

THE WORD ON THE WORD "SEABEE"



Although coined from the initials C.B. the word "Seabee" has long since attained such independent status as a word (see any good dictionary) that it no longer is merely a phonetic pronunciation of the abbreviation for Construction Battalion. Thus it is no longer correct to abbreviate the word "Seabee" as CB. Moreover, we throw away the priceless value of a trademark now widely recognized when we substitute for it an abbreviation recognized only by our own family.

Follow these rules:

1. Always write Seabee as one word, not as SeaBee or Sea Bee
2. Capitalize the word Seabee or write it using all Capitals: SEABEE
3. Do not use a substitute, such as CB.

Although in general we think of a Seabee as a man holding a Group VIII rating, a Seabee, strictly defined, is a member of a Naval Construction Battalion, whether he be a builder, a corpsman or a company commander. When we speak of doing work with Seabees, we usually have in mind the use of battalions, detachments or teams of Seabees, and the true meaning of the word "Seabee" makes it in no way redundant to speak of a Seabee Battalion.

The following official abbreviations are correct even though they appear to violate the rules on the use of the word "Seabee".

CBLANT	CBPAC
CBC	CBMU
MCB	ACB

On closer examination it is clear that the letters CB abbreviate the words "Construction Battalion," not "Seabee." Note that no official abbreviation contains the letters CB standing apart, which would suggest an abbreviation for the word "Seabee." Thus, it is as incorrect to write "CB Center" or "Mobile CB's" or "CB Maintenance Unit" as it is to write plain "CB's."

So avoid substitutes, but don't avoid the word Seabee itself. The explosive success of our Seabee counter-insurgency teams gave a quick but limited popularity to the term "STAT." But they are Seabee teams and should be so identified.

Years of sweat and blood earned an honored place in our vocabulary for the word Seabee. Use it, but use it correctly and accept no substitutes.