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MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FORTY

DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT



**SOUTHWEST ASIA -
PACIFIC DEPLOYMENT**

SAUDI ARABIA - GUAM

DIEGO GARCIA - PALAU

AUGUST 1990 - MARCH 1991





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FORTY
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96601-4981

3000
Ser S3/206
20 SEP 91

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FORTY
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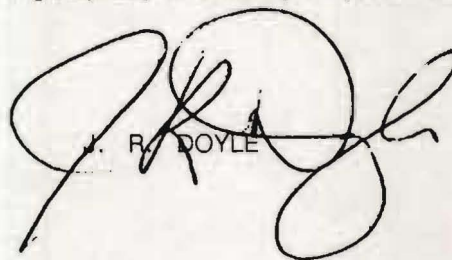
Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 3121.1A
(b) NCF OORDER 91-01

Encl: (1) NMCB 40 Desert Storm/Desert Shield Deployment Completion Report

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a), as modified by direction received from the Third Naval Construction Regiment.

2. U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FORTY began a routine deployment to Guam in early August 1990, with details deploying to Midway, Diego Garcia, Subic Bay and Civic Action Team 4016 deployed to the Republic of Palau. Upon receipt of reference (b), the Midway and Subic Bay details were recalled and NMCB FORTY prepared to embark via sea and air to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield. NMCB FORTY was the first complete battalion to deploy to northeastern Saudi Arabia during the period 12 September 1990 to 15 March 1991. The Main body was located at Camp Rohrbach, Jubail, Saudi Arabia, with various task forces forward deployed. NMCB FORTY was one of six Seabee Battalions who worked as one Naval Construction Force under the Command of the Third Naval Construction Regiment.

3. The most significant lesson learned was that Seabees were ready and did perform their mission of providing responsive construction capability to the Navy and Marine Corps. LtGen W. E. Boomer, Commander, U.S. Marines Central Command, told us "Seabees are doers, not talkers. I've never seen the Seabees fail to meet a deadline, they always come through." In the process, many important "Lessons Learned" were observed and recorded. They are included in enclosure (1). Appropriate action by the Naval Construction Force concerning these lessons will further improve our ability to provide high-quality and timely response to future contingency operations.


J. R. DOYLE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the first seven months of 1990, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FORTY planned for a routine deployment to Guam. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 altered the lives of millions of people, including the officers, men and families of NMCB FORTY. This Deployment Completion Report (DCR) provides an official history of the contingency deployment which was initiated by that invasion, followed by Operation Desert Shield and concluding with Operation Desert Storm.

SEABEES WERE PROUD TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY. Just as in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam Conflict, Seabees worked side by side with the Marines for the cause of world peace. I have never seen Seabees so well prepared and confident in their ability. Nor have I seen individuals with such strong personal character, resolve, pride in their country and intestinal fortitude to get the job done. To the man, they out-did themselves in remarkable ways. Working seven days a week, at times port and starboard, they made an immense contribution. When the Marines called they delivered under the most stressful circumstances. They are extremely proud to have had the honor to be Seabees during one of the Naval Construction Force's (NCF) finest hours.

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE RESPONSIVE CONSTRUCTION CAPABILITY TO THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS. Seabees showed the Marines just what responsive construction capability means. LtGen Boomer, Commander of U.S. Marines told me "Seabees are doers, not talkers. I've never seen the Seabees fail to meet a deadline, they always come through". Working as one Naval Construction Force under the command of the Third Naval Construction Regiment, they upheld that tradition. The tasks were enormous and the application of resources was massive. Responsive construction capability suddenly took on a new meaning. The NCF responded with its "CAN DO" spirit by constructing over six million square feet of aircraft parking; 14 field galleys to feed in excess of 75,000 troops per day; six Marine camps housing nearly 40,000 troops occupying 5000 facilities; 90 million square feet (1560 football fields) of ammunition supply storage; over 200 miles of roads built and maintained to support Marines in the most forward locations; and countless other projects. This massive construction effort consumed in excess of 7.5 million board feet of lumber (equivalent to 1,250,000 eight foot long 2x4's); 92,000 sheets of plywood; 110,000 lineal feet of plastic pipe; 1.4 million lineal feet (262 miles) of electrical wire; 50,000 cubic yards (5500 truckloads) of concrete with over 1300 cubic yards placed on a peak day; and 250,000 cubic yards (25,000 truckloads) of select fill.

Due to the extraordinary nature of FORTY's August 1990 through March 1991 deployment, the format of this report differs from the typical DCR. The report begins with a chronology of the Battalion's operations beginning with the redeployment from Guam to Operation Desert Shield and ending with Operation Desert Storm Retrograde. The lessons learned, which accompany the summary of each evolution, are the heart of the report. Many of them focus attention on NCF procedures and practices which were found lacking in the crucible of war. A brief summary of areas critical to the battalion's success - equipment, training, logistics and operational summary follow. The key areas which demand high level attention include:

- Joint Training: Operating under the command and control of the Marines improved Seabee and Marine readiness. Combat skills are enhanced, equipment compatibility/incompatibility issues are identified and knowledge of capabilities and requirements are revealed. Joint Marine training is a sound investment.

