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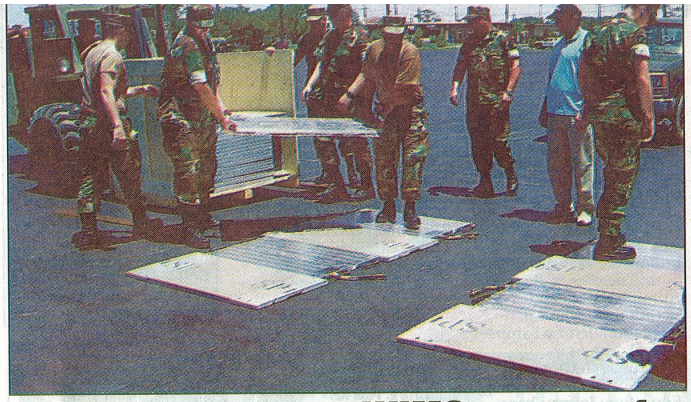

Official U.S. Navy photo

Left: **EO1 Mike Ingam and EO1 Charles Bernard of NMCB 74 carry a scale for the Weight In Motion System (WIMS) set up.** Above: **Twentieth Seabee Readiness Group Seabees weigh a Grader using the Weight In Motion System**

Seabees use new WIMS system for weighing equipment

By BU1 (SCW) April Brand
20th SRG

The 20th SRG Embark department and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY FOUR were the first Seabees to use a new state of the art vehicle weighing system. Weigh In Motion System or WIMS for short, has been used by the Army and Marines for a couple of years now but thanks to a forward thinking Senior Chief the program is now slated to become a part of the East Coast Seabees deployment planning.

When asked why he decided to pilot this new program, EOCS Doyle Townsley said, "I was just following in my predecessors footsteps". Yet with childlike glee he continued on saying," This program is going to greatly enhance operational capabilities of the battalions, will provide for way faster mount out operations and more accurate data recording because it leaves virtually no room for user input errors."

The old way of performing weights and balances involves having two to four Seabees measure the height, width and length of a particular vehicle and the distance from the front bumper to each axle, using a tape measure and recording everything on a piece of paper with an ink pen. Then one of the individuals will pass off the paper to another team of two to four Seabees for data input into the Automated Air Load Planning System (AALPS).

While the data input person tries to decipher the chicken scratch on the paper, the first crew splits up into 2 separate groups of 2 each and they proceed to drive over two little vehicle scales while trying not to bounce too much on the scales because that might cause incorrect readings. They then yell out the weights to another crew member who is writing the axle weights down on you guessed it, another piece of paper. I'm pretty sure you can figure out the point I'm trying to make so I'm not going to bore you with the rest of the details on the "Old" method, but I will tell you that this old method left too much to chance for errors and took quite a bit of time to complete, an average of 15 to 25 minutes per vehicle.

The "New" WIMS program has basically three steps: 1 - Set up weighing pieces to form two "tracks"(takes about 10 minutes), 2 - Drive the vehicle over the system and 3 - Connect the hand-held device to a computer loaded with AALPS and click enter. Total time elapsed per vehicle, 15 seconds. Not only can you weigh the vehicle while in motion but you can also line a vehicles axle or axles, as would be the case with a trailer, and weigh them in the stationary mode. The hand held device receives vehicle information such as pre-programmed Gross Vehicle Weights (GVW's), standard lengths, widths and axle distances, from a large scale planning program named Transporta-tion Coordinator Automated Information for Movement System second edition, or

See **WIMS** page 23

Combined Forces Command and Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet.

While there are no ships homeported in Korea, there are still approximately 300 Navy billets. Sailors serving here find spacious

I know I enjoyed it!

Fleet Tip: As always I want your input. Please let me know what you think about this topic, any others I have brought up, or what I should bring up. You can always reach me at cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil.

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TCAIMS II that is used by each battalion for the planning of movement of their entire battalion. From this information, once loaded into the device, the user can pick the vehicle that is being weighed and update the standard information within 5 seconds to reflect current conditions such as a load applied to the equipment or components removed from the equipment. All in all this technology will be a welcome edition to the Seabee way of life.

"Although this was only a test run to verify effectiveness and compatibility with our current systems, the results of today's evolution are very promising. We are hoping to apply this technology in the near future, on an actual mount-out for a battalion.", said an optimistic SW1 Ronnie Wade, 20th SRG Embark petty officer.