

# ORIGINAL

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U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVEN  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

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From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN  
To: Commander Construction Battalions, U.S. Atlantic Fleet,  
Davisville, Rhode Island

Subj: Deployment Completion Report, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Deployment;  
forwarding of

Ref: (a) COMCBLANT INST 3121.1B

Encl: (1) MCB SEVEN Deployment Completion Report

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

*J. T. Acuff*  
J. T. ACUFF

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## I. GENERAL REVIEW

### A. DEPLOYMENT

The Battalion deployed to Guantanamo Bay in several stages as follows:

21 September 1964	Airlift (Advance Party)	23 Enlisted 3 Off
23 September 1964	USS ALCOR	18 Enlisted 0 Off
3-5 October 1964	Airlift (Main Body)	400 Enlisted 12 Off

The 21 September 1964 airlift was required for the advance party. The 23 September 1964 lift was required to provide for security and care of Battalion gear aboard the ship. The 3-5 October 1964 airlift provided transportation for the main body.

Battalion automotive and construction equipment which was ready for shipment, general cargo and some construction materials were shipped on the USS ALCOR on 23 September 1964. The remaining equipment and material were shipped via commercial shipping.

### B. ADVANCE PARTY

The advance party under the charge of the Operations officer arrived 22 September. They found the camp to be in a good state of repair except for the obviously needed structural repairs and building improvements which were beyond the scope of normal maintenance. The advance party worked on the off-loading of the equipment, cargo and material which arrived on the USS ALCOR and on other commercial ships prior to the arrival of the main body. All gear was moved to the Seabee Camp, conexes were positioned for unloading in the appropriate functional area and all project material was inventoried and readied for issue. MCB FOUR personnel were most cooperative and helpful in the transfer of information and records necessary for a smooth relief between the two battalions.

### C. CAMP EQUIPMENT

As a whole the camp was in good condition and needed no immediate reconditioning to berth and feed the battalion. This was due to the on sight relief of MCB FOUR. One barber chair was missing from the camp inventory, but was surveyed by MCB FOUR before their departure.

### D. SUPPORT FUNDS

Support costs for the deployment were approximately as anticipated. \$76,500.00 was originally assigned, and additional support funds in the amount of \$14,850.00 was received directly from PWC GTMO for extensive base defense work and miscellaneous other projects which were not assigned in the original workload but were accomplished by the battalion.

E. DISCIPLINE:

Discipline was not a great problem on this deployment. Disciplinary action was taken as noted below:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>RATED</u>	<u>NON-RATED</u>
SPCM	0	1
SCM	0	1
CO'S NJP	7	19

The two main causes for disciplinary action were (a) failure to go to appointed place of duty and (b) failure to obey a lawful order. The absence of a disciplinary problem is attributed to efforts to keep all hands occupied and recreation facilities available. A total of 138 personnel were able to visit the nearby islands of Puerto Rico, Haiti, and Jamaica mainly on ships undergoing training at the Naval Base. Intercommand and intrabattalion sports competition provided an excellent opportunity for all hands to participate in one sport or another.

Reenlistment rates have been low with a 4.25% for first reenlistments and 50.00% rate for career personnel. The low percentage of first reenlistments is attributed to the length of deployments and the relatively few number of shore duty billets available for Group VIII rates. The greater majority of those choosing not to reenlist were in the Reserve Program serving their 2 year active duty.

F. VIP'S:

The importance of the Naval Base prompted visits by many VIP's. A number of them took the opportunity to spend some time at the Seabee Camp and they are as follows:

Week of:	21 December 1964	Chief of Chaplains, RADM J. F. DREITH, CHC, USN and His Eminence Francis Cardinal SPELLMAN.
	4 January 1965	CDR J. M. DANIELS, CEC, USN and COMCBLANT Admin Inspection Party.
	8 March 1965	COMSERVLANT RADM J. W. AILES III, USN and COMCBLANT CAPT R. R. WOODING, CEC, USN.
	9 April 1965	DIRLANTDOCKS, RADM N. J. DRUSTRUP, CEC, USN.

Many other VIP's visited the battalion job sites and viewed the battalion defensive positions while manned. A partial list of these individuals is as follows:

Chief of Naval Operations - ADM MCDONALD, USN  
Vice Chief of Naval Operations - ADM RIVERO, USN  
Secretary of the Navy - the Honorable Paul NITZE  
Ass't Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management to the Honorable J. M. LONGSTREET.  
Area Public Works Officer, Caribbean - CAPT G. A. BUSBEE JR., CEC, USN

Public Works Officer, Caribbean,  
CAPT G. A. Busbee, CFC, USN.

All persons visiting the sites and the defensive positions expressed extreme satisfaction in the progress made by the battalion, the speed with which the work was being accomplished, and the general quality of the workmanship. They were also impressed with the proficiency displayed by MCB SEVEN personnel in defensive exercises and visits with the Seabee 106 recoilless rifle crews in their positions became a high point of all VIP tours.

#### G. RESERVES

Two reserve divisions augmented MCB SEVEN for ACUDUTRA. The first group (26 JAN - 5 FEB) consisted of 10 officers and 115 men of CB Reserve Divisions 5-12, 5-13, and 5-14. Training emphasized the completion of practical factors through actual on the job training; military training was also offered in those subjects not normally available at the reserve center.

The second reserve unit (8 MAR - 19 MAR.) included 13 Officers 187 men of CB Reserve Divisions 1-2, 1-5, 1-11, 1-17, and 1-23. The men were divided into two groups, one receiving military training for the 1st week, while the other worked on construction projects. The groups reversed positions for the second week of training.

It was noted that no provision by CBLANT or other higher authority has been made to take into consideration the support expenses and ammo from the battalion allowance during the periods of reserve training.

#### H. REDEPLOYMENT

The main body of the Battalion departed Davisville on board the USS York County (LST 1175) on 17 April. Previously an advance party plus the MCB SEVEN Drill Team had returned to Davisville by air. All of the off-loading of MCB ONE equipment and cargo plus on-loading of MCB SEVEN equipment and cargo was accomplished by MCB SEVEN in an around the clock 30 hour operation and provided excellent training for battalion personnel.

#### I. CAMP

A complete camp condition report including floor plans and photographs of each building was prepared as an aid to future battalions that will deploy to GTMO and for CBLANT planning purpose. This report was submitted previously by separate correspondence.

### II CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

#### A. PREDEPLOYMENT PLANNING

Plans and specifications for projects accomplished on the GTMO deployment were received from April 1964 until January 1965. The largest project in the deployment was assigned two weeks prior to the battalion's departure for GTMO. Further projects were assigned throughout the deployment and fill-in work was requested from PWC to balance the workload between rates. This type of project assignment necessitated thorough yet