- Embark: A major mobilization will never have sufficient assets for an Air echelon or a gray bottom sea lift. Consequently, training, planning, acquisition, etc. should focus on an Air Detachment by military airlift transport, and a Sea Echelon transported by commercial sealift.

- Logistics: The Marine Corps is not organized to support the acquisition of CESE parts and construction material requirements of a multi-battalion/Naval Construction Regiment. This significantly impacts the readiness of equipment, productivity, and responsiveness of the construction mission.

- Uniform: Seabees are at greater risk in utility greens while in a desert combat environment. To minimize this risk a uniform compatible with the combat environment is necessary.

- Communication: Secure communication with Seabees and Marines was unsatisfactory. Secure communication with detail sites beyond 20 miles was unreliable. Secure mobile communications as unavailable. Lack of the right equipment was the cause.

- Civil Engineer Support Equipment: The readiness of the battalion was significantly degraded due to the deteriorated condition of the equipment. Major contributing factors were: commercial vs. tactical equipment, lack of repair parts, too many manufacturers for like types of equipment, and overage equipment at Ready Battalion sites.

- Well Drilling: Well drilling was unsuccessful. Undersized well rigs, incomplete drilling kits and insufficient knowledge of geological conditions were major contributory factors.

- TOA: The current method of testing the TOA does not produce the desired reliability. A total of 119 line items valued at \$150K were unfit for use when tested prior to deployment.

Significant to the lessons learned process is the view expressed by a seasoned and highly respected Master Chief retiring with over 30 years of Seabee experience. His view of these many lessons learned is the same as those from Vietnam: the greatest challenge will be timely implementation with limited resources.

NMCB FORTY's unique deployment also included a detail of 25 men at Diego Garcia and a Civic Action Team in the Republic of Palau. The accomplishments of the Diego detail follow the chronicle of the Saudi deployment. The DCR for CAT Palau is being published by COMCBPAC DET CAT Guam.

The violent forces which suddenly thrust NMCB FORTY into conflict changed the lives of all involved. Discomfort, uncertainty, fatigue and even occasional boredom were just some of the common experiences of those involved. FORTY's proudest achievement was to return from Saudi Arabia with no fatalities or serious injuries, despite over 40,000 mandays of construction performed and 325,000 vehicle miles driven under difficult and tiring circumstances. In retrospect, FORTY, and the men which comprise it, came out of the experience stronger. Fighting FORTY, and the entire Naval Construction Force, stands ready to meet any contingency with confidence.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

- 01 AUG 90 Advance Party of Detail Midway departs.
- 02 AUG 90 Iraq invades Kuwait.
Advance Party of Detail Diego Garcia departs.
- 03 AUG 90 Advance Party of Detail Subic Bay departs.
- 05 AUG 90 Advance Party of Guam Main Body departs.
- 07 AUG 90 Advance Party of Guam Main Body arrives at Camp Covington, Guam.
- 08 AUG 90 Main Body of Detail Midway departs.
- 09 AUG 90 NCF OPORDER 90-1 directs NMCB 40 to deploy to Saudi Arabia.
NMCB FORTY prepares Air Det for embarkation to Saudi Arabia.
NMCB FORTY orders all details except Det Diego Garcia to roll back to Main Body site.
Main Body of Detail Diego Garcia departs.
- 11 AUG 90 Advance Party of Detail Subic Bay rolls back to Camp Covington, Guam.
- 12 AUG 90 Det CAT Palau arrives at Camp Covington, Guam.
- 15 AUG 90 Main Bodies of Guam site and Detail Subic Bay depart homeport for Guam.
NMCB 133 turns over projects to ROICC Guam.
- 16 AUG 90 NMCB FORTY and NMCB 133 conduct turnover ceremony.
- 17 AUG 90 Main Bodies of Guam site and Detail Subic Bay arrive at Camp Covington, Guam.
Main Body of NMCB 133 departs Camp Covington, Guam for Gulfport, Mississippi.
- 24 AUG 90 Detail Midway arrives at Camp Covington, Guam.
- 30 AUG 90 TOA testing of 17 critical facilities completed.
- 02 SEP 90 Sea Echelon departs on MV MAERSK CONSTELLATION for Saudi Arabia.
- 09 SEP 90 RADM Buffington visits NMCB 40 at Camp Covington, Guam.
- 12 SEP 90 Air Det departs Guam.
- 15-16 SEP 90 Air Det arrives in country.
- 16-17 SEP 90 Advance Party arrives in country.

18 SEP 90 Sea Echelon onboard MV MAERSK CONSTELLATION arrives in country.

25-27 SEP 90 Main Body arrives in country.

