

SEABEES HIT THE BEACH . . .AGAIN!
PH1 Donny M. Forbes
22 Sept 03

Back in July of 1944, US Seabees and Marines took to the beaches of Agat. This began a three-week battle for the Island of Guam against the Japanese during World War II. Guam then became one of the major staging points for American supplies and repairs for military forces in the Pacific theater. Today, a group of 17 Seabees from U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-ONE (NMCB-1) took to the beach again but not in a battle for the island, but to help clean it up.

The NMCB-1 volunteers took part in Guam's Ninth Annual International Coastal Cleanup held on Sept 20th of 2003. What made this special is the fact that most of the Seabees had just arrived to the island less than a week before this event for their seven-month deployment.

"It was fun," said Disbursing Clerk First Class Melissa Hasse, coordinator for NMCB-1's volunteers. "I feel it is important for those in the military to help out, not only for the community's sake, but for our own gratification."

What sets this apart from any other cleanup program is that all the trash is manually recorded onto data cards that are turned in at the end of the day. Once submitted, these cards are reviewed, tallied, and the information sent to the Ocean Conservatory in Washington, D.C. The specific types of trash are then tabulated and later published in the International Coastal Cleanup 2003, US and International Results Booklet.

“It was a great opportunity to help the community,” said Construction Mechanic Second Class Robert Stanley. “It was a little bit of hard work in the heat, but it made a lot of difference for the people that live there. It felt good to do some good.”

“The guys were thorough and did an excellent job,” Hasse said. “Some of them have never been to the island and it was their first opportunity to interact with the locals. I am sure if the opportunity arises NMCB-1 will be there.”



CE3 of NMCB-ONE’s Bravo Company leads the clean up crew during the Ninth Annual International Coastal Clean up during NMCB-ONE’s seven-month deployment to the Island of Guam.



NMCB-ONE Represented the Navy for the Island of Guam's Ninth Annual International Coastal Clean up. A group of 17 Seabees went out to have some fun and see the community while cleaning the beach.