

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

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From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Atlantic Fleet

Subj: Deployment Completion Report; submission of

Ref: (a) COMCBLANT INST 5213.4B
(b) COMCBLANT Operations Order 6-71
(c) COMCBPAC Spdltr Ser CB311:037 7 June 1971

Encl: (1) Administrative Summary
(2) Training and Embarkation
(3) Labor Distribution Report
(4) Construction Summary
(5) Progress and Performance Charts
(6) Progress Photographs
(7) Equipment Summary
(8) Civic Action
(9) Historical Summary
(10) Logistical Summary
(11) Recommendations and Lessons Learned

1. In compliance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (11) and the following report are submitted.

2. Employment Status

In accordance with reference (c), NMCB FOUR deployed to NAVSTA, Rota as the European Deployed Battalion from June 1971 to March 1972. Various details were deployed. The Battalion mission was to deploy for training in conjunction with construction of base facilities in order to enhance operational readiness, maintain a self defense capability, and accomplish assigned disaster control operations. The Commander, THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment exercised Operational Control (OPCON), with the Commander Naval Activities Spain as Area Coordinator. The Battalion was assigned the LANTFLT DELTA Contingency responsibility from 20 August 1971 to 15 February 1972.

3. Unit Movements

7 MAY 71 LTJG M. S. JOHNSON and 18 men departed Port Hueneme as the pre-Advance Party to Rota.

14 JUN 71 NMCB FOUR Detail Canal Zone deployed from Port Hueneme, California, to Naval Communication Station, Panama. LTJG R. M. EARL was the Officer-in-Charge of the 41 man detail.

15 JUN 71 The Advance Party of 90 men departed Port Hueneme for Rota, Spain, with LTJG K. L. SHEFFER as Officer-in-Charge.



- 20 JUN 71 Seabee Team 0417 departed Port Hueneme for an 8 month deployment to Xuan Loc, Republic of Vietnam. ENS J. A. MURRAY was Officer-in-Charge.
- 8 JUL 71 Seabee Team 0415 departed Port Hueneme for Palau in the Trust Territories. LT C. D. CHRISTOPHER was the OIC of the party of 12.
- 8 JUL 71 Seabee Team 0416 departed Port Hueneme for the island of Kusaie in the Trust Territories. LTJG R. A. HEISLER was the OIC of the team.
- 15 JUL 71 24 men under EOL T. J. ROBBELOTH departed Rota for eight months TAD at Oceana, Virginia.
- 18 JUL 71 The first of two flights for the NMCB FOUR Main Body left Port Hueneme for Rota, Spain. 280 men were on the flights under ENS K. A. OLSON and ENS G. B. HAWES.
- 21 JUL 71 WO1 J. D. WEEKS and 2 enlisted men departed Rota for Nea Makri, Greece, as the Advance Party for Detail Greece.
- 25 JUL 71 The Detail United Kingdom Advance Party departed Rota for London, England, and Greenock, Scotland. The Officer-in-Charge was ENS K. A. OLSON.
- 2 AUG 71 THE NMCB FOUR Delayed Party of 83 men under ENS G. E. ZUMBEHL, departed Port Hueneme for Rota.
- 4 AUG 71 The Detail Sigonella Advance Party departed Rota for NAF Sigonella, Sicily. The Officer-in-Charge was LT D. R. BURNS.

5 AUG 71 The Detail Greece main body departed Rota for NAVCOMMSTA, Greece.

10 AUG 71 15 additional men assigned to Detail Sigonella departed Rota for Sicily.

12 AUG 71 The Detail United Kingdom main body of 27 men departed Rota for NAVACTSUK.

5 SEP 71 10 men departed from Rota to augment Detail Sigonella.

7 SEP 71 6 men departed from Rota to augment Detail Sigonella.

1 OCT 71 12 men departed from Rota to augment Detail Sigonella.

27 NOV 71 Detail Naples, composed of 7 men under POIC EOL K. L. WISE, deployed to NSA, Naples to begin excavation for a swimming pool.

20 JAN 72 Detail Soudha Bay of 10 men departed Rota for Soudha Bay, Crete. The Detail OIC was ENS G. B. HAWES.

20 JAN 72 Seabee Team 0417, under LTJG J. A. MURRAY, departed Xuan Loc, RVN, for redeployment to the United States.

12 FEB 72 LTJG K. A. OLSON and 12 men departed Detail United Kingdom for leave and return to Port Hueneme.

17 FEB 72 38 men from Detail Sigonella departed Sicily to rejoin the main body in Rota.

19 FEB 72 27 men departed Rota on the first flight of NMCB FOUR personnel bound for leave and homeport. The OIC for Flight 01 was LT M. C. SCHRAMER.

