

Seabee Mobile Training Team Guatemala

Deployment Completion Report

1. Purpose. Seabee Mobile Training Team (MTT) Guatemala was deployed to Guatemala for the purpose of providing training to Guatemalan personnel in the erection of Model 166 Butler buildings. These buildings, purchased from the U. S. Navy, were to be used for schools and health aid centers as part of the Guatemala Earthquake Recovery Program.

2. Composition. Seabee MTT Guatemala was composed initially of personnel from NMCB FORTY and later of personnel from NMCB ONE. During approximately the first month, the Seabee MTT included three training crews totalling 16 men. During the remainder of the deployment, the Seabee MTT included two training crews. The peak deployment strength of 21 personnel was experienced by the Seabee MTT during the turnover between NMCB FORTY and NMCB ONE in late July 1976. Deployed strength during the period was as follows:

| <u>Period</u> | <u>No. of Pers</u> | <u>Composition</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 5 - 8 May | 1 | 1-LTjg |
| 8 - 10 May | 5 | 1-LTjg, 1-BUC, 1-BU2, 1-SW2, 1-CE2 |
| 10 May - 11 Jun | 16 | 1-LTjg, 1-BUCS, 2-BUCs, 1-BU1, 2-SW1s, 2-BU2s, 2-SW2s, 3-CE2s, 1-BU3, 1-HM1 |
| 11 Jun - 22 Jul | 10 | 2-BUCs, 1-BU1, 1-SW1, 1-BU2, 1-SW2, 2-CE2s, 1-BU3, 1-HM1 |
| 22 - 29 Jul | 12 | 2-BUCs, 1-SWC, 1-BU1, 2-BU2s, 1-BU3, 1-SW1, 1-SW2, 2-CE2s, 1-HM1 |
| 29 - 31 Jul | 21 | 2-BUCs, 1-SWC, 1-BU1, 2-SW1s, 3-BU2s, 3-SW2s, 2-CE2s, 2-BU3s, 1-CE3, 1-EO3, 1-BUCN, 2-HM1s |
| 31 Jul - 10 Sep | 11 | 1-SWC, 1-SW1, 2-BU2s, 2-SW2s, 1-BU3, 1-CE3, 1-EO3, 1-BUCN, 1-HM1 |
| 10 - 11 Sep | 6 | 1-SWC, 1-SW1, 2-SW2s, 1-BUCN, 1-HM1 |
| 11 - 15 Sep | 4 | 1-SWC, 1-SW1, 1-BUCN, 1-HM1 |

Enclosure (1)

3. Arrivals/Departures. Members of Seabee MTT Guatemala arrived and departed at various times during the deployment as follows:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>No. of Pers</u> | | <u>Total No. Deployed</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | | <u>Arrive</u> | <u>Depart</u> | |
| 5 May | NMCB FORTY | 1 | | 1 |
| 8 May | NMCB FORTY | 4 | | 5 |
| 10 May | NMCB FORTY | 11 | | 16 |
| 11 Jun | NMCB FORTY | | 6 | 10 |
| 22 Jul | NMCB ONE | 2 | | 12 |
| 29 Jul | NMCB ONE | 9 | | 21 |
| 31 Jul | NMCB FORTY | | 10 | 11 |
| 10 Sep | NMCB ONE | | 5 | 6 |
| 11 Sep | NMCB ONE | | 2 | 4 |
| 15 Sep | NMCB ONE | | 4 | - |

4. Historical Summary. As part of the recovery effort following a devastating earthquake which struck Guatemala in February 1976, the Naval Construction Force was tasked to provide a Seabee MTT to provide training in the erection of 20-foot by 48-foot pre-engineered metal buildings. A total of 300 buildings had been purchased. LTjg Peter M. Motolenich, CEC, USNR, a bilingual Navy Officer, arrived in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on 5 May 1976 to prepare for arrival of the Seabee MTT. A series of meetings were held with representatives from U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Guatemalan Ministry of Public Works, and various other organizations involved with the Recovery Program. Reconstruction was in progress throughout the disaster area; consequently, building materials were in great demand, and in some cases, supplies were limited. The availability of form lumber for use in placement of the concrete slabs was of primary concern to the Seabee MTT Guatemala. This potential problem was solved by using the lumber from the packing boxes which contained the building components.

