. declares war on Japan. |
| Dec. 23, 1942 | Wake Island falls to Japanese. |
| Dec. 25, 1972 | Bob Hope Christmas show on Diego Garcia; first jet to land on airstrip constructed by NMCB 62. |
| Dec. 31, 1947 | Seabee Reserve established. |
| Jan. 1 | Happy New Year! |

Fill this form out and have it ready when you call the hotel for your reservations.
Bring this completed form with you to the reunion with your Confirmation Number.

PALACE STATION

2411 West Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89102

HOTEL RESERVATION WORKSHEET

CALL 1-800-634-3101

& Identify Yourself: (PCISEAB) Seabee Reunion

Reunion Dates: Tuesday - Thursday, September 11 - 13, 2017

Rate: \$47 per night - plus tax (12%) and fees (\$12.99) = \$65.63/night
Single or Double Occupancy (Triple: add \$15; Quad: add \$30)

[The \$12.99 service fee includes all rooms equipped with high speed internet access,
unlimited local and long distance calls, and admission to the exercise facility.]

Parking: **FREE**

Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m.

Check-out Time: 12:00 Noon **Confirmation Number:** _____

Guest & Companion's Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Arrival Date

Departure Date

Credit Card Number for Guarantee

Type of Card & Expiration Date

Cardholder's Name: _____

Special needs (Subject to availability): Smoking/non-smoking; Handicap. Notify at time reservations are made.

Deposits: Deposits must be received prior to the reservation cut-off date. A credit card or a deposit in the amount of one night's room charge must be received no later than 5 days from the date the reservation was made.

Reservation Cut-Off Date: All reservations must be received by the hotel no later than August 12, 2017.

Early Departure Fee: Any attendee that checks out early will be charged an early departure fee equal to one night's stay.

Cancellations: Individual room reservations may be cancelled up to 72 hours prior to arrival with no penalty.

REUNION REGISTRATION - Las Vegas, NV

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to MCB 2 Reunion Association in the form of a check or money order. No credit cards or phone reservations accepted. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 1, 2017. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Keep this original for your records.

Make a copy of this completed form and mail that copy to Scott.

MAIL TO:
 Scott Williams
 MCB 2 Reunion Association
 725 Summer Ridge Drive
 Villa Rica, GA 30180

 OFFICE USE ONLY
 Check Number Received
 Inputted Nametag

CUT-OFF DATE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

	PRICE PER	X	NO. OF PEOPLE	=	\$ AMOUNT
Tuesday, 9/12 - - Wine & cheese reception - Hospitality Room - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.					
Wednesday evening - 9/13 - No group plans - individual plans					
Thursday, 9/14 - Banquet	\$50	X	_____	=	_____
Registration Fee per person (required)	\$10	X	_____	=	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO MCB 2 Reunion Association				=	_____

Please do not staple or tape payment

Please print all names for name tags _____ Unit _____
(MCB 2, CBMU 1/101, MCB 3 etc.)

Spouse/Guest name _____

Additional Guest(s) _____

Street address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ Phone No. _____

Disability/Dietary restrictions _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone No. _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure date _____

Are you staying at the hotel? YES _____ NO _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Are you flying? _____ Driving? _____ RV? _____

Full refunds will be sent for the above mentioned activities if cancellation is received by September 12
 (less a \$5 processing fee). However, after that date, refund amount will depend on vendor policies.

**CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9am - 5pm Eastern time (excluding holidays).
 CALL (770) 456-4246 to obtain your cancellation code.**

MCB 2 REUNION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
Schedule of Events
PALACE STATION—WEST SAHARA
September 12 - 14, 2017

Monday, September 11

Early arrival - Setup and Familiarization
Prepare Registration Packages

Tuesday, September 12

8:00 a.m. -	Setup and Familiarization
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Early Bird Registration
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Planning Committee meeting
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Wine & cheese reception - Hospitality Room
10:30 p.m. -	Hospitality Room closed

Wednesday, September 13

8:00 a.m. -	Hospitality Room open
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
10:30 p.m. -	Hospitality Room closed

Thursday, September 14

8:00 a.m. -	Hospitality Room open
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Reunion Registration open
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Business Meeting
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Memorial Service
12:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Late Reunion Registration open
4:00 p.m. -	Hospitality Room closed
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Cash Bar in Banquet Room
7:00 p.m. -	Banquet
9:00 p.m. -	Door Prize drawings

Friday, September 15

8:00 a.m. -	Hospitality Room open Farewells and departures
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Deep Thoughts....

