

NMCB SEVEN

Deployment Completion Report



Okinawa Japan

April 1997-November 1997

Annette Island

Atsugi

Chinhae

Hawaii

Iwakuni

Pohang

Sasebo

Seoul

Thailand

Yokosuka



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVEN

UNIT 60252

FPO AA 34099-5061

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From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN

Subj: DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 3121.1B
(b) COMTHIRDNCB OPORDER 3-97

Encl: (1) Executive Summary
(2) Administration/Special Staffs
(3) Training
(4) Operations
(5) Supply and Logistics
(6) Equipment
(7) Camp Maintenance

1. Enclosures (1) through (7) are forwarded per reference (a).

2. In accordance with reference (b), U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN deployed to Camp Shields, Okinawa, Japan from April 1997 to November 1997 with Details deployed to Atsugi, Iwakuni, Sasebo, and Yokosuka Japan; Pohang and Seoul, Korea; Annette Island, Alaska, and Hawaii; and Deployments for Training to Chinhae, Korea, and Thailand.

3. NMCB SEVEN completed a "magnificent" deployment to the Western Pacific. We supported Exercise COBRA GOLD in Thailand and ALASKAN ROAD in Alaska, expended extensive effort throughout the deployment refreshing the facilities and equipment at Camp Shields, and conducted a deployed Field Exercise at the Central Training Area in Okinawa. We also seamlessly integrated more than 100 reservists on Active Duty for Training (ADT) and Annual Training (AT) into the mainbody, greatly enhancing our mission readiness and providing our reserve Seabee counterparts practical experience.

4. NMCB SEVEN consistently strives to maintain operational readiness to provide safe, quality, and responsive construction services. By focusing on people and

readiness, we hope that every SEVEN Seabee will have a challenging and professionally rewarding tour as part of the world's most versatile military engineering force. We continuously endeavor to create a professional working environment designed to help each individual achieve success. Accordingly, every man and woman in NMCB SEVEN is proud of the work outlined in the enclosed Deployment Completion Report.


G. E. EICHERT

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THE OPERATION

The Supply Department was successful in supporting the maintenance of the ship's stores, which were replenished during the tour. The ship's stores were maintained with the same care and attention as when the ship was in port. The ship's stores were maintained with the same care and attention as when the ship was in port. The ship's stores were maintained with the same care and attention as when the ship was in port.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ADMINISTRATION

The Department successfully maintained service records for the entire battalion, processed more than 100 reservists on ADT and AT orders, provided legal support, processed passports and TAD orders, administered 400 Reserve and Active Duty Navy Wide Examinations, and provided all other administrative support required to ensure a smooth deployment.

TRAINING

NMCB SEVEN completed more than 4,000 mandays of training during the deployment, including a deployed field exercise and rifle qualifications. The battalion conducted four embarkation evolutions in the deployment and redeployment of Details and DFT's throughout the Western Pacific.

OPERATIONS

NMCB SEVEN completed more than 34,000 mandays of project tasking in Okinawa and at Detail sites in Atsugi, Iwakuni, Sasebo, and Yokosuka, Japan; Pohang and Seoul, Korea; Annette Island, Alaska, and Hawaii; and Deployments for Training to Chinhæ, Korea, and Exercise COBRA GOLD, Thailand.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

The Supply Department successfully supported the mainbody and all Detail/DFT sites. Among improvements made in the outlets, the Micro Snap II system was updated with "Revision 3 MLO", which was used successfully to procure and track project materials. The food service operation was closed for five months while the Camp Shields Galley underwent extensive renovations. Battalion personnel subsisted out of Kadena Air Base's Marshall Dining Facility until the galley reopened in November. The CPO Mess operated on a limited basis, receiving subsistence support from Naval Hospital, Camp Lester. The wardroom operation was limited to two evening meals each week. The Supply Department, working closely with the THIRDNCB Detachment Officer in Charge and local Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, did a superb job restoring all food service operations in time for turnover with NMCB SEVENTY FOUR.

Enclosure (1)

ADMINISTRATION/PERSONNEL

1. LESSONS LEARNED:

a. PROBLEM/ITEM: Communications Shift.

DISCUSSION: The Detail sites experienced communications shift problems for the first few months during the deployment due to changes in assigned routing from servicing communications centers.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: Maintain close liaison with communications centers to ensure a change in routing indicators has not occurred. Provide proper PLADS and routing indicators to servicing communications centers. This should provide for a smooth transition. It is important to monitor and send test messages to Detail sites periodically to ensure message connectivity.

b. PROBLEM/ITEM: General Messages Files (GMFs).

DISCUSSION: The mainbody and Detail sites had problems early during deployment receiving GMF's such as NAVADMIN's, ALNAV's, NAVNEWS, etc., as well as some traffic addressed directly to NMCB SEVEN. The problem stemmed from interface of the new Air Force message system with the existing Navy system.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: After numerous attempts to troubleshoot with the Air Force Communications Center at Kadena AB, our RMI was able to establish "radioman" dialog and developed a working relationship with the center. The RMI's actions quickly achieved positive results for both the mainbody and Detail sites.

c. PROBLEM/ITEM: Short fused travel requirements.

DISCUSSION: PSA Okinawa has strict hours (0730-1530) and procedures. Short fused requirements or changes after a ticket has been issued caused problems.