21 FEB 72 14 men departed Rota enroute for leave and homeport. The OIC for Flight 02 was EOC C. KEY.

21 FEB 72 The Main Body of 219 men including the Commanding Officer departed Rota for Port Hueneme, California. The OIC of Flight 03 was LTJG R. S. FREEMAN.

22 FEB 72 25 men departed Rota for Port Hueneme. The OIC of Flight 04 was CSC L. J. YOUNG.

24 FEB 72 9 men under TML B. E. JOHNSON departed Rota on a cargo flight enroute to Port Hueneme, California.

26 FEB 72 23 men under SW1 J. I. STEARNS departed Detail Canal Zone for Port Hueneme, California.

10 MAR 72 Seabee Team 0416, under LTJG R. A. HEISLER, departed Kusaie and arrived in Port Hueneme, California on 17 March 1972.

13 MAR 72 Seabee Team 0415, under LT C. D. CHRISTOPHER departed, Palau and arrived in Port Hueneme, California on 17 March 1972.

17 MAR 72 12 men under ENS G. B. HAWES departed Detail Soudha Bay for return to the Delayed Party at Rota.

17 MAR 72 11 men under LTJG F. J. SCHUMACHER departed Detail Greece for return to the Delayed Party at Rota.

17 MAR 72 12 men from Detail Sigonella returned to the Delayed Party at Rota.

21 MAR 72 NMCB FOUR Delayed Party of 99 men departed Rota for Port Hueneme, California. The OIC of Flight 05 was LCDR J. E. BUFFINGTON.

25 MAR 72 10 enlisted personnel departed Oceana, Virginia for return to Port Hueneme, California.

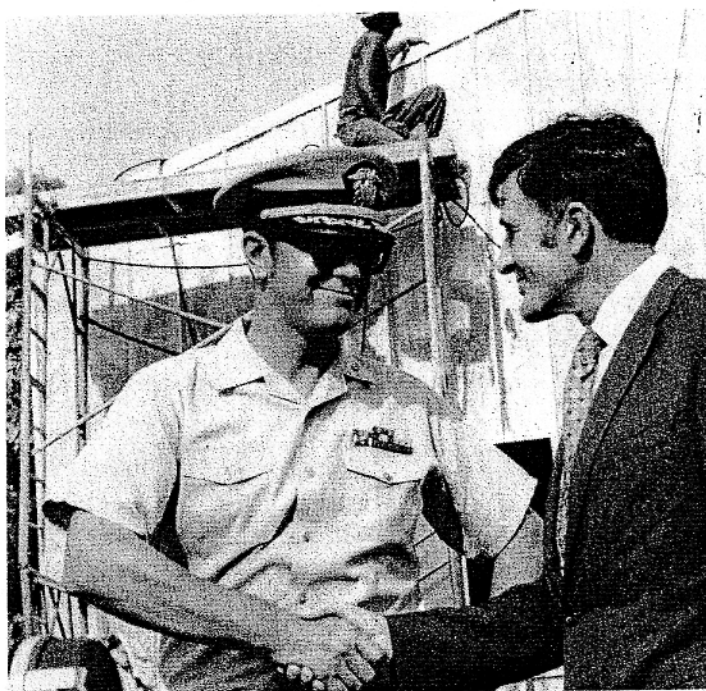
22 APR 72 The 8 men Delayed Party of Detail Canal Zone departed Panama to return to Port Hueneme upon completion of punch list items at the Farfan Antenna site.