- The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
- Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a Yugo.
- There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 AM. It could be a right number
- Be careful reading the fine print. There's no way you're going to like it.
- The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
- There are no new sins...the old ones just get more publicity. 5

How a gold star became a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice

source Los Angeles Times

It's been a symbol of honor that no one wants. The gold star denoting a family member who died in combat dates back to World War I, but before last month, the phrase "Gold Star family" wasn't as widely known as it was during World War II. Then came the controversy, and VFW President Brian Duffy saying, "Election year or not, the VFW will not tolerate anyone berating a Gold Star family member for exercising his or her right of speech or expression." "There are certain sacrosanct subjects that no amount of wordsmithing can repair once crossed," Duffy said.

But how did the gold star become a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice? During World War I, a practice developed across the country: Families displayed flags featuring a blue star, a sign that a family member was fighting in the war. Some flags would display more than one star. Just how the next tradition began is unclear, but when a soldier died, the blue star was replaced by a gold one.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson approved a recommendation by the Women's Committee of National Defenses to wear a black armband with a gold star - an update on traditional signs of mourning. It's believed Wilson coined the term "Gold Star Mother." Over time,

two types of service flags were created. One banner had a white background, red border and blue star. The other had a white background, blue border and gold star.

In 1928, 25 mothers met in Washington, D.C., to establish a national organization called American Gold Star Mothers Inc. That organization exists to this day. In 1947, Congress authorized the military to issue gold star lapel pins to families of those who had been killed in combat. In 1973, Congress approved another for families of service members who died while on active duty but not in combat.

During World War II, the star flags were common sights across the country, often displayed in windows. That changed during the Vietnam War. During that unpopular conflict, when many Americans associated soldiers with government policies, many saw little value in displaying a blue or gold star flag. Those attitudes have changed in recent years. Although the practice of displaying blue and gold stars has been revived since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the images still remain a

mystery to some. The widow of one serviceman once said she wished more Americans appreciated the meaning of the gold star. Donna Engeman lost her husband, Chief Warrant Officer John Engeman, in 2006 while he was stationed in Baghdad. In 2011 she told an interviewer that more needed to be done to educate people on the meaning of the gold star. "It's disheartening to be so far into this war," she said, "yet when I drive around with a bumper sticker and pin and people just don't know."



Pentagon closer to extending a generous new benefit to millions of vets – source Military Times

Plans are progressing to extend online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans. Extended shopping privileges would apply only to the exchange system's online stores - not brick-and-mortar facilities located on military installations. The Pentagon did not immediately confirm the move, and it's unclear what its next steps will be. Officials have said they'd like to implement the expanded benefit on Veterans Day 2017. Current access is authorized only for active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard personnel, retirees, veterans who are 100 percent disabled and immediate family members. Officials estimate that's about 10% of the nation's 21.7 million veterans. The Defense Manpower Data Center would be called on to verify veterans' status so they can shop at the exchange online. The idea was proposed in 2014 by AFEES CEO Tom Shull, who touted it as a way to provide a modest benefit to veterans who didn't serve long enough to retire from the military, including a number who have served multiple tours in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. NEX Command CEO and retired Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi and Cindy Whitman Lacy, director of the Marine Corps Business and Support Services Division, have said they support the idea. Any increase in exchange profits would generate more money for the service's morale, welfare and recreation programs. According to one analysis, the exchanges could see an increase of \$18 million to \$72 million if online shopping is extended to all veterans. Generally, about half of the exchanges' profits go to MWR dividends, and the rest goes to capital reinvestment in the exchanges, such as renovations and construction.

