

163rd CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

LINEAGE

163rd Civil Engineering Flight
163rd Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

March ARB, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert Mitton, #1973
LTC Richard Schmitt
LTC Eleanor Bailey, 1 Jun 1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 163rd Civil Engineering Flight provides building maintenance, construction programs and provides the all-important firefighting and rescue capabilities as essential to a flying base.

Jun 1989 Squadron deployed 40 personnel to Albrook AB, Panama

Looking down at his 14 month old baby girl, Natalie, Staff Sgt. Sean Brassell from the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) performed his fatherly feeding duties for the last time before his deployment to Afghanistan. Today was the last chance for friends and family members to say farewell to their loved one before their six-month tour. From heavy equipment operators, utilities

technicians, electricians, heating and air conditioning, structures, and engineers, CE left in force to support the war effort overseas. "I'm looking forward to taking my team and our expertise to the fight," said LTC Mark Moritz, commander of the 163 CES. Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Myers, 163d CES Chief of Operations added, "It's an opportunity for all CE members to apply training from the last 15 months. First and foremost, it will boost morale and give younger CE members deployment experience as well as an opportunity to be mentored." The deployed team will be involved with installation and flight line maintenance and construction support for the next six months. Morale and a general excitement for the task at hand were palpable. "I don't want to leave but I have to go, it makes me feel good that I am serving my nation," said Staff Sgt. Brassell. In true Grizzly fashion support for loved ones at home is priority one while our brothers and sisters carry out their mission. LTC Donald Farmer, 163rd Mission Support Group commander added, "I think that it's an outstanding opportunity for our CE. The grizzly team here at home is standing by to meet any needs of the families who have loved ones deployed. This is where training meets the real world." Our Grizzlies will be missed sorely, but they rest assured that while they complete their mission, the fires here at home will be kept warm.

2005 2 Sep Nine Civil Engineer personnel assigned to the 163rd Air Refueling Wing, California ANG, deployed to New Orleans to help with reconstruction.

2008

Five members of the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to McCalla Airfield, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in early September to work on a construction project with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. Three of the five 163rd RW members, Master Sgt. Earl Rankin, Tech. Sgt. Paul Gomez and Staff Sgt. John Barber, recently returned from the deployment. Still in country, and slated to return sometime in March, are Wing members Master Sgt. Moses Alvarado and Tech. Sgt. Karl Childress. 163rd RW Civil Engineers Deploy to Guantanamo Bay Cuba The 474th is comprised of Air National Guardsmen from across the country to include Indiana's 122nd Fighter Wing, Wisconsin's 128th Air Refueling Wing, Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing, Ohio's 150th Fighter Wing and California's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing. The project was to construct a \$10.2 million dollar Expeditionary Legal Complex. Here, the U.S. Office of Military Commissions will start the process of prosecuting enemy combatants detained in the Global War on Terror. The original completion date of the project was slated for March, 2008, but is now scheduled for mid February. "One of the people I give a lot of credit to is one of our traditional guardsman, Tech. Sgt. Paul Gomez," said Sgt. Rankin, "He had prior experience working on this kind of prefabricated building, so he was a huge contributor to getting the overall project closer to completion." "In my shop, there were three other master sgt. and I did not have the most seniority, so while I was there I acted as a heavy equipment operator," said Sergeant Rankin. "Being just an operator gave me a little more time to enjoy myself in country." "We (474th) were able to knock out some of the daily tasks quicker then expected," said Heavy Equipment Branch Chief Sgt. Rankin, "As a result, they were able send some members home earlier"

The 163rd Civil Engineer Squadron, which hosts the Air National Guard's West Coast Regional Training Site, trained more than 1,500 National Guard, active duty Air Force and Marine personnel in 2008. It supported many construction projects, including a school restoration in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Department of Homeland Security's Mexico border fence; and construction at

Guantanamo Bay. The squadron remains busy executing \$6 million in projects in support of the wing's Predator missions.

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.

Unit History. CA ANG. 163 Fighter Interceptor Group 1943-1973.

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