

189th CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

LINEAGE

189th Civil Engineering Squadron
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STATIONS

Little Rock AFB, AR

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Twenty-four members of the 189th Civil Engineering Prime Beef team spent 15 days on annual training 2-17 Jun at Zweibrucken Air Base, Germany. Cpt. Jerry Rogers, officer in charge of the project said The CE group constructed roads and parking lots on base.

Sheet Metal Shop and CE Customize a "Special Tricycle" Christmas 1984 was a very special one for five year old Kristie London of Ashdown, Ark. Kristie was given a new, specially-built tricycle, with customized hand-controlled propulsion. Kristie, a Spina Bifida child, had very little use of her body from the waist down. During the Thanksgiving holiday at Children's Hospital in Little Rock, she met another patient, Mandi Henderson, daughter of Tech. Sgt. and Mrs. Bobby

Henderson. Henderson knew that Kristie wanted a tricycle to ride with the other children, and realized she would need a very special tricycle. He and SMSgt George Pulliam at the sheet metal shop had the needed parts to customize a tricycle for Kristie. Members of the 189th Civil Engineering Squadron and the sheet metal shop pitched in and bought a shiny red tricycle, and proceeded to fabricate the handlebars to operate the chain drive in the same fashion as foot pedals would on a regular trike. The tricycle was completed and delivered in time for Christmas. Days later, a letter arrived in the mail to the 189th volunteers. Inside was a thank you card and a photograph of Kristie with her new shiny red tricycle. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Payne, said the gift helped make Kristie's 1984 Christmas the happiest she and her family ever had.

A 189th Civil Engineering Prime Beef team, consisting of carpenters, plumbers, electricians and administrative personnel attended annual training in Palmerola Air Base, Honduras from 30 Apr through 14 May 1988. Commander LTC Charles F. Wroblewski, said the 45-man team arrived at noon on 30 Apr after a five-hour flight on a West Virginia ANG C-130. The team quickly went to work on several projects in support of the Joint Task Force Bravo operation. The largest job consisted of building a new post exchange at the Central American base. Wroblewski said the team completed the building and exterior and left the interior wiring and finishing work for the next team, arriving from New Orleans. Other projects included work on laundromat and washroom facilities, along with work on a pesticide storage building and equipment washbays. The team also worked on maintenance and repair of the base power plant generator, repairing and installing exterior high voltage power lines, and installation of interior wiring for the Army Corps of Engineers. One other job consisted of a complete re-wiring of the base hospital radiation clinic, which had become unsafe. During the second week of the deployment, nine members of the team flew to Tigre Island for three days to repair a mess hall and do other work. Wroblewski said the troops were housed in tropical huts called "hootches" consisting of rough wood walls and floors and metal roofs. The weather was hot with temperatures often above 100 degrees.

Civil Engineering traveled to remote, tropical Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica in an effort to improve the lives of citizens there. 25 members of the 189 CES put their skills to use, in the Camino de La Pas (Road of Peace) 1989 exercise with both Army and Air force troops, active and reserve. As part of Task Force 36, they were tasked to build two community centers, one at La Palma and the other near Puerto Jimenez. "The centers are just wood frame constructions with metal ribs. The concrete slab foundations were poured by the PRIME BEEF teams that were here before us. We started from the slabs and built up," said Maj Jerry E. Rogers, chief of engineering and environmental planning, and team officer in charge. The PRIME BEEF team owes its expertise to its mission, which involves Base Recovery After Attack rapid runway repair. Depending on specialties and knowledge, we put a team together," said Senior Master Sgt. Roger Forinash. "For this project, we have equipment operators, carpenters, plumbers and electricians." "Part of the PRIME BEEF concept" he added, "is to be able to work within any area of engineering. So, if there's a need, we can leave our base prepared for a deployment anywhere in the world on short notice." Since 1986, PRIME BEEF have worked at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras and in Panama.

11 Feb 1991 Fifty members of the 189 CES were called to active duty in support of Operation

Desert Storm. The majority of 189 Prime Beef team members who were activated to augment the 314th Civil Engineering Squadron on base during Desert Storm had been released from active duty, according to Maj. Robert A. Scolli, 189th CE chief of operations. The majority of the 50-man team, which was activated Feb. 11, was released April 30 and were present for the May Unit Training Assembly. Scolli said that the 189 CE Guardsmen worked to "backfill" for the deployed 314 CE and worked a variety of assignments on base with civilian and active duty individuals. Assisting Scolli and serving as engineering officer during the period was 1st Lt. Wayne R. Wasser. Senior enlisted support was provided by Chief Master Sgt. Freddie R. Davidson and Senior Master Sgt. Roger G. Forinash. The 189th Prime Beef team worked on a variety of projects including heating, refrigeration, power production, carpentry and plumbing. Planning, logistics and scheduling support was also provided.

