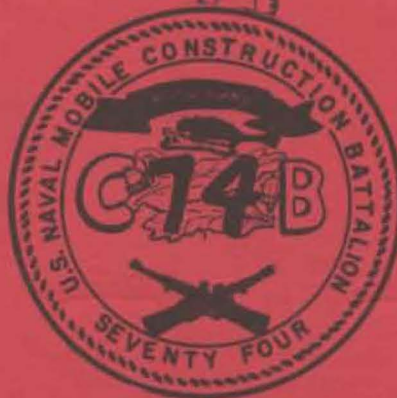


# DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT



## DIEGO GARCIA

1 NOV 93 - 15 JUL 98



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR  
F.P.O. NEW YORK 09501

S3:jvl  
5000  
Ser 349  
05 OCT 1978

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR  
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet

Subj: Deployment Completion Report; submission of

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 3121.1  
(b) COMCBPAC OPLAN 803

Encl: (1) Executive Summary  
(2) Unit Location Summary  
(3) Historical Summary  
(4) Administration  
(5) Training  
(6) Operations  
(7) Supply and Logistics  
(8) Equipment  
(9) Camp Maintenance  
(10) Special Operations/Other

1. Enclosures (1) through (10) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

2. In accordance with reference (b), U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR deployed to Camp Cummins, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, during the period 1 November 1977 to 15 July 1978, with an Expeditor Detail located at Clark AFB, Republic of the Philippines.

3. After an extremely well planned and executed homeport period, NMCB-74 deployed fully prepared to "hit the ground running." The extensive construction program on Diego Garcia provided the Battalion with an interesting challenge, testing the training, experience, and ingenuity of each man. NMCB-74 welcomed the opportunity to participate in the NCF's most demanding construction workload. The Battalion accomplished its mission and completed all of its various taskings within the established constraints of time and material resources.

*Donald L. McCorvey, Jr.*

DONALD L. McCORVEY, JR.  
CDR, CEC, USN  
Commanding Officer



Copy to:	Number of Copies
CNO (OP-44G)	1
COMCBPAC	2
CINCPACFLT	1
NAVFACENGCOMHQ	1
PACNAVFACENGCOM	1
COMCBLANT	2
COMNAVLOGPAC	1
COM30THNCR	1
COM31STNCR	1
COM20THNCR	1
CO CBC PORT HUENEME	1
CO CBC GULFPORT	1
CO CECOS	1
CO NCTC PORT HUENEME	1
CO NCTC GULFPORT	1
DIRECTOR OF NAVAL HISTORY	1
CG FMFPAC	1
CO NCEL PORT HUENEME	1
COMMANDANT MARINE CORPS	1
ALL NMCB'S (1, 3, 4, 5, 62, 40, 133, 74)	8
CBMU 302	1
DIRECTOR TRAINING PUBLICATIONS DIVISION	1
FIRST RESERVE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE	1
ALL RNCR'S (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 21, 20)	10
ALL RNMCB'S (2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28)	17

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Administration. The Administration Department provided administrative, personnel, and legal services to not only NMCB-74, but also to the four NMCB Details deployed to Diego Garcia. Successful programs were also implemented by the Educational Services Office, Career Counselor, Chaplain, Public Affairs and Special Services. The Medical Department was integrated into the island's dispensary staff and was kept extremely busy throughout the deployment, performing routine examinations, as well as handling day-to-day sick calls and emergencies for the entire island population. The Dental Department provided services to all Naval Construction Force personnel.
2. Training. The Training program was greatly reduced to enhance the construction productivity of the Battalion, in keeping with the urgency of the Diego Garcia construction program. As such, the Training Department was most active prior to the deployment, ensuring that NMCB-74 was fully prepared for the deployment to Diego Garcia and during the latter portion, preparing for return to homeport. Included in the training was a full Human Resources Program, including classes in drug and alcohol abuse and mid-management alcohol awareness. The Battalion operated a live-in alcohol assistance facility with two full time trained counselors.
3. Operations. NMCB-74 worked on 35 major projects, plus several smaller taskings, while deployed on Diego Garcia. Twenty of these projects were turnovers from either the previous battalion or other NMCB detachments. Of these, 14 were completed by NMCB-74. Of the projects which were new starts, NMCB-74 completed 10. The remainder were turned over to the relieving battalion or detachments. A total of 42,148 ten-hour direct labor mandays were applied to project tasks.
4. Supply and Logistics. The Supply Department was responsible for overall supply support for the entire Naval Construction Force, and project material management for approximately 35 major construction projects, plus several smaller taskings.

The Battalion maintained one camp OPTAR for materials and services (\$2M FY 78) and its own Battalion OPTAR (\$433K FY 78). Materials and services required during the deployment were procured primarily through CBC Port Hueneme, CA. with several ancillary sources for particular needs. Four expeditors, one in Subic Bay and three in Clark AFB, assisted in purchasing items on the local market. The Navy Support Office in Singapore also provided procurement assistance, primarily for CESE support and other services such as Wang computer repair.

