

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4

*Historical
Information*



*“Construimus, Batuimus”
“We Build, We Fight”*



Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 Command History

The 4th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion was commissioned on May 11, 1942. Starting with 32 officers and 1,073 enlisted men, the 4th NCB's first assignment in World War II was to build advanced bases in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

In 1943, twenty-six men landed in Guam on D-day plus six and began building bases on the island. The balance of the Battalion soon followed. By 1945, the 4th NCB had moved to Okinawa to build roads, camps and a large ship repair facility in Baten, Korea. After the war's end, the 4th NCB was decommissioned as part of the nations armed forces reduction.

On February 12, 1951, an order was given to activate U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR. NMCB FOUR was commissioned March 9, 1951, at the U.S. Naval Yards and Docks, Norfolk, Virginia with eight officers and 282 enlisted men. NMCB FOUR was homeported in Davisville, R.I., and deployed to such diverse locales as: Bermuda; Port Lyautey, Morocco; Naples, Italy; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Trinidad; Ecuador; Newfoundland, Canada; Puerto Rico; Holy Loch, Scotland and Rota, Spain.

In 1962, NMCB FOUR was called into action at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, when the threat of attack from the Communist regime seemed imminent. Throughout the alert, the Seabees of NMCB FOUR worked with great speed fortifying the base's perimeter and assisting the Marines in base defense.

On 18 October 1965 orders were received assigning NMCB 4 to the Construction Battalion Center at Port Hueneme, California which would be the permanent duty station in the future. On 7 November personnel of the battalion boarded planes at Boston, Massachusetts and Quonset Point and took off for their new home in California. At Port Hueneme the battalion received military and technical training and numerous briefings on Viet Nam.

NMCB FOUR conducted four tours during the Vietnam War. In December 1965, the Battalion flew to Chu Lai, Vietnam. This was to be the first of many invaluable operations performed in Vietnam. In Chu Lai, FOUR repaired monsoon-ravaged airfields, installed runway lighting systems for night operations and built a helicopter-landing pad. A detachment was also sent to the Kham Duc Airfield near the Laotian border. In August 1966 the Battalion returned to its new homeport in Port Hueneme for leave and retraining.

The second Vietnam deployment was to Da Nang in March 1967. The Battalion worked at the Da Nang Air Base, dug wells at the Special Forces Camp at Con Thien and built a galley for the Marines. NMCB FOUR returned to Port Hueneme in October. Four months later in February 1968, the Battalion returned to Vietnam.

During its third deployment, the Battalion did essential construction projects along the Vietnam coastline and national highway Route One. In Quang Tri and Camp Evans, the Seabees built facilities for Commander, Naval Forces Vietnam. Approximately half the Battalion redeployed to the Da Nang area. The other half went south to the region of Phu Bai. Key Phu Bai projects included constructing aircraft revetments, laying 85,000 square-feet of steel aircraft matting for the Marine Air Group strip and laying 18 miles of eight inch fuel line from Wonder Beach to Quang Tri.

In the north, the other detachment at Camp Haines built the Army's Camp Evans. The Battalion erected nearly 1,000 wooden buildings, resurfaced and matted a 2,900 foot aircraft runway, and constructed 23 miles of eight inch oil supply line. In October, NMCB FOUR returned to the United States after having one of the busiest deployments of any battalion in Vietnam. It then conducted a fourth tour in Vietnam from April 1969 to December 1969.

In the 1970s, NMCB FOUR deployed to such places as Diego Garcia, Guam, Hawaii, and Japan. During this decade, the Battalion completed over 3,800 structures at the Guam relocation site for Vietnamese refugees during Operation NEW LIFE.

The Battalion was called into action again after Typhoon Tip destroyed the U.S. Marine Barracks at Camp Fuji in 1979. The Seabees rebuilt the barracks and operated a Military Affiliate Radio Station until normal lines of communication were restored.

