



“The First and The Finest”

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION ONE

DEPLOYMENT FOR TRAINING (DFT)

GHANA

AFTER ACTION REPORT

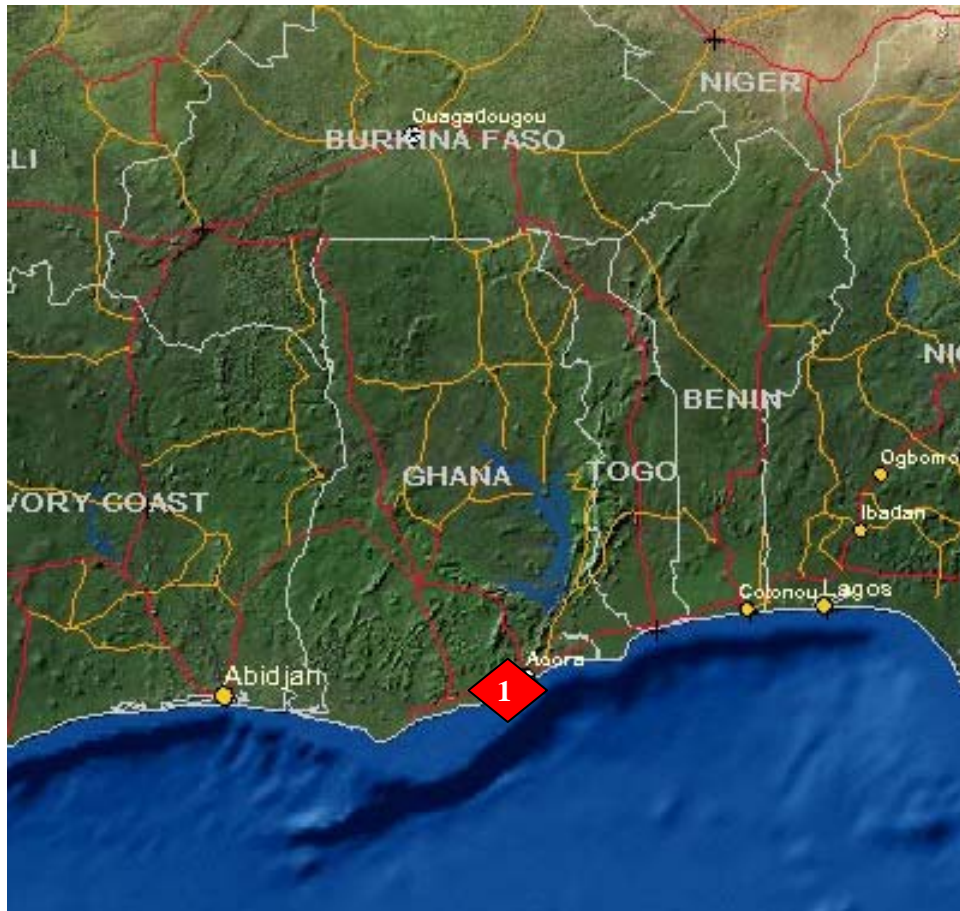


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE, Deployment for Training (DFT) Ghana, Africa successfully completed construction of a 48' x 108' medical/dental facility. Construction was completed with help from the Ghana Army 49th Engineer Regiment from 7 March to 26 May 00. The 22 person detail also completed some discretionary work on a 114' x 77' school in the village of Bompieso.

The detail launched an advance party from Rota, Spain on 6 March 00 and the mainbody followed on 17 March 00. Both parties arrived in the capital city of Accra and commuted to the worksite in Sekondi/Takoradi. The Detail was semi-self sufficient providing tools, vehicles and equipment only depending on host nation support for construction materials, berthing and messing.

In true Seabee fashion, the detail participated in several off duty community activities including intramural soccer with the Ghanaian Army. Additionally, the detail was actively involved in learning the local customs of the surrounding area.

The Detail returned to Rota, Spain 29 May 00. Three personnel stayed behind to ensure the equipment was properly loaded on the barge which returned to Rota 26 June 00. The overall effort received high praise from the Deputy CINCUSNAVEUR, Rear Admiral Haskins, as well as the U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, the Honorable Katherine Dee Robinson. All involved commended the Seabees and the Ghanaian Army Engineers for their untiring devotion to mission accomplishment and expressed great interest in acquiring Seabees in the future.

