

108th CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

LINEAGE

108th Civil Engineering Squadron
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STATIONS

McGuire AFB, NJ

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

2008 The two commanders met in a small town, ready to battle the elements, logistical delays, troop work conditions with a common goal and a common battle cry, one that every engineer understands – no problems, just solutions. Lt. Col. Paul Novello, commander of the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron, New Jersey Air National Guard and Bojnik (Major) Oliver Švob of the 33rd Engineer Regiment, Croatian Army brought their Airmen and soldiers together on the streets of Gašinci (Ga-SHIN-see), Croatia for two weeks during Adriatic Aurora 2008. Adriatic Aurora was a field training exercise designed to CROATIA AND 108TH CES A young girl finds a convenient seat to do the age-old task that children find interesting – watching construction workers doing their job. Here Master Sgt. Elliot Adkisson (left) and Lt. Col. Paul Novello work to prepare an area for a new concrete pad. Above: Staff Sgt. Robert Mendez grasps a brick from one

of the civilian construction workers at the community center work site while everyone was working to prep the building for the new roof. Below: Staff Sgt. Jhon Mosquera (left) and Pfc. Ilija Marakovic – a Croatian soldier work at sanding the slats to be used on the benches at the playground. The American Airmen and Croatian soldiers worked side-by-side creating a playground for the children of the village with benches for the parents to sit while watching the children play. train and promote the inter-operability of three states – New Jersey, Minnesota and Vermont and their respective State Partners – Albania, Croatia and Macedonia. The 108th CES along with Croatian engineers and a small contingent of Albanian engineers worked on a humanitarian project while the American, Croatian, Albanian and Macedonian soldiers trained in various areas on the military base adjacent to the small village. The combined forces of Airmen and Soldiers, enlisted and officers, Croatian and American, worked side by side to build a playground next to the town’s school and to put a new roof on the village’s community center that also houses the town’s volunteer fire department and more than 50-year-old fire truck. Along the way, projects were added to the list and the engineers rose to their “solutions” battle cry. They added a 5-by-20 foot section of concrete by the entrance between the school house and the playground, meaning less mud to track in and out of school on those rainy days. The townspeople brought a used metal jungle gym to the site in a wheelbarrow and the engineers anchored it in place and painted it red, white and blue – colors shared in both Croatia’s and America’s flags. Engineers from both countries found their way to the playground and adjoining soccer area, enjoying the newly installed equipment and fine-tuning their soccer skills against the young opponents from the small town. The road improvement project was a short one that joined the 108th Airmen with the Albanian engineers, making the road that runs to the local soccer complex easier to transit and provide better drainage. Novello said, “In any future conflict we could be side by side working with the engineers from Albania or Croatia.” He added, “We have developed a good relationship with them. But the personal reward from work is watching the kids; it’s heartwarming. I am extremely proud of the unit.” When the work was complete, the Croatian Minister of Defense, the American ambassador to Croatia and representatives from the three states, including Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, who came to visit the site, see the engineers’ handiwork and see the village children showcase native dances. “This project is more than we usually do; it is a challenge and training for my soldiers,” stated Švob. “Sometimes, in the beginning, we were stuck on organizational issues but we worked it out by end of day. Well trained, clever people – that means engineers.” It was an honor and a pleasure to work with the Americans.” As the engineers left the small village, their solutions gave the community a few improvements and gave everyone insights into their different worlds.

With white hard hats and silver shovels, the 108th Wing held a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 21, 2010 to begin the construction of the 108th Wing Base Civil Engineer Complex on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. In attendance for the event was Army Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey; Air Force Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, the Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard; Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Commander of the 108th Wing; Air Force Col. Gina Grosso, Commander of the 87th Air 108th CE to get new complex Story by: Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs Base Wing; delegates from Senator Robert Menendez’ office, Ms. Scarlett Rajska and Mr. Richard Locklear, and other distinguish visitors. After thanking everyone in attendance, both Rieth and Cunniff told all in attendance that this was a long and overdue project and a most deserved one for the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron. Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, Commander of the 108th CES, also thanked

everyone attending the ceremony and stated how he has been waiting for this new complex since his enlistment into the 108th Wing back in the '80s. After having won the Major General Robert H. Curtin Award for the Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit Award in 2008 and then deploying to the Middle East from December 2009 through June 2010, there is no more deserving group of Airmen, said Novello about the new complex. The \$5.9 million project will replace the 108th CES' current facilities, which include four World War II temporary wood frame structures. The 108th Wing Base CEC will support daily activities associated with maintaining/repairing base infrastructure and facilities for the 108th Wing, as well as the 108th CES' mobility and readiness requirements. The contract for this project was awarded to Puente Construction Enterprises Inc., which is located in Woodbury, N.J., and is expected to take approximately 18 months for completion and be operational by April 30, 2012

NJ 2012 The 108th Wing has 27 buildings totaling 426,536 square feet with a replacement cost of \$138 million, sitting on 130 acres. As you can see, there are a lot of facilities to keep up to standard. This is challenging with a relatively small work force and relying on funding that is vulnerable to be cut. The better we all take care of our facilities, the better the facilities will be able to support us and the mission

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources