

The Bahamas Bees

By BU3 Dolce

At the close of Task Force Grenada, 20 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE took on the rigorous challenge of moving from the Western Caribbean East to Andros Island, Bahamas. Now referred to as “The Bahamas Bees”, this diverse group of Seabees has been sharpening their construction skills while building new housing facilities for personnel of the Atlantic Undersea Testing and Evaluation Command and the Navy Undersea Warfare Command.

Detail Andros Officer in Charge LTJG Russ Bates and Assistant Officer in Charge UTC(SCW) Michael Nasso, on short notice, were tasked to deploy a team of 20 Seabees comprised of personnel from the Dets in Grenada and Rota, Spain, to relieve NMCB 40 and continue follow-on construction operations. In less than 24 hours, the Seabees were in the air and headed for Andros with stops in San Juan, Puerto Rico and West Palm Beach, FL. Chief Nasso called it “Planes, Trains, and Automobiles” because that’s what it took to get troops into position while maintaining unit integrity.

Tasked with constructing two CBH’S (Concrete Block Housing), Operations Chief SW1(SCW) Donna Snow, Project Supervisor SW2(SCW) Cobey Chasse as well as Crew Leaders BU2(SCW) Daniel Vanhouten and CE2(SCW) Robert Gibson hit the ground running and quickly forged a path for success. With the pending completion of CBH12 and the extensive progress already made on CBH13, the Crews can hold their heads high. LTJG Bates summed things up in a few words, “Seabees always rise to the occasion and always find a way to succeed. The entire project leadership and crew have performed very well and overcame some serious obstacles in the process”.

No successful operation can succeed without the strong support from their Supply Department. SK2(SCW) Francis Alanos and her motivated team of BU3(SCW) Michael Dolce and EA3(SCW) Dustin Berghman took an MLO/CTR that was practically non-existent and turned it into a fully functional operation. Shortly after arriving on island, the Supply/MLO/CTR team conducted major inventory

operations completing three project bills of material inventories as well as organized tool kits and project excess.

During their off-duty hours, the “Bahamas Bees” visited the nearest beach for fun in the sun. If you can’t find them there check the softball field, where you’ll find them playing the local AUTEK/NUWC employees in a friendly game of softball. NMCB ONE will soon be completing a seven and a half month deployment spanning Asia, Southwest Asia, Europe, Africa and the Carribean with a well deserved welcome home in their homeport of Gulfport, MS.