

# **166<sup>th</sup> CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

166<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Flight organized, 8 Nov 1969  
Redesignated 166<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron, 1 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 166<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

## **STATIONS**

New Castle, DE

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj William Redgate, 8 Nov 1969  
Maj Jeorld Kreidler, 8 Nov 1972  
Maj Glenn B. Pusey, II, 1 Jul 1980

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

**EMBLEM**

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The squadron's mission is to provide Prime BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force) personnel capable of deploying anywhere in the world, including bare bases, to support aircraft operations with bed-down, rapid runway repair, operations, maintenance support, and crash/fire suppression

activities. The squadron provides the resource protection, environmental quality, infrastructure/facility maintenance and repair, and human services necessary to support the wing's mission. Its objective squadron structure is organized into five major flights: operations, fire protection, engineering, readiness, and explosive ordnance disposal. Squadron personnel recently deployed to Mississippi in support of Hurricane Katrina relief and to Southern Arizona in support of Operation Jumpstart; GWOT support included deployments to Kuwait, Diego Garcia, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

On April 7, 1962 the 142nd Tactical Fighter Squadron underwent a mission reassignment from a Fighter Squadron to a role as part of the Military Air Transport Command. The newly formed 166th Air Transport Group was to include the 166th Air Base Squadron. Several units within the 166th Air Base Squadron formed the basis for the future formulation of civil engineering into formal Flight status.

The first Civil Engineering Staff Officer was Ignatius DeCicco. W.O. George T. Keller headed Maintenance and Repair while William Redgate was in charge of Design and Construction.

On January 19, 1963 the Air Base Squadron was deactivated and reorganized as the 166<sup>th</sup> Support Squadron (AT), of which the 166th Installation Flight was a part.

In November 1969, the Installation Flight of the 166<sup>th</sup> Support Squadron became the 166<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Flight, a unit by itself. The new flight was commanded by William Redgate. Civil Engineering officers included Jerold Kreidler and George T. Keller. The Flight was established by the U. S. Air Force in recognition of the importance and flexibility of having an independent unit to handle such activities as fire protection, building and maintenance. The overall mission of the 73 man flight (3 officers and 70 airmen) did not change. Eight members of the original 166 CEF have remained at this time (MSgt. Lloyd Johnson, MSgt. Robert Kilpatrick, SMSgt. Robert Streb, CMSgt. Lawrence Keller, TSgt. Richard Till, TSgt. Alan Bouney, TSgt. William Sewell, and MSgt. William Stewart). Several members remained with the Flight until their retirement within the last few years (SMSgt. Alfred Brown, MSgt. John Paraskewich, and TSgt. Robert Jenkins).

In response to the mission for the capability to provide emergency construction and base recovery, the mission of the 166<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron was modified to include "PRIME BEEF" units. In addition to the responsibility for the maintenance of all the buildings and aircraft parking ramps utilized by the 166<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Group, the squadron, with the assistance of consultants, plans for new buildings and oversees their construction. Major and minor renovation projects are also the responsibility of the 166 CES. PRIME BEEF teams provide base operations, maintenance support, accomplish crash rescue and fire suppression, and assist other Air Force engineering forces in preparing bases for operation and recovery from war damage. In addition, the squadron supports natural disaster recovery operations and assists in peacetime engineering projects and training exercises. At this time, the 166th CES is organized into several teams, each of which has special capabilities and may be assigned independent missions. The PB-1 Team (Engineering Management) consists of Civil Engineering officers and craft supervisors. The PB-2 Team (Base Recovery and Operations Support) is made up of skilled craftsmen such as carpenters, electricians, masons, plumbers, air conditioning and heating specialists, sheet metal

workers, and administrative personnel. The PB-4 Team (Base Recovery and Operations Equipment) is comprised of construction equipment operators and pavement maintenance specialist. The PB-6 and PB-7 Teams (Crash Rescue and Fire Suppression Operations) are firefighting units which provide fire protection and crash rescue services. Members of these teams serve two weeks active duty each year, often deploying to active Air Force bases to work on construction and rehabilitation projects of significant importance. The fire protection teams often assume complete responsibility for fire protection at their host bases, and because of their extensive experience and knowledge, provide training to Air Force firefighters. On a regular basis, members receive specialized training conducted by the USAF which enhances the teams' capability to function effectively under combat conditions in the field.

These active duty assignments have enabled the 166 CES to develop a very high level of readiness and the ability to perform anywhere in the world. Tours in Hawaii and many of the other forty nine states, as well as deployments overseas over the past years have provided our members with ample opportunities to become familiar with areas outside Delaware and to broaden personal horizons.

As a dedicated partner to the USAF under the "Total Force" concept, the 166 CES has established an outstanding history of accomplishment and is committed to continued superior performance in the future.

November 1982 166th CEF Responds to Blaze; Training and Readiness Pay Off Training and readiness paid off on Nov. 12 when the 166th CEF Firefighters responded to a spectacular blaze at Crown Bedding Company; a manufacturer of mattresses. The fire quickly spread through their factory, warehouse and showroom. Smoke could be seen five miles away. The "super tanker" was called in to perform a water deluge operation. According to Chief Larry Keller the participants were: SMSgt. Larry G. Keller, MSgt. David W. Morris, TSgts. John L. Lloyd, Joseph M. Ivanich, Dennis C. Johnson and Clifford Dean, Jr., SSgts. Harvey H. Tyler and Henry W. Culley, Jr., Sgt. David A. Hanna, and SrAs. Douglas A. Grier and Thomas A. Santabarbara.

On January 25, 1991 selected units of the Delaware Air National Guard were activated for Operation Desert Storm. A majority of the unit was stationed at Al Kharj Air Base, Saudi Arabia. Over 150 personnel deployed to six other locations in Europe and two stateside bases. The 166<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron voluntarily deployed to Dover AFB and performed the monumental accomplishment of enlarging Dover's Mortuary capacity - the assignment was completed in a record 23 days. On June 30, 1991 the units/personnel were released from active duty performed in support of the Persian Gulf War.

#### 166<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron deployments

Tyndall, AFB, FL

Plum Brook, OH

Eglin AFB, FL

Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico

Alpena, MI

Pease AFB, NH

Quonset Point, RI

Rhein-Mein, Germany  
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ  
Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico  
Camp Beauregard, LA  
Howard AFB, Panama  
Andrews AFB, MD  
Camp Rodney, MD  
Wheeler AFB, HI  
Niagara Falls, NY  
Bangor, ME  
Purcell, OK  
Camp Perry, OH  
Volk Field, WI  
Savannah, GA  
Ellington AFB, TX  
Torrejon AB, Spain  
Volk Field, WI  
England AFB, LA  
Charleston AFB, SC  
Tyndall AFB, FL  
Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico  
Alpena, MI  
Selma, AL  
Atlantic City, NJ  
Savannah, GA  
Fort Hood, TX  
Wurtsmith AFB, MI  
MacDill AFB, FL  
Charleston AFB, SC  
Vandenberg AFB, CA  
Torrejon AB, Spain  
England AFB, LA  
Charleston AFB, SC  
Alpena, MI

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Air Force Order of Battle  
Created: 12 Oct 2010  
Updated:

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