U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR

DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

FEB TO OCT '68

DANANG & CAMP HAINES, RVN
SECTION I
DEPLOYMENT HISTORY
UNIT MOVEMENTS

12 FEB 2330 - The first increment of MCB FOUR departed Point Mugu, California, for Phu Bai, RVN. The 266 men and their baggage were transported by two commercial jets to Clark AFB in the Philippines where they were transferred to C-130's for the flight to Phu Bai. The last C-130 carrying MCB FOUR personnel arrived at Phu Bai at 1700 on 14 February 1968. The final C-130, with cargo which had been transported from Point Mugu to Clark AFB on a C-141 MAC Aircraft, arrived on 15 February at Phu Bai. The first flight of the second increment of MCB FOUR departed Point Mugu for Danang, RVN at 0100 on 13 February by commercial jet with 165 passengers. Two more flights followed on 14 February and 15 February respectively. All three flights landed in Danang, the last arriving at 0900, 17 February 1968. Four C-141 MAC Aircraft were used to transport cargo from Point Mugu to Danang. No major problems were encountered during the entire main body movement.

5 APR Seabee Teams 0408 and 0409 arrived at their deployment sites from CBCEN Port Hueneme, California, where the teams had been in training since November.

22 APR The 26 man Chu Lai detail returned to Danang after completing their assigned projects. The detail's equipment and tools, which were shipped from Chu Lai to Danang, arrived in Danang on 23 April 1968.

12 MAY 17 men departed Danang by C-130 for Phu Bai to begin construction of an M8Al matting parking apron for 220TH Aviation. The detail stayed at MCB EIGHT's camp.

20 MAY A five man MCB FOUR detail departed Danang to rewire six Special Forces Camps south of Danang, living and working in each camp for approximately a week.

The main body of MCB FOUR personnel moved from Camp Haskins North, RVN to Camp Evans, RVN between 27 May 1968 and 4 June 1968. Both truck convoy and C-123 cargo aircraft were used in the move. On 3 June 1968 the MCB FOUR flag was transferred to Camp Evans.

16 JUL 43 men comprising MCB FOUR's detail Foxtrot, which had been completing construction projects in Danang, returned to Camp Haines by both air and convoy.

22 JUL The five man MCB FOUR detail which had been rewiring six Special Forces camps south of Danang returned to Camp Haines after completing the projects.

19 SEP The MCB FOUR Advance Party departed Camp Haines for Phu Bai where they spent the night with MCB ONE THIRTY-THREE. On 20 September 1968, the Advance Party of 20 men with LT J.H.T. MILES as OIC departed Phu Bai on a C-118 aircraft for CBCEN, Port Hueneme, California.

22 OCT 0910 - The first MCB FOUR Main Body flight departed Camp Evans by C-130 aircraft for Danang. The first MCB FOUR Main Body flight of 170 men left Danang at 0055 on 23 October on a United Super DC-8 Aircraft for Point Mugu, California. All main body flights left Camp Evans on C-130 or C-123 aircraft for Danang, then switched to commercial aircraft for the flight to California. The fifth and final commercial flight left Danang at 1905 on 27 October and landed at Norton AFB, California at 2358 on 27 October. Bus transportation was provided from Norton AFB to CBC Port Hueneme.
CHRONOLOGY

4 FEB MCB FOUR was notified to prepare for possible immediate deployment to RVN.

8 FEB MCB FOUR sent a message that the Battalion was ready to deploy.

9 FEB MCB FOUR was notified to deploy as soon as transportation could be made available.

12 FEB MCB FOUR was notified that the first plane was scheduled to leave Point Mugu, California that same evening. Final preparations were completed during the afternoon to deploy the first increment of MCB FOUR to Phu Bai and the second increment to Danang, RVN. By 2330, the 266 man first increment had departed Point Mugu and was airborne heading for Phu Bai, RVN on two commercial jets.

15 FEB At 1100, the final C-130 with cargo arrived at Phu Bai.

At 2200, the fifth flight of MCB FOUR personnel departed CONUS on a commercial jet for Danang, completing the personnel airlift from CBCEN, Port Hueneme, California.

16 FEB At 0900, the final passenger flight of MCB FOUR arrived in Danang.

21 FEB THIRTY-FIVE Charlie Company personnel departed Danang by LST for Chu Lai for construction of the aircraft revetment covers for Marine Air Group TWELVE (MAG-12).