The 1980s brought the Battalion to new regions around the world including Bahrain, Greece, Crete, Palau, Yap (U.S. Trust Territories), Egypt, Kusco, Panama, Costa Rica, Africa, Korea, and Sicily. In 1989, the Battalion's Air Detachment participated in Operation TEAM SPIRIT, providing contingency construction support to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) at Camp Pohang, Republic of Korea.

NMCB FOUR redeployed from Camp Moscrip, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to Camp Rohrbach, Saudi Arabia during Operation DESERT SHIELD in August 1990. While redeployed, the battalion set up a 2,000 man tent camp, built a 3,600 foot taxiway, 20 hides (parking stalls) and other projects in support of U.S. and Allied Forces in the Middle East. On June 15, 1991, responding to the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, NMCB FOUR mobilized from its deployment site at Camp Shields, Okinawa, to the Republic of the Philippines. The battalion worked around the clock the help the Subic Bay Naval Complex recover by clearing roadways and collapsed buildings, restoring utilities and building shelters in the area devastated by 12 inches of volcanic ash.

In the wake of Hurricane Andrew on August 24, 1992, the battalion mounted out a 150 man Air Detachment and conducted the largest Seabee airlift ever as part of the disaster relief efforts in the communities of Homestead and Florida City, Florida. NMCB FOUR, along with nine other Seabee units, reopened a local school, cleared debris, restored utility services and provided valuable assistance to private residences, government facilities and volunteer organizations.

In December 1994, NMCB FOUR deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation SEA SIGNAL to construct facilities for 20,000 Cuban migrants. The 35 million dollar quality of life improvement program consisted of two cities on 125 and 150 acre sites. Work included constructing 1,341 strong back tents, building 67 concrete block buildings, installing over 17 miles of underground piping and 53 miles of electrical cable and placing 11,700 cubic yards of concrete.

In 2002, NMCB FOUR sent its Air Detachment and Water Well Team to Basilian Island, Philippines, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM-Philippines. The Air Detachment repaired roads, constructed sea huts, bridges and helicopter landing zones and installed water wells to support U.S. Forces.

During the 2003 deployment, NMCB FOUR deployed to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) I to help sustain combat

They made history as the first Seabees to reach Baghdad with Rask Force Mike. After the war phase , NMCB FOUR relocated to Camp Hope in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, where they worked with local contractors rebuilding a courthouse, a jail, police station, and 18 schools. The Battalion's Air Detachment also deployed to Iraq, via Spain and Turkey, to repair numerous schools and community interest items in the cities of An Najaf and Karbala.

During the 2004-2005 deployment, NMCB FOUR's main body deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq, in Southwest Asia (SWA). There, and in other Forward Operating Bases, Seabees provided construction and camp maintenance support to American and Allied forces operating in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Five other Seabee Details were deployed to various global locations including Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Andros, Caribbean Islands; Rota, Spain; Sigonella, Sicily; and Souda Bay, Crete. Also, a Deployment for Training was sent to Dukat, Albania to complete a few humanitarian projects. Individuals from NMCB FOUR were awarded the ADM Ben Moreell Medal, RADM Combs Award, Stethem Award, Marvin Shields Award, and the Navy League's Collins and Rickets Awards.

In March 2007, the Battalion and its DETs deployed for seven months to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of CENTCOM, to Guam and Palau as well as DFT Talisman Saber in Australia in support of PACOM, and the Alaska and San Nicolas Island in support of NORTHCOM. During its deployment, NMCB FOUR earned the reputation as being the go-to battalion for contingency and peacetime construction around the world.

In August 2008, NMCB FOUR personnel deployed to 13 different DET sites on four different continents in support of construction requirements for CENTCOM, EUCOM, AFRICOM, and SOCOM. NMCB FOUR truly was deployed around the world supporting the Global War on Terror, humanitarian and community relation projects strengthening the positive role of today's Seabee.

