

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

FORTY



DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

ROTA, SPAIN

JUNE 1996 - JANUARY 1997



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FORTY  
UNIT 25306  
FPO AE 96601-4981

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Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 3121.1B  
(b) TWENTY-SECOND NCR OPORDER 08-96

Encl: (1) Executive Summary  
(2) Administration/Other Staffs  
(3) Training  
(4) Operations  
(5) Supply and Logistics  
(6) Equipment  
(7) Camp Maintenance  
(8) After Action Reports; Latvia, Albania, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina

1. Enclosures (1) through (8) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).
2. In accordance with reference (b), U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FORTY deployed to Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain during the period of June 1996 to January 1997, with Details deployed to Edzell, Scotland; Naples, Italy; Sigonella, Sicily; Souda Bay, Crete; Thurmont, Maryland; and St. Mawgan, U.K. Upon receipt of 22nd NCR Execution Order, NMCB FORTY redeployed (334 personnel) to Bosnia in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR from the period October 96 to December 96. Personnel were maintained at Details Rota, Sigonella, Souda Bay, and Thurmont.
3. In addition, the Battalion executed highly successful Deployments for Training to Latvia, Albania, and Turkey. We also conducted a comprehensive site visit to four African nations, and prepared project plans and packages for the Western Africa Training Cruise.

  
R. E. CELLON  
CDR, CEC, USN

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After Action Reports: Latvia, Albania, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FORTY deployed to Spain and six detail sites, one in CONUS, the rest in Europe: Thurmont, Maryland; Edzell, Scotland; St. Mawgan, United Kingdom; Sigonella, Sicily; Souda Bay, Crete and Naples, Italy. While deployed, the Battalion conducted Deployments for Training (DFT) at three locations: Latvia in support of Exercise BALTIC CHALLENGE 96, Albania in support of Exercise PEACEFUL EAGLE 96, and Turkey in support of Exercise DYNAMIC MIX 96. NMCB FORTY conducted a site visit and completed project planning for the scheduled Western Africa Training Cruise (WATC) in the following four African nations: Benin, Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone. In October 1996 the Battalion redeployed 334 personnel, most of the table of allowance (TOA), excluding the AirDet TOA, and 221 pieces of Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) to Bosnia in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR (OJE). The 334 personnel were initially a first echelon, with a planned second echelon of 120 additional personnel. However by mid-November, it became clear the mission could be completed by the first group. A rear echelon of 120 personnel remained in Rota and completed tasked projects at Rota, Sigonella and Souda Bay. While in Bosnia, NMCB FORTY was OPCON to Task Force Eagle (TFE). NMCB FORTY retrograded to Camp Mitchell, Rota, Spain, two weeks before the deployment concluding turnover commenced.

**Administration:** The Administration and Personnel Departments, Command Master at Arms, Legal Officer, Command Career Counselor, DAPA and Command Indoctrination Coordinator provided a myriad of services to the Battalion throughout deployment with outstanding results. The Medical and Dental Departments performed superbly while deployed to TFE, receiving high commendations from Army commanders for services provided to their troops. An Independent Duty Corpsman supported DFTs to Albania and Turkey.

**Training:** The Battalion performed over 4,875 mandays of physical, tactical, technical and general military training. Included in the training was extensive OJE/IFOR training to all members of the Battalion.

**Operations:** Completed 4,565 mandays of construction on 13 tasked mainbody and 18 tasked Detail projects, Direct Labor Training allocation, Camp Maintenance, Commanding Officers Discretionary projects. OJE contingency operations were executed with complete success, all mission tasking was completed on, or ahead of, scheduled completion dates.

**Supply:** The Supply Department maintained and operated nine outlets and supported all Battalion Detail sites. With the exception of the TA41, almost the entire TOA was exercised in support of the redeployment to OJE. Micro-Snap was utilized in Bosnia with rear support in Rota for re-supply.

**Equipment:** Alfa Company maintained and operated 313 pieces of equipment at Camp Mitchell. 221 pieces were redeployed to Bosnia. In Bosnia, extensive tactical convoy requirements and heavy horizontal tasking were superbly supported. Equipment in Bosnia amassed over 250,000 miles.

