

# **133<sup>rd</sup> CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

133<sup>rd</sup> Civil Engineering Flight, established Nov 1969

133<sup>rd</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron

## **STATIONS**

Minneapolis St Paul, MN

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Robert Zuehlke

LTC James Wentzlaff, #2012

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 133rd Civil Engineer Squadron is responsible for construction, utility support, emergency services, emergency management, maintenance and repair of base infrastructure and wartime mission training. The members of this unit are highly trained and capable of immediate and rapid worldwide wartime deployment to support base hardening, rapid runway repair, expedient war damage repair, assessment and crash, rescue and fire-suppression action.

The Civil Engineering Flight has an assigned strength of 56 airmen and 2 officers.

133rd Installations Squadron: federalized ANG 2.Mar 51 at Holman Field, MN, assigned to the 133rd AB Group; moved to Minn-St. Paul IAP, MN 28 Jun 51; inactivated 6 Feb 52.

In November of 1969 the 133d Civil Engineering Flight was established by order of the National Guard Bureau. The unit was formed by separating the civil engineering function from the Support Squadron. The first commander of the flight was Major Robert Zuehlke.

The formation of the flight had several goals in terms of effectiveness. First, it meant that the National Guard Bureau could activate the civil engineering people without disturbing the Support Squadron. The concepts behind this were given the names "Bare Base" and "Prime Beef." The "Prime Beef" program would supply a small group of fully trained civil engineering men, such as carpenters, electricians, etc., to a natural disaster area. Hurricane Camile pointed up the need for such groups.

The "Bare Base" program would employ a similar group of civil engineering people in a military emergency. This group would supply the operational facilities and living quarters to an abandoned airfield or even a bare plot of ground.

In September, 2005 the unit deployed six fire department members and a P-10 fire truck to Stennis Field, Miss. in support for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. In the last year members of the Civil Engineer Squadron have deployed to Diego Garcia, Curacao, Kyrgyzstan, Florida, North Dakota and Alaska. During 2005 members of the squadron also donated more than 200 hours to constructing the Cherokee Heights Greenhouse in St. Paul. They currently have members participating in a British training exercise at Waterbeach Barracks, England and performing border patrol in support of Operation Jump Start.

The 133rd Civil Engineer Squadron was awarded the prestigious "Colonel William L. Deneke Outstanding Civil Engineering Award," recognizing them as the top civil engineer unit in the Air National Guard for the year 2000. This marked the unit's third Deneke award -- making it the only civil engineering unit to receive the award three times (1984 and 1992). The unit also received a rating of "Excellent" for the Operational Readiness Inspection in 2006.

The Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul closed its fire department, ending its 42 years of operations. During the closing ceremony, wing officials honored the department's firefighters past and present, according to an Oct. 18 wing release. The decision to close the fire department came as a result of Defense Department reductions caused by budget cuts, states the release. Many of the fire department's 27 airmen moved on to new occupations within the wing, which operates C-130s. Some transferred to other Air Guard fire departments. "You've already had the best job in the Air Force. Now you are moving on to exciting new opportunities," said SMSgt. Tom McDonough, the wing's fire chief, during the late September farewell ceremony. 2013

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources