

169 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

169 Civil Engineering Squadron
Redesignated 169 Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

McEntire ANGB, Eastover, SC

ASSIGNMENTS

169 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Jimmie C. Wright
LTC Mason R. Brooks, #1986

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 169th Civil Engineering Squadron began as a 10-man Air Installation Section in the 169th Air Base Squadron in 1957. It progressed to a 50-man Civil Engineering Section in 1962, became a separate unit (169th Civil Engineering Flight) in 1970 with 92 people, and earned

squadron designation in 1985 (124 people).

The original mission of the section was to maintain and repair base facilities, which involved mainly routine maintenance of electrical, plumbing, heating and structures at McEntire. With the Sixties concept of the "Total Force," civil engineering obtained a broader mission, involving design and construction of minor buildings, modification of base facilities, and construction supervision of major facilities.

The PRIME BEEF concept gave the unit a war-time worldwide mobility mission involving repair of runways, buildings, utilities, etc., damaged by bombing during enemy action. "Bare base operations" involved re-opening of runways and facilities built during World War II and since abandoned. Now, specially trained teams from McEntire can be deployed anywhere in the world to perform these missions.

The base fire department has become a part of the Civil Engineering Flight and has grown from 15 to 42 personnel, also with a worldwide mobility mission.

Lt. Col. Jimmie C. Wright was the first base civil engineer at McEntire and the first commander of the flight. He served as BCE from 1952-1978 and flight commander from 1970-1978. MSgt. Joe Stasiukaitis served as first sergeant during this period. Col. Lewis M. Caswell was flight commander from 1978-1984, with MSgt. Leo Ross as first sergeant.

Lt. Col. Mason R. Brooks was commander at the 40th anniversary. Maj. John L. Potts (1978-1982) and Maj. James B. Berry (1982 to present) have also served as the base civil engineer. CMS Hanes McEntire has been assistant base civil engineer and Unit NCOIC since 1969.

The squadron has deployed to many Air National Guard, Air Force and Army facilities in the past 15 years, including: RAF Lakenheath, England; Torrejon AB Spain; Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan; Otis ANG Base, Massachusetts; Tyndall AFB, Florida; Sea Girt Army National Guard Station, New Jersey; Fort Lee, Virginia; and Gulfport PFTS, Mississippi.

169th CIVIL ENGINEER FLIGHT was organized on October 11, 1969 when all SCANG civil engineering functions, which had been performed by the 169th Combat Support Squadron, were placed under control of the newly formed 169th Civil Engineer Flight. In 1971, the Flight became the first SCANG unit to undergo annual field training overseas when it trained for 15 days in England.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *169 Tactical Fighter Group, South Carolina Air National Guard, 40 Years of Service to the State and Nation, 1946-1986.*