

1st EXPEDITIONARY CIVIL ENGINEER GROUP



LINEAGE

1st Civil Engineering Group (Heavy Repair) activated, 8 May 1967
Inactivated 1 Nov 1971
Redesignated 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group, Oct 2001
Redesignated 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, Mar 2012

STATIONS

Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 16 Mar 1970

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Darren Daniels
Col John Allen

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The primary mission of RED HORSE units are to assess, plan and establish facilities and infrastructure to support contingency operations and combat missions at any location in the world. Activities include rapid damage assessment, heavy damage repair, bare-base development, and heavy construction operations such as airfields, aircraft parking ramps, munitions pads, remote area hard surface runway construction and forward operating location assault landing strips, as well as, vertical construction such as K-Span facilities, pre-engineered buildings, and expedient structures.

The 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group was established to provide a wide variety of expeditionary planning, design, and construction capabilities for U. S. Air Forces Central (USAFCENT). These capabilities are executed through a Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) Squadron and two Civil Engineer Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) squadrons joined together to form the 1st ECEG.

The 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group represents a revolving composite of active duty, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard members. The 1st ECEG ranges in size from 400 to 600 combat Airmen assigned to the full range of ever fluctuating mission requirements. The group consists of a group staff and three squadrons: the 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron, the 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron, and the 777th Expeditionary Prime BEEF squadron.

In October 2001, in the aftermath of the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. group immediately provided beddown and combat construction operations at bases all over Southwest and Central Asia in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). Mission taskings surged again with the initiation of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) as Air Force units opened new bases, expanded additional bases, and recovered captured Iraqi bases.

The group hit the ground running and completed an astounding \$90 million of construction within its first 12 months of existence. The group has been at the forefront of OEF, OIF, and Operation NEW DAWN. In support of those operations, the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group has completed more than 370 projects valued at over \$240 million dollars at more than 50 sites in 12 countries.

In March 2012 the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group was redesignated the 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, as changing needs in the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan necessitated a reorganization of the light and heavy construction capabilities in the AFCENT area of responsibility. Simultaneously, the 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Group, based at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, was inactivated, transferring its two squadrons to the 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group.

Members of the 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group are now using a new piece of equipment designed for removing rubber from the runways at forward air bases in Southwest Asia, according to an Air Force release. The modified Unimog machine is the first rubber-removal device that a C-130 transport can carry. The Unimog uses pressurized water to remove rubber; it will complement the detergent-based system that these civil engineers use to clean runways

around the region, states the release. Keeping runways free of rubber buildup from aircraft tires is an important safety task since these rubber deposits, over time, can cause a hazard to aircraft, especially in wet conditions. 2013

Air Force Order of Battle

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.