

DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT



**PUERTO RICO
SEPTEMBER 96 - APRIL 97**



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR

UNIT 60253

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From: Commanding Officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR

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Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 3121.1B
(b) COMSECONDNCB OORDER 09-96

Encl: (1) Executive Summary
(2) Administration/Special Staff
(3) Training
(4) Operations
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1. Enclosure (1) through (7) is provided per reference (a).

2. Per reference (b), U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN-FOUR deployed to Camp Moscrip, Puerto Rico from 15 Sep 96 to 15 Apr 97 with details deployed to Vieques Island; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Andros Island, Bahamas; Norfolk, Virginia; and Jacksonville, Florida. Additionally, an eight person detail was deployed to support classified operations in CONUS. MRP sites were manned at Little Creek, Virginia and Key West, Florida and provided support functions for Reserve NCF unit training. Staff positions were filled at US Support Group Haiti and Joint Task Force 411 in Panama.

3. Deployment-For-Training teams were deployed to Haiti, Belize, and Panama to support humanitarian operations, enhancing quality of life and U.S. relations in these poverty-stricken areas of the world.

4. In an extremely fluid operational environment, the women and men of NMCB 74 demonstrated their ability to go anywhere and perform any mission with style and flexibility. By combining our efforts with other engineering units, we formed a truly joint team to meet our mission, truly delight our operational commanders and enhance the Seabee legacy. Most significantly:

a. To meet a completion date for the new SECOND Fleet Headquarters, Seabees worked side by side various PWC Norfolk crews and contractors to accomplish the fast track project.

b. Attempting to accelerate the construction of a 5.5 mile road and bridge in Haiti, Marine Engineers and numerous pieces of equipment were assigned to our OIC.



c. During our DFTs, Seabees combined with Army National Guard, Army Air Force and Marine Engineer units in a synergistic increase in capability.

d. In Guantanamo Bay, Cuba we worked alongside forces from PWD and CBMU 202 to construct migrant camps.


R. L. MARRS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN-FOUR deployed to Camp Moscrip, Puerto Rico from 05 Sep 96 to 15 Apr 97. Details were deployed to Vieques, Cuba, Andros, Norfolk, Little Creek, Key West and Jacksonville Florida, and a classified detail in CONUS. Deployment-For-Training teams were sent to Haiti, Belize, and Panama.

ADMINISTRATION:

The Administrative Department provided a full range of customer services in the Admin, Personnel, Legal, and Career Counselor areas. The Administrative/Personnel office processed 109 transfers, 145 receipts, 27 reenlistments, and 112 advancements.

TRAINING:

The Battalion conducted classes in General Military Training topics, Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist qualifications, informal in-rate skills training, Command Indoctrination and Military Training. The Battalion was able to utilize ranges at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Cuba, Norfolk and Haiti for the M16A2E3 rifle and 9mm pistol.

Additionally, the Battalion held the first Seabee Day to demonstrate NCF capabilities to local commands and communities. Two days of intense small unit leadership training culminated in "Round Robin" training stations and squad competitions. Final competition events were combined with static displays to provide realistic training and a popular outing for the Roosevelt Roads community.

OPERATIONS:

Battalion operations were spread throughout the Caribbean region. Over 30,000 of direct labor mandays were expended in support of the Mainbody site, seven detail sites and three Deployment for Training Teams. While customer design changes and funding issues impacted the scheduled progress of some projects and caused the addition/deletion of others, the Battalion continually sought and accepted local base projects, which enhanced training for our Seabees and supported vital construction requirements. NMCB-74 Reserve Augment personnel assisted at the mainbody site during our deployment.

Hurricane Hortense hit Puerto Rico in September 1996, reducing the time to complete turnover with NMCB SEVEN to four days. In the aftermath of the hurricane, disaster operations to clean up mud slides were conducted in the Caribbean National Rain Forest and working parties assisted the Red Cross in distributing emergency food supplies.

