

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



## LINEAGE

184th Civil Engineering Flight, 18 Oct 1969

Redesignated 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, 1 Jul 1985

Redesignated 184th Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

## STATIONS

McConnell AFB, KS

## ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

LTC Tunice K. Blair, 18 Oct 1969

Cpt Cullen A. Hollister, 9 May 1977

Maj Robert E. Frey, 3 Dec 1978

LTC Tunice K. Blair, 9 May 1980

Maj Robert E. Frey, 22 Feb 1981

Maj Gary A. Urbanek, 21 Oct 1984

Maj James E. Miller Jr., 3 Dec 1989

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

**EMBLEM**

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

**OPERATIONS**

The squadron is a rapidly deployable team of highly skilled professionals providing facility and support infrastructure maintenance, repair, and construction; environmental compliance; emergency management in support of federal and civilian authorities; bare base beddown; and base or community recovery after attack or natural disaster. Civil Engineer team includes the following specialties: electrical, power production, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, heavy equipment operators, structural, utilities, pest management, engineering, operations, and emergency management.

The 184th Civil Engineer Squadron was composed of approximately 90% Traditional Guard members and 10% full-time who accomplished the Prime BEEF mission. Prime BEEF stands for Primary Base Engineer Emergency Force. Prime BEEF teams were very mobile usually requiring only one pallet of tools and equipment and could be transported anywhere in the world on short notice for contingency response. The concept was developed early in the Cold War to augment European co-located bases prior to a potential enemy attack. Prime BEEF could rapidly deploy to perform initial bed down of US Airmen, prepare the base for attack, and then respond to the attack with facility repairs. Efficiency in performing Rapid Runway Repair historically was the Prime BEEF forte. The mission required a high level of skill in most construction disciplines and continuous skill upgrade training. The full-time members filled roles as members of the deployable Prime BEEF team and were also directly involved in McConnell AFB and Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range infrastructure sustainment including all buildings, grounds, and supporting utilities. Approximately 26 State of Kansas civilian employees were members of Base Civil Engineering and provided in-house facility maintenance, janitorial, administration and design support services.

On 18 October 1969, sixty-eight personnel would leave the 184th Combat Support Squadron, to form the 184th Civil Engineering Flight, with Major Tunice K. Blair as Commander, and MSgt Garry A. Rayl as acting First Sergeant.

The 184th CEF "PRIME BEEF" team deployed to Nellis AFB Nevada during the period 20-24 August 1972, for an evaluation exercise conducted by the Air Force Civil Engineering Center. This was their first evaluation since formation of the team in 1969. The formal report rated them Outstanding on eight of the thirteen areas evaluated. The team also deployed to Cheyenne Wyoming, from 24 August through 2 September 1972, and provided 3,530 man hours toward construction of four Air Base projects. Their efforts were recognized in a certificate from the Governor of Wyoming expressing appreciation for the outstanding performance and patriotic service rendered during this deployment.

The 184 TFTG had also developed more productive and cost-effective ways to perform the overall unit mission. An illustrative effort was the modification project at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range accomplished by the 184th Civil Engineering Flight during the 1977 annual training period. The project converted the headquarters building into a composite facility to include a vehicle maintenance area, administration area, and the civil engineering maintenance shop. The modification upgraded electrical service and insulation specifications. It resulted in the closure of two buildings with significant future savings in building maintenance and utilities cost. Along with this a scorable tactical range was developed and opened for use by all

units. The Smoky Hill complex is now rated superior in comparison with other tactical weapons ranges. The unit coordinated with the Kansas Army National Guard Heavy Equipment Company to build, during their annual training period, a mock Soviet airfield. This target complex consists of runways, taxiways, POL areas, and a revetment area. All this work was done at a minimal cost because of the utilization of Annual Training resources.

December 10, 1980, the Governor's Office announced approval of a contract for construction of nearly two million dollars in new facilities for the 184th. The construction of a new Jet Engine Maintenance building (Building 37) and a major addition to the Avionic Maintenance building were the result of two years of planning and design work by the 184th Civil Engineering Flight, and Lieutenant Col T. K. Blair. The construction contract was awarded to Cornejo and Sons Construction Company, Wichita, Kansas, under success was due to the hard work of the aircrews, mechanics, and all the support personnel.