Enclosure (2)

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: If at all possible, pick-up travel tickets 5 days prior to scheduled flight. All travel cancellations should occur 3 days prior to actual travel or a loss of ticket cost may occur. Copy of original orders should be forwarded to travel office at least 2 weeks prior.

d. **PROBLEM/ITEM:** Family Member I.D. Cards.

DISCUSSION: There was not an established way to process Family member I.D. cards whenever a reenlistment, advancement/promotion, or loss of an I.D. card occurred.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: Recommend working closely with PSD Gulfport; FAX applications directly to them. Upon receipt, PSD will notify the family member and schedule the visit to PSD.

2. **NARRATIVE:** The Administrative/Personnel Department successfully supported the entire battalion throughout the deployment. We processed 192 gains, transferred 60 personnel, and separated 55 personnel from the Navy. Additionally, TAD travel orders were processed for all personnel traveling to and from all Detail/DFT's sites.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1. LESSONS LEARNED:

a. **PROBLEM/ITEM:** Kadena Air Base Photo Lab.

DISCUSSION: The lab was helpful, but film development took approximately two weeks. Video equipment was not available.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: Close coordination and establishing a good working relationship with photo lab personnel will go a long way in meeting deadlines.

2. NARRATIVE: The Public Affairs Office provided news and photographic support to the battalion throughout the deployment. Photographic coverage was provided with both film and digital cameras. The digital camera was an outstanding tool allowing almost instant viewing of pictures taken. The battalion's activities were covered in the CBC Courier and in the Pacific Stars and Stripes. Stories for the Courier were submitted via electronic mail after photographs were scanned. Use of e-mail and digital photography greatly enhanced our ability to get the word out. In addition to normal newspaper coverage, two editions of our familygram "Magnificent Moments" were published. Each Detail/DFT, Company, and Department submitted articles. Each edition of "Magnificent Moments" was 40+ pages and was distributed to more than 600 battalion personnel and their families.

CHAPLAIN

1. LESSONS LEARNED:

a. PROBLEM/ITEM: Return and Reunion Workshop.

DISCUSSION: Funding was not available to send a team from CBC Gulfport Family Service Center to conduct a Return and Reunion workshop.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: Resources from Camp Butler, Kadena Air Base, and Fleet Activities Okinawa, were used for a workshop at mainbody. Likewise, workshops were held at Detail sites using local resources. Stress/Anger Management and Financial Management counsels are highly recommended during island orientation.

2. NARRATIVE: The Chaplain led an active Command Religious Program. Worship services for Protestant and Catholic personnel were held each week at the Camp Shields Chapel. Midweek Bible studies offered opportunities to participate in a 12 week Bible survey course and in July, a Sunday School and Fellowship Hour began. The format was informal and allowed time for Bible questions and a search for answers in Scripture.

Special events included a mini-concert by a Christian bluegrass band during a Sunday Worship service. Several events were planned and presented by a joint service Chaplain committee. There were beach party/barbecue's at Tori Beach and at Kadena Air Base, a Christian concert at Kadena Air Base, and a pig roast and sports day at Camp Shields. All events were free of charge.

Twenty-eight Seabees attended CREDO personal growth retreats and returned with very favorable comments. Members of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Chapel groups enjoyed a chapel picnic at the end of the deployment.

DENTAL

1. LESSONS LEARNED:

- a. PROBLEM/ITEM: Dental equipment repair.

DISCUSSION: The dental equipment repair technician from Camp Kinser was not always available to perform minor repairs of Camp Shields dental equipment.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATIONS: Maintain a small stock of repair parts for common problems on various dental equipment that can be easily repaired by a general dental technician.

2. NARRATIVE: Dental readiness remained above 93% with no major dental emergencies. The Department remained in contact with the Details/DFTs ensuring dental treatment was available and all required treatment was accomplished.

Contacts with the Camp Foster and Camp Lester Dental Clinics were established enabling treatment for every possible dental situation. A wide variety of dental prosthesis was fabricated for battalion personnel at the Kadena AB Dental Laboratory. Dental service capabilities at Camp Shields were up-graded by the installation of a new air compressor and X-ray unit.

MEDICAL

1. LESSONS LEARNED: None.

2. NARRATIVE: Medical readiness remained consistently at 96% and 1600 immunizations were provided. An efficient Sick Call program was established that treated 2643 patients. There were 2800 prescriptions filled in-house; 460 were filled at the hospital. Sixty (60) patients were consulted to the hospital. Smoking Cessation classes were attended by 45 people and at least 30% remained smoke-free.

SAFETY

ENGINEERING REPORT

1. LESSONS LEARNED:

a. PROBLEM/ITEM: Difficulty communicating with local contractors concerning safety on the job site.

DISCUSSION: There were minor incidents where concrete pump truck operators lost control of their hoses and nearly hit personnel. On one occasion, a pump truck boom hit an energized 13.8 KV line with personnel underneath.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: Screen battalion personnel for anyone that speaks the local language and have this person present during critical concrete placements. If no one is available, assign one person from the crew to direct with hand signals and closely monitor contractor personnel.

b. PROBLEM/ITEM: Difficulty in visiting every job site every day.

DISCUSSION: Job sites were geographically spread across Okinawa. Limited CESE assets made daily site visits to the most remote project sites difficult.

ACTION TAKEN/RECOMMENDATION: Safety was granted a "B" assigned vehicle to ensure a vehicle was available daily. When possible, Safety and QC personnel visited the job sites together.

2. NARRATIVE: The battalion's first priority is SAFETY. Safety statistics follow in the Summary/Statistics section.