"Stolen Valor" Act signed into law Source: Capegazette.com

People seeking benefits by posing as veterans or active duty military personnel could now face a stiff fine under a measure signed into law by Delaware Gov. Jack Markell. House Bill 80 (as amended) expands the crime of criminal impersonation to include those who falsely claim to be current or past members of the U.S. military for the purpose of "obtaining money, property, or other tangible benefit." The legislation also applies to veterans who try

to benefit by deceptively claiming a higher rank than they achieved. Those found guilty of the new Class A misdemeanor will pay a steep price for their transgression. The penalty is \$1,000 and the judge is not allowed to reduce or suspend that fine. The measure passed the General Assembly unanimously and took effect immediately.

Awards and Decorations

As many of you know, I strongly believe all veterans should have, and on appropriate occasions wear, all the awards and decorations they earned in the service. Accordingly, from time to time I remind BB readers that veterans may obtain a full reissue of their A&Ds for free, and surviving next-of-kin can obtain same for persons who served as far back as WW I. If you are interested in pursuing A&Ds, turn on your browser and go to: www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html. Read and follow the instructions. In every case there will be a requirement to mail in a document. I recommend you include a copy of the appropriate DD214 (or WD AGO Form – that's what was issued in WWII), a list of known units and assignments if you have one, and any other information you may have – particularly when requesting A&Ds for relatives who have passed. There was a medal created for every ribbon issued in WWII, but service members coming home were almost always given only the ribbons (the medals weren't being produced); they didn't care anyway, they just wanted to be home. In addition, a lot of Vietnam War vets came home to an un-welcoming nation – and they really didn't care about A&Ds. Further, for example, the vast majority of WWII Army Infantrymen never learned that in 1947, two years after the war ended, the Army awarded a Bronze Star Medal to every Infantryman who earned a Combat Infantryman Badge, and there was even confusion about the CIB. Many thought a soldier needed 30 days in combat to earn the badge – nope – there's absolutely no "minimum time" requirement. So there's a lot of "stuff" out there waiting to be claimed. You don't have to explain why you are requesting the medals. Even if you think you have them all you can obtain a full reissue, and many people are truly shocked when they discover awards they never knew they earned. As an extra incentive, every personal decoration (such as the Purple Heart, Bronze Star or Good Conduct medals) will arrive engraved with the recipients name. Go for it.



Notes from our members:

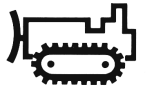
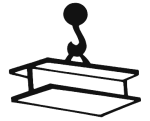
All... After my plea for printing assistance, many came through and I thank you. We are back in the black and the dues should be able to underwrite the publishing of the Newsletter. I really appreciate the response. Scott... Now, the member notes: From **Rich [Nelly] Nelson, Sam [Mary] Ragusa, Dave [Darla] Budworth, Frank Mingo, Jim Green, and Jack Schrader** [thanks all]..... from **David [Marjorie] Haines**: Just a note to apologize for being so late [you aren't and thanks] and I have thought of you often. When we got home in September, **David** went into the hospital with 4th stage lymphoma. He is tolerating the treatments and is improving. Our best to you and **Rachel**. [Sadly, **David** passed from this life five weeks after this note. See the Fallen Comrades column. Scott]..... from **Mary [Dan] Millett**: Enclosed are **Dan's** dues with a little extra [thank you!]. Please put it where it is needed the most. **Dan** is still in Amesbury, MA with a very slow recovery. We hope all is going well with you and have a great day. [Thank you, **Mary**.]..... from **Marilyn [Bill] Knight**: Sorry for being so late with the dues. **Bill** told me some time ago to send a check and I just forgot [that's OK. It came at a good time!]. He is home for a visit and reminded me [**Bill** is a resident of the Navy Retired Home in Gulfport]. Again, sorry for the delay..... from **Jo [Gene] McDonagh**: Enclosed is a check for dues plus a little extra to be used where needed [thank you]. **Gene** is in a care home and I visit as often as I can. It has lately been over 100° and it's hard to get around [tell me about it!] Thanks for your informative, funny, political and just plain nice e-mails. Pray for us..... from **David Manley**: I enjoy your Newsletters! Please send me a membership roster and a directory



of ZIP code members. Thank you! Enclosed find a check for same and a little help. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! PS: God willing, I hope to make it to the reunion!..... from **Elwin**



