

## 307 RED HORSE SQUADRON



### MISSION

307th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Support Repair Squadron Engineer is a highly mobile, worldwide deployable, self-sufficient civil engineering response force of 400+ personnel and 1,400+ tons of construction vehicles and equipment. The squadron's mission was to support Air Force Civil Engineer wartime missions, performing heavy damage repair required for recovery of Air Force facilities and utility systems needed for aircraft launch and recovery that have been subjected to enemy attack or natural disaster. In peacetime, provide an engineering response force, supporting special construction efforts and humanitarian civic action projects in remote areas or operating contingency airfields and operating locations.

### LINEAGE

Squadron "C", 307 Airdrome Group designated, 28 Jul 1947

Organized, 15 Aug 1947

Discontinued, 12 Jul 1948

307 Installations Squadron, Bombardment, Medium constituted, 28 May 1948

Activated, 12 Jul 1948

Redesignated 307 Installations Squadron, 16 Mar 1950

Inactivated, 8 Jul 1954

Redesignated 307 Civil Engineering Squadron, Heavy Repair, 17 Jun 1971

Activated, 1 Jul 1971

Squadron C, 307 Airdrome Group and 307 Civil Engineering Squadron, Heavy Repair

Consolidated, 3 Oct 1984. Consolidated unit designated 307 Civil Engineering Squadron, Heavy Repair

Redesignated 307 Civil Engineering Squadron, RED HORSE, 15 Sep 1988

Redesignated 307 RED HORSE Civil Engineering Squadron, 1 Mar 1989  
Redesignated 307 RED HORSE Squadron, 1 Mar 1994  
Inactivated, 31 Aug 2015

## **STATIONS**

MacDill Fid (later, AFB), FL, 15 Aug 1947-8 Jul 1954  
Ellington AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1971  
Kelly AFB (later, Kelly Fid Annex, Randolph AFB), TX, 17 Mar 1976  
Lackland AFB, TX  
Barksdale AFB, LA

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

307 Airdrome (later, 307 Air Base) Group, 15 Aug 1947  
306 Air Base Group, 10 Feb 1951  
307 Air Base Group, 16 Jun 1952-8 Jul 1954  
Central Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1971  
Air Force Reserve, 8 Oct 1976  
Tenth Air Force, 15 Aug 1979  
Air Force Reserve, 1 Aug 1992  
610 Regional Support Group, 1 Jan 1995  
622 Civil Engineer Group, 1 Oct 2012

## **COMMANDERS**

Col William A. Myers, 2 Aug 1985  
Lt Col Elwin Rozyskie, Jr.

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
16 Nov 1985-15 Nov 1987  
1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000

## **EMBLEM**

The emblem is symbolic of the unit and the air force colors, Ultramarine blue and golden yellow, as well as the national Colors, are used in the design. The color blue alludes to the Sky, the primary theater of air force operations, and yellow to The sun and excellence of personnel in assigned tasks. The Horse's head refers to the unit as a red horse squadron. The Orbiting stars and stripes allude to world-wide capability, And the thunderbolt denotes power in

reserve. (Approved, 18 May 1973)

## **MOTTO**

NIDUM AQUILAE PRAEPARAHUS - We Feather The Eagle's Nest.

## **OPERATIONS**

The 307th RHS was originally organized in July 1971. Detachments 307 and 308 were located at Ellington AFB, TX, and Barksdale AFB, LA, respectively. In 1976, the Ellington unit relocated to Kelly AFB, Texas, and was designated the headquarters. The Barksdale unit remained on location but was re-designated Detachment 1, 307th RHS.

1988 Between July and August the Alamo Wing's 307th Civil Engineering Squadron (Red Horse) deployed more than 300 tons of equipment to Honduras. The humanitarian project was requested by Honduran civil and military officials through the American military organization at Palmerola, Joint Task Force Bravo, with Southern Command approval.

The 307th deployed to Central America in both 1999 and 2000 to drill several water wells and provide medical assistance as part of the New Horizons humanitarian exercise.

In 2003, the squadron deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. It is assigned to the 610th Regional Support Group, Air Force Reserve Command.

