

104th CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

104th Civil Engineering Squadron

Redesignated 104th Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Westfield, MA

ASSIGNMENTS

104th Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Peter J. Macek, #1987

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

2008 After having a presence on the base for nearly 60 years, the craftsmen section of the 104th Civil Engineer Squadron was closed here in a ceremony on March 1 at 1:30 p.m. The drawdown of forces is a result of military downsizing brought about by the Air Force Reduction in Force initiative and is not associated with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's mandated change in the 104th Fighter Wing mission. The craftsmen made up the largest group of the civil engineer squadron, comprising the carpenters, plumbers, fuel technicians, heavy equipment operators, electricians, engineering, HVAC technicians, civil engineer management and power plant operations.

With this change, the squadron is comprised of the fire department and emergency management sections, an explosive ordnance disposal unit (EOD) and an S-team, which serves as a command, control and quality assurance element. The result of this reorganization is that Civil Engineering will be shifted from a construction and base operations function to a highly specialized emergency services provider.

There will be nearly 40 displaced personnel as a result of the action. The 40 members will need to cross-train, find positions in other squadrons on base or at other units within the state and region, or retire. The group, commonly referred to as the "Prime BEEF Team," was comprised of 55 members from the craftsman section. Some members of Prime BEEF have been absorbed into the new mission or have left Barnes at their re-enlistment date as a result of the news. Prime BEEF had remained one of the most actively deploying units on the base, most recently they deployed to San Diego, Calif., last March. The team deployed for 30 days in support of Operation Jumpstart, which is a U.S. Border Patrol project to help control immigration along the U.S.-Mexican border. Other highlights include large and small scale deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003-2007.

WESTFIELD, Mass. - With excitement and anxiety 27 members of the 104th Fighter Wing's Security Forces and Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit stood proudly in formation during the wing's official send-off ceremony at Barnes Air National Guard base here, Dec 21, 2010. For the fifth time in nearly five years the members from the security forces squadron will be heading overseas in support of operations in the central command area of responsibility.

In addition, a member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit will also be traveling overseas; the EOD members rotate in and out of the AOR. With limited manning, each year, one of the four team members is engaged in contingency operations overseas. With family members surrounding the formation, Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, The Adjutant General, Massachusetts National Guard, along with state and local officials, addressed these warrior-airmen. "You should be proud of your impact on this nation," said Carter.

"History will proclaim to generations not yet born, that you served with distinction and honor, defending the freedoms we all enjoy." Nearly one half of the deploying group is preparing for their first overseas operation, fresh out of school and trained in the most advanced weapons systems and tactics, these members will be providing air base defense; securing American and coalition forces, engaged in a new Operations in Iraq supporting Operation New Dawn. Col. Robert Brooks, commander, 104th Fighter Wing, was in the Kobar Towers, when an insurgent detonated a bomb, killing 19 Airmen. He said that if it wasn't for the selfless actions of a security force member, Staff Sgt. Alfredo Guerrero, more would have been killed.

He used this account to inspire the Airmen to be vigilant and know that their actions can and will have a measurable positive impact on the war overseas, just as they have supporting the homeland defense mission here at home. "I am excited to serve," said Airman Christopher Krutka. "This is my first opportunity to deploy and I was very happy that my family was able to come to the ceremony to support me." The unit, commanded by Maj. Steve Reynolds will be deploying in a few weeks, following the New Year, and will be returning near Independence Day. During his remarks, Maj. Reynolds stressed how important families are to the deploying Airman. He later introduced all the family members in attendance to Sandy Wakefield the Family Support Coordinator and explained that she was there to support them, as they support their deployed family members.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.