22 FEB E02 H.H. AGUAYO was injured when the tractor in which he was riding hit a mine on Route #1 south of Phu Bai.

28 FEB CDR R.M. FLUSS, CO USN MCB FOUR relieved CDR W.W. DEGROOT III, CO USN MCB FIFTY-EIGHT as Commanding Officer of Camp Haskins.

1 MAR Personnel from both Delta Company and Bravo Company received enemy small arms fire while working on a chain link fence project at Force Logistics Command (FLC), Danang. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

2 MAR An arrival conference was held at Camp Haskins with RADM J.V. BARTLETT, Commander, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade and CAPT C.W. TURNER, Commander, 3ONCR.

4 MAR At 0140, MCB FOUR set Defense Condition I when surrounding units received incoming rocket rounds. MCB FOUR secured from Defense Condition I at 0235. At 0709, MCB FOUR again went into Defense Condition I when FLC received four (4) rocket rounds. At 0800, MCB FOUR secured from Defense Condition I.

5 MAR ENS J.T. SAWYER and five surveyors departed Camp Haskins North for Camp Evans to begin topographic surveys of the proposed Seabee camp site at Camp Evans.

7 MAR The Seatrain Georgia arrived in Danang Harbor. The cargo ship carried the Battalion's tools, equipment and materials from Port Hueneme, California, to Danang, RVN.

25 MAR The MCB FOUR detail at Camp Evans received approximately ten rounds of mortar fire within their perimeter between 0040 and 0050. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

LT J.H.T. MILES, MCB FOUR S-2 Officer, was designated as OIC of the Camp Evans detail.

26 MAR The Battalion Field Mess at Camp Evans served its first meal at noon and completely supported the Seabee Camp at Evans.

29 MAR E03 D.W. ROBEY was wounded by shrapnel when the NMCC EIGHT camp at Gia Lai, RVN, received six rounds of enemy 122mm rockets.

3 APR Camp Haskins North went into Defense Condition I at 0100 when the helicopter pad at Red Beach received approximately 13 mortar rounds. Condition I was secured at 0143.

5 APR A 5 ton cargo truck driven by CEC L.G. FIEIDLER, detonated an enemy mine at the Hai Land Road, Hai Lang, RVN. CHIEF-FIEDLER received no injuries.
Seabee Team 0408 arrived in Ca Dau Ha, RVN, and Seabee Team 0409 arrived in Vinh Long, RVN, to begin engineering construction support.

6 APR CM2 T.J. BAKER and CMCN M.D. CHAUCSA were wounded while riding in a truck which struck a land mine in Hai Lang, RVN.

10 APR Camp Evans received 12 rocket rounds with one of the rockets landing within the Seabee camp perimeter. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured, nor was any equipment damaged.

15 APR An MCB FOUR crew installing fence along the FLC perimeter at Red Beach, Danang, received light small arms fire. No personnel were injured.

25 APR RADM W.M. HEANAN, COMCBPAC, visited the new Seabee camp at Camp Evans.

27 APR An MCB FOUR MRS detonated a mine 3 miles south of Camp Evans on Route #1. The right wheel assembly of the MRS was damaged. No personnel were injured.

29 APR At 1400, Camp Evans received 4 rounds of 122mm rockets, none of which fell within the Seabee perimeter. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

5 MAY Camp Haskins North, went into Defense Condition I at 0200 when FLC received incoming rocket rounds. At 0600, FLC again received incoming rocket rounds. At 0745, NMCB FOUR secured from Condition I.

At 1000, Camp Evans received approximately 20 rounds of 122mm rockets. None landed within the Seabee perimeter. Two MCB FOUR vehicles received shrapnel damage. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

6 MAY LZ Sally, adjacent to PK-17, took a number of mortar/rocket rounds at 1730. None of the MCB FOUR detail there was injured.

9 MAY At 0720, Camp Evans received 15 rounds of 122mm rockets, none of which landed within the Seabee Perimeter. One MCB FOUR berth ing hut received slight damage when one round detonated approximately 5 feet from the tent. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

10 MAY Small arms fire was received by the An Lo Bridge repair crew at 1230. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

13 MAY At approximately 0015, Camp Evans received 6 rounds of 122mm rockets. Another 13 rounds were received at 0958. No rounds landed in the Seabee area and no MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

An MCB FOUR fuel truck detonated a mine 3 miles south of Camp Evans on Route #1. The rear end of the truck was damaged. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

19 MAY At 1930, Camp Evans received 10 rounds of 122mm rockets. One hit the ASP. Fires and explosions spread to the major ASP and fuel farm. Concussion from the blast and debris from shells and rockets blown into the MCB FOUR camp caused moderate damage to the Repair Parts Building and minor damage to the Alpha Company Shops. The MCB FOUR wrecker received shrapnel through the front windows. Five 16' x 32' huts received moderate blast and shrapnel damage. The explosions continued into the morning of the 20th.