ADMINISTRATION

1. **General:** Administration requirements included an in-country brief provided by the United States Embassy on the interaction guidelines between DFT personnel and the Ghanaian Army Engineers. A weekly trip to the Embassy was required due to limited communications capability in Takoradi. The Ghana Navy provided excellent administrative support, including office spaces and an air-conditioned barracks.

2. **Lessons Learned:**

a. Problem/Item: **COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT**

(1) **Discussion:** Two land lines were installed and a cell phone was purchased for the deployment. Communication between deployment personnel and the embassy was maintained with the cell phone and was not a problem. However, it was a pre-paid type that was very expensive to use. The local phone system was often unable to establish or maintain a connection with Spain. A laptop computer and printer were taken from Rota, but due to power outages and frequent storms both were rendered inoperable within the first month of deployment.

(2) **Recommendation:** A cell phone should be obtained from Rota with the bill coming to the battalion. Also, more durable computers and printers should be purchased.

b. Problem/Item: **COMMUNICATION COST / RELIABILITY**

(1) **Discussion:** Telephone lines were very expensive from Africa (\$9.00 to connect and \$5.00 a minute). If a call was successfully completed, it was often cut short by technical difficulties. Internet use was virtually impossible outside of the capital city of Accra.

(2) **Recommendation:** DSN lines were available at the embassy. Determine a way to extend DSN service to project sites.

c. Problem/Item: **PASSPORT AVAILABILITY**

(1) **Discussion:** Personnel having passports and certified birth certificates are limited. These items are needed 4-5 months before deploying.

(2) **Recommendation:** Obtain certified birth certificates well in advance. Extra personnel should be considered for “back-up.” Battalions should consider getting all air detachment personnel certified birth certificates (during homeport) so there is a group of Seabees to choose from on short-fused tasking.

3. **SAFETY SUMMARY:**

Fatalities	0
# Lost work days	0
# Lost day cases	0
# Light duty days	19
# Light duty cases	2
First Aid mishaps	38
Govt. vehicle mishaps	3
Govt. vehicle repairs cost	\$107.00
Govt. vehicle miles driven	8,760

MEDICAL

1. **General:** Medical care was provided to the Seabees and the Ghana Engineers by an NMCB ONE Corpsman, with the support of a nursing staff at the U.S. Embassy in Accra. The Corpsman regularly administered Methaquine to the Seabees, to prevent Malaria.

- a. 104 patients were seen.
- b. Types of injuries included: stomach cramps, cuts and bruises, knee and back pain, hemorrhoids, in-grown toe nails, and Malaria.
- c. There was one major injury to a local village woman at the OIC discretionary project in Bompieso. An above ground water reservoir, built by the village, was being filled by locals with water. When the reservoir was approximately three-quarters full, it suddenly burst, and the woman was pinned down by one of the walls. She was treated on site by the Seabee corpsman and then taken to the nearest hospital where she was treated for two fractured legs and a compound fracture to her right ankle.

EMBARK

1. **General:** Seven pieces of CESE, three tri-cons, and six pallet positions were loaded on a barge 29 February 00 and arrived in Takoradi 9 March 00. On 2 June 00, all Seabee assets were loaded on a barge. The barge returned to Rota 22 June 00.

2. **Lessons Learned:**

a. Problem/Item: **PIER SELECTION / NOTICE**

(1) **Discussion:** On the way in and out of Ghana the pier location changed. This change was not communicated to the DFT until the day it happened. This caused delays as the new location was six miles away.

(2) **Recommendation:** Once the location has been identified, it should not change. Keep the OIC updated immediately if any changes occur.

OPERATIONS

1. **General:** DFT Ghana was tasked with constructing a 48' x 108' block building, along with training the Ghana Engineers. The structure will be utilized as a community Medical and Dental Facility consisting of two consulting rooms, two treatment rooms, an injection room, sick bay, waiting room, laboratory, an outpatient department room, dentist office, and ten restrooms. The DFT was also tasked with the demolition of an old public restroom to improve the sanitation around the medical facility and the clearing of a 50' x 120' area for vehicle parking. Working with the African Engineers was initially a challenge due to unusual construction techniques. Additionally, this was their first introduction to power and pneumatic tools. However, the differences in technique and technology were quickly overcome. The work went extremely well and both units gained valuable training.



