

**NMCB FIVE
DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION
REPORT**



**ATLANTIC DEPLOYMENT
JULY 1995 - FEBRUARY 1996**



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ATLANTIC DEPLOYMENT
CAMP PHILLIPS, CAMP WHEELER
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
JULY 1995 - FEBRUARY 1996

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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

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 3132.1B
(b) COM TWO TWO NCR OPORDER 03-95
(c) FRAG ORDER 01 TO COM TWO TWO NCR OPORDER 03-95
(d) FRAG ORDER 02 TO COM TWO TWO NCR OPORDER 03-95

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 Phillips, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in July 1995 with details deployed to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, Vieques Island, Panama, Little Creek, Key West, and Norfolk. Three short fused disaster recovery details were also launched to Antigua, St Thomas and St John in response to devastation caused by Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn. NMCB FIVE also participated in three Deployment for Training exercises to the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Haiti. Separate after action reports were submitted to document the DFT activities in more detail.

3. My point of contact for the DCR is LCDR Bob McLean, Operations Officer, at (805) 982-4962 or DSN 551-4962 in Port Hueneme until 7 September, and then DSN 632-4077 in Okinawa.


J.M. BARRETT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**NMCB FIVE
ATLANTIC DEPLOYMENT
CAMP PHILLIPS, CAMP BULKELEY
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
JULY 1995 - FEBRUARY 1996**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 1995, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE deployed a 292 member mainbody to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, taking the helm of the 22nd NCR (Forward Element) in support of Operation SEA SIGNAL and Joint Task Force 160. Meanwhile, another 317 troops were spread over 7 other sites diversely distributed throughout the Atlantic theater. Before returning to homeport in February 1996, the Professionals had provided steadfast support to the largest ever U. S. humanitarian relief effort, endured the worst hurricane season in Caribbean history, deployed an armed detail to Haiti in support of Exercise FAIRWINDS, stood up a new detail in Norfolk, VA, and extended the NMCB FIVE footprint to 13 separate locations throughout the Caribbean and Eastern seaboard.

ADMINISTRATION

Operation SEA SIGNAL created a unique dispersion of the Yeomen and Personnelmen between Camp Moscrip and Gitmo, a challenge successfully met by the Administration Department. By deployment's end, the S1 shop had administered the September Navy Wide Advancement Exam for more than 100 active duty and 30 augmented reserve personnel, and processed over 300 evaluations, 500 awards, and 13 frockings.

TRAINING

A detailed deployment training plan, developed prior to departure from homeport, was executed in Puerto Rico. Based on the intense operational tempo in Gitmo, PT was the only training that took place there. In Puerto Rico, Combat Operations Center (COC) exercises, General Military Training (GMT), and combat skills training were continuously conducted. In anticipation of the armed Deployment for Training (DFT) to Haiti, over 250 personnel were able to qualify with the M-16 rifle.

OPERATIONS

After leaving homeport with plans and specs for only 4 projects, NMCB FIVE executed over 42,000 mandays of direct labor spread over 13 sites during the Atlantic deployment. Using a 390 member workforce composed of Battalion personnel, 78 Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) reservists, and Cuban migrant volunteers, the Professionals completed 23,000 mandays of construction in Gitmo, nearly 3 times the amount of direct labor project tasking at a main body site. Another 17,600 mandays were completed at 12 other sites, including 3 DFTs and 3 short fused disaster recovery details to Antigua, St Thomas, and St John after Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn pummeled the Eastern Caribbean.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