4. Significant Events

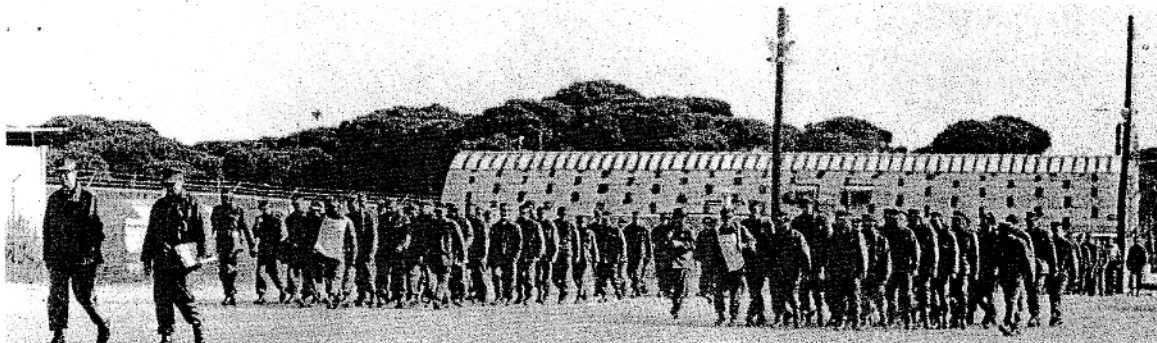
- 11 JUN 71 During military training at Camp Pendleton the Battalion fired for qualification with the M-16 rifle. Posting a 94.8% qualification, NMCB FOUR scored the highest percentage ever compiled by a Seabee Battalion at Camp Pendleton.
- 23 JUN 71 A 3-day pre-deployment Administrative Inspection was conducted informally by the 31st Naval Construction Regiment Staff.
- 1 JUL 71 NMCB FOUR was selected "Best of Type - Pacific Fleet" for the second consecutive year.
- 13 JUL 71 CDR J. A. RUSCYK, Commanding Officer NMCB FOUR departed for Rota, Spain.
- 19 JUL 71 The arrival of NMCB FOUR at NAVSTA Rota marked the return of the Seabees to Europe after a six year lapse.
- 4 AUG 71 The Battalion Executive Officer, LCDR J. E. BUFFINGTON, and the OIC Detail Sicily, LT D. R. BURNS made an inspection visit to NAF SIGONELLA.

- 11 AUG 71 ENS F. J. SCHUMACHER and EOL SOMERTON departed Rota for NAVSUPACT Naples to investigate possible Seabee construction of a swimming pool.
- 25 AUG 71 CDR J. A. RUSCYK, Commanding Officer NMCB FOUR, and LT M. L. HOFF departed Rota for 10 days to visit each of the European detail sites.
- 7 SEP 71 The Battalion Commanding Officer attended the CBLANT Battalion Commanders' Meeting, returning on 12 September.
- 22 SEP 71 WO1 BRICKEY with 28 reserves reported aboard for 2 weeks ACDUTRA.
- 22 SEP 71 Commodore W. R. ROGERS, COMCBLANT, and CDR F. M. NEWCOMB, Commanding Officer NMCB-62, visited Detail Canal Zone.
- 28 SEP 71 While on a visit to Rota, Spain, Secretary of the Navy John CHAFEE toured Ciudad de Plata.



- 30 SEP 71 LCDR J. B. EMISON, CBLANT Operations Officer, began a 10-day visit of NMCB FOUR jobsites.
- 11 OCT 71 The Battalion Commanding Officer attended the 4-day OICC Conference in Madrid, Spain.
- 14 OCT 71 LT J. M. DOUGHERTY, CEC detailee, arrived for a one-day visit with local CEC officers.
- 18 OCT 71 EOC M. T. WYATT, CBLANT equipment representative, visited Detail Canal Zone for a vehicle management inspection.
- 21 OCT 71 LTJG K. L. SHEFFER, relieved LT D. R. J. BURNS as OIC of Detail Sigonella. LT BURNS received PCS orders.
- 25 OCT 71 ENS F. J. SCHUMACHER III assumed the duties of OIC Detail Greece, replacing WO1 J. D. WEEKS who was called home on emergency leave.

- 25 OCT 71 LCDR C. G. SAHLMAN, prospective Operations Officer, departed Rota for a familiarization tour of Mediterranean Details and pre-deployment review of prospective Details at Naples, Italy and Soudha Bay, Crete.
- 27 OCT 71 EOC M. T. WYATT arrived at Detail Sigonella to conduct a vehicle management inspection.
- 27 OCT 71 LT P. C. PAYNE, CBLANT Assistant Operations and Equipment Officer, visited Detail Greece for a vehicle management inspection.
- 30 OCT 71 LT P. C. PAYNE and EOC M. T. WYATT arrived at Rota for vehicle management inspection.
- 30 OCT 71 NAVSTA Rota runway overlay, originally scheduled for a November completion was completed ahead of schedule.
- 1 NOV 71 John L. WILLIAMS, Naval Civil Engineering Laboratory, Port Hueneme, California arrived at Rota for 4 days to study construction equipment fuel problems.
- 1 NOV 71 BUC B. R. CONLEY, CBLANT Safety Representative, conducted Safety Management Inspection.
- 2 NOV 71 LT P. C. PAYNE and ENS J. S. KOTZ visited NTC Morocco for 2 days to study possible future job sites.
- 6 NOV 71 LCDR C. G. SAHLMAN relieved LT M. L. HOFF as NMCB FOUR Operations Officer.
- 11 NOV 71 During a visit to NAVSTA Rota, ADM W. S. BRINGLE, CINCUSNAVEUR and CAPT L. W. GRAVES visited NMCB FOUR and inspected job sites.
- 15 NOV 71 At 1355 NMCB FOUR began Exercise Bee Alert 4-71, a full battalion mount-out exercise. CBLANT representatives present were LT J. B. CONNELIE and EOC J. L. MURAWSKI.



