

NMCB-FIVE DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

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CARIBBEAN DEPLOYMENT MAR-OCT 93



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE
FPO AP 96601-4961

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From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE
To: Commander, SECOND Naval Construction Brigade

Subj: SUBMISSION OF DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT FOR NMCB FIVE
93 CARIBBEAN DEPLOYMENT

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 2121.1B
(b) COM TWO TWO NCR OPOORDER 01-93
(c) COM TWO TWO NCR FRAG ORDER 001 TO COM TWO TWO NCR OPOORDER 1-93
(d) COM TWO TWO NCR FRAG ORDER 002 TO COM TWO TWO NCR OPOORDER 1-93

Encl: (1) Deployment Completion Report

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. In accordance with reference (b), and as modified by references (c) and (d), NMCB FIVE deployed to Camp Moscrip, Puerto Rico in March 1993 with details deployed to Andros Island, Bermuda, Guantanamo Bay, Panama, and Vieques Island. Additionally, NMCB FIVE deployed reserve support details to Little Creek, Virginia and Cecil Field, Florida. NMCB FIVE also participated in seven deployment for training exercises to: Belize, Colombia, Grenada, Trinidad, Saint Kitts, El Salvador, and Kennebunkport, Maine. Separate after action reports were submitted to cover these exercises.
3. Should questions arise regarding enclosure (1), my point of contact is LCDR Jim Cowell, Operations Officer, who can be reached at COMM: (805) 982-4962 or DSN: 551-4962.


R. L. PHILLIPS

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From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1
 To: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1
 Subject: [Illegible]

Enc: (1) Deployment Completion Report

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b) attached, the following information is being furnished to you for your information and use in the preparation of your report. This information was obtained from the records of the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, and is being furnished to you for your information and use in the preparation of your report. This information was obtained from the records of the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, and is being furnished to you for your information and use in the preparation of your report.

2. A copy of the report is being furnished to you for your information and use in the preparation of your report. This information was obtained from the records of the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, and is being furnished to you for your information and use in the preparation of your report.

[Handwritten signature]
 N. J. WILLIAMS

[Faint rectangular stamp or box]

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NMCB FIVE
CARIBBEAN DEPLOYMENT 1993
CAMP MOSCRIP
PUERTO RICO
4 March to 15 October 1993

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A detailed deployment training plan was developed prior to the arrival of the unit at Camp Moscrip. Over two thousand man-hours of training were conducted during the deployment. Training evolutions were designed to enhance technical skill levels and improve the Battalion's readiness through military instruction, OJT and physical conditioning. No field exercise was conducted on this deployment because of the extensive maintenance and military training gained from the 1991 deployment. However, the Battalion did conduct three covered boat exercises, live weapons (M16) and training in Rapid Response Repair and Chemical, Biological, and Radiological defense.

CONCLUSIONS

NMCB FIVE conducted operations throughout the Caribbean and Latin America including a vast array of projects which provided the men with a tremendous variety of training opportunities. In all over 44,000 man-hours of project training was completed at the main body, live detail sites and several OJT exercises. The integration of reserve personnel at every level in the Battalion and the training of two reserve COMB detail was one of the highlights of the deployment. The contingency capability of the Battalion was fully exercised during the course of the deployment. In particular, the OJT exercises provided excellent contingency construction skills training in addition to valuable experience living in field conditions. The Battalion also had the opportunity to train in many other construction skills including overhead concrete forming and placing, asphalt plant operations, crushed quarry operations and water well drilling.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE deployed to Puerto Rico with detail sites in Andros Island, Bermuda, Guantanamo Bay, Panama, and Vieques Island. Reserve support details were deployed to Little Creek, Virginia and Cecil Field, Florida. Additionally, seven deployment for training (DFT) details were deployed to Belize, Colombia, Grenada, Trinidad, Saint Kitts, El Salvador, and Kennebunkport, Maine. The major emphasis of this deployment was contingency operations, peacetime construction, well drilling operations, and active/reserve integration.

ADMINISTRATION

NMCB FIVE's Administrative Department established the tone for the deployment by receiving a grade of outstanding on the Fleet Accounting Disbursing Center San Diego inspection conducted in February 1993. Personnel transactions for deployed details were conducted with minimal problems because all service records stayed with the mainbody. The aggressive processing of passports and visas was done before deployment. As a result, assignment of personnel to sensitive countries was a much smoother operation. Despite YNC, YN1, and LN1 billet gaps, the Administrative Department maintained outstanding service throughout the deployment. On-the-Job training (OJT) and classroom training conducted by both Admin/Personnel Divisions helped compensate for the billet gaps. The ability of the Yeomen and Personnelmen to operate successfully in a high-tempo environment was demonstrated during this deployment.