20 MAY CMCN M.G. BLAKEY and EO3 R.E. HARRISON were killed when their five ton tractor trailer fell from the An Lo Bridge. The truck was loaded with construction materials enroute to Camp Evans from the Bridge 5 Ramp near Hue, RVN.

21 MAY LCDR G.R. MATTHEWS, COMCBPAC Code 31A and CAPT J. MURPHY, USMC, COMCBLANT arrived at Camp Haskins North to inspect the S-2 functions.

At 0510, Camp Evans received 7 rounds of 122mm rockets. No rounds landed in the Seabee area and no Seabee personnel were injured.

22 MAY Camp Haskins North went into Defense Condition I at 0001 when FLC received 122mm rockets and the IST Air Cavalry helo pad received mortar rounds. No rounds fell within the Seabee perimeter.
27 MAY The first convoy of the MCB FOUR Main Body movement departed Camp Haskins North for Camp Evans.
28 MAY The first main body air flight of 47 persons departed Danang for Camp Evans.

Heavy rains and winds at Camp Evans caused some damage to berthing huts and administration buildings in the new Seabee camp.

3 JUN CDR C.J. MATHEWS, CO USN MCB FIFTY-EIGHT assumed control of Camp Haskins North from CDR R.M. FLUSE, CO USN MCB FOUR. The MCB FOUR flag was transferred to Camp Evans, and operational control was changed to THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment.

4 JUN The third and last main body flight of MCB FOUR personnel with LCDR J.E. McNEILL, XO USN MCB FOUR, departed Danang for Camp Evans.

7 JUN LCDR H.C. DeGROTTE, MSC, COMSERVPAC Staff, visited Camp Evans to inspect general sanitation and medical/dental facilities.

14 JUN Camp Haskins North, Danang, received two 122mm rocket rounds which landed near the Alpha Company Shops. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

15 JUN The Danang Red Beach area received ten 122mm rockets at 0520, none of which landed within the Seabee perimeter.

18 JUN Camp Evans received seven rounds of 122mm rockets, none of which landed in the Seabee area.

20 JUN RADM J.V. BARTLETT, Commander, and CAPT J.M. HILL, JR., COM32NCR, arrived at Camp Haines and visited the Seabee job sites.

30 JUN CAPT C.G. MILLER, Chief Staff Officer, and CDR B.J. HACKENSON, Logistics Officer, COMCB-PAC, arrived at Camp Haines to make a management inspection.

3 JUL Camp Evans received three 122mm rocket rounds at 0035. No rounds landed within Camp Haines.

8 JUL NMCB FOUR Security personnel fired M79 rounds at personnel outside the perimeter wire at 2140 with negative results.

10 JUL The MCB FOUR pipeline crew came under sniper fire at YD 575312 along Route #1. No personnel were injured.

12 JUL The MCB FOUR pipeline crew dug up an enemy planted mine with a ditcher at YD 582309 along Route #1. The mine did not explode.

16 JUL The dedication ceremony for Camp Haines was held with RADM J.V. BARTLETT, Commander, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, as guest speaker. The camp was dedicated in honor of EOC John C. HAINES who was killed during MCB FOUR's 1967 deployment to Danang, RVN.

27 JUL The MCB TEN predeployment party arrived at Camp Haines. Included in the party were CDR D.A. BARLEY, CO USN MCB TEN. LCDR D. KENIN, Supply Officer, LCDR L.C. STRUTHERS, Operations Officer, and LT J.M. SMITH, Alpha Company Commander.


30 JUL LCDR D. KENIN, Supply Officer, MCB TEN, departed Camp Haines.

3 AUG At YD 498365 on Route #1, an ARVN truck detonated a mine 100 yards from the MCB FOUR pipeline crew. One Vietnamese laborer working on the pipeline crew received minor wounds.