Enclosure (1)



Disbursing provided counter service twelve hours a day, providing all payrolls and per diem payments to meet the financial needs of the battalion and the details.

The effectiveness of the CESE repair parts warehouse grew during the deployment and the CESE NORS requisitions dramatically reduced during the last three months of the deployment.

5. Equipment. Tasked with operating and maintaining essentially two battalions' allowances of automotive, material handling, and construction equipment, as well as fixed facilities (e.g., the batch plants and cement silos), ALFA Company encountered an immense challenge, greater than that experienced at other deployment sites. Many pieces of equipment had to be upgraded, while at the same time, the extensive construction work had to continue undiminished. ALFA Company successfully responded to this challenge in an extraordinary fashion and significantly improved equipment availability.

6. Camp Maintenance. BRAVO Company managed the maintenance responsibility for the majority of Camp Cummins' facilities supporting the 850 man Naval Construction Force on island. This responsibility included maintenance and repair of the camp's potable water system, sewage disposal system, fire main, telephone exchange, as well as structural repairs. The battalion also manned the camp's structural fire crews.

7. Special Projects/other. During February 1978, NMCB-74 was tasked on short notice with completing a hanger and temporary earth berms for a contingency operation. The pre-engineered hanger was successfully completed in one week, with CHARLIE Company and selected individuals from other companies working around the clock to meet the required schedule.

NMCB-74 operated and maintained a MARS facility, providing service to the entire island population.

An armory facility was operated, including weapons to support an Air Detachment. The magazine area allowed for storage of Air Det ammunition as well as construction explosives.



# UNIT LOCATION SUMMARY

UNIT LOCATION SUMMARY

<u>TYPE UNIT &amp; DESIGNATION</u>	<u>AV. ONBOARD OFF/ENL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ARRIVAL DATE/ DEPARTURE DATE AT SITE</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
Main Body	20/644	Diego Garcia B.I.O.T.	1NOV77/15JUL78	Construct- ion
Detail Clark	1/4	Clark AFB, Philippines	1NOV77/11JUL78	Logistics
*Fleet Support Personnel				
Port Hueneme	0/3	Port Hueneme	----	Expeditors
Gulfport	0/6	Gulfport	----	Support

\*NOTE: Pacific Fleet terminology is Rear Echelon personnel.

Enclosure (2)



# HISTORICAL SUMMARY

### HISTORICAL SUMMARY

- 14 OCT 77 LCDR W. A. WATERS, Operations Officer and OIC of the Advance Party and 216 others departed Gulfport, MS. for Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory
- 16 OCT 77 LTJG K. J. LUDWIG, OIC Det Clark AFB, and 1 other departed Gulfport, MS. for Clark AFB, Republic of Philippines. LCDR WATERS and Advance Party arrived at Diego Garcia.
- 17 OCT 77 BEEP of equipment and turnover of construction projects/camp from NMCB-62 commenced.
- 20 OCT 77 GMGI W. B. MOODY and 2 others departed Gulfport, MS. for Clark AFB.
- 29 OCT 77 CDR A. W. FORT, CO, and 206 others departed Gulfport, MS. for Diego Garcia. ENS K. A. VESELY, Asst. "C" Co. Cdr. and 15 others departed Gulfport, MS. for Diego Garcia.
- 30 OCT 77 LCDR E. J. EVERETT, XO, and 191 others departed Gulfport, MS. for Diego Garcia. Flight terminated in Anchorage, AK due to mechanical and crew problems.
- 31 OCT 77 CDR A. W. FORT arrived at Diego Garcia with first main body flight.
- 1 NOV 77 Change of Camp Cummins' Commander ceremony held with NMCB-62. LT J. F. MORAN, "D" Co. Cdr, and 96 others departed Elmendorf AFB, AK for Diego Garcia.
- 2 NOV 77 LCDR E. J. EVERETT and 95 others departed Elmendorf AFB for Diego Garcia.
- 3 NOV 77 Last two main body flights arrived at Diego Garcia.
- 12 NOV 77 CAPT J. E. McNEIL, OICC SOWESTPAC, arrived on island for project tour. Departed 17 NOV 77.
- 23 NOV 77 LTJG K. J. LUDWIG, COMCBPAC Rep Clark, arrived on island for orientation. Departed 27 NOV 77.
- 30 NOV 77 CDR L. K. DONOVAN, COMCBPAC 09DG arrived for a staff assistance visit. Departed 8 DEC 77.
- 10 DEC 77 CAPT R. D. KEEGAN, COMCBPAC Chief of Staff and 8 others arrived to conduct an Operational Readiness Inspection of NMCB-74. Departed on 15 DEC 77.
- 16 DEC 77 The Honorable W. G. CLAYTOR, JR., Secretary of the Navy and party of 7 arrived for an orientation visit of island. Departed 16 DEC 77.

Enclosure (3)



16-17 DEC 77 Cement ship "Cementia" in port to offload 2000 MT of cement.

