

176 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



MISSION

The Alaska Air Guard 176 Civil Engineers are on the leading edge of technology, providing its personnel with the most advanced equipment and methods to perform their mission. Civil Engineers give Air National Guard warriors a productive working environment, create neighborhoods that promote a hometown spirit, and allow the Air Force and Air National Guard to fly, fight, and win by developing, maintaining, and recovering air bases.

Building on the foundations of the past, today's men and women of the 176 Civil Engineer Squadron look to the future, ready to meet any challenge around the world and beyond. We welcome and invite you to explore this site to learn more about the Alaska Air National Guard 176 Civil Engineer Squadron.

Peace Time Mission: The Civil Engineer Squadron is tasked with sustaining basic engineering services that enable the base to operate effectively on a day-to-day basis. The Base Civil Engineer (BCE) and staff support the base by performing facility maintenance, construction management, engineering design, crash rescue services, fire suppression, and disaster preparedness planning. The State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) maintains a civilian workforce responsible for operation and maintenance of base facilities and crash rescue for assigned aircraft.

War Time Mission: The Civil Engineer Squadron performs emergency repair of war damage to air bases, supports force bed-down of Air Force units and weapons systems, operates and maintains air base facilities and utilities, provides crash rescue and fire suppression, assists in base denial,

and identifies unexploded ordnance.

The Engineering section directs and performs field and technical investigations, AutoCAD drafting, surveying, contract management, and engineering design.

Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning/Refrigeration installs, operates, maintains, and repairs heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems equipment, and their controls.

The Electrical and Power Production shops install, operate, maintains, and repairs interior and exterior electrical facilities, electrical power generation and distribution systems.

The Equipment Operations shop operates heavy equipment performing construction and maintenance on roads and pavements. The Equipment shop also performs facility site preparation, erosion control, and performs snow removal.

The Utilities, Liquid Fuels, and Environmental shops perform maintenance, repair, and construction of plumbing, water, and wastewater systems and their components, fuel systems, and pest management.

The Fire Protection section (Fire Department) prevents, controls, and extinguishes all types of facility and aircraft fires occurring on the ground and performs related rescue, first aid, and property preservation.

The Readiness section prepares contingency and wartime response plans; and controls Full Spectrum Response training.

LINEAGE

176 Civil Engineering Flight
176 Civil Engineering Squadron
176 Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK
Elmendorf AFB, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

176 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Thomas Dodds

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Another obvious sign of progress was the increasing extent to which the Alaska Air National Guard was integrating its operations with the U.S. Air Force and other Air National Guard units. In the Fall of 1971, Kulis nested three "Prime BEEF" (Base Emergency Engineering Force) Air Guard teams from Colorado, Iowa and Nevada. Serving their two weeks of annual active duty, the visiting Guard members built a modular dormitory, a small arms target range, several parking areas and a base entry gate on Kulis. It was the first time such units were deployed to help another Guard unit outside their home states.

The next year, it would be the Alaskans' turn to mobilize. The 176 Civil Engineer Flight sent their own Prime BEEF team first to Arizona to work on several construction projects, then to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., to attend a five-day Prime BEEF exercise. The next year found a 60-member Alaska Prime BEEF team in Osan Air Force Base, Korea, helping to build a chapel, rebuild an ambulance facility and augment the base's fire crew.

The CE Flight deployed to Korea in 1973. July 1978, WW II Torpedo nets were flown to Bethel to save the city's waterfront, Jan 1979, the CE Flight restored an old Russian building in Kodiak and discovered historical artifacts.

In the days after the Mar 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, the 144th flew many sorties delivering oil containment booms, supplies and emergency personnel to Valdez. Air Guard members remained in place in various support roles even after the actual airlift was handed over to civilian contractors. In particular, firefighters from the 176 CES provided crash response and fire protection for the Valdez airport, where traffic had increased from 14 or so flights per day to well over 400.

10 Sep 2005 through 15 Feb 2006 the 176 Civil Engineer Squadron deploys with 54 members to KRAB, Iraq in an AEF support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2010 - COAST GUARD AIR STATION BORINQUEN, Puerto Rico A group of Alaska Air National Guard members will be putting that maxim to practice here for the next two weeks as they tackle a wide range of infrastructure projects and fix-it jobs. Members of the 176 Civil Engineer Squadron, the 45 deployers are all experts in a wide range of technical specialties, including carpentry, civil engineering, plumbing, wiring, power production, air conditioning/heating, and heavy equipment operation. They are in Puerto Rico to practice these skills and train new unit members while at the same time helping the Coast Guard with much-needed improvements. The squadron typically undertakes one such two-week assignment, called a deployment for training, each year. On previous such deployments its members built a schoolhouse in Ecuador; renovated facilities in Hawaii; installed fiber-optic lines in Israel; and upgraded roads, a training range and other infrastructure along California's border with Mexico. "These deployments let us do two things," said LTC Ed Soto, the squadron's commander. "The most important thing, obviously, is the training. On a wartime deployment, a civil engineer squadron provides the infrastructure everything from roads, runways and building maintenance to pest control that make the operation of a modern base possible. A training deployment like this one helps us keep those skills sharp, and gives our new airmen the chance to work side-by-side with and get mentorship from our more experienced members. "The beauty of doing our training this way," he added, "is that at we get all that training accomplished while at the same time doing a lot of much-needed real-world work. On each training deployment, our men and women have packed in as many fixes, upgrades and improvements as humanly possible in two or three weeks. Our hosts have always been very, very appreciative of all their hard work and the results they've brought."