On 16 Apr 1994, 23 civil engineering troops along with five from Services Flight, two from the Medical Squadron, a photographer from Audio Visual, and a communication specialist from the Alabama Air National Guard left Little Rock AFB for Pacara Argentina. The original mission was to meet up with the advance clinic for the cholera outbreak in Northern Argentina. The troops arrived at Howard Air Force Base, Panama to spend the night. The plan was to depart early the next morning for the final destination. This is where things began to come apart. The deployed CE troops were informed that due to some confusion about diplomatic flight clearances, they would be unable to continue to Argentina. The aircrew returned then to Mississippi. Knowing that they would be there for at least four days, they began to look for work and before the weekend was over they had found a job. We would be working at the Brisas del Mar (breeze by the sea). Brisas del Mar was built in 1907 by the famous Col. William C. Gorgas, Chief Health Officer of the Canal Zone, to house and care for victims of Hanson's disease (commonly called leprosy) that was discovered during the construction of the Panama Canal. Their job was to help the 906 CEF from Wright-Patterson AFB to complete two multiple housing units.

From 29 Jul to 5 Aug 1995, CE was deployed to Canada to take part in an exchange program that not only benefited the Canadians, but themselves as well. With the threats of military takeovers dwindling worldwide, U.S. military services aren't the only ones feeling the effects of massive drawdowns. To help ease their burden, members of the 189th Civil Engineer Squadron went to Trenton, Ontario, to lend a helping hand for friends in need. "The rewards are advantageous for both sides," said Maj. Keith Bauder, officer in charge for the deployment. "We get a lot of annual training out of the deployment, but it also allowed the Canadians to stretch their already limited resources." The exchange program began in an effort to help NATO allies get a familiarity with working relationships, said Bauder. "If we ever get into another war like Desert Shield/Desert Storm, then we'll know each others' capabilities as a fighting force," he said. Since the Guard and Reserve units now play an even greater role in national defense, they must continue to train and prepare to demonstrate their ability to deal with real-world missions. About 300 members of the 189th Airlift Wing prepared to do just that, when they deployed to Volk Field, Wis. to demonstrate their ability in a joint Operational Readiness Exercise with the 133rd Airlift Wing, 4-10 Mar 1996. "Realistic training is a vital part of the Guard's readiness and is perhaps our greatest challenge," said Col Shelby G. Bryant, 189 AW commander. "The people are our most important resource and we are committed to protecting them." In addition to the exercise at Volk Field, the Guard members received training in authentication, self-aid and buddy care and the

law of armed conflict which were taught by instructors from the 189th Airlift Wing.

Late winter, 1997, the word went out for emergency assistance in the wake of tornadoes that ripped through Arkansas. Members of the Arkansas Air National Guard answered the call. Air Guard members worked side-by-side with the Army Guard to assist the victims of the tornado-ravaged areas. Members of the 223rd Combat Communications Squadron were tasked to provide communications, portable lighting and generators in several areas of the state. The 189th Civil Engineers set up tents at two locations to be used as temporary lodging and showers for residents of the Sardis area. "They were glad to have the Guard there," he said. "The tornado victims were so grateful they wanted to buy our lunch or put gas in the truck! Of course we didn't accept their offers, but it was gratifying just to know we were able to help. I only wish we could have done more.

Members of the 189th Civil Engineer Squadron erected tents in Beebe in the aftermath of a string of tornadoes that ripped through the community the night of 21 Jan 1999. The tents served as showers for Southern Baptist Convention and Red Cross volunteers who set up headquarters in a nearby church parking lot.

About 30 airmen from the 189th Airlift Wing spent two weeks during the of summer 1999 on an American Indian reservation in New Mexico. The 189th Civil Engineering Squadron members put finishing touches on a new fire station at the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation between 24 Jul and 8 Aug. Frequent rain storms in the mountainous area interrupted the exterior work, but when the Arkansas guardsmen returned home, they left behind a new concrete block building with a metal roof large enough to house two brush trucks used in fighting fires. The exchange program is administered through the National Guard Bureau Readiness Center and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Arkansas unit made up the last of four teams that worked at the Apache reservation. "It was an excellent deployment," said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Smith, squadron member. The guardsmen added finishing touches to the fire station including some sheet rock hanging, finishing