17 DEC 77 RADM J. J. O'CONNOR, Chief of Chaplains, arrived for tour of island and review of the Chapel Program.

20-27 DEC 77 Cargo ship "American Chieftan" arrived to discharge cargo.

11 JAN 78 VADM R. COOGAN, COMNAVAIRPAC, and party arrived for island familiarization and orientation. Departed 12 JAN 78.

21 JAN 78 EQCM D. R. RUTHERFORD, Master Chief of the Seabees, arrived for island familiarization. Departed 26 JAN 78.

25 JAN 78 LTGEN HILL, Commander Pacific Air Force, and party toured island for familiarization and orientation. Departed same day. RADM D. G. ISELIN, CEC, USN, COMNAVFACENCOM, arrived for tour of facilities and projects. Cut the ribbon on the new Enlisted Mens Club. Departed 26 JAN 78.

28 JAN 78 CAPT B. L. SARAIVIA, Commander, CBC Port Hueneme, CA., and 31ST NCR, arrived to review construction progress and discuss 31ST NCR support of construction efforts. Departed 2 FEB 78.

1 FEB 78 CAPT J. P. JONES, COMCBLANT arrived for official visit with NMCB-74. Departed 6 FEB 78.

15 FEB 78 CDR P. F. MEHLHORN, COMCBPAC, 09DGA arrived for review of construction progress. Departed 19 FEB 78.

18 FEB 78 CDR D. B. MILLER, PACDIV 09P arrived for review of construction progress and future planning requirements.

12 MAR 78 Seabee Birthday Picnic enjoyed by all on-island Seabees.

19 MAR 78 EQCM J. O. WOOD, senior enlisted detailer for occupational field 13, arrived for visit with all Seabees on island. Departed 23 MAR 78.

24-26 MAR 78 Cement ship in port to offload cement.

29 MAR 78 CDR L. K. DONOVAN, COMCBPAC 09DG arrived for construction progress visit. Departed 6 APR 78.

8 APR 78 SS American Chieftain arrived for re-supply offload. Departed 16 APR 78.

15-20 APR 78 NMCB-4 predeployment visit. CDR G. ROBINSON, CO NMCB-4 and three others.

17 MAY 78 CDR DONALD L. McCORVEY, JR.; prospective CO, arrived.

20 MAY 78 CDR D. L. McCORVEY, JR., relieved CDR A. W. FORT as CO, NMCB-74.

21 MAY 78 CDR A. W. FORT departed.

24 MAY 78 RADM N. W. CLEMENTS, COMCBPAC and CUCM N. GIGGEY, CBPAC CM/C arrived for review of construction progress. Departed 28 MAY 78.

16 JUN 78 Cement ship arrived in port with 2300 MT of cement. Departed 24 JUN 78.

1 JUL 78 NMCB-4 Advance Party arrived to begin turnover.

1 JUL 78 CAPT N. H. FRAVEL, USAF, OIC NMCB-74 Advance Party and 187 others departed Diego Garcia for Gulfport, MS.

8 JUL 78 CDR G. ROBINSON, CO NMCB-4 arrived.

10 JUL 78 LTJG K. J. LUDWIG and four others departed Clark, AFB via Military Airlift Command.

14 JUL 78 Change of Camp Cummins' Commander ceremony with NMCB-4.

15 JUL 78 LT S. T. NYLEN and 93 others depart on mainbody flight #1.

15 JUL 78 LTJG M. F. O'CONNOR and 93 others departed on mainbody flight #2.

15 JUL 78 LCDR W. A. WATERS and 93 others departed on mainbody flight #3.

16 JUL 78 CDR D. L. McCORVEY, JR., CO, and 93 others departed on mainbody flight #4.

18 JUL 78 CDR E. J. EVERETT, Executive Officer, and 39 others departed on mainbody flight #5.



# ADMINISTRATION

## ADMINISTRATION

The Admin office was housed in an enclosed air-conditioned sea hut adjacent to the Personnel Office sea hut on one side and the CO/XO/C M/C's Offices' sea hut on the other. The office was divided into three separate rooms for: general Admin/Legal functions, the Admin/Legal Officer's Office, and a duplicating machines/storage room. Major staff offices were housed in individual sea huts located in a quadrangle which provided easy access to each office.

The S-1 Department was headed by a CWO2, assisted by a YNC during the first half of the deployment and a YN1 during the second half. Due to the vacancy of the YNC billet, the YN1 served a dual role of assistant to the Admin Officer and office supervisor. An average of 2 YN2's, 4 YN3's and 1 YNSN were assigned to assist in carrying out the functions of the Admin Office and the CO/XO's office.

Office equipment included: a Xerox copier, duplicating machine, ditto machine and typewriters. With assistance provided by Naval Support Facility (NSF) Diego Garcia, the Xerox machine was kept in good operating condition. However, the department was not so fortunate in the upkeep of typewriters, due to the non-availability of a fully qualified on-island maintenance capability. Typewriters were sent to the Philippines for repair under a service contract at Clark AB. The long pipeline for typewriter repair, coupled with frequent poor quality of repair, left the admin and personnel offices with as little as one electric typewriter each at times during the deployment.