176 CES Two jobs, one priority-training. These words take on different meanings to the personnel performing two different functions of this unit. One group, consisting of "traditional" Guard men and women here on UTAs, are training for possible mobility tasking on Prime BEEF (Base Emergency Engineering Force) and Prime RIBS (Readiness in Base Services) teams. These are the 99 military members of the 176 Civil Engineering Squadron (176 CES), which includes the 176 Services Flight. The second group consists of full-time personnel that are responsible for all facility maintenance, facility construction, fire protection and crash rescue at Kulis on a daily basis.

Looking back at the last ten years, several important milestones have been marked at the 176 Civil Engineering Squadron. In 1985 the unit received its designation as a squadron and also received its Prime BEEF mobility tasking. Another important milestone for the squadron has been the upgrading and replacement of heavy equipment from 1988 to 1992.

New equipment includes four dump trucks, one grader, one bull dozer, one front end loader, one

backhoe, and one Bobcat loader.

The 76 traditional guardsmen on the Prime BEEF Teams train to become proficient at many different AFSCs including: fire protection, engineering planning, equipment operation, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, sheet metal, refrigeration, heating, liquid fuels, power production, electrical, entomology, water and waste, production control and administration. To sustain mobility proficiency, the squadron has maintained an aggressive deployment schedule. Most recently the unit deployed in 1992 to Anderson AFB, Guam in March and to Malamute Drop Zone at Fort Richardson in May. The squadron's scheduled deployment to backfill at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana in 1991 was canceled due to Operation DESERT STORM. In 1990 the squadron trained at Malamute Drop Zone. In October 1989 Yokota Air Base, Japan received support from the 176 CES and in August of that same year the squadron descended upon Farewell, Alaska.

176 CES Base Recovery After Attack (BRA Tr) training was conducted at Eglin AFB, Florida in February 1989 with a follow-on trip to support the Mississippi Air National Guard at Gulfport Airport, Mississippi. The squadron supported March AFB, California in March 1988 and trained at Elmendorf AF Base's Camp Mad Bull during the summer of 1987. The administration, Engineering and fire Department sections of the squadron attended BRA Tr in June 1986 and the squadron deployed to Camp Mad Bull in October. December of 1985 saw the Operations section of the squadron attending BRA Tr at Eglin AFB, Florida. The squadron supported TEAM SPIRIT exercises at Osan Air Base, Korea in March 1985 and Suwon Air Base, Korea in March 1984. Support for the California Air National Guard was provided at Moffett Field Naval Air Station in March 1983 and at Fresno Airport in March 1982. The annual deployments by the 176 CES have been outstanding training opportunities. Unit morale has been boosted by these opportunities for traditional guardsmen to travel to remote locations and many foreign lands.

Looking to the future, there are some exciting things happening in Prime BEEF. Soon we will be reorganizing because of a consolidation of AFSCs. We anticipate a change from the current 17 different specialties to only ten.

Some restructuring of the number of personnel in certain speciality areas will also take place.

The full-time personnel in Civil Engineering include a combination of military technicians and State employees. These individuals are responsible for all activities associated with support of the facilities at Kulis. This includes custodial services, day-to-day maintenance of facilities, design of new facilities, design of alterations to existing facilities, the construction of new or modifications to existing facilities, and fire protection/crash rescue.

Military construction at Kulis ANG Base has been steady over the past ten years and has picked up to a feverish pace with the beddown of the 210th Air Rescue Squadron. The Operational Training Facility was construction in 1983. In 1988 the West Aircraft Parking Apron was expanded and the Aerial Port Facility was renovated. The Communications Facility was constructed in 1989 by three visiting Prime BEEF Teams and finished by the 176 CES and base volunteers. The new Base Supply and Equipment Warehouse and the new Fire Suppression/Water Distribution System began construction in 1991 and will be open for business in 1992. Construction has started in 1992 for the following four major new projects: Add to and Alter Squadron Operations, Alter Building 00002 for Helicopter Maintenance, Add to Avionics/ECM Shop, Add to Fire Station.

Five other major projects are currently under design for construction in 1994 and 1995. We are just seeing the beginning of numerous changes in facilities on Kulis.

The Civil Engineering Squadron looks to the future with anticipation. The possibility of growth to a 100 person Prime BEEF team, overseas deployments, and a new Civil Engineering Facility are just over the horizon. Training will remain our number one priority. This applies across the board from conducting quality Prime BEEF/Prime RIBS training to providing facilities for the training of others.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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