

# 114<sup>th</sup> CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

## **MISSION**

The mission of the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron is to provide Prime Beef personnel capable of deploying anywhere in the world, including bare bases and support aircraft operations with bed-down, rapid runway repair, operations, and maintenance support, and crash/fire suppression activities.

At home and abroad, CES performs several functions to maintain critical facilities. Examples include: plumbing, carpentry, power production, electrical work, emergency management, supply, engineering and project management, liquid fuels, heavy equipment operations and heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC). They will also continue to support ongoing joint planning with other U.S. and host nation services.

## **LINEAGE**

114<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron

## **STATIONS**

Sioux Falls, SD

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

114<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC Ronald Mielke, #1986

LTC Al Punt

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Civil Engineering has not avoided reorganization and restructuring. The Services Flight transferred out and Air Base Operability transferred in. A recent national downsizing and change in Prime BEEF (Prime Base Engineer and Emergency Force) force structure created lead units and down-sized follow-on units. The 114th, fortunately, was classified a lead unit with 107 engineers, 24 firemen, and six disaster preparedness personnel ready for world wide deployment.

These deployments in recent years provided quality wartime training of all personnel. Task Force Rushmore (1993) in Panama was a joint ARNG/ANG nation-building project involving thousands of people rotated in two week increments. As the lead unit, CES, including Crash-Fire-Rescue personnel, participated in planning, layout, fire protection and construction of the base furnishing several personnel for the duration of the project. This was a project that was very satisfying for everyone. We got excellent training in our crafts, made friends with ARNG and ANG members from throughout the country, and performed a humanitarian mission having a long-term affect on the quality of life for local Panamanians.

During Desert Storm we had many volunteers for active duty. Twelve firemen deployed to the Tonapah, NV, test range for the duration of hostilities. Civil Engineer personnel have become world class travelers. They have seen the beaches of Hawaii and the glaciers of Alaska. In the European theater, they have seen the castles in Germany and the Thames in England. They have fished the lakes of Canada, and for a little southern flavor, they've been to both Puerto Rico and Jamaica. The deployment to Jamaica was an "eye-opening" experience for some members; especially the ones who visited the nude beaches. Every trip resulted in high praise. One of CFR's most memorable rescues was the resuscitation of an injured cockatiel on a Hawaiian beach front.

A big part of the Civil Engineer full time force are both the State Maintenance Staff and State Fire Fighters. Our facilities have been identified as the "Best Seen to Date" by 12AF and many others. This honor is a direct result of our dedicated maintenance team. In 1991, 24 State Firefighters were hired, bringing a professional, full-time force to Joe Foss Field and the SDANG. Prior to this we had a fire chief, city crew, and part-time augmenters, as required.

We have always taken a lead role in energy conservation, environmental issues, and recycling

materials. Environmentally, Joe Foss Field is among the best in the nation.

The Squadron has seen many changes in leadership due to promotions and retirements. Two former commanders, BG Rittershaus and Col Mielke, were promoted to Assistant Adjutant General, Air. Long term contributors were CWO4 Tom Hanson, 39 years; CMSgt Glen Black, 36 years; SMSgt Carl Dellman, 40 years; SMSgt Moe Olson, 38 years; SMSgt Dale Me Dowell, 32 years; and MSgt Harry Hoffman, 35 years. These individuals laid the groundwork for the successes we enjoy today.

Construction continues at a feverish pace. We have a Base Master Plan to take us well into the 21st century. Buildings are second to none and getting better. Our recent acquisition of land on the west side of the airport is the new home to a vast munitions complex and hush house. The Duke Corning Composite building is outstanding.

We recruit quality personnel, train them in our specialized tasking and are fully ready and willing to meet any task requested by the Governor or President. The future of the Civil Engineer Squadron is in good hands.

Overseas deployments seem to be getting longer and more frequent for SDANG members. The latest group of Airmen from the South Dakota Air National Guard to take their turn in the line of duty hails from the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron. The 114th CES PRIME BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force) team recently deployed 52 Airmen to Southwest Asia to work on numerous projects to support combat airpower in the Global War on Terror.

The deployment took place in five phases with the first and largest group leaving shortly after Christmas and the rest at the beginning of January. They will be overseas approximately six months. Of those Airmen on the deployment, four are full time technicians. The other 48 are traditional guardsmen, six of whom are college students. No matter what their jobs might be at home, while on active duty, they are all proud members of the PRIME BEEF Squadron.