[Shorty] Campbell: This should catch me up on my dues and give you a little extra [thank you!]. You are doing good work and I appreciate it..... from **Stoney Serrett**: Just a few lines to say hello and to let you know I am still okay. I survived the floods here in Louisiana, thanks to my grandson and his family. They kept me safe and well. Enclosed you will find my check to help keep MCB 2 alive. I hope to send more as we get closer to the reunion date [thank you!]. Scott, I want to thank you for all of the hard work that you do to keep MCB 2 alive and well. Give my love to **Rachel**. [**Stoney** just turned 92!] from **Frank Fibich**: I like the Newsletter and I like receiving it. I am unable to travel is the reason we don't go. Use the enclosed check for the Newsletter [thank you!]..... from **George Rosenvold**: Enclosed is my check for dues [thank you!] Thank you for doing a great job! I'm sorry we could not come to the last reunion. My wife **Franki** has a very bad back after a couple of nasty falls and can't travel. You do a great job on the News magazine and it brings back many great memories of the wonderful guys I served with in Korea.... from **Donald Kaegebein**: Thanks for sending the MCB 2 Newsletter. It is very interesting.



I found one name that I think I remember from being at Subic Bay, that is **James DeKeyser**. I don't remember what rating he was or what he did, but the name is familiar. I was a Builder 3rd class (or maybe I got to 2nd class) before I got out. I was laying cement blocks building houses in a housing pro-

(Continued from page 8)

ject away from the base for Navy Airdales and their families. The houses were in rows on terraces with a road in front of each row. I often wonder how the whole project turned out. I am enclosing a check for dues, an up-to-date roster and another by ZIP and any Newsletters since the V11 N4 [thanks, **Don**. All on the way except for the next Newsletter as that would be this one]..... from **Stoney**: [sent a check for support... thanks, **Stoney**.]..... from **Gerri (John) Petronka**: Hope all is well for you guys [it is and starting to cool down some]. We are moving to a 55 and older home at the Woodlands Home. Our new address is 213 Village Court, Washington, PA 15301. It is out of a magazine. I am so happy that we can do this. We are both in our 80s and there are no steps, all on one floor with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Just fit for us [great!]. We have some bad news... our dear friend **David A. Haines** died on the 7th of September. We have enclosed a check for dues and the rest in memory of **David** and **Frank Betonte** [thank you]. All our blessings to you and all of our Seabees. Thanks so much for all you have done for us! Take care..... from **Stoney** [again]: Enclosed is my check for support [thank you very much, **Stoney**. You are a big help.]...... from **Pat Carey**: [sent a check for US flags and dues... thanks]..... from **Mary [Sam] Ragusa**: **Sam** had a terrible fall when he was knocked out of a tree by the limb he was cutting with a chain saw when the limb went the wrong way. He fell about six feet and landed on his back, but managed to twist his leg as he and the ladder parted company. He spent four days in the hospital and then more than two weeks at home in Arizona. He has many wounds, terrible bruising, four broken ribs, a punctured lung and a concussion. All in all, we are lucky he is still here. Today was his 'turning point' day. He can walk up the street without a walker and, other than getting out of bed, can do most things for himself. He still has quite a bit of pain and has a patch and maybe takes one pill a day. I think we will see faster results now that he can walk around.... That's about it, folks. Keep sending in your letters and check the Good Guy List... and I'll see you in Las Vegas! SW

Our Fallen Comrades
David A. Haines CBMU 101/MCB 2 9/7/16
May he live on in our memories

From *The Bivouac of the Dead*
By Theodore O'Hara
The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round,
The Bivouac of the dead.

