

176th CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



LINEAGE

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

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK
Elmendorf AFB, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

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 176th 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 176th 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 176th 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."

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

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. AK ANG. *176 Tactical Airlift Group, 30th Anniversary, 1952-1982.*

Unit History. AK ANG. *Alaska Air National Guard, The 40th Anniversary, 40 Years and Still Going Strong, 1952-1992.*