SUPPLY/LOGISTICS:

The Supply department provided a full range of services to support Battalion personnel at the Mainbody and all Detail sites. Supply operations included Galley, Disbursing, Post Office, Barber Shop, Material Logistics Office, Central Tool Room, Central Storeroom, CUJ issue and Automotive Repair Parts.

As the Camp Moscrip Galley was closed from the beginning of deployment through January 1997 for renovations, the Supply Department provided close coordination with the Naval Station Galley to provide quality meals in a make-shift dining facility within the Camp while cooking the majority of food on-site. Significant progress was made in improving the management of warehouse space and incorporating the SNAP System in the Camp Moscrip LAN to decentralize and automate logistic support.

EQUIPMENT:

The extremely effective Battalion CESE Management program increased the average mainbody equipment availability from 70% in September 1996 when the Battalion arrived to the goal of 90% in April 1997. Meanwhile, by performing more maintenance in house vice by contract and making more repairs to component assemblies, the average monthly repair costs steadily declined from \$60,000 per month in August to \$30,000 in March. The program was equally effective at all of the Detail sites with availability consistently averaging above 90% throughout the deployment. The asphalt plant in Vieques was made operational for the first time in over a year and produced over 4500 tons during the deployment. Though priority mission projects, such as Haiti road construction, and extensive horizontal tasking placed much of the CESE in nearly constant use situations, the aggressiveness and foresight of our CESE managers ensured minimal repair costs and constantly increasing availability during this deployment.

CAMP MAINTENANCE:

The Battalion achieved lasting improvements to Camp Moscrip, significantly enhancing the quality of life for future battalions. Camp Maintenance personnel expended 3671 man-days in the performance of maintenance on over 70 facilities.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. LESSONS LEARNED:

a. ITEM. COMSHIFT

DISCUSSION. The mainbody experienced problems for the first two months of the deployment due to confusion in the assignment of routing indicators. Mainbody received message traffic upon arrival in Puerto Rico, however outgoing traffic was not received by addressees. The problem was not apparent until our diary message inputs were not being received by EPMAC.

RECOMMENDATION. Continually monitor message traffic to ensure receipt of all messages. Maintain close liaison with the communications center at Roosevelt Roads to ensure that traffic is being routed correctly.

b. ITEM. Non-receipt of message traffic

DISCUSSION. On occasion we would go without traffic for one or two days.

RECOMMENDATION. Notify the communications center. This problem would usually happen after the communications center had either changed gateguard software or installed an upgrade. Closely monitor receipt of message traffic and maintain a good working relationship with the communications center. Stay abreast of major changes in systems or processes.

c. ITEM. Phones

DISCUSSION. There are only two lines for Bldg 3018, which limited Admin, Personnel and Legal communication. With one FAX/Gateguard dedicated line and only one voice line for most of the deployment, Details had a hard time getting in touch with Admin/Peers/Legal.

RECOMMENDATION. Recommend at least one voice line each for Legal, Admin, and Personnel offices. Second NCB Det is aware of phone line deficiencies throughout Camp Moscrip and has a plan to upgrade once the base plan allows for expansion.

d. ITEM. ADP

DISCUSSION. During this deployment we installed 18 new pentium systems and realigned the older systems for use by Company Commanders and Department Heads for e-mail services. There is still a need to upgrade the four systems in the Supply Outlets, as well as one additional system in the main Supply Office.

RECOMMENDATION. All Supply outlet computer systems should be upgraded to pentium machines as a minimum. The main Supply Office should be provided with one additional state of the art computer system. As the camp becomes more dependent on the LAN system, both system and line maintenance must be top priorities.

Enclosure(2)

2. NARRATIVE.

ADP

This deployment has been a long learning period for the ADP staff. As the emergence of cc:Mail has allowed us to communicate throughout the NCF, proper post office management has become critical. We have completed an entire hardware and software inventory of Camp Moscrip and most excess materials have been surveyed through the 2NCB DET office and turned into DRMO. The installation of fiber optic cable between the two servers (ALFA, BRAVO, 2NCB DET, and Supply Outlets) should reduce LAN downtime due to electromagnetic storms.