The Admin Department provided one YNSN to Alfa Company, one to S2 and one to S3 during the deployment.

S1 also maintained the Duty YN/PN Watch Section, which provided personnel and message pick-up services on a 24 hour basis.

In addition to the routine Admin functions of the battalion, Admin, Personnel and Legal Services were provided to NMCB Details (200 men) on deployment to Diego Garcia.

## POSTAL

The Post Office was under the jurisdiction of the Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia with assistance provided by NMCB-74's two postal clerks on a TAD basis. Constant attention was given to the movement of mail and the improvement of delivery times which varied from 6 days to 3 weeks. Late in the deployment Fleet Post Office, Pacific initiated the trial of commercial air movement of mail to and from the Philippines and CONUS to improve consistency of delivery time. Results were not available, at time of return to homeport.

Enclosure (4)



## PERSONNEL/ESO OFFICES

The space in which the Personnel/ESO Office was assigned was considered adequate for the office equipment and other support functions necessary for the services provided to the command. The staffs assigned during the deployment averaged seven PN's (1 PNC, 1 PN1, 2 PN3's and 2 PNSN's). Their combined responsibilities included reenlistments and discharges, transfers and receipts, temporary additional duty, diaries, muster reports, control, upkeep and authentication of all enlisted service records for both the resident battalion and details; preparation of miscellaneous personnel papers concerning special, annual, and emergency leave; Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders; rotation data cards; flight manifests and various personnel rosters and reports. Some of the individuals assigned to this office also had collateral duties such as Division Training Petty Officer, Departmental Career Counselor, Human Relations Council Member, IBM Typewriter Repairman and Area Coordinator for the Los Angeles Community College Program.

Military Identification Cards and applications were completed by this office, but personnel had to visit the NSF personnel office for pictures and lamination, which was opened for that purpose only between the hours of 1300 to 1400 every Tuesday.

As in the Admin Office, typewriters were the biggest problem to contend with during the entire deployment. This office often had only 1 IBM Selectric Typewriter that worked well enough to be used in the preparation of OCR Documents. Therefore, maximum use was made of the typewriter by scheduling work outside normal work day. This office prepared an average of 1200 OCR Documents each month. As for the remainder of the typewriters, there was 1 IBM Selectric Typewriter that was in poor condition, but could be used for general correspondence. There were also 3 manual typewriters that were in fair condition.

The Duty YN/PN picked up and delivered all Red Cross messages to the Chaplain. In cases of emergency leave requests approved by the Commanding Officer, the Duty YN/PN would prepare the appropriate documents, provided that there was a flight available the next morning; otherwise, it was handled the following working day. Due to the non-availability of flights, personnel departing the island on emergency leave normally left on Thursday or Sunday mornings. It was rare for an individual to get a flight off the island other than on those days. On occasions, personnel could get to the Philippines via the local VP Squadron or a special augment flight from Clark Air Force Base carrying priority construction supplies and parts.



Due to the release of thirty-two EO's to the Reserve Program as a CHNAVPERs program to reduce the rating and expected turnover of personnel during the early part of the homeport period, there were two personnelmen working nights on a rotational basis for the purpose of preparation of paperwork for separations during the months of July and August. They were responsible for the completion of all documents and all service record entries needed for the separations.

Battalion personnel were given the choice of 14 days annual leave, two three-day periods of on island R&R or one 6 day period of off-island R&R to Singapore. Personnel leaving Diego Garcia on annual leave were required to have a passport in their possession, regardless of the period or location of leave taken. Since the flight to Singapore left only on Thursdays, those personnel who took six days off-island to Singapore could only leave on Thursdays, and they had to return to Diego Garcia the following Wednesday.

No passport was required to go to Singapore under this program. Documents and forms used on a daily basis were normally in stock in the Central Supply Room, but occasionally some OCR documents had to be ordered through the local supply system. It took approximately 6 to 8 weeks to receive the ordered supplies.

#### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR's Educational Services Office experienced excellent results in formulating an effective educational program within the battalion. Through the use of the local radio station, memorandums, command instructions, and the Plan of the Day, ESO was able to inform all hands of the educational opportunities, as well as information concerning military leadership examinations, advancement examinations, and special programs, such as Limited Duty Officer, Warrant Officer and BOOST.

Due to the deployment schedule of the battalion along with non-receipt of examinations, E-8 and E-9 candidates had to take substitute examinations the first week of November. There were a total of 19 candidates for E-8 and 4 candidates for E-9. The administration of the advancement examinations in January for E-7's and March for E-4 through E-6 went smoothly for the command and the details and administered them jointly with the other island commands at the Enlisted Men's Club on the morning of the examination administering dates. A total of 260 battalion personnel participated in advancement exams this deployment. This included 39 candidates for E-7; 40 candidates for E-6; 87 candidates for E-5 and 94 candidates for E-4.

