

# Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1

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*Historical  
Information*



*“Construimus, Batuimus”  
“We Build, We Fight”*



## **Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 Command History**

“The First and the Finest,” Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE, has a long, proud and distinguished history that reaches back to the early days of World War II. Commissioned on March 15, 1942 as Naval Construction Battalion ONE (NCB), the Battalion was soon split into two detachments and sent into service in the South Pacific.

NMCB ONE operated in the South Pacific for 23 months, mostly in the vicinity of the Tonga and Samoan Islands. During this time, various detachments built runways, base facilities, gun emplacements, fuel and oil storage tank farms as well as various other projects. With operations in the South Pacific drawing to a close, the Battalion was sent home and decommissioned in June 1944.

In 1949, the Navy began an intense reorganization that included the creation of a new type of construction unit – the Mobile Construction Battalion. On August 8, 1949, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE was established at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia and was formally commissioned on October 28 of that same year.

Homeport changed for the Battalion in 1951 when it moved from Little Creek to Davisville, Rhode Island. During the ensuing years, the Battalion served at Puerto Rico; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Bermuda; Port Lyautey, French Morocco; Argentina, Newfoundland; and Rota, Spain. In 1956, the Battalion went to Antarctica and participated in Operation DEEP FREEZE II. During this time, NMCB ONE with its detachments was simultaneously employed on six continents. NMCB ONE returned to Antarctica in 1961, this time to assemble a nuclear power plant and work on 17 projects for which the Battalion received the Navy Unit Commendation.

NMCB ONE was the first Atlantic Fleet Battalion to take part in the Vietnam conflict. From 1966 to 1970, the Battalion made four consecutive deployments to Vietnam. During this time, four NMCB ONE members made the ultimate sacrifice serving their country. Their names were Constructionman Starkey, Steelworker 3rd Class Williams, Chief Builder McGinn, and Lt. j.g. Moscrip.

In 1974 NMCB ONE was the last Battalion to deploy from Davisville. When the Battalion returned from Rota, it settled down in its new home at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi.

NMCB ONE sent two details in 1990 to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. The following year, the Battalion provided disaster relief following super typhoons on Guam and American Samoa. Upon returning to homeport in May 1992, the Battalion was again providing disaster relief, this time in South Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. In December 1992, NMCB ONE redeployed from Rota to Somalia to conduct construction in support of Operation RESTORE HOPE.

A 180-person detachment from NMCB ONE deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in December 1997 to support Operation JOINT GUARD. NMCB ONE returned to the Balkans when a 97-person detachment deployed to Kosovo in December 1999 as part of Task Force Falcon. During their 2000 European deployment, Detail Souda Bay conducted disaster recovery operations in remote Crete villages following torrential rains.

In June 2002, the Battalion deployed to Okinawa, Japan for the first time since 1987, where it performed various peacetime construction operations across the Pacific. Upon arriving in Okinawa, the Battalion immediately redeployed a 102-person Air Detachment to Basilan Island, Republic of the Philippines, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Under hostile conditions, the Air Det improved roads, drilled water wells, built bridges and base camps and rebuilt a dilapidated timber pier.

During its 2003-2004 Pacific Deployment, "The First and The Finest" made history by being the first NMCB to have deployed to two main-body deployment sites in Rota, Spain and on Guam. NMCB ONE performed peacetime construction operations in the Atlantic, European, Pacific and Central Command Areas of Responsibility, while simultaneously deploying its Air Det to Iraq in support of IRAQI FREEDOM. In September 2004, NMCB ONE performed disaster recovery operations at NAS Pensacola following Hurricane Ivan.

For its 2005 European deployment NMCB ONE and its details served in twelve countries throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, and once again deployed its Air Det to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 04-06. Immediately upon returning to homeport in August 2005, the Battalion commenced substantial disaster recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

In June 2006, NMCB ONE deployed to 20 sites in 9 countries as part of their Pacific deployment. The Battalion performed peacetime construction operations in Okinawa, Atsugi, Sasebo, Yokosuka, Iwakuni, Fuji, Chinhae, Pohang, Diego Garcia, Camp Pendleton, and San Clemente Island, contingency operations in Pohnpei, Indonesia, Philippines, and Afghanistan, and prison detainee operations in Iraq.

In September 2007, following a successful homeport, the Battalion deployed to 16 different sites throughout CENTCOM, PACOM, and NORTHCOM. NMCB ONE provided contingency construction and engineering in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom II and Operation Enduring Freedom, in Iraq and Afghanistan. While supporting the mission in CENTCOM, the Battalion also conducted peacetime construction operations in Guam and San Nicolas Island (SNI), CA. Notably, the 120 Seabees in Guam and SNI redeployed to join the rest of the Battalion in support of the CENTCOM missions midway through deployment.

Throughout its 66 proud years of service, NMCB ONE and its detachments have been awarded five Navy Unit Commendations, four Meritorious Unit Commendations, ten Navy "E" Ribbons as the Atlantic Fleet Best of Type, and seven Peltier Awards as the best Seabee Battalion in the Naval Construction Force.