**Camp Maintenance:** Bravo Company made great efforts in the improvement of Camp Mitchell. Two high visibility, high morale projects included the renovation of the Silver City Saloon, conversion of Bldg. 373 into a new "Acey-Duecy" Lounge and renovation of the Alfa Company Maintenance Head. Also completed were 22 MCD projects and 1735 ESAs.

# ADMINISTRATION

## 1. Lessons Learned:

### a. Item: Passports/Visas.

Discussion: Passports (official) are very often required for Seabees participating in DFTs. The lack of having a passport affects readiness and inhibits who can be selected to participate on DFTs. The new policy requiring passport applications to be submitted 45 days prior to the desired travel date is an administrative burden. The "TAD Orders in Excess of 6 Months" situation was remedied with several point papers to BUPERS.

Action Taken: A point paper on the topic was submitted to COMTHIRDNCB Pearl Harbor in February 1996 and also to BUPERS. The order writing process ("comply with items" and P-Codes) at BUPERS is the solution. Similar to medical screening for Battalion duty, it is recommended that passports be in the possession of a prospective gain before they report for duty with a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion. In the interim, the following actions were taken and have proven beneficial:

1. Check-in Procedures: Upon receipt, newly reporting personnel are handed a passport application as part of the check-in process, told to obtain a birth certificate and photographs, and are then sent to PSD for processing. This occurs throughout the homeport period and on deployment.

2. Passport Roster: A passport roster was developed to readily identify personnel who were currently in possession of a "tourist" or "official" passport. Other personnel, listed in a subparagraph, were also tracked on this roster until the passport was received. This saved time during DFT personnel selection processes.

### b. Item: Navy-wide Advancement Exams and Personnel Records.

Discussion: Advanced preparation and liaison with Personnel Support Detachments at detail sites proved fruitful. Exams were ordered and worksheets prepared well in advance of deployment. This enabled NETPMSA to mail the exams directly to the servicing PSD, eliminating a stop in Rota. In addition, all PSDs agreed to take on the additional service record maintenance load with the exception of PSD St. Mawgan, U.K. (no PN, no records).

Recommendation: Continue to improve the process.

2. Narrative: The Administration/Personnel Department, Legal Office, Career Counselor, Chief Master-at-Arms, DAPA, and Command Indoctrination Coordinator enjoyed a very successful deployment. All Camp Mitchell Instructions/Notices were re-typed and placed on diskette for a more efficient Directives Issuance System. A complete Seabee Automated Mobile Management System (SAMMS) was maintained always and a separate Army personnel report was developed for OJE. Secret and Unclassified message traffic was downloaded continuously by a Gateguard system. During OJE, the rear echelon at Rota would forward Unclassified messages via CCMail zip files. This proved invaluable as other E-mail traffic was utilized to OJE and Liaison officers at ESAUR Forward at Taszar, Hungary. Additional ADP assets were procured by COMSECONDNCB and LAN systems and software upgraded for Camp Mitchell as well. NAVSTA Rota tenant activities provided superb transportation, travel, customer services, Off-Duty Education opportunities, CAAC Screening, and virtually unlimited PREVENT quotas. The CCC had an additional commercial line installed for quality BUPERS access. Additionally, the Career Counselor met all incoming personnel at Jerez Airport and NAVSTA. Contact with Enlisted Detailer's were maintained via the CCC.



# MEDICAL

## 1. Lessons Learned:

### a. Item: TOA Readiness.

Discussion: Medical supplies can be ordered through the U.S. Army Medical system in Germany via Naval Hospital Rota computer network, which is extremely efficient. The system allows for tracking and rapid delivery.

Recommendation: Review current ordering procedures, compare against the U.S. Army Medical system procedures and, select most efficient and cost effective.

### b. Item: Contingency/Exercise stock items.

Discussion: The recent Rota Battalion operations tempo demands that Seabees redeploy to locations that have significant medical concerns with insects, including the transmission of malaria.

Recommendation: Maintain quantities of malaria chemoprophylaxis, DEET and Permethrin on hand to outfit DFTs, exercises and operations.

## 2. Narrative:

1. Education: The Battalion Medical Officer and Corpsman worked additional in the Emergency Room at Naval Hospital Rota. This added care capability to our troops. It also gave the corpsmen a training experience in the emergency environment and increased medical readiness. Suicide Awareness, and Preventive Measures should be presented to the troops.