Since the beginning of the deployment, 360 Navy Correspondence courses were ordered of which 280 have been completed. These courses took from 5 to 7 weeks to obtain through the mail as compared to 2 weeks during homeport.



Text books were always in great demand and the office was continually ordering new ones for replacement. Text books took approximately 5 weeks to 2 months to obtain when it was necessary to order them. Many of the Rate Training Manuals were being revised; therefore, it was impossible to obtain some Rate Training Manuals until they were printed.

In the off-duty education program, personnel were afforded the opportunity to participate in high school completion and college courses through the Los Angeles Community College Overseas Program, GED Tests, and DAN TES. On-island educational counseling was coordinated through the Area Director, Clark AB, RP of Los Angeles Community College (LACC) Overseas, who made three trips to Diego Garcia during the deployment. NMCR-74 handled the island's local processing of forms for college courses. Tuition Aid was administered through the NCEA Regional Offices of Subic Bay, RP and Gulfport, MS. The applications took 2 to 4 weeks to be processed, but no major problems were experienced. After initiating and firmly establishing the LACC Program, the battalion turned its operation over to the Naval Support Facility for permanent operation. The Scholastic Aptitude Test, which was offered twice during the deployment, was very productive in the broadening of the battalion's educational scope. Sixty personnel were enrolled in the College Courses offered by Los Angeles Community College Overseas Program; 30 personnel took the Scholastic Aptitude Tests; 15 personnel participated in the General Education Development Testing and 5 personnel enrolled in the Independent Study Courses offered by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support (DANTES).

PERSONNEL STABILITY (1)

MONTH	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL				
OFCR Loss	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1				
OFCR Gain	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0				
CPO Loss	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1					
CPO Gain	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0					
E6-E5 Loss	4	10	10	12	7	11	2	6					
E6-E5 Gain	4	4	11	4	5	9	6	8					
E4 Below Loss	4	7	12	4	9	8	8	9					
4 Below Gain	5	17	5	4	18	13	13	7					
TOTAL LOSS	9	17	22	17	18	20	12	16	1				
TOTAL GAIN	9	22	16	8	28	24	20	16	0				

(1) SHOWN FOR THE ENTIRE HOMEPORT/DEPLOYMENT CYCLE



VARIATIONS IN UNIT MANNING VS. ALLOWANCE

FIRST DAY OF DEPLOYMENT 1 NOV 77

	EO	CM	BU	SW	UT	CE	EA	SK	YN	PN	HM	MS	Other	Total
E8	0	0	+3	0	0	0	+1	-1	0	0	0	0	+1	+4
E7	+3	+2	-3	0	0	+1	-1	+2	0	0	+1	0	+2	+7
E6	+3	+6	+1	+4	+3	-1	0	-1	0	-1	+2	+1	-2	+15
E5	+7	-4	+3	+2	+3	+3	-1	0	-1	0	+1	+2	+2	+17
E4	+15	+6	-8	+1	-2	+9	+1	-3	0	+1	0	-1	-4	+15
E3 Below	+15	+18	-9	-3	+4	-1	0	+3	+1	-1	0	0	+1	+28
Total	+43	+28	-13	+4	+8	+11	0	0	0	-1	+4	+2	0	+86

LAST DAY OF DEPLOYMENT 15 JUL 78

	EO	CM	BU	SW	UT	CE	EA	SK	YN	PN	HM	MS	Other	Total
E8	0	0	+3	0	0	0	+1	-1	0	0	0	0	+1	+4
E7	+1	+2	-4	0	-1	+2	-1	+1	-1	0	+1	0	+1	+1
E6	0	+3	-1	+2	+3	0	+1	0	0	0	+2	+1	-3	+8
E5	+6	-1	-2	-1	-3	+2	-1	+2	0	-1	0	+1	+4	+6
E4	+10	+5	-15	-1	-3	+7	-2	-3	0	-1	0	0	-1	-4
E3 Below	+18	+23	+6	+9	+13	+2	+2	+4	+1	+1	0	-1	+4	+82
Total	+35	+32	-13	+9	+9	+13	0	+3	0	-1	+3	+1	+6	+97

	E9	CU	EQ	UT
First Day		0	0	0
Last Day		0	0	0

ALL FIGURES REPRESENT NUMBER CARRIED ON BOARD (COB) MINUS PEACE TIME ALLOWANCE (ALW).

