

15 December 2008

To the Operation Seabee Christmas Team,

It is with great joy and peace in my heart that I am writing this email to the wonderful Team that made the day of many of my 120 Seabees spread across 5 different countries.

First and foremost, I wanted to personally thank each and every one of you for your selfless devotion to your loved ones serving with NMCB FOUR through this deployment and their career. You could tell, the personal "touch" put into each of the care packages were handled with extra care and a whole lot of love.

I personally was able to deliver the first game, "Gears of War 2" out to my Detachment in Comoros on Thanksgiving Day. Let me tell you, the reaction was truly awesome! The game was opened up and played within seconds, and the television was surrounded by 10 Seabees eagerly awaiting their turn.

My team in Uganda has their tree up and decorated in their command tent. Once again, from reviews from their Chief, "Gears of War 2" is yet another success. Bringing a little bit of Christmas to a field tent camp in Uganda for 23 Seabees and 8 Army personnel touched each one of them in their own special way.

Here in Djibouti, we have our Christmas tree set up at the Quarterdeck, Snowman out front representing that the Holidays won't get us down. Even though we reach "Black Flag" temperatures daily; the snowman and Christmas tree remind us that somebody back home cares enough about ensure that we have some Christmas joy regardless of wherever we may be, or where loved ones are are located. Additionally, on Sundays, in our conference room tent.. There is standing room only, a faithful group of 10-15 Seabees gathered around a TV, XBOX and the forever famous "Gears of War 2".

As we still receive boxes almost weekly, Senior Chief Forrester and EA2 Felipe do a fantastic job of getting those down range as fast as humanly possible. Every time a box is rec'd of goodies, my phone rings off the hook, Mission Commanders expressing their "Thanks" and gratitude to the team.

As we are all over the Horn of Africa, the men and women of my detachment are humbled by the poverty, famine and living

conditions of this area and even though 17% of my Seabees are making their first deployment and 62% are away from their loved ones during the holidays for the first time in their career. I can honestly say, wholeheartedly that you made a definite positive impact to each and every one of my Seabees and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I personally, have been in the Navy half of my life and all of my adult life, made numerous sacrifices, missed Holidays, births of children, wedding anniversaries and back in the beginning part of my career there was nothing even close to comparable being done for the troops as of what your team has done through this holiday season.

With all this being said, I just wanted to personally express my humble thanks and gratitude from a Father, Husband, and a proud member of NMCB FOUR.

Words cannot express enough the holiday joy you put into my troops this holiday season.

Have a Happy Holiday and God Bless each and every one of you!

Respectfully,


Frank Palmer