Other activities that were held during 1985 included: The 184th Civil Engineering Flight and cooks from the 184th Combat Support Squadron deployed in March to Panama City, Panama, to assist an active duty Red Horse unit from Eglin AFB, Florida, with base accomplishments. 184th personnel again participated in the Wichita River Fest activities 1019 May, along with the F-4 flyover provided by the unit pilots. Unit personnel donated time, money and efforts, along with KSN-TV personnel, to turn an empty lot at 14th and

Following the end of the Cold War in 1989, the National Guard Bureau struggled to justify the numbers of Civil Engineering teams and personnel. Gen Eisenhower once said that when you go to war, you can never have enough engineers. Desert Storm came along in 1991 followed by Southern Watch, Northern Watch and the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. The National Guard Bureau demonstrated that ANG Civil Engineers could, on a voluntary basis, substitute for and become interchangeable with active duty Air Force Civil Engineers in AEF rotations which later supported Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Prime BEEF training evolved to bare base bed down operations, and improving the quality of life for airmen deployed to the desert environment. Unit members volunteered for numerous assignments in Southwest Asia locations including Iraq.

In order to practice the mobilization and employment of Prime BEEF forces in deployed locations, the Air National Guard deployed the 184 CES to several locations. Since 1986, the unit deployed to the United Kingdom three times, Germany, Canada twice, several states including Alaska, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Louisiana, North Dakota, Arkansas and others. Also, the unit deployed to the north Gulf Coast of Panama to participate in Nation building projects followed by trips to Costa Rica and Belize. Nation building projects included the construction of a concrete and steel school in Costa Rica to replace a school made of trees and thatch, repair of several dilapidated schools and medical clinics in Panama, and construction of a clinic for retired native people in Belize.

In January 1994 the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to Belize in support of the US Army. In February the "transition ball started rolling". The Reduction in Force (RIF) process began as people were moved to new positions on the B-1B manning document. This transition

would prove to be one of the toughest changes the unit had faced in recent years. Not only would we change airframes, the unit would also move its flight line and much of its maintenance to the east side of the runway into the middle of the Active Duty maintenance complex. So for the next year the focus would be transferring F-16s out, accepting the "new" B-1s, training and learning life in one of the largest aircraft in the world. It would prove difficult, but the Jayhawk tradition would survive and thrive in this new environment.

The 184th Civil Engineer Squadron has responded to several mission changes since the late 1970s. Conversion from the F-105 to the F-4 to the F-16 required construction of numerous new facilities to support 184th missions. The extra requirements for the Replacement Training Unit mission allowed the 184 CES to negotiate for larger and better equipped facilities making it one of the largest and best equipped Air Guard bases of the day. In addition, Civil Engineering initiated a 35 item base aesthetic improvement plan in 1988 which was largely supported by Wing funding. The improvements included planting trees, paving roads and parking lots, installing sprinkler systems, replacing unsightly drainage ditches with storm drains, demolishing old buildings, eliminating unsightly overhead electrical lines, etc. Successful execution of the original plan was largely responsible for the present world class appearance of the Kansas Air National Guard complex.

Deployed for 18 days to Nevatim Air Base, Israel, in support of United States F-16. Constructed F-16 shelter, installed roof and concrete driveway on Munitions Maintenance Facility, completed all interior finish work on four United States dormitories

Members of the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron prepared land for installation of the rail disaster training site at Crisis City, a new joint use training facility at the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center near Salina.

Deployed for 14 days to Helemano Plantation, Hawaii, to support the Wellness Learning Center. Completed all interior and exterior finish work; final heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; and final electrical wiring.

Completed construction of \$3.2 million state-of-the-art Command and Control Squadron Facility.

Completed construction of \$2 million dining facility -- Project completion culminates more than five years of planning, providing much needed extra space for Services personnel.