At the mobilization ceremony at Joe Foss Field Dec. 6, Col. Walz said the 114th's training has prepared them to be "the best squadron in the best Air Force in the world." Jorenby agrees saying the 114 CES is a good crew and they will do a fine job on this deployment. The 114 CES definitely has reason to boast. In 2004, the SDANG Engineers and Emergency Management Flight were chosen as "Most Outstanding" within the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

"Our original title was the Air Installations Office" said Senior Master Sgt. (Ret) Carl O. Dellman. "We were in the building in front of the old operations building, where the Club and chaplains office used to be." Dellman, a retired member of the 114th Civil Engineers Squadron, former Prime BEEF and proud force provider reflects. Dellman spent 42 years serving with the 114th Civil Engineer Flight, now the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron. The unit relocated to building 47 in 1975, a facility built in 1942, where they resided until the completion of the new building in January. Many of the older members of the civil engineer

squadron never thought they'd see the day that this modern \$7.6 million facility would be built.

"The first Form 1391 was completed by then Major Dave Holman back in 1989" said 1st Lt. Lance Niewenhuis, 114th CES Project Manager. "As we all know, that major is now Brig. Gen. Dave Holman, our Assistant Adjutant General for Air."

Another retiree who was skeptical and never thought he'd see this day is Lt. Col. (Ret) Tom Molohon, former CES commander. He used to say that he would never see a new Civil Engineer building in his lifetime. Lt. Col. Alvin Punt, current 114th CES commander, joked at the buildings groundbreaking ceremony 20 months ago, "Tom, you'd better start making arrangements!" Lt. Col. Punt added, "We are fortunate to have had support from our congressional delegation for this project. This facility will continue to meet the needs of future South Dakota Air National Guard engineer missions and personnel for years to come." As you enter the new facility it is apparent that it was designed with engineers in mind. The glass wall exposing the elevator, the exposed duct work, and the industrial looking stairway all reflect appearances that engineers can appreciate. The building is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and essentially tripled the previous space the squadron occupied. Command, Operations, Site Development, HVAC, Electrical, Power Production, Structural, Utilities, Resources/Supply, Emergency Management and Heavy Equipment all have their own facilities within the new complex. The state maintenance staff also has shop facilities within the building.

A new storage facility means that the full complement of CES Prime BEEF, or Base Engineer Emergency Force, mobility and response equipment can be adequately protected from the elements. A purpose built Operations Center will mean better command and control capability during emergencies and disasters. The multi-purpose classroom facility can be set up in numerous configurations to meet mission requirements.

A new feature is being installed in Building 49. It's known as a Mass Notification System. The system will alert the building's occupants to the presence of a wide array of threats such as a security incident, severe weather, a technological emergency or other base-wide emergencies. Both visual and audible warnings will sound when commanded. The system will eventually alert all computer users, as well as ring desk phones and send text messages.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Overseas deployments seem to be getting longer and more frequent for South Dakota Air National Guard members. The latest group of Airmen to take their turn in the line of duty hails from the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES). The 114th CES PRIME BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force) team recently deployed 52 Airmen to Southwest Asia to work on numerous projects to support combat airpower in the Global War on Terror. The deployment took place in five phases with the first and largest group leaving shortly after Christmas and the rest at the beginning of January. Those deployed will be overseas approximately six months. Of those Airmen, four are full-time technicians. The other 48 are traditional Guard members, and includes six college students. At home and abroad, CES

performs several functions to maintain critical facilities. Examples include: plumbing, carpentry, power production, electrical work, emergency management, supply, engineering and project management, liquid fuels, heavy equipment operations and heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC). It will also continue to support on-going joint planning with other U.S. and host nation services. Almost half of the members are deploying for their second time to Southwest Asia, but for Master Sgt. Tonja Jorenby, the trip marks her third long deployment overseas. She says deployments are a chance to really do the job she's trained to do...to make the base better for everyone it serves. At the mobilization ceremony at Joe Foss Field on Dec. 6, Co. Russ Walz said the 114th's training has prepared it to be "the best squadron in the best Air Force in the world." Jorenby agrees saying the 114th CES is a good crew and will do a fine job on this deployment. In 2004, the SDANG Engineers and Emergency Management Flight were chosen as 'Most Outstanding' within the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.2009

The 114th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed more than 60 percent of its members in support of flood relief efforts along the Missouri River dam system. They also deployed more than 40 members to Suriname, our State Partnership Program country, to work in cooperation with the South Dakota Army National Guard in the construction of a medical clinic. The fire operations flight deployed to Offutt AFB, Neb., to provide needed backfill support in addition to fire protection activities during Offutt's air show. 2011 also saw the construction of four new buildings on base, along with the demolition of two of the oldest facilities, including the World War II-era civil engineering building. With diligent energy management, the Civil Engineer Squadron again helped the wing reach the Air Force energy reduction goals for 2011.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.