Supply services included Automotive Repair Parts (ARP), Central Tool Room (CTR), Material Liaison Office (MLO), Camouflage Utility Uniforms (CUU) Storeroom, Barbershop, Post Office, and Billeting Office. The NMCB FIVE staff was augmented with ADSW reservists to assist with processing 6,000 requisitions valued at over \$250,000, and maintaining 100% accountability of 156 pieces of controlled equipment. The CTR crew took custody of 276 tool kits containing 10,000 line items and 1,500 shelf stock items, and proceeded to retrograde 191 tool kits back to Puerto Rico and Gulfport. The MLO team took over 8,000 line items and 10 acres of material valued at \$7.4 million, processing 1,800 issues and 150 receipts monthly. In December, the MLO crew packaged and shipped 5,000 tons of material to Haiti aboard an MSC ship, and returned 18 leased tension fabric structures to the United States. MLO finished the deployment by packing and loading 14,000 tons of material for delivery to Puerto Rico, Norfolk, and Panama. The SHs returned \$200K of CUU items back to Puerto Rico, while the ARP crew consolidated 18 ULs of ARP into 7 ULs containing 25,000 line items that supported 311 pieces of CESE. The ARP staff posted an impressive 95% supply effectiveness for the deployment, and reduced 245 NORS/ANORS requisitions that existed upon arrival to 11 outstanding requests upon departure. The barbershop provided 1,500 haircuts at flexible hours and locations to best accommodate the troops, while the Post Office processed an astonishing 5,500 pounds of outgoing mail to keep the Battalion in contact with friends and loved ones. The Billeting Office berthed 370 personnel in 42 expandable housing units, making safety and comfort their number one priority. As SEA SIGNAL wound down and personnel departed Gitmo, berthing plans were continuously revised to provide maximum space for remaining personnel.

EQUIPMENT

In Gitmo, Alfa Company took custody of 311 pieces of Civil Engineer Support Equipment, and maintained a remarkable equipment availability of 85% in a facility designed for only 13 pieces. With the assistance of 25 ADSW reservists, the CMs worked 24 hours/day to reduce the turnover deadline of 31 units to only 6. By deployment's end, 237 pieces of CESE were retrograded to Haiti, Gulfport, and Puerto Rico, effectively restoring the Air Detachment capability to the Alert Battalion in the Atlantic. In Gitmo alone, Alfa Company recorded over 200,000 miles and 22,000 hours of equipment utilization during the deployment.

CAMP MAINTENANCE

There was no camp maintenance tasking in Gitmo, but the Battalion did expend 4,300 mandays of camp maintenance - 17% more than tasked- to restore Camp Moscrip to peak condition after the intense contingency operations in the Atlantic had severely limited maintenance capability in the camp over the past 2 years.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Lessons Learned:

a. Item. Service Record Maintenance

Discussion. All Battalion service records were maintained in Puerto Rico, because it was uncertain how long the majority of the Command would have to remain in Gitmo. The Battalion anticipated returning most of the Gitmo personnel to Puerto Rico in October based on identified tasking. However, the majority of the Gitmo personnel remained in Cuba until the end of deployment. Maintaining their service records in Gitmo would have eliminated some confusion, duplicate work, and added paperwork tracking requirements.

Recommendation: If a deployment site is manned with 150 or more personnel, maintain the service records at that site.

2. Narrative:

a. **Dental:** Although the Battalion dentist and his staff were located in Puerto Rico, they did come to Gitmo on two occasions to administer dental service to the assigned members. The Naval Station Gitmo dental clinic was utilized to administer these dental services.

b. **Medical:** The Battalion doctor was initially deployed to Gitmo, where he provided sick call services to the members of the 22nd NCR Forward and 1,200 members of JTF 160. While the Medical Officer was in Gitmo, one of the Battalion IDCs was assigned to the Dominican Republic DFT while the other IDC was assigned to the Grenada DFT. The Medical Officer and his supporting staff returned to Puerto Rico in October, coincident with the return of DFTs Dominican Republic and Grenada.

c. **Chaplain:** The Chaplain was deployed to Gitmo, while the RP was deployed to Puerto Rico. The Chaplain conducted 39 divine services with a cumulative attendance of 975, 15 services for Cuban migrants in their camps with a cumulative attendance of 125, 6 special services (Christmas, Thanksgiving) with a cumulative attendance of 300, and 16 bible studies with a cumulative attendance of 68. The Chaplain also closed 13 of 14 Family Advocacy cases while deployed.