

# SEABEE COURIER

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## NCBC's live-action hero trains to fight, fights to win

By Brian Lamar  
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The movie plot of a besieged building like Natomki Plaza has been played out in Hollywood a million times. Basically, a one-manned Army takes out a whole crew of "bad guys" with some unknown specialized set of skills that he has built over a lifetime; skills that make him a nightmare for the perpetrators of whatever heinous deeds they committed.

In most cases, these fictional characters that show up on the screen to save the day are just that, fictional figments of a screenwriter who read too many Batman comics as a teenager.

In some cases, these life-sized action heroes do exist. In one particular case, on the Naval Construction Battalion Center, a man with those skills walks among the mere mortals.

As a child growing up in North Chicago, speedloaders, pop-up targets and chokeholds were not a typical day. Jeff Graf grew up in the way you would expect any young boy to grow up in the 70s. Playing sports and causing mischief



was the target of the day. Graf didn't stand out in too many ways, just an all-American kid.

When the time came to choose a path in life after high school, Graf sauntered off to the recruiting station to fulfill what was to be a wild and adventurous career in the military and then the civilian law enforcement world.

As the new training instructor here at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, the training office has gotten a shot in the arm in regards to tactics instruction due to Maj. Graf's extensive knowledge on the subject.

"I am a certified tactical Instructor in Active Shooter, Basic and Advanced SWAT Instructor, less lethal Instructor, rappel master, ballistic Shield and linear Assault instructor. I am also a firearms Instructor and Graduate of the Smith & Wesson Academy, a CQB instructor, Professional Glock Instructor & Armor, NRA Police Tactical Firearms Instructor, Range Master," said Graf.

Graf also just graduated the FBI firearms instructor school in Mobile, Alabama.

As a young man, Graf signed up to be what he calls an eleven bang bang (11B infantry) in the Army for a life of jumping out of airplanes and helicopters and then becoming part of the Special Reaction Team.

Graf has been working on his own strange category of the Guinness Book of World Records for holding the most training certificates in weapons tactics, tactical law enforcement operations and counterterrorism.

When he retired and finished his Army career as the noncommissioned officer in charge of an Army special reaction team, providing a protection layer for events like the Superbowl

and presidential inaugurations, he moved on to more high adventure as a civilian with a new career in law enforcement and training, while earning his way into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

Graf spent the next ten years as a special agent working on the East Coast from Chicago to Boston down to Miami, teaching hostage rescue from a train and working missions to protecting the railroad.

His new venture not only fit with his life goals and modus operandi, but also added a new layer to national security that had not previously been discussed.

"Hostage rescue training scenarios for trains really hadn't been done anywhere in the U.S. It was ground-breaking work that we were all very motivated to get right," said Graf.

Graf, being the consummate professional and always looking to perfect his craft had attended dozens of tactical operator SWAT and counterterrorism schools throughout the country from the world's leading training agencies like the LAPD and the FBI.

Occasionally, Graf still pops up on the covers of magazines like tactical response, SWAT and featured in a compilation book called "Tough Guys"

Graf's hobbies go hand-to-hand with his profession as he is a Certified Defensive tactics instructor and was inducted into Martial Arts Hall of Fame 2007. These days, he can be found with his family out at the range trying to share a lifetime of knowledge to his children.

But as all action/superheroes do, Graf has his own unique weakness...paperwork.



**LEFT: Jeff Graf's main past time is perfecting his aim with his family at the range. It also appears he definitely is not a stranger in the gym.**

**RIGHT: Graf teaches tactical operations skills to studentst. Graf's life goal is to help other learn the best possible tactical training he can teach.**

# NCBC security department spotlight during Police Week

In celebration of National Police Week, which is observed from May 13-19, 2018, Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport salutes all of our security forces serving here on base and on ships and installations around the world. This week, we stopped a few of our officers to capture a candid moment from them to discuss an aspect of their job. (U.S. Navy photos by Ryan Labadens, NCBC Public Affairs)



MA 2 Thomas Bostic

"Most importantly, that we are the first line of defense. We're in charge of making sure everyone is safe on the installation so that they can do what they need to do to perform their jobs. It also makes me feel proud to know that we're the reason people here can sleep safe at night."



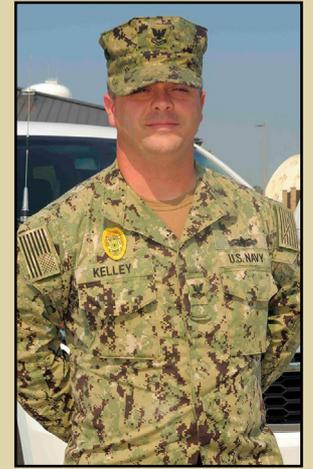
Lt. Katie Morrison

"Ever since I was five-years old, which is the first time I can remember seeing a police officer, I knew it was the only thing I wanted to do. So for me, I get to wake up and go to my dream job every day."



Sgt. Scott Gilbert

"The thing I'm most proud of about being in law enforcement is actually getting to help the families here on base while their husbands or wives are deployed. So while they're protecting us overseas, I'm protecting their families while they're away."



MA 2 Stanley Kelly

"The thing I enjoy most about being here is taking care of the families, taking care of the kids, watching after everybody and making sure the base is secure."

# Seabee Police beat Keesler Police in shooting competition



By Ryan Labadens  
NCBC Public Affairs

Four U.S. Navy security forces members from Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport won the top team trophy while participating in the 3rd Annual Police Week Pistol Competition May 16, 2018, at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. The competition was part of a week-long schedule of events hosted by Keesler AFB in celebration of National Police Week, which runs this year from May 13-19. Seven military and civilian law enforcement teams competed in the individual Top Shot and Top Team shooting matches. This is the first year that NCBC Gulfport personnel participated in the competition. Individual competitors from NCBC Gulfport included U.S. Navy Master-at-Arms Chief Petty Officer Eugene Marstaller, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Phillip James, Department of Defense Security Forces Maj. Jeffrey Graf (NCBC Gulfport training instructor), and DoD Lt. Jason Palmitessa (NCBC Gulfport K-9 handler). (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens)

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