Completed construction of more than \$1 million in other projects in support of Kansas Air National Guard operations at McConnell Air Force Base and Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range.

Deployed 49 personnel to Silver Flag military training site in New London, N.C., in preparation for Air Expeditionary Force deployment. Training was conducted jointly with Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Reserve forces. Supported the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range with multiple construction projects, including \$6 million project constructing multiple new state-of-the-art facilities across the range and \$2 million in projects, jointly

executed with Saline County officials, to rebuild critical off-range access roads for Army and Air National Guard personnel. Awarded more than \$10 million in other construction projects in support of Kansas Air National Guard operations at McConnell Air Force Base.

Deployed 37 personnel to Kuwait and Afghanistan to provide base operating support, senior airfield authority and critical infrastructure repair

Completed multiple improvements at Smoky Hill Weapons Range, including a \$6 million project constructing state-of-the-art range facilities

Completed more than 165,000 square feet of energy-efficient closed-loop ground source heat pump geothermal heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades

Began construction of \$9 million consolidated Intelligence campus, adding more than 45,000 square feet of state of the art facility

3/2010 - PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFNS) -- The bright clothing, smiles and conversation could be taking place in any hospital lobby in the world. Patients are being admitted, treated and released. But a flurry of French and the grinding whirl of a helicopter nearby reveal the reality that this is Haiti. A brutal sun burns over the tent, while the floor is dust and rock. The patients survived Haiti's Jan. 12 earthquake. They've been flown from the USNS Comfort, the Navy's 1,000-bed floating hospital that has been deployed here. A handful of Navy translators are helping survivors to find rides back to their families. Sailors aboard the Comfort are working at their full operational capacity. Officials say it would take 100 more such ships to treat all of the estimated injured people in Haiti. Meanwhile, civil engineers from the Kansas Air National Guard are expanding one of the medical triage facilities in Port-au-Prince by assembling an expeditionary medical support hospital. About 40 members of the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron from Topeka, Kan., and five members of the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron from Wichita, Kan., deployed to Haiti to build infrastructure for sustained humanitarian operations. Many of the Guardsmen were training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, when the earthquake struck Haiti. The units deployed to Haiti about two weeks later. The deployment is scheduled to last about four months. With the hospital in place, medics will be able to ease the workload on the Comfort by performing minor surgery and 24-hour medical operations without transporting patients to the ship. The guardsmen are also building a helicopter landing pad to help transport severely injured patients to and from the Comfort. "If there's minor surgery (the patients) can get it here instead of the ship," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert Propes, the liaison officer for the Comfort. By the end of January, the engineers had set up air-conditioned tents. They plan to eventually provide showers and latrines. There is an informal consensus at the Port-au-Prince airport that the Kansas Air National Guard members are already heroes for bringing those facilities.

19 Aug 72 - 23 Aug 72 Nellis AFB, NV  
23 Aug 72 - 2 Sep 72 Cheyenne, WY  
1973 - Home Station McConnell AFB, KS

10 Aug 74 - 25 Aug 74 Eielson AFB, AK  
19 Jul 75 - 29 Jul 75 Savannah MAP, GA  
29 Jul 75 - 2 Aug 75 Tyndall AFB, FL  
31 Jul 76 - 14 Aug 76 Fairchild AFB, WA  
6 Aug 77 - 20 Aug 77 Smoky Hill, Salina, KS  
21 Jan 78 - 4 Feb 78 Tyndall AFB, FL  
1979 - Home Station McConnell AFB, KS  
14 Jun 80 - 28 Jun 80 McGee-Tyson AP TN  
25 Apr 81 - 17 May 81 Camp Beauregard, LA  
5 Jun 82 - 19 Jun 82 Great Fall IAP, MT  
18 Jun 83 - 2 Jul 83 McGee-Tyson AP, TN  
10 Mar 84 - 19 Mar 84 Tyndall AFB, FL  
19 Mar 84 - 24 Mar 84 Eglin AFB, FL  
13 Mar 85 - 30 Mar 85 Howard AB, Panama

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Air Force Order of Battle

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#### Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.