The next four members of the Seabee MTT Guatemala arrived on 8 May 1976. Two of these men were dispatched to Puerto Barros, Guatemala, to assist in marking and staging the many boxes of building components which had arrived on board the USS DELORO, also on 8 May 1976. The other two men moved into Zone 19 to start the training effort. Zone 19 was one of several designated areas within Guatemala City so designated to assist with the earthquake recovery. Seabee MTT Guatemala provided training within Zones 5, 11, and 19. Initial training provided by the

first two Team members consisted of instruction concerning proper procedures for forming and placing concrete floor slabs.

The remaining members of Seabee MTT Guatemala arrived on 10 May 1976 and were moved into Zones 5 and 19 where training continued with additional instruction concerning forming and placing of concrete floor slabs. A total of ten buildings were located within these two zones. Building components started arriving with the first complete building on site by 24 May 1976. Due to the distance from the material staging site to the erection sites (approximately 180 miles) and limited transportation availability resulting from the overall scope of the recovery effort, some delay was initially experienced in getting building materials to the various building sites. This was largely solved through USAID contracting with various available trucking firms.

With the training effort progressing well and working relationships firmly established, LTjg Motolenich and five other members from NMCB FORTY's Seabee MTT Guatemala departed on 11 June 1976. The remaining Team members continued to provide training within Guatemala City with training commencing at sites in outlying areas commencing the week of 21 - 25 June 1976. As new sites were opened farther from Guatemala City, direct supervision and training became more difficult due to remoteness of some of the sites. However, periodic visits to these sites were sufficient as the Guatemalan Trainees had developed a high level of expertise and were performing in an outstanding manner when site remoteness precluded daily visits by Seabee MTT members.

On 22 July 1976, two members of NMCB ONE's Seabee MTT Guatemala arrived on site to commence turnover of the training responsibilities from NMCB FORTY to NMCB ONE personnel. The remaining nine NMCB ONE personnel arrived on site on 29 July 1976, and the NMCB FORTY personnel departed on 31 July 1976.

During the remaining portion of the deployment, the number of Guatemalan Trainees reached its maximum of 105 personnel, divided into 12 crews. As a result of the training provided, each team became highly proficient. Workmanship was excellent and very professional in all respects. Each crew could completely erect one building in about five days. Ten crews were identified to USAID by letter dated 30 August 1976 as being fully trained. The other two crews were similarly identified as fully trained prior to departure of Seabee MTT Guatemala. In August 1976, USAID commenced negotiations with five civilian contractors to erect approximately 120 of the buildings. In addition, USAID hired an engineer to monitor the contracts and insure quality construction. During the last three weeks of the deployment, Seabee MTT Guatemala personnel provided assistance to the contractor erection personnel when requested by USAID. Further, Team members worked with the USAID engineer for approximately a ten-day period. Prior to departure, all tools which had accompanied the Seabee MTT Guatemala were turned over to USAID for continued use by the Guatemalan erection teams.

The last members of Seabee MTT Guatemala departed Guatemala City on 15 September 1976.

5. Project Summary. During the deployment, a total of 48 buildings at 22 different sites were erected as part of the training effort. Placement of the first floor slab was accomplished on 10 May 1976. Erection of the first building was completed on 3 June 1976. Weekly completions were accomplished as follows:

| <u>Wk. Ending</u> | <u>No. Completed</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>No. of Trainees</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 5 Jun | 1 | Zone 5 | 58 |
| 12 Jun | 3 | Zone 5 | 58 |
| | 2 | Zone 19 | |
| 19 Jun | 4 | Zone 19 | 59 |
| 26 Jun | 3 | Zone 11 | 68 |
| 3 Jul | 1 | Sacos Grande | 82 |
| | 1 | Sacos Chiquito | |
| 31 Jul | 1 | San Martineros | 105 |
| | 1 | Estancia Vieja | |
| 7 Aug | 2 | Cuidad Satelite | 102 |
| | 1 | La Alameda | |
| | 1 | Colonia Carolingia | |
| 14 Aug | 3 | Cuidad Satelite | 102 |
| | 2 | Colonia Carolingia | |
| | 2 | Cerro Alto | |
| | 2 | La Alameda | |
| 21 Aug | 1 | Sacsuy | 102 |
| 28 Aug | 2 | Boca Del Monte | 102 |
| | 1 | San Luis Pueblo Nuevo | |
| | 1 | Canton Sac Siquan | |
| | 1 | Canton San Isidro | |
| 11 Sep | 1 | Boca Del Monte | 102 |
| | 1 | San Lorenzo El Tejar | |
| | 2 | Canton Xajaxac | |
| | 1 | Concepcion Las Lomas | |
| | 1 | San Luis De San Jose | |
| | | Pinub | |
| | 1 | San Felipe De Jesus | |
| | 1 | Cabecera Municipal | |
| | 4 | Chiquimula | |

In addition to the completed buildings, one building at San Felipe De Jesus was approximately 75 percent complete. The above summary does

not include civilian contractor erected buildings and buildings erected by Guatemalan crews certified as trained on 30 August 1976.

