

Detail Sigonella Alfa Company
By: CM3 (SCW) David Susak

NMCB ONE Detail Sigonella has been on deployment for over a month and its Alfa Company types are staying busy. Alfa Company, composed of Equipment Operators and Construction Mechanics, maintains and operates all of the Detail's Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE). With 34 pieces of CESE and two projects to support, there is never a lack of work to be done.

Whether at a Det site or with mainbody, Alfa Company is all around you from the time a vehicle is checked out in the morning to go to the job site until the end of the day when it's brought back to the wash rack for cleaning. "This is my third deployment, and the same thing rings clear," said CM3 Victor Morrison, "Alfa Company might not be the pride of the battalion, but without us, the pride don't ride."

EO3 (SCW) Robert Carter is in charge of the Det's licensing program. With his help, all Det personnel are learning to operate the construction equipment. "With myself and EOCN (Jason) Queary being the only equipment operators on the Det, it's essential that we license as many people as possible," said Carter. Currently on the Detail's "Sports Field" project, they are using a loader to back fill a retaining wall and a grader to level out the softball field. On the "Security Fence" project they are using a forklift to bring heavy steel forms back to camp.

In order to have working equipment to support the projects, it is necessary to have knowledgeable Construction Mechanics. CM2 Todd Merrill, the leading Alfa Company Petty Officer for the Detail, said, "The equipment here is old, some of it is older than I am. With only four mechanics to take care of 34 pieces of CESE, we always have something to work on."

One of the most important people in Alfa Company is the floor mechanic, and he has been doing a great job getting equipment in and out of the shop in a timely manner. Floor mechanic CMCN Charles Salyer said, "This being my first deployment, it is truly a learning experience that will help me complete the goals I had coming in to the military."

Being a part of Alfa Company is something everyone should have the opportunity to experience. A small community of Seabees all working towards the same goal with a limited amount of parts and tools; it is never an easy task. Unlike a main body site, the opportunity to stand out is greater on a detail. "You have a certain amount of pride when you are part of something like this," said Merrill, "by far, Det Sigonella has been the best experience yet."



EO3 (SCW) Robert Carter, with Det Sigonella, uses a loader to place dirt behind a retaining wall at the ball field project.