2. Immunizations: Hepatitis A vaccine should be acquired from CBC Pt. Hueneme in advance of deployment. If none is available, contact NEPMU-7 in Sigonella or contact Germany using NH Rota to obtain the immunization. NH Rota was reluctant to assist deployed Battalions since past occurrences have stressed their supply system.

3. Ambulances: Current ambulances are old and unreliable, requiring strict maintenance.

4. X-ray Equipment: The current film cassettes have a very slow speed and require large doses of radiation to expose. Updating the cassettes to a higher speed film and screen combination will lower patient exposure levels and increase the life of the X-ray Tube. An assortment of lead aprons or shields is needed. The exposure to medical personnel would be minimized by having lead barriers present. None are available in the TOA. Providing grids would allow for the availability of acceptable Abdomen Films. Gastrografin contrast for small bowel film would expand the capability of the BAS.

5. Laboratory Equipment: The microscope should have annual maintenance performed to ensure all lenses are in working condition. The oil immersion lens needs replacement. A hard shell storage case would ensure the scope remains undamaged during transport.

6. Surgical Equipment: Replace current scrub sinks. Current models are Vietnam era and obsolete. The motors are nonfunctional and fittings are rusted/broken. An alternate system of hand washing should be available in the event of a power outage.

7. Emergency Equipment: A pulse oximeter should be purchased to monitor patient oxygenation status. Presently, no equipment exists. The EKG machine in the TOA is antiquated and should be replaced. In a contingency, use a clinic unit with external pacing capability. Life-pack 5 equipment requires a battery charger per unit. This equipment is also outdated and in need of upgrade.

8. Storage: Use the Medical Conex as a walk-in pharmacy/mini-storage unit.

9. DFTs: Maintain four sick-call boxes for Independent Duty Corpsman use on DFTs. This reduces prep time and ensures correct medications are taken on location. Consider use of ambulance, most DFTs are in remote locations with limited medical support.

# SAFETY

## 1. Lessons Learned:

### a. Item: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Discussion: Stock was scarce and many items were beyond useful life.

Recommendation: Order an adequate supply based on the percentage of direct labor personnel.

### b. Item: Ladders/Scaffolding

Discussion: Items available in CTR did not meet the requirements of the tasked projects.

Recommendation: During homeport planning, inquire to the deployed Battalion as to the ladders/scaffolding available and ensure that requirements are met.

### c. Item: Audio/Visual conservation programs.

Discussion: NAVSTA Rota possesses virtually no visual and limited audio testing capabilities.

Recommendation: Conduct required exams prior to deployment.

### d. Item: BEQ/ BOQ Fire Alarms.

Discussion: Many alarms were tagged out, inoperative and did not ring into the NAVSTA Rota Fire Department. Voice response to quarterdeck and calls to Fire Department were some times required.

Recommendation: Continue to upgrade and repair alarm systems. Public Works has a repair project funded and designed.

### e. Item: Local Command Support.

Discussion: The NAVSTA Industrial Hygienist and gas free engineer provided outstanding cooperation and support when called upon for consultation.

Recommendation: Continue to utilize their expertise.

2. Narrative. The Battalion safety office consisted of a BUC as the Safety Officer and a CE1 as the Safety Chief. Inspections were conducted as follows: daily on all project sites, annually on office/admin type camp facilities, and at least quarterly on all high hazard shop spaces. Mishaps were quickly and efficiently investigated by first line supervisors, with the reports immediately forwarded to the safety office for any additional investigation that might be required and statistical evaluation, along with ensuing all corrective actions were faithfully executed.



## SAFETY SUMMARY\*

	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	TOTAL
First Aid Mishaps	13	10	22	3	6	4	2	1	61
Cases Light Duty	10	4	6	3	2	6	2	0	33
Light Duty Days	115	20	25	16	37	77	35	0	325
Cases Lost Work Days	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	5
Lost Work Days	21	7	4	0	4	8	0	0	44
Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gov Veh Mishaps	2	4	2	1	1	3	0	0	13
Veh Repair Costs	\$6,833	\$306	\$760	\$96	\$1,121	\$950	\$0	\$0	\$10066
Veh Miles Driven	59057	9060	36634	16445	13382	14124	12250	3000	148702

\*Note: The table provides safety data for Camp Mitchell. Safety data from redeployment to Bosnia is located in enclosure (8), the Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR After Action Report.