6. Evaluation of Training. Training was accomplished with on-the-job instruction. Personnel included in the program were basically men with only limited knowledge of the use of hand tools and equipment. However, the men were eager to learn, grasped the techniques rapidly, and quickly gained the necessary expertise required for erection of the pre-engineered buildings. The skills obtained by the Trainees will most definitely enhance them as individuals as well as serve to insure a timely completion of this phase of the Recovery Program. During the last few weeks, similar on-the-job instruction was provided to local civilian contractors.

7. Tools and Equipment. A total of ten erection kits were purchased as part of the initial building procurement. Several additional kits were also taken by the Seabee MTT Guatemala. All tools were purchased by USAID prior to departure of the Team. Additional tools provided included:

| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Item Description</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 | Electrician Kits |
| 9 | Carpenter Kits |
| 9 | Erection Kits |
| 3 | Concrete Kits |
| 20 | 6-Ft and 10-Ft Step Ladders |
| 2 | 400 DL Hilti Guns |

All equipment used by the Team was provided by USAID except for three 1.5 KW portable gas generators. These generators were purchased by USAID prior to departure of the Team. Items of equipment included:

| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Item Description</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | CJ5 Jeep |
| 1 | Chevrolet Blazer |
| 1 | 9-Passenger Carry-All |
| 1 | Carry-All |
| 2 | Scouts |
| 2 | 3 KW Portable Generators |
| 3 | 1.5 KW Portable Generator (Team provided) |

8. Adequacy of Advance Preparations. Advance preparations were considered adequate in view of the limited information available. The limitation on information available would have been greatly reduced if a Naval Construction Force representative would have been on site at an earlier date.

9. Problems Encountered. Many problems were encountered during the early stages of the deployment. The majority of these were resolved without difficulty. Basically, the problems encountered fall into four categories including:

a. An insufficient amount of time between arrival on site of the first representative and arrival of the Seabee MTT.

b. Difficulty experienced in communicating due to a limited technical Spanish speaking capability within the Team.

c. Lack of available transportation equipment due to overall scope of the Recovery Program.

d. Travel distance between various sites that were being worked concurrently.

10. Lessons Learned. The following items should be important considerations in future Seabee MTT deployments:

a. A Naval Construction Force representative should be dispatched to the site at the earliest possible time to assist in the final planning effort as well as to make preparations for the arrival of the Seabee MTT.

b. The Seabee MTT should include a sufficient number of personnel who speak the local language to facilitate ease in communications.

c. Length of the turnover period between Naval Construction Force units should be based on the diversity of the training mission. For this particular project, additional time would have been beneficial due to the widespread location of the sites involved.

d. Consideration should be given to the Seabee MTT deploying with support equipment. Due to the heavy demand for transportation equipment experienced during a severe disaster, support equipment is difficult to obtain.

e. On future Seabee MTT training deployments, portable radios should be provided to the Team to assist in communications between Team members.

f. A medical representative was included with this Seabee MTT. This is considered an essential requirement for any and all future Seabee MTTs.

11. Significant Events. In addition to the Seabee MTT Guatemala historical summary discussed in paragraph 3 above, the following significant events occurred:

a. 10 June 1976 - The four buildings in Zone 5 were officially turned over to the Guatemalan Minister of Education. All Guatemalan Trainees and Seabee MTT Guatemala members were present, the later in the summer Blue uniform.

b. 29 June to 2 July 1976 - CDR E. W. McLaughlin, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer of NMCB FORTY, and LTjg P. M. Motolenich, CEC, USNR, visited the site.

c. 18 - 21 August 1976 - CDR R. G. Shirley, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer, and LCDR J. S. Ahl, CEC, USN, Operations Officer, (both from NMCB ONE) visited the site.

d. 26 August 1976 - Lieutenant General D. P. McAuliffe, USCINCSO, visited the site.

12. Progress Photos. Photographs which are typical of the training effort are attached as Tab A.