LEGAL

OFFENSES

MONTH	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
NJP	6	6	7	6	9	13	11	6	64
COURT MARTIAL			1					1	2

MAJOR CHARGES

UCMJ ARTICLE	86	91	92	95	134	OTHER	DRUG/ALCOHOL RELATED CHARGES
OFFENSES	21	8	12	4	17	27	22

DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE

DRUG EXEMPTIONS REQUESTED 0

DRUG EXEMPTIONS GRANTED 0

DRUG COUNSELING-LOCAL LEVEL ONLY 0

DRUG COUNSELING-CAAC/NDRC REFERRAL 0

ALCOHOL COUNSELING-LOCAL LEVEL ONLY 97

ALCOHOL COUNSELING-ARD/ARC REFERRAL 3

BUPERS RCS 5355-1 SENT 0

LOCALLY CONDUCTED - 30 DAY REHABILITATION PROGRAM 23



AWARDS 01NOV77 TO 15JUL78 )

MEDAL RECIPIENTS

NOMINEES/RECIPIENTS OF SPECIAL AWARDS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>
CMC ROZAR	Navy Commendation Medal	LT HENDERSON (Nominee)	Moreel Award
MR1 HOFFMAN	"	BUCS ROWELL (Nominee)	Marvin Shields Award
CM1 SHERROD	Navy Achievement Medal	YN1 LASKOWSKI (Recipient)	CINCLANTFLT Sailor of the Year 1977
UT1 MAYNARD	"		
EO1 BATCHLOR	Army Commendation Medal		
MEDALS IN PROCESS	<u>15</u>		

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION IN PROCESS/AWARDED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY 114/8

COMMAND LETTERS OF COMMENDATION 111  
Command Letter of Appreciation/Other Authority 197/59  
MERITORIOUS MAST 10

UNIT AWARDS (List)  
None

DEPLOYMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

<u>NEWS RELEASES</u>	<u>ISSUED</u>	<u>PUBLISHED</u>
SERVICE WIDE PUBLICATIONS	12	5
CIVILIAN PRESS	N/A	N/A
BASE/LOCAL MILITARY PUBLICATIONS	38	27
TOTAL RELEASES	50	32
FHTNC INDIVIDUAL RELEASES	60	N/A
FHTNC ROSTER RELEASES	2	N/A
FAMILYGRAM ISSUES	6	N/A



## MEDICAL

While on the Diego Garcia deployment, the NMCB-74 Medical Department was assigned to the Naval Support Facility (NSF) Clinic, working in conjunction with the NSF personnel under the direction of the Senior Medical Officer. Battalion personnel consisted of a Medical Officer, two Chief Petty Officers, and five Petty Officers. Included in this number were a preventive Medicine Technician, an X-ray Technologist, and a Laboratory Technician. Since a large majority of dispensary supplies and equipment belonged to NSF, including all drugs, this eliminated a large turnover upon the battalion's arrival on the island.

The Diego Garcia dispensary is an extremely modern facility, including separate sickcall and emergency rooms, a pharmacy, a laboratory, an X-ray room, an operating room, beds for four inpatients and various office spaces. The facility also houses the NSF Dental Department.

Although the clinic is not officially an inpatient facility, it was necessary in several instances to hospitalize patients for short periods of time due to extreme distance to a hospital facility. When more extensive treatment was needed, the patient was sent for further evaluation and treatment to either NRMC Subic Bay or Clark Air Base Hospital in the Philippines. Eighteen battalion personnel were medically evacuated on an emergency basis.

From 15 October 1977 through 31 May 1978, there were 3,826 sickcall and emergency visits by NMCB-74 personnel. Various skin problems were the most common complaints, consisting mainly of fungal infections and heat rashes. Also frequently encountered were minor skin abrasions from coral. These minor abrasions showed a marked tendency to become infected if prompt and thorough cleansing of the wound was not performed. Varied musculoskeletal complaints were also common, mainly ankle sprains and low back sprains. Physical examinations were performed throughout the deployment, and these numbered over 200; most were annual physicals and done for separation purposes. Others included physicals for diver's school, explosives drivers, and radiation exposure.

The battalion's preventive medicine section played a vital role on Diego Garcia, responsible for the pest control on the entire island since NSF had no qualified personnel. Regular sanitary inspections were made of all berthing spaces, food service and storage areas, and all work spaces in the cantonment area, as well as the outlying construction job sites. Pesticide spraying was also carried out routinely at all locations. Under the supervision of a highly qualified E-7 preventive medicine technician, these programs were carried out efficiently and with excellent results. The preventive medicine section also carried out other important functions within the Medical Department. Routine immunizations were given regularly, and medical records of all personnel were closely screened to ensure up-to-date



immunization prior to each man's departure. While on deployment, approximately 2,000 immunizations were given to NMCB-74 personnel. The weight control program was a priority item, and bi-weekly weigh-in's were held for all assigned personnel. Dietary measures, exercise programs, and goals were discussed with each man on this program. Tuberculin skin tests were given to all personnel routinely, and ten new convertors were identified and placed on prophylactic medication, if appropriate, in each case. Fifty-one personnel in the battalion had positive skin tests in the past, and these individuals were followed up with regular chest x-rays. Hearing conservation continued to receive emphasis in the intensive construction atmosphere and 654 audiograms were performed while on deployment. Individuals with evidence of hearing loss were monitored at close intervals. All personnel in noise-hazardous work areas were issued ear plugs and instructed on the importance of hearing protection.

On the Diego Garcia deployment, as well as during the homeport period, the NMCB-74 Medical Department made every effort to assure a high level of quality medical care to each individual.