- 17 NOV 71 47 hours later, at 1300, NMCB FOUR completed Exercise Bee Alert 4-71 with all men and equipment staged for embarkation. 239 personnel, 400 tons of cargo and 287 pieces of equipment were staged and ready for loading aboard ships.
- 27 NOV 71 A party of 5 officers from NMCB TEN under CDR J. M. WEIS, Commanding Officer, arrived for a pre-deployment visit of several days.
- 30 NOV 71 CDR J. F. NEWCOMB, Commanding Officer, NMCB SIXTY-TWO, visited Detail Canal Zone job sites.
- 30 NOV 71 CDR J. A. RUSCYK and ENS J. S. KOTZ departed Rota for 7 days to visit Mediterranean job sites.

- 4 DEC 71 CAPT W. R. ROGERS, COMCBLANT and EQCM D. J. EGELUS, SEA, CBLANT began a series of visits to NMCB FOUR job sites at Greece, Sigonella, Rota and United Kingdom.
- 7 DEC 71 Mr. Wilbur SMITH, factory representative for Consolidated Diesel visited Sigonella 3 days to inspect the no-break generators.
- 13 DEC 71 CDR J. D. KIRKPATRICK, Commanding Officer, NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR, and LT J. C. ELKINS made a 3-day pre-deployment visit to Detail Canal Zone.
- 17 DEC 71 RADM A. WALTON, COMLANTDIV inspected Detail Canal Zone jobsites during a visit with ROICC Canal Zone.
- 18 DEC 71 LCDR C. G. SAHLMAN inspected the Mediterranean details, returning on 28 December.
- 27 DEC 71 The BOB HOPE Christmas Show, played to a packed house, including NMCB FOUR, at Rota.
- 28 DEC 71 LCDR J. E. BUFFINGTON departed for an inspection of Detail Sigonella.
- 2 JAN 72 LCDR J. E. BUFFINGTON visited Davisville, Rhode Island, to discuss turnover procedures with CBLANT and NMCB TEN.
- 10 JAN 72 EAC F. S. VINZON, NMCB FOUR Operations Chief departed Rota for 9 days on an inspection visit to the Mediterranean details.
- 10 JAN 72 ENS G. B. HAWES visited Soudha Bay, Crete for 4 days as a pre-deployment inspection of job sites.
- 11 JAN 72 CDR J. E. GRAY, CBLANT Logistics Officer, and SKCM R. W. MILLER, CBLANT Logistics Staff, conducted a 5 day Annual Supply Inspection at NMCB FOUR, Rota. Concurrently, HMC J. H. JUSTICE, CBLANT Medical Staff, held the Annual Medical Department Inspection.
- 12 JAN 72 The initial contingent of NMCB SEVENTY FOUR's Detail CORTEZ, consisting of one officer and 24 enlisted arrived at Detail Canal Zone. Twelve additional men arrived 3 days later.
- 13 JAN 72* LTJG B. M. MURRAY relieved LTJG K. L. SHEFFER as OIC Detail Sigonella. LTJG SHEFFER was released from active duty.
- 14 JAN 72 Detail Canal Zone assumed OPCON of NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR Detail CORTEZ for turnover purposes.
- 15 JAN 72 NMCB FOUR topped its \$3,000 goal for the Seabee Memorial Fund.
- 18 JAN 72 CDR J. A. RUSCYK and LTJG M. S. JOHNSON departed Rota to visit CINCUSNAVEUR and Detail United Kingdom, returning 24 January.
- 18 JAN 72 RADM Juan C. MUNOZ - DELGADO, Commander Naval Base Rota, and CAPT Joaquin RODRIQUEZ - GUERRA, CSO, visited NMCB FOUR for a briefing and tour of the Rota job sites.
- 24 JAN 72 BEEP at Detail Canal Zone began. EOC M. T. WYATT represented COMCBLANT.
- 25 JAN 72 In a message from FLEETAC SUPPRON 24, the search for the plane missing since 17 January was unsuccessful and all passengers including NMCB FOUR's BUI R. E. DEMAREST were declared dead.
- 1 FEB 72 LCDR J. E. BUFFINGTON and LTJG C. E. CROUCH visited Detail Sigonella for 2 days to conduct an on-site inspection.
- 7 FEB 72 The BEEP at Rota began. LT P. C. PAYNE represented COMCBLANT.