Medical/dental facility during construction.



Medical/dental facility prior to the ribbon cutting.

2. **Project Summary:**

a. **Description of Work:** Tasking included the construction of a 48' x 108' block medical and dental facility.

Mandays Expended

	Medical Clinic
General	81
Sitework	25
Concrete	130
Masonry	442
Carpentry	136
Moisture protection	36
Doors/Windows	52
Finishes	280
Mechanical	45
Electrical	51

b. **Description of Work:** Tasking included the construction of footers and a concrete slab for a 114' x 77' school in the nearby village of Bompieso.

Mandays Expended

	Bompieso School
General	10
Concrete	58
Masonry	172
Carpentry	10

c. **Cumulative Labor Summary:**

No. of personnel	22
No. of workdays	61
No. of direct labor	17
Manday capability	1,050
Project mandays expended	1,278
OIC Disc mandays expended	241
Total mandays expended	1,519

d. **Composition of DFT:**

BU-10
CE-3
SW-2
EO-2
CM-2
UT-1
EA-1
MS-1

e. **Status of Project:**

Start Date: 13Mar00
WIP: 100%
Completed: 26May00

f. **Materials:** No major material problems were encountered. A majority of the construction materials were locally procured through the 49th Engineers out of the capital city of Accra, approximately 4 hours away. A small supply of concrete blocks, wood studs, and sheetrock, shipped from Rota for training purposes. A driver was sent weekly to deliver these materials to the site. The original Material Take Off sheet was completed by the Engineers and reviewed by the Seabees

after the site visit in November. A weekly visit to the Embassy was also scheduled to receive cash advances to purchase materials in Takoradi/Sekondi.

g. **Engineering:** No engineering problems were encountered. The 49th Engineer Regiment developed original prints and specifications. An Engineering Aid from the Seabees was assigned to the project to ensure prints and specifications were properly maintained. The original manday estimate was accurate with the exception of the stucco activity. Seventeen workdays was originally estimated however, it actually took twenty-six days to apply the 1-inch coat over 18,000 square feet of wall surface.

3. **OIC Discretionary projects completed:**

a. Additional work consisted of the demolition of an old public restroom and clearing a 50' x 120' area for vehicle parking.

4. **Lessons Learned:**

a. Problem/Item: **ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FREQUENCY**

(1) Discussion: Due to Ghana having fifty-Hertz electricity and the ADP gear (laptop, printer) having a rating of sixty Hertz, the equipment broke within the first month.

(2) Recommendation: Procure 50/60 Hertz electrical equipment before the deployment.

b. Problem/Item: **TIRE REPAIR**

(1) Discussion: The crew experienced many flat tires during their commutes to Bompieso.

(2) Recommendation: Bring multiple tire repair kits and extra tires.

c. Problem/Item: **OUTDATED EQUIPMENT**

(1) Discussion: The tie-off belts included in the Kit 80029 are unauthorized for use as fall protection.

(2) Recommendation: Update kits to meet current safety requirements.

SUPPLY, EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS

1. **General**: All materials and equipment required to complete the project were procured by the Second Naval Construction Brigade. A majority of the tools and kits were from Camp Mitchell's Table of Allowance. Identifying kit and tool requirements early and coordinating the delivery with the TOA proved to be very successful. There were no problems storing project materials or securing Battalion tools.

2. **Lessons Learned**:

a. Problem/Item: **EXPEDITION OF MATERIALS**

(1) **Discussion**: During construction, materials had to be procured locally. These materials were not foreseen during the planning and estimating phase due to the different techniques utilized by the Ghana Engineers. As a result, too many man-hours were expended procuring material.

(2) **Recommendation**: Future DFTs should bring at least one Storekeeper, to minimize time lost searching for materials. During the initial site visit, the OIC's from both countries should compare their material estimates.

3. **Accountability**: All equipment, tools, and remaining food were returned to Camp Mitchell.