#### DENTAL

In July 1977, the preparation for a Diego Garcia deployment began with the turnover of two-thirds of the Dental Department staff. A large volume of work was completed in the remaining three and one-half months of homeport to ensure the deployability of all Seabees.

Dental's advance party member conducted a complete inventory and reorganization of the supply system that serves both the Battalion and NSF Dental Departments. His efforts, combined with the timely installation of a new x-ray developing tank by the battalion, allowed the department to get off to a good start after the main body's arrival.

The capability to perform yearly prophylaxis and fluoride treatments was hampered in December and January as the department's chairside assistant was lost for 40 days due to a medical consultation to Subic Bay, RP. The impact of this was drastically reduced due to the efforts of the administrative DT2, who performed cleanings every evening and on weekends during this period.

Early in the deployment, an annual recall system was established, and with the assistance of the operations department, a Dental Status computer program was fed into the Wang computer. This proved to be a useful system and should continue to be of great benefit during the homeport period and on future deployments.

A major emphasis was placed on the Dental care of the 30THNCR and the numerous details deployed to Diego Garcia. In November, a majority of the men in each detail had not had a yearly examination. The DET OIC's were notified and all men had examinations prior to their departure. Annual cleanings and necessary



restorative work was also performed.

The statistics for the volume of work performed during the deployment were as follows:

Total Patient Sitzings: 3,300  
Total Procedures: 12,750

#### CAREER COUNSELOR

NMCB-74 deployed to Diego Garcia with a fully trained, viable retention team. The retention team was made up of the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, all Company Commanders and Department Heads, the Command Master Chief, Command Career Counselor and nine collateral duty career counselors. The team was coordinated by the Executive Officer and met monthly to exchange ideas and to discuss prospects and new ways to enhance the battalion retention climate.

The Battalion Career Counseling Office was staffed with an NCCS, and an EAL who was receiving on-the-job training for lateral conversion to Navy Counselor. The Office was kept highly visible through constant advertisement at all levels of the chain-of-command and through other available media (i.e. Plan of the Day & "Peavers Tale"). The battalion also published a Retention Digest quarterly, which covered up-to-date career information, reenlistment incentives, and reenlistment activity.

The Battalion Career Counselor worked long hours (including many night hours) and frequently visited job sites to provide up-to-date career information and guidance to the men of NMCB-74 and the other details, that they might derive maximum benefits from the Navy, and maximum training and good experience from this deployment. They also maintained continual liaison with enlisted and officer detailers in Washington, D.C. throughout the deployment via autovon, to assist men in arranging their next assignment. NMCB-74 Reenlistment Statistics while deployed to Diego Garcia were as follows:

First Term	32% Gross
Second Term	60% Gross
Career	72% Gross

#### CHAPLAIN

Protestant and Roman Catholic Services were held several times during the week in the Chapel in the Palms.

Protestant Services were provided by the Battalion Chaplain on three separate occasions during the week. A Prayer Service, informal in nature, was held 1930, Wednesday evenings, with an average attendance of 8 participants. Sunday Morning Worship, a liturgical service, commenced at 0900 and averaged 40 worshippers, while Sunday Evening Vespers, generally a service of song, began



at 1930 with an average of 15 men in attendance. Services varied to provide worship opportunities for a broad base of religious traditions. For variety during the principle Sunday Morning Service, groups or individuals provided special music, while at the evening service, certain men provided the message from time to time. Piano accompaniment for all services was provided by the battalion doctor. A fellowship time was held following each Sunday Morning Service, with light refreshment being served.

Roman Catholic Services were provided on a daily basis by the Naval Support Facility Chaplain. Attendance at Sunday Mass averaged 40 participants with daily Mass drawing some 6 - 12 worshippers.

LDS Services were held at 1130 Sundays. Approximately 6 participants were in attendance, with an Elder of the Church conducting the services. There were no identified Jewish personnel on the island during the reporting period.

A joint Protestant - Catholic Thanksgiving Service and a National Prayer Breakfast Observance were held with the former being very well received.

For Protestants, special seasonal observances were held during Christmas, New Years, and Easter Week.

Further, a Memorial Service was conducted for a battalion member who died during the deployment.

Several study opportunities were provided during the deployment. A Sunday School Class, held following the Protestant Morning Service was conducted by a chapel participant. The class, running the duration of the deployment, attracted good participation and interest. The course of instruction included studies of several books of both the Old and New Testaments.

Another biblically oriented study opportunity was conducted Thursday evenings during the first of the deployment by 2 other interested chapel participants. Participation was good until its last few weeks, when, it appears, the need for such a class diminished.

The Chaplain held three classes during the deployment. One, a 13 week marriage and family seminar, using film, tapes, lecture, and discussion, was enthusiastically received, and felt to be very effective.

A second study of about 5 weeks duration centered on C. S. Lewis' "Screwtape Letters".

A 3 week seminar in the area of "Death and Life" was also held; although this was an experimental program, reaction and interest was encouraging.