26 SEP 90 NMCB 40 concludes turnover of Camp Covington to CBPAC Det CAT Guam.

31 OCT 90 General Gray, U.S. Marine Corps Commandant, visits NMCB FORTY project site at I MEF Headquarters.

03 NOV 90 Mr. H. Lawrence Garrett III, Secretary of the Navy, visits NMCB FORTY project site, First Marine Division Galley Facilities.

10 NOV 90 RADM Buffington, COMCBPAC, dedicates Camp Rohrbach in memory of the late RADM (Select) Richard Rohrbach. NMCB FORTY provides detail to participate in parade and ceremony for the Marine Corps Birthday.

13 NOV 90 LtGen Boomer, Commanding General of I MEF, visits Camp Rohrbach.

18-19 NOV 90 NMCB FORTY participates in U.S./Allied Forces exercise "Imminent Thunder".

22 NOV 90 NMCB FORTY sends detail to attend Thanksgiving Day dinner with President and Mrs. Bush, Senators Dole and Mitchell and Congressmen Foley and Michael at First Marine Division Galley.

29-30 NOV 90 CBPAC Reps provide assist visit for Armory, MARS Station, and communications equipment and operations.

7 DEC 90 100-man detail from NMCB ONE augments NMCB FORTY to support ongoing construction projects.

12-19 DEC 90 CESO provides assist visit to rectify TOA deficiencies of NMCB FORTY.

13-17 DEC 90 RNMCB TWENTY-FOUR Advance Party and Main Body arrive at Camp Rohrbach for a seven month deployment. NMCB FOUR Advance Party and Main Body depart Saudi Arabia for homeport, Port Hueneme, CA.

15 DEC 90 NMCB FORTY celebrates Over-the-Hump Party.

24 DEC 90 3RD NCR notifies NMCB FORTY of being selected for GOLDEN ANCHOR Award.

29 DEC 90 3RD NCR conducts communications exercise with NMCB FORTY.

1 JAN 91 Detail Manifa Bay established to provide construction support for 1ST MARDIV.

7 JAN 91 NCF Logistics Support Base, Kibrit activated.

10 JAN 91 Detail Kibrit, TACON to NMCB 5, begins Main Supply Route (MSR) maintenance.

17 JAN 91 Operation Desert Shield becomes Desert Storm.

18 JAN 91 Detail Tanajib established to construct apron, taxiway, ammunition supply point and other facilities required for Marine Air Group 16 Beddown.

28 JAN 91 Vertical detail sent to Kibrit to construct 10,000 meal/day galley, including K-span structures.

10 FEB 91 Well Det deployed to drill water well approximately 15 miles from the Kuwaiti border at A1 Khanjar.

21 FEB 91 "Heavy Det" begins mobilization at A1 Qarrah, joining the Kibrit Det which has now been maintaining the MSR for 6 weeks.

24 FEB 91 Ground war to liberate Kuwait begins.
Mobilization of Heavy Det complete.

28 FEB 91 V-G Day.

1 MAR 91 Heavy Det, Tanajib Det and Well Drilling Det recalled.
NMCB FORTY directed to prepare TOA for retrograde rather than turnover with NMCB THREE.

5 MAR 91 Seabee Day celebrated with CAPT Johnson, Third Naval Construction Regiment, as the guest speaker.

9 MAR 91 All CESE and the remainder of the TOA staged for retrograde.
Camp Rohrbach turned over to NMCB TWENTY FOUR.

12 MAR 91 Advance party departs Saudi Arabia.

15 MAR 91 Main Body arrives in Port Hueneme.

UNIT LOCATION SUMMARY

| TYPE UNIT & DESIGNATION | AV ONBOARD OFF/ENL | LOCATION | ARRIVE/DEPART DATE |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| MAIN BODY | 16/385 | GUAM/MARIANAS IS | 07 AUG 90/25 SEP 90 |
| MAIN BODY | 18/522 | JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA | 27 SEP 90/13 MAR 91 |
| DET SIERRA BRAVO | 1/110 | SUBIC BAY, P. I. | 05 AUG 90/11 AUG 90 |
| DET MIKE INDIA | 1/27 | MIDWAY ISLAND | 02 AUG 90/16 AUG 90 |
| DET DELTA GOLF | 1/25 | DIEGO GARCIA | 05 AUG 90/18 MAR 91 |
| FLEET SUPPORT | 0/13 | PORT HUENEME, CA | 14 FEB 90/14 APR 91 |
| FLEET SUPPORT | 0/01 | GULFPORT, MISS | 05 AUG 91/18 MAR 91 |
| FLEET SUPPORT | 0/01 | GUAM | 05 AUG 90/16 MAR 91 |
| FLEET SUPPORT | 0/01 | PEARL HARBOR, HI | 23 JUL 90/16 MAR 91 |
| CAT 4016 | 1/12 | REPUBLIC OF PALAU | 12 AUG 90/12 MAR 91 |