In June, a second rotation of 50 men and women from the 307<sup>th</sup> RED HORSE, an attached unit of the 433rd Airlift Wing, deployed on a charter flight to Fort McCoy, Wis., for three weeks of combat skills training before leaving for their 6-month assignment overseas. The 400-member squadron deployed a diverse group of men and women ranging from Vietnam-era veterans to recent tech school graduates. Senior Airman Amanda Balyeat, an engineer, graduated from Basic Military Training just a year ago. A former waitress, she had no reservations about joining the Reserve during wartime. "I wasn't making it waiting tables. I wanted to make more of my life. I wasn't doing it before." Airman Balyeat is also a single mom. Her 5-year old son realizes why she is away. "He understands that Mommy is working for the Air Force," she said. "I am excited to go, mostly because of my son," she said of her first deployment. In her civilian career, Airman Balyeat is a construction inspector with the Texas Department of Transportation. "The Air Force has helped me out a lot, I got the job with TexDOT," she said. According to Airman Balyeat, without her Air Force training and onthejob experience with the RED HORSE at Camp Bullis, she would not have been hired for the job. "I didn't want to wait tables for the rest of my life," the petite 24-year-old said. This deployment is the last "hurrah" for Tech. Sgt. Gerardo Santiago, 58, a Vietnam-era veteran who served in the Air Force in Japan as a communications specialist. "If anybody is prepared, we are," said Sergeant Santiago, a vehicle maintenance mechanic. The week prior to leaving for Southwest Asia, the deploying members trained and worked in the compound wearing their 20-pound body armor the entire duty day. Annual bivouacs to Randolph's auxiliary landing field in Seguin, Texas, have also boosted the unit's skills according to Santiago. "It has helped us stay sharp and will keep us safe," he said. "The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war." Tough working conditions are nothing new to

the RED HORSE. In January, they constructed a forward operating base dubbed Camp Anderson Peters at Camp Bullis, just north of San Antonio, by working seven days a week, 12 hours a day. "This was an awesome task for the unit," said Chief Master Sgt. Tony Valdez, NCO in charge of Quality Assurance. Instead of a civilian contractor being hired for the job, the 307th was selected due to "speed and less red tape," he said. The facility serves as a training site for deploying personnel and includes cadre quarters, classrooms, a dining facility, showers, latrines, and barracks. In January 2006, the team will return to San Antonio. "It's an honor to be selected," Sergeant Santiago said. "This will make the world a safer and better place. It's better to do it over there than over here." 2005

In late May, members of the Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE Squadron from Barksdale Air Force Base, LA, attempted to drill a well at the Gillis Long Center in Carville, LA. However, due to heavy flooding from Tropical Storm Allison, 3 to 4 feet of standing water at the site. the team had to evacuate before the project was completed. Luckily, the waters soaked into the ground, and they were able to return in July to finish the project. By then the facility, which had originally been getting by with two aging water wells, was down to one well that was producing only 30 gallons of water per minute. The supply of water was less than the demand. The Gillis Long Center is a 330-acre, 100-building campus. Formerly a U.S. Public Health Service hospital for Hansen's disease, or leprosy, research and treatment since 1921, after starting as a state-run facility in 1894. The site was transferred back to the state in 1999 and its treatment and research functions moved to other locations. Patients living in the dormitories and cottages there are allowed to stay as long as they want and continue to receive health care and other services.

About 25 patients remain at the center. said Capt Michael Falcon, 307th RHS operations officer. Most of them are in their 80s now. One of the women that Captain Falcon met had been there since she was a teenager almost 70 years. She even met her husband there. The site is now used to promote public health and education, and is home to the Louisiana National Guards Youth Challenge Program, which educates and trains at-risk youth. The Louisiana Army National Guard manages the center and other facilities at the site, in addition to its regular mission. Since the Gillis Long Center is a government facility, the approval process for drilling the well was easier for RED HORSE. We usually can get approval to drill a well when it can be proved that the people cannot economically afford to drill one themselves,. said Falcon. We were in a situation where the one well we had needed maintenance, and we don't have access to city water said camp utilities supervisor Byron Gautreau. Eventually the camp, which is in a somewhat remote location, hopes to be connected to the Baton Rouge public water system. Once that happens, they will use the wells for irrigation. We are required to drill a well once a year to keep up our proficiency, said Falcon. We're supplying the know-how, and they're supplying the materials. Eight people worked on the well and five were in training. Normally the team drills 8- to 10-inch diameter wells, but the one they drilled for the center is 14 inches, because it needs to produce enough water to keep up with the needs of all the people at the facility. According to CMSgt Louis Carroll, 307th RHS vehicle maintenance manager, every well is different, and just when you think you know what you're doing, Mother Nature throws you a curve. It takes about three years of drilling before you get good at it. These guys desperately needed the water,. said Falcon. They were to the point of shipping in water by truck the last

