

NMCB-ONE DET ROTA SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TWO DAY CPX
By: LT Ronald J. Jenkins, CEC, USN - NMCB-ONE DET ROTA

CAMP MITCHELL ROTA, SPAIN – U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE (NMCB ONE) in Rota recently completed two days of valuable hands-on training to prepare for future contingency operations as well as further reinforce readiness by training NMCB ONE's Air Det in depth.

The Air Det is an advance element designed to rapidly deploy from its main-body NMCB to perform contingency construction and engineering operations. The Air Det is specifically organized, trained, and equipped for rapid deployment via strategic air, land, and sea assets provided by their prospective service to perform Engineering planning and light to medium horizontal, vertical, and specialized construction for advance base construction and war damage. The Air Det is also an augmentation unit capable of supporting the short-term Engineering requirements of forward deployed Marine Expeditionary Units.

The command post exercise was conducted on Rota's Camp Mitchell. Each platoon practiced command and control procedures to test communications to ensure their readiness for any given situation. The platoons trained in sector defense and communication scenarios with the command post while obtaining on training in the Command Post tent receiving and passing information from an established higher headquarters to the front lines and vice versa.

Although "The First and The Finest's" Air Det proved they have what it takes to establish and maintain good communications, they weren't satisfied merely with success – they wanted more. To

improve their readiness, they conducted some additional hands-on training in other key areas provided by Naval Station Rota's Marine Security Force, known as Europe's Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team, or (FAST).

The Marine Security Force from NAVSTA Rota also provided in-depth training consisting of land navigation, security patrols, protestor riot control, and REACT drills, as well as entry control point procedures with vehicle and personnel searches. "This type of hands-on training provided by the Marines was exciting and motivating," stated BU3 (SCW) Michael McCuller, "it was definitely a great change to get away from classroom training and improve what we are good at, as well as learn from the Marines."

The Seabees of Rota were able to compete against one another on weapons drills led by CMC(SCW) Lenzi. Each platoon performed timed exercises on setting up and mounting crew served weapons on HMMVWs as well as ground mounts. A platoon was divided up into fire teams for timed assembly of the crew served weapons, which created a fierce but friendly competition between the teams. "This training evolution was my favorite because I enjoyed the competition and beating my teammates", said EO3 (SCW) Matthew Zeiser. EO3 Zieser and the other Seabees will have the opportunity to challenge each other as Rota's Super Squad training opens up for competition in the near future.

"I was very pleased with their performance on the CPX," states LT Ronald Jenkins, ONE's Air Det Officer In Charge. "We have a great challenge ahead of us with possible future contingencies and need

to stay ready. This type of training is exciting because there is always room for improvement, no matter how good you think you are.”