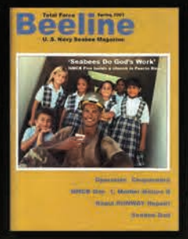
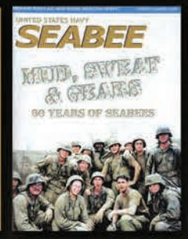
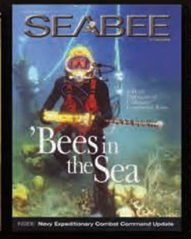
1942 ~ 2012

A SEABEE LEGACY IN PRINT







The different faces of *Seabee* magazine over the years. A sampling of covers, beginning with 1942 (top left) through 2012 (left).

FIRST PRINT ISSUE

Since its inaugural issue in 1942, Seabee heroes, milestones and events have been featured in the pages of each issue.

FINAL PRINT ISSUE

THE LEGACY OF PRINT

By Lara Godbille, Director, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Naval History and Heritage Command

The last print issue of *Seabee* magazine marks the end of a long history of print culture used by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) to publicize the heritage and accomplishments of the Naval Construction Force (NCF). Since the Seabees were established in 1942, NAVFAC – then the Bureau of Yards and Docks or BuDocks – used various printed media to preserve the stories about what Seabees were doing in the field and perpetuate the traditions and lore that define the culture of the 'Bees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC).

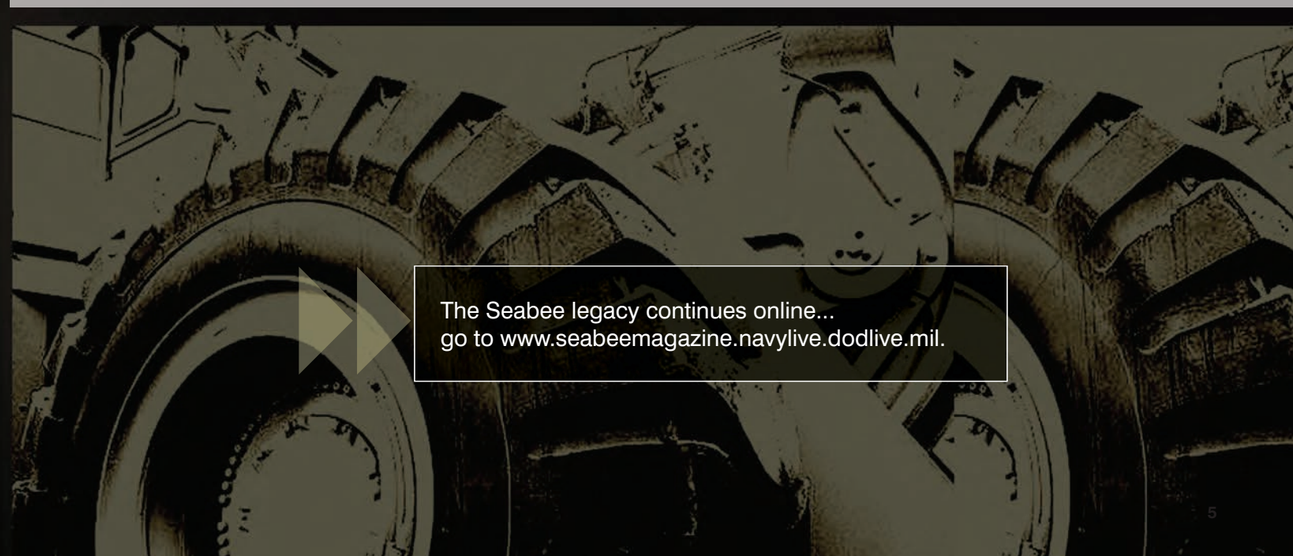
The first Seabee print publication, *Beelines*, was published in April 1942 at Camp Allen, a Seabee training center in Norfolk, Va. Effectively a camp newspaper, *Beelines* provided information ranging from history lessons on how to properly address outgoing mail to the weekly show and chow guides for Seabees stationed there. While many Seabee battalions and camps published newspapers and newsletters during World War II, it was not until February 1945 that newspapers representing the entire NCF appeared. Printed and circulated by the Hawaii area Naval Construction Brigades until the end of the war, *Seabee* was a newspaper dedicated to disseminating and interpreting the story of all Seabees serving in the Pacific.

Even though some version of a magazine has been a common thread throughout Seabee history, its publication has not been consistent. Since the NCF used the magazine to communicate its accomplishments to both the internal community and to the Navy at large, publication occurred when troop levels were higher and Seabees were engaged in more conventional military activities. Therefore, an official Seabee publication was in existence during World War II, Vietnam and then again beginning in the early 1990s; however, there are gaps in the 1950s, 1970s and 1980s.

One "unofficial" Seabee-related Navy publication got its start in March 1962 by the Island X-2 of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America. The publication, *The Seabee*, was dedicated to furthering the public image of the Seabees and the CEC, both in the United States and abroad. Ironically, some of these magazine covers are the most iconic in Seabee history.

In January 1993, the NCF began publication of *The Beeline*. This magazine focused on units and individual Seabees, as well as their contributions to the U.S. maritime strategy and in support of Navy and Marine Corps warfighters.

In 2002, the magazine was redesigned and re-launched as *Seabee* magazine, a four-color, 40-plus page publication. After multiple U.S. Navy Chief of Information (CHINFO) Merit Awards and other recognition in the communications industry, *Seabee* has evolved to an online format. Seabee Online will continue to carry the Can Do message of the Builder Warriors, a tradition which began 70 years ago.



The Seabee legacy continues online...
go to www.seabeemagazine.navylive.dodlive.mil.