10 AUG The 780 foot timber bridge constructed by MCB FOUR at An Lo, Republic of Vietnam, was dedicated.
16 AUG MCB FOUR was notified that all personnel serving with MCB FOUR from 30 January 1967 to 31 July 1967 while the Battalion was under OPCON of the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment are authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

20 AUG CDR W.L. WILSON, Operations Officer, COMCBPAC, LCDR G.R. GILMORE, Prospective Plans/Training Officer, COMCBPAC, and LT J.L. HENLEY, Administration Officer, COMCBPAC, arrived at Camp Haines for the annual MCB FOUR Operations and Administration Inspection.

21 AUG The COMCBPAC inspection party departed Camp Haines.

22 AUG Camp Evans received five rocket rounds, none of which landed within Camp Haines. NMCB FOUR was in Defense Condition I from 1923 to 2005.

24 AUG At 0130, the area around the new timber bridge at An Lo, YD 625303, received from 80 to 100 - 60mm mortar rounds. No Seabee personnel were injured and no damage was done to the new timber bridge.

At 2145, MCB FOUR went into Defense Condition I when Camp Evans received incoming mortar rounds. No rounds landed within Camp Haines.

28 AUG MGEN FORSYTHE, Commanding General, 1ST Air Cavalry Division, arrived at Camp Haines for a briefing on MCB FOUR construction efforts in the Camp Evans area.

31 AUG At 0140, the Camp Evans area received incoming mortar rounds. None of the rounds landed in Camp Haines and no MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

LT H.F. GOHRBAND, JR., SC, USN, arrived at Camp Haines to conduct the Annual Supply Inspection.

6 SEP By 1600, Camp Haines had received 25 inches of rain over the previous 62 hour period.

8 SEP At 1920, Camp Evans received incoming 122mm rocket rounds, some of which impacted at the airfield. No rounds landed in Camp Haines. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured, although an MCB FOUR night crew was working on the airstrip very near the impact points.

15 SEP Mr. Carl MAROHN, Technical Representative from the Air Logistics Corporation, Pasadena, California, arrived at Camp Haines. Mr. MAROHN supervised the installation of MO-MAT test sections which are designed to function as the water barrier between sections of the Camp Evans runway subgrade and the AM2 aluminum runway matting.

18 SEP RADM A.C. HUSBAND, Chief of Civil Engineers, and party visited Camp Haines.

19 SEP CDR R.M. FLUSS, CO USN MCB FOUR, accepted the Navy Unit Commendation for MCB FOUR during ceremonies held at the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment, Danang. MCB FOUR was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the Battalion's construction efforts under OPCON of the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment from 30 January 1967 to 31 July 1967.

20 SEP The MCB FOUR Advance Party departed Phu Bai on a C-118 aircraft for the Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, California.

24 SEP At 1915, Camp Evans received 8 incoming 122mm rocket rounds, none of which landed in Camp Haines. No MCB FOUR personnel were injured.

26 SEP RADM J.V. BARTLETT, COM3NCR, MG1N BRADLEY and CAPT A.W. WALTON, JR., COM32NCR visited Camp Haines.

30 SEP MG1N G.I. FORSYTHE, CG 1ST Air Cavalry Division, and CAPT A.W. WALTON, JR., COM32NCR, participated in the opening ceremony for the Camp Evans Airfield. The 2900 LF AM2 aluminum matting runway, two AM2 aluminum matting turn arounds and the M8Al steel matting parking apron were soil cemented and matted by MCB FOUR.

3 OCT The first members of the MCB TEN Advance Party arrived at Camp Haines.

4 OCT The BEEP began.
15 OCT The advanced sea shipment of MCB FOUR gear departed Danang, RVN, on the Sea Train Porto Rico.

17 OCT The BEEP was completed.

22 OCT The first MCB FOUR Main Body flight departed Camp Haines for Danang on C-130 aircraft.

23 OCT At 0030, the first Main Body flight departed the Danang AFB on a DC-8 aircraft for the Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, California.

CDR D.A. BARTLEY, CO USN MCB TEN, relieved CDR R.M. FLUSS, CO USN MCB FOUR, as Commanding Officer of Camp Haines, RVN. MGEN G.I. FORSYTHE spoke at the ceremony expressing his appreciation for the work MCB FOUR had accomplished for the First Air Cavalry Division at Camp Evans and stating that he was very much looking forward to working with MCB TEN.

27 OCT The last Main Body flight departed Danang AFB on a DC-8 aircraft for the Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, California.

MAJOR PROBLEMS

MCB FOUR deployed to Vietnam seven weeks before the scheduled deployment date. By necessity, the early mount-out had adverse effects on homeport training and logistic support. These problems will be discussed further in the report.