During the first 5 months of the deployment, a choir of up to



12 men provided music for the Protestant Sunday Service. Due to the transient nature of the island's population, most of the interested participants departed for other duty stations, leaving the choir with 1 - 2 men to provide occasional special music.

The film fellowship program was a highlight of the deployment for many men. Each Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, a different film, with some type of message, was shown at the chapel. Films were obtained through several sources and ordered well in advance of the start of the deployment. Several feature length films were shown.

A Christmas Program, consisting of caroling and a slide/sound presentation based on Handel's "Messiah", was seen by some 75 men during the Christmas Season. The Program, initially used in Okinawa during a previous deployment, was so well received, that it was re-presented on Diego Garcia; following the Program, a Christmas Buffet was enjoyed by all. Many hours of planning and work by several volunteers made this event a highlight of the Chapel Program and helped create a seasonal atmosphere of joy and good tidings for those men many thousands of miles from home and families.

The Protestant Chaplain provided ministry, not only to the Battalion to which attached, but to several NMCB Detachments and support activities on the island.

A significant number of emergency leaves, Red Cross messages, Navy Relief cases, humanitarian requests, and other kinds of crisis assistance were handled by the chaplain.

A major concern of the Chaplain was in maintaining open lines of communication between the deployed serviceman and his stateside dependents, especially during periods of crisis. A great deal of support in this area was provided by the CBLANT Chaplains in Gulfport, MS. as well as several other Chaplains stationed throughout CONUS. The American Red Cross was another principle source of information and communication.

The principle means of communication was the Navy Message. During the deployment, the Chaplain handled some 900 messages.

Long-term marriage, personal, religious and pastoral counseling was provided along with many single-visit, problem-oriented interviews. Nearly 800 interviews were conducted during the deployment.

The Chaplain also made it a point of interviewing each new arrival to the Battalion.

During the deployment the Chaplain contributed several articles to the Battalion's newsletter "The Beaver's Tale". The articles varied in subject matter, but usually maintained a positive outlook toward the difficult deployment schedule and location.



The Chapel in the Palms is a new, air-conditioned facility housing a growing library, 2 classrooms, office spaces, and a sanctuary with seating capacity for about 100 people. The facility is quite adequate, although additional classroom spaces should be added in the future. The facility is a pleasure to have as a working base.

It is an overall observation that this deployment was fruitful in terms of ministry. Individual lives were affected in a positive and lasting manner. Interest in the varied programs remained high and participation encouraging throughout the entire deployment. Command support was freely given and Chaplain Corps interest, as expressed by the week long visit of the Navy Chief of Chaplains during the Christmas Season, was most appreciated, and made a lasting impact upon the troops.

One major contributing factor to the success of the program was the extensive planning and acquiring of materials accomplished during the previous 6 month homeport period. For Diego Garcia, this prior preparation is of immeasurable importance and strongly recommended for all future deployments.

In conclusion, it is felt that the Chaplain's activities and religious program was most successful.

#### SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Service's activities on Diego Garcia are very important and provide the after hours recreation and relaxation that each man needs for high morale and well being. Because of the island's remoteness and environment, a varied special services program with continuous overlapping activities is imperative.

The men of NMCB-74 had with other commands a multitude of activities to choose from throughout the deployment and fully participated in the island sports program. Two month-long slow pitch softball leagues, one in December and one in May, along with a tournament in June, proved to be very popular. Both of the leagues and the tourney fielded approximately 18 teams. Battalion teams won the island championship in the softball leagues.

During the rainy months of January and February, basketball became a popular pastime, along with racketball. Both of these demanding activities provided the much needed extracurricular programs during the rainy period.

Following the basketball league in February, indoor volleyball attracted many SEABEES and a tournament was held which fielded approximately 8 teams. A Battalion team won the volleyball league.

The organized island team sports, although very popular, were not the only activities available. Special Services offered many other activities with their recreational facilities. Boating



both motor and sailing, was offered on weekends and holidays to any interested personnel. The Marina was adequately supplied with all the gear necessary to enjoy these water sports. A miniature golf course also added to the after hours activities and many enjoyed a relaxing game of "putt-putt" on the weekends and holidays.

For those men who enjoyed other past times and hobbies, Special Services offered several facilities for their use. A tape room, a photography lab, a leather shop, an electronics shop and a band room were very popular to many throughout the deployment.

Other activities, such as tennis, fishing, shelling, outdoor racketball, horse-shoes, jogging, and picnicing, received heavy participation. The Special Services gear locker offered fishing rods and reels, horse-shoes, coolers, various types of balls, softball gear, etc. for all hands to check out and enjoy. The island gymnasium was well equipped and received heavy use.

During the deployment, Special Services sponsored 5 USO shows, which attracted large crowds. The shows featured rock groups who played various types of music which usually appealed to all.

The Pattalion enjoyed three all hands picnics, including food and competitive recreation activities. The New Year's day, SEABEE Birthday and Fourth of July picnics were enjoyed by a great majority of the men.