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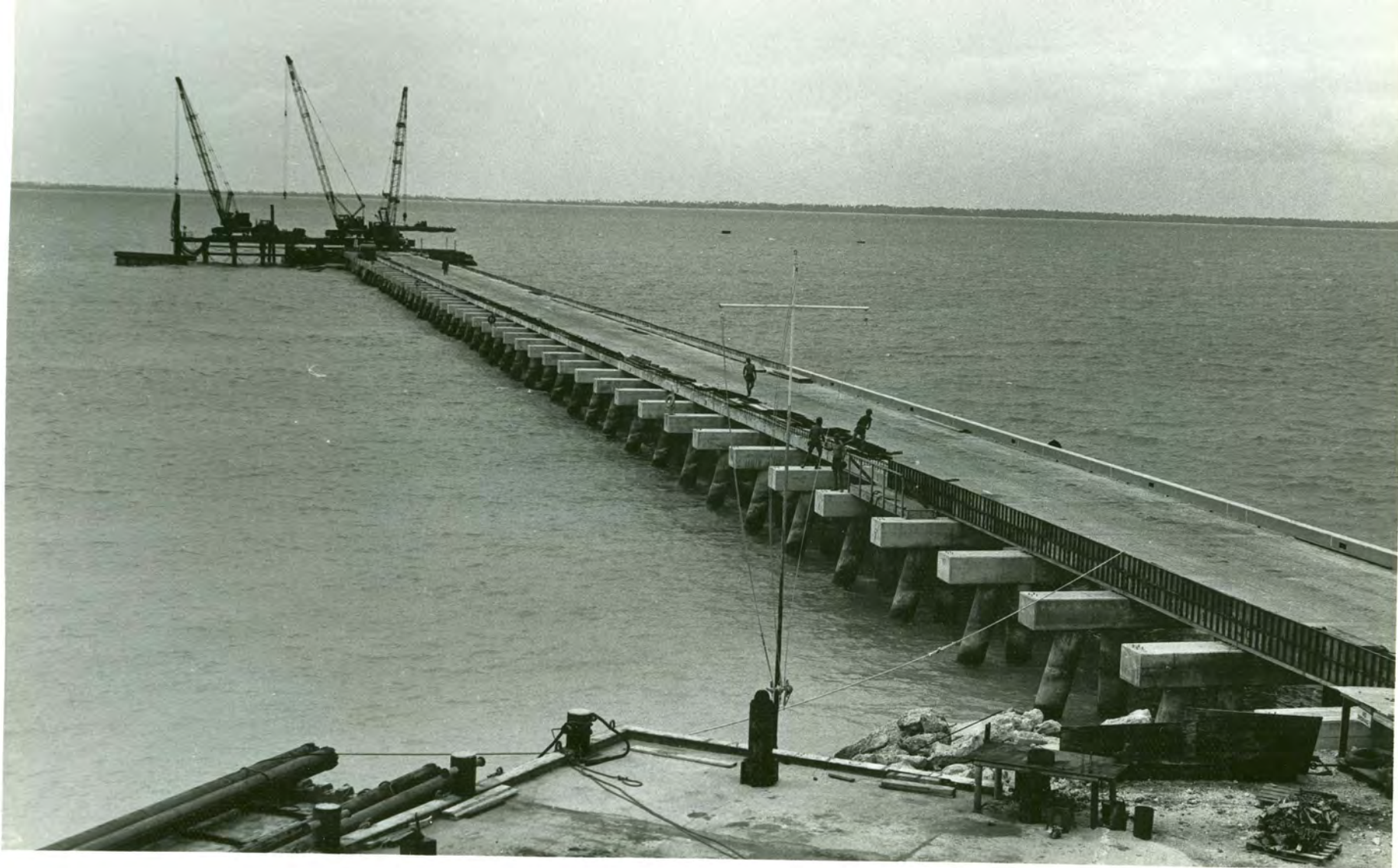
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Pier Team: Looking east over entire
Pier and Trestle.