week of our drilling. The well was completed July 25 and is now supplying the approximately 500 people at the center with almost 300 gallons of water per minute. This gives them more water than they will need, said Falcon. The 307th RHS said that not only has the water pressure increased, but also the water quality. 2011

Barksdale Air Force Base found out earlier this week one of the reserve squadrons on base would be deactivated by the end of the fiscal year. The one selected was the 307th Red Horse Squadron. It means 200 people will be reassigned, because the 307th is a reserve squadron, only about 15 people are full time employees. The hope is to have the majority of them re-assigned to posts locally. So those folks will not have to up root. But one squadron member says deactivating the 307th will be a big loss not only to Barksdale, but to the Air Force. "Over the years, we've supported the base with either heavy equipment or man power, so there will be a loss there," said CMSgt. Tyler Cagnina. "Or jobs at other bases; we've helped them a lot." Cagnina has called the 307th home for more than 20 years. He said Friday for 44 years the Red Horsemen have tackled engineering duties for the Air Force all over the world. "Our claim to fame is our rapid runway repair or runways," Cagnina said. "We build numerous case band for the AOR and bases." The squadron was most recently deployed to the Middle East, and only returned last April.

"The men and women of the 307th is very much a large family," said Cagnina. "We've always taken care of each other. We've always looked out for each other. That's going to be a big loss. It's even effecting some of our retirees." While the news of squadron is deactivated is also sad to Cagnina, he said that's part of the government process. "Since 1971 this unit has been here, so it's pretty sad to see us go. But it's part of the budgets and if we have to go, we have to go." The 307th has about six months to place their reservists in other squadrons. It will be officially deactivated on September 30th of this year. A deactivation ceremony for the 307th will be planned for the end of September. The squadron's seals and memorabilia will then be moved to an air force museum, and kept in case it is ever reactivated.

U. S. Air Force Colonel Timothy Lamb, commander of the 622th Civil Engineer Group, Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia, and Lt. Col. Charles Chapman, 307th RED HORSE commander, furlled and prepared to encase the unit's flag at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana., Aug. 2, 2015. During the inactivation ceremony, the furling and encasing of the organization's flag, signifies the unit has completed its mission. The 307th RH was inactivated after 44 years of service making it the longest continuously operational RED HORSE squadron in the Air Force.

Red Horse, in this instance, are 40 members of the 307th Civil Engineering Sq., an Air Force Reserve unit stationed at Kelly AFB, Tex. and a detachment at Barksdale AFB, La. While at Hickam, the heavy construction specialists demolished 10 obsolete four-unit, family quarters, built a 180-foot fire wall at the housing supply garden shop and constructed a briefing room in Hangar 2 for the Strategic Air Command "Where else could a person get a two-week, all expenses paid working vacation to Hawaii? We have been kept extremely busy, but there is always a few hours of off-duty time to be a tourist," said Maj. Milton Valigura, the detachment commander. "This project has two real benefits," the major continued. "One is that we fulfilled our annual training requirement as Air Force Reservists. The other benefit is the

dollar savings to the Air Force by not having to contract the work out.” Because of the short notice of this project, the Reservists who normally ship all their own equipment were unable to do so here.

“The cooperation we received from the Active Duty 15th Civil Engineers in this and all other aspects was outstanding. All we were able to bring was ourselves and our tool boxes. Everything else, from heavy equipment to supplies, was provided by the base. We have nothing but praise for the people of Hickam for the hospitality shown us,” concluded Major Valigura. The 307th Red Horse is made up of approximately 400 people between Kelly and its detachment at Barksdale. Deploying about 40 members to a project, the 307th has teams dispatched worldwide doing construction work.

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USAF Unit Histories

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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.

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