- 7 FEB 72 Detail United Kingdom completed renovation of the Marine Barracks in London.
- 7 FEB 72 RADM CLARBONNET, COMFAIRMED visited the Seabee Camp.
- 8 FEB 72 Detail Canal Zone completed the EM Club renovation.
- 10 FEB 72 Detail Naples completed excavation for the swimming pool at Carney Park.
- 12 FEB 72 Detail United Kingdom completed the bowling alley at Holy Loch, Scotland.
- 12 FEB 72 CAPT D. A. BARTLEY, Chief of Staff, CBPAC visited Rota and the jobsites.
- 14 FEB 72 CAPT D. A. BARTLEY and CDR J. A. RUSCYK visited Details Sigonella and Greece, returning to Rota on 18 February.
- 14 FEB 72 Under the observation of CMC H. D. SMITH of CBLANT, Detail Naples commenced the BEEP with NMCB TEN.
- 19 FEB 72 BEEP for Rota and all Details was completed and critiques were held at Rota.
- 25 FEB 72 RADM G. REIDER and LT F. BANKERT visited Rota for one day.
- 6 MAR 72 CAPT J. D. RUMBLE and CAPT E. M. SAUNDERS of OICC Madrid visited the Delayed Party at Rota for a general tour and site inspection.
- 7 MAR 72 LT J. N. LOYACANO, CBLANT, visited Rota Delayed Party to observe project turnover.
- 14 MAR 72 Detail Greece finished last full workday on projects.
- 15 MAR 72 Final workday and project turnover occurred at Detail Sigonella and Detail Soudha Bay.
- 17 MAR 72 The Delayed Party at Rota completed the E. M. Club Addition.
- 19 MAR 72 Final turnover of all projects to NMCB TEN was completed by the Rota Delayed Party.
- 21 MAR 72 The final contingent of 99 men under LCDR J. E. BUFFINGTON departed the Mediterranean area from Rota, Spain.
- 20 APR 72. Chief of Civil Engineers message 192205Z APR 72 notified NMCB FOUR that it had been selected by the Society of American Military Engineers as the most outstanding Naval Mobile Construction Battalion for FY-71, and appropriately, would receive the Peltier Award.
- 20 APR 72 Detail Canal Zone completed work on the FARFAN Antenna project and turned over final punch list items to NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR.

5. Major Problems

A. Early Release Program.

The early release program for enlisted personnel effected a substantial reduction in the total work force available during the months of October through January, roughly half of the deployment period. The magnitude of this loss amounted to 21% of the manpower availability (E-3 thru E-5) scheduled for work assignment during that period. Release authorizations were received after work commitments had been made and construction commenced. Advance notification of criteria for and timing of follow-on releases was not provided. The capability

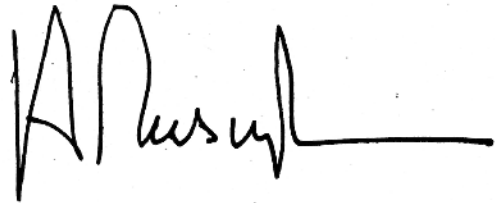
of the main body at Rota to complete assigned tasks was doubly hurt, since it was the only resource available to replenish losses at Detail sites. The losses in Builder and Construction Electrician ratings, primarily, were not in line with projected workload requirements. Although the Utilitiesman strength was reduced to 25% below allowance, no major problem was created as the majority of their work was completed during the earlier phases of construction. From the standpoint of morale impact, bot on those being released and those remaining, the use of "OP-HOLDS" was not considered a viable solution. It is strongly recommended that maximum early notification, and in any case, no less than four months, together with the criteria for early release programs be provided.

B. Material Shortages.

The material shortages experienced by NMCB-4 throughout the deployment can be attributed to a variety of reasons. Positive actions such as Gulfport's continual aggressive material procurement attempts, the battalion's "look ahead" planning, and the personal attention given critical items were not quite successful in getting material to Rota when the Seabees needed it.

Shipping modes/routes, and numerous tranship points adversely lengthened shipping time-frames. Too, Spanish debarkation points often accounted for delays. For example, material delivered to the Army Terminal in Cadiz was most often delayed by either custom's clearance procedures or unavailability of commercial truck transportation to Rota. Obviously, the dock strikes made these long shipping times even worse.

It is apparent that most delay factors are not controllable by any one person or activity. For example, shipping modes, routes, tranship points, and respective procedural requirements were unyielding factors within the military transportation system.



CDR J. A. RUSCYK
COMMANDING OFFICER

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