

181st CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

LINEAGE

181st Civil Engineering Flight
181st Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Terre Haute, IN

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Martin White, #2009

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Civil Engineering Flight became a squadron and Maj Dale Lucas was appointed the first Squadron commander. Cpt Mike McGowen was the base full-time engineer, transferring from the Indiana Army National Guard, and recently commissioned 2LT Ben Vorhees came on board as the assistant civil engineer.

On Jan. 5, 2009, our Civil Engineering Squadron once again stepped up to the plate and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq . Under the leadership of 1LT Breck Schmidlkofer and Master Sgt. Paul Lybarger, half of our CE force (30 Airmen) were serving our country at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. Six of the Airmen were deployed as Third Country National (TCN) Escorts for four months and the remaining Airmen were deployed for six months with the mission to maintain Sather AB and the associated areas as required. They maintained and improved the base as directed by the command staff. These efforts included critical projects such as road construction, repairing runways, repairing and expanding electrical distribution systems, repairing and expanding the portable water infrastructure, and conducting real-world and mock exercises concerning Base Readiness and weapons of mass destruction threats. They also performed many other essential duties as assigned during this deployment, but simply put, they received a lot of training and worked many hours in their specific career fields. Even though they worked long and hard during their six or seven day work weeks, they were given time for other activities, including career development courses and testing. They also had access to work on physical fitness at the Sather AB gym which housed strength training equipment, aerobic equipment, and a small area for fitness “class” activities like Jujitsu, P90X, etc. The on-base Services Squadron also held many events like basketball, volleyball, and soccer. In addition to fitness activities there were concerts, dance classes, poker tournaments, karaoke, and Bingo. Some members even found time to squeeze in some fishing at the small lakes surrounding Garrison Headquarters on Camp Victory. According to Schmidlkofer, “pictures do exist to provide evidence of successful outings!” You think they caught fish? Some of the Airmen participated in a recurring dinner function called the “General’s Dinner.” It was conducted by an Iraqi General that hosted guests for dinner and included American military personnel. This gave those attending the opportunity to share cultural awareness. Several of our CE Airmen also had the opportunity to eat dinner with Turkish Nationals working as contractors at the Victory Base Complex. All of this work did get our CE members noticed. The base had a “Team of the Month” award. In January this award was presented to our Equipment Shop members: Master Sgt. Paul Lybarger, Tech. Sgt. Michael Hoskins, Tech.Sgt. James Morgan, Staff Sgt. John Hackett, Senior Airman Andrew Hopkins, and Senior Airman Kenneth Dwigans. In June, this award was presented to our Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Shop members: Master Sgt. Roy Henderson, Staff Sgt. Thomas Gray, and Senior Airman Charles Davis. Among other awards received, they all earned the Iraq Campaign Medal. We would like to give special recognition to Staff Sgt Aaron Racey from our Engineering Shop. He received seven monthly/quarterly awards, two letters of appreciation, and was coined 13 times. One of the coins and one of the letters was presented to him from a Presidential Advance Agent. The coin is shaped like a football and reads “On behalf of the Vice President of the USA”. This was for the design and layout of the parking plan using the GPS system. The drawings and plans were briefed at the Pentagon, White House, and aboard Air Force 2. The letter was for the logistical support of the Vice President’s arrival in Bagdad. One of his other coins received was from the ACC Mission Support Director, a One-Star General, for outstanding overall performance. Congratulations Staff Sgt. Racey! “There were occasions when the enemy reminded us that they still had the resources and spirit to fight,” Schmidlkofer said, “Those events were reminders of how quickly life could change and the importance of the mission at hand. Although Services worked hard to offer a number of events, activities, entertainment, it was no substitute for home”. So in April, the TCN escorts returned home safely, followed by the remaining Airmen who returned in July.

The Civil Engineer Squadron has been very busy with projects across the state. The engineers completed construction of a range control tower and range control house, and they also demolished the old range tower at Jefferson Proving Ground near Madison, Ind., with a total cost of \$1.46 million.

Also scheduled for Jefferson Proving Ground is replacement of site utilities. Design phase is complete, and is now preparing to bid with an estimated \$2.2 million in construction costs.

2009 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS The two major projects on base are the remodeling of buildings 38 and 40 for the Intel mission for a total of \$5,234,500.00. The remaining construction projects throughout the base, JPG and Atterbury Range total \$6,656,686.00. Hulman Field Projects: Installation of roof system, removal aircraft arresting system (BRAC), Demolish POL storage, repaint 2 buildings and other areas throughout HUF, replace culverts, payment repairs/removal, install electric main metering system, HVAC installs, and various other projects JPG Projects: Construct range control house, replace range control tower, replace road culvert and repair washouts, and road water crossings; perimeter fence maintenance Atterbury Range Projects: Replace range scoring and radio room, install asphalt on lot NE of bldg 123, new electric service line.

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Sources

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