MAKE A NOTE!
ADDRESS CORRECTION
John S. Petronka (Geri)
213 Village Court
Washington, PA 15301

Need a Membership Roster?
If you have a need for an up-to-date membership roster, drop me a line with a couple of bucks and I'll send you one. We currently have 713 names and addresses of former CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1/101, CBMU 577, and MCB 2 personnel, so this is a pretty thick directory (22 pages). Glad to have all aboard! And, if you would like a directory sorted by ZIP numbers, let me know. You can see who lives close to you or use it when you travel. And keep sending those cards and letters – especially the ones with checks!
Scott Williams



THE WORD ON THE WORD "SEABEE"

Although coined from the initials C.B. the word "Seabee" has long since attained such independent status as a word (see any good dictionary) that it no longer is merely a phonetic pronunciation of the abbreviation for construction battalion. Thus it is no longer correct to abbreviate the word "Seabee" as CB. Moreover, we throw away the priceless value of a trademark now widely recognized when we substitute for it an abbreviation recognized only by our own family.

Follow these rules:

1. Always write Seabee as one word, not as SeaBee or Sea Bee.
2. Capitalize the word Seabee or write it using all Capitals: SEABEE
3. Do not use a substitute, such as CB.

Although in general we think of a Seabee as a man holding a Group VIII rating, a Seabee, strictly defined, is a member of a Navy construction battalion, whether he be a builder, a corpsman or a company commander. When we speak of doing work with Seabees, we usually have in mind the use of battalions, detachments or teams of Seabees, and the true meaning of the word "Seabee" makes it in no way redundant to speak of a Seabee battalion.

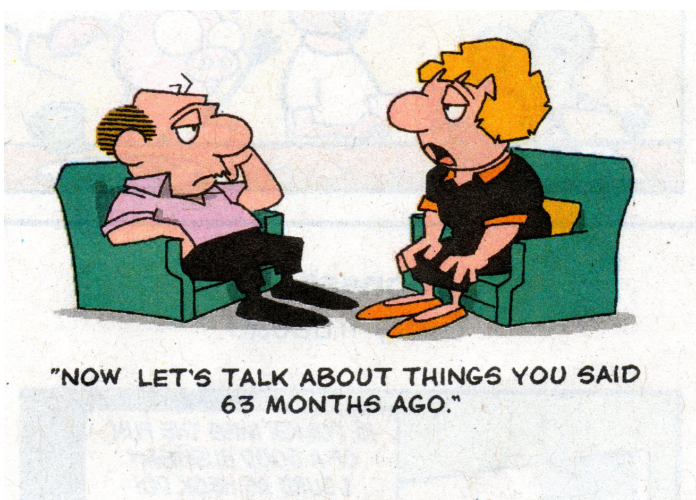
The following official abbreviations are correct even though they appear to violate the rules on the use of the word "Seabee."

CELANT	CBPAC
CBC	CBBU
MCB	ACB

On closer examination it is clear that the letters CB abbreviate the words "Construction Battalion," not "Seabee." Note that no official abbreviation contains the letters CB standing apart, which would suggest an abbreviation for the word "Seabee." Thus, it is as incorrect to write "CB Center" or "Mobile CB's" or "CB Base Unit" as it is to write plain "CB's."

So avoid substitutes, but don't avoid the word Seabee itself. The explosive success of our Seabee counter-insurgency teams gave a quick but limited popularity to the term "STAT." But they are Seabee teams and should be so identified.

Years of sweat and blood earned an honored place in our vocabulary for the word Seabee. Use it, but use it correctly and accept no substitutes.



MCB 2 Reunion Association, Inc.

c/o Scott H. Williams
725 Summer Ridge Dr.
Villa Rica, GA 30180

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We're the **SEABEES** of the Navy