DENTAL

The Dental Department treated 680 patients and performed 4796 ADA procedures. While deployed, the dental staff provided cleanings to over half of the mainbody personnel. Dental readiness was maintained consistently above 97%. Priority was placed on details ensuring they deployed with 100% dental readiness. The Battalion Dental Staff assisted the Roosevelt Roads Naval Dental Center by participating in their duty sections, while also providing emergency care for mainbody personnel.

MEDICAL

The Medical Department provided treatment during 2,053 patient visits, completed 170 physical examinations, provided 1,090 immunizations to battalion members, ordered 69 pairs of eye glasses, completed 125 audiograms, performed nine special surgical procedures, and conducted 82 sanitation inspections. Additionally, two of the seven hospital corpsmen were simultaneously deployed to support two DFT's.

COMMAND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

The Command Religious Program (CRP) conducted 33 Divine services with an average attendance of 27, which is almost 10% of its target audience. The office conducted 360 (in office) counseling sessions, two marriages, 7 Baptisms and numerous workspace visits. The CRP also consisted of a "Worship Team," the Singing Bees, who led worship at Camp Moscrip, the "Safe Harbor" Christian Serviceman's Center, and regularly helped lead worship at the Roosevelt Roads Base Chapel. Over 40 Bible Studies were conducted, along with an 8 hour Spiritual Gift Discovery Seminar and an intensive 12 week discipleship class called "Experiencing God." The CRP supported hurricane relief efforts by providing over 20 Seabees to help distribute emergency food supplies. The CRP also contributed \$600.00 toward a charitable institution. Off-base community projects included a sidewalk and patio for a local community organization and repair/rehabilitation of a house for an elderly couple.

SAFETY

1. LESSONS LEARNED.

a. ITEM: Fall Protection

DISCUSSION: For fall protection the steel erection kit 80029 contains four safety belts and four lanyards with no shock absorbing devices. This does not meet the minimum requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations. Full harnesses with a shock absorber are required. During the deployment arrangements were made to borrow additional safety harnesses from other commands. If they had not have been available from other commands, the projects would have been scheduled differently or not completed.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Brigade work with Civil Engineering Support Office (CESO) to update the steel erection kits 80029 to meet current safety standards.

2. NARRATIVE. NMCB 74's Safety Office implemented an intensive training program incorporated early in homeport and continued during deployment. This increased the awareness of both Naval and Battalion policies on safety to all personnel and clearly defined their role to ensure the safety of all hands on and off duty. Despite the efforts to keep everyone safe and injury free, the Battalion had one major equipment mishap in Vieques. An equipment operator lost control of a road grader on a steep incline after it had stalled. Subsequently, the grader rolled backwards down a steep incline and crashed doing irreparable damage. The operator received minor injuries. An immediate review of the licensing process and training procedures was conducted. Proper procedures were reemphasized to all Battalion members during a safety stand down. Upcoming homeport training will further enhance licensing procedures.

SAFETY SUMMARY								
MONTH	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
FATALITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# DAYS LT.	7	0	30	1	18	6	5	67
# CASES LT.	3	0	3	1	5	3	3	18
# DAYS LD.	56	105	129	83	92	62	64	591
# CASES LD.	10	13	10	9	15	9	6	72
# FIRST AID MISHAPS	15	21	9	11	13	3	8	80
# GOVT VEH MISHAPS (INCLUDING DETS)	2	4	3	2	4	5	5	25
GOVT VEH REPAIR COSTS (INCLUDING DETS) \$	10	350	750	225	76010	8260	390	85995
GOVT VEH MILES DRIVEN (INCLUDING DETS)	9,127	19,427	33,765	43,206	47,067	35,275	37,300	225,167