TRAINING

A detailed deployment training plan was developed prior to the Battalion's arrival in Camp Moscrip. Over two thousand mandays of training were completed during the deployment. Training evolutions were designed to maintain technical skill levels and improve the Battalion's readiness through military instruction, OJT and physical conditioning. No field exercise was conducted on this deployment because of the extensive embarkation and military training gained from the DFT details. However, the Battalion did conduct three command post exercises, live weapons fire, and training in Rapid Runway Repair and Chemical, Biological, and Radiological defense.

OPERATIONS

NMCB FIVE conducted operations throughout the Caribbean and Latin America completing a vast array of projects which provided the men with a tremendous variety of training opportunities. In all, over 34,000 mandays of project tasking was completed at the main body, five detail sites and seven (DFT) exercises. The integration of reserve personnel at every level in the Battalion and the manning of two reserve CONUS details was one of the highlights of the deployment. The contingency capability of the Battalion markedly increased during the course of the deployment. In particular, the DFT exercises provided excellent contingency construction skill training in addition to valuable experience living in field conditions. The Battalion also had the opportunity to train in many other construction skills including overhead concrete forming and placing, asphalt plant operations, crusher/quarry operations and water well drilling.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

Supply effectiveness, deadlined equipment, and NORS/ANORS requisitions were all impacted by budgetary constraints during the first part of the deployment. In particular, the initial shortage of \$250,000 in Stock Repair Shortages affected Supply on a daily basis. Nevertheless, with the help of Second Brigade's Supply Staff the Battalion overcame these problems and achieved remarkable progress in resolving difficulties due to the shortfall. Supporting the messing requirements of the DFT exercises and details was a constant challenge for both the Storekeepers (SKs) and Mess Specialists (MSs). Field support was especially difficult with the shortage of MSs. Reserve MSs augmented the mainbody and provided MSs to field messes in Colombia, Grenada, Trinidad and St. Kitts.

Contracting authority was granted to the Officers-in-Charge (OICs) of these details. Typically, the OIC was assigned a first class SK who managed an imprest fund which enabled the detail to make purchases of food, construction materials, and equipment parts on the local economy. This feature expedited operations and enhanced the detail's effectiveness.

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. Lessons Learned: Administration

a. Problem/Item: Navy-Wide Advancement Exams Requirements

Discussion: The SEABEES assigned to the remote DFT details initially experienced difficulty completing advancement requirements. The absence of local Personnel Support Detachments compounded the lack of SEABEE related advancement materials.

Action Taken/Recommendation: The mainbody Personnel Officer provided required advancement materials (Military/Professional Courses, PARs) by FAX, Express Mail, and hand delivery during detail visits by Battalion personnel. For future deployments, recommend early identification of eligible personnel who will be assigned to remote details so they can be provided with materials prior to deployment.

b. Problem/Item: Military Passports

Discussion: Increased tasking of DFT exercises has significantly increased passport requirements for battalion personnel.

Action Taken/Recommendation: Utilizing the Port Hueneme Personnel Support Detachment Passport Section and the training received from the Passport Processing Office in Washington, D.C., the Administrative Department processed all required passports for deployment. For future deployments, personnel assigned to details requiring passports should be notified of the required documents (i.e. birth certificate with a raised seal and picture) while enroute to the Battalion, and then be processed for a passport as soon as they report to the Battalion.

c. Problem/Item: Legal Office Manning

Discussion: Both the Legalman and Legal Officer transferred without reliefs during the deployment.

Action Taken/Recommendation: The Legalman was filled with a Yeoman from the Administrative Department, and the local Navy Legal Services Office provided the Legal Officer support to overcome this manning shortfall.

2. Narrative:

The Administrative Department, both the Personnel Division and the Administrative Division, successfully provided outstanding administrative support to the Battalion during the deployment. The Administrative Department successfully handled two exam cycles on deployment and coordinated the exams to minimize the impact to operations. Significant and creative efforts were made to allow remote details to take the exams at the scheduled time instead of a late exam. Exams were hand-carried to places where there was no mail service, and specially arranged C-12 aircraft facilitated pickup.

The Personnel Division maintained all Battalion service records in Camp Moscrip vice allowing detail OICs to take service records on site. All required service record verifications, updates, and entries were handled effectively by mainbody Personnelmen. By utilizing FAX machines, Express Mail, and detail visits, all personnel actions were executed promptly.

The Administrative Division, although manned mostly by inexperienced Yeoman, provided superb administrative support. Regular professional training and the expert leadership of a Chief Personnelman contributed significantly to the overall performance of the division. Additionally, the Administrative Division maintained legal support to the Battalion by designating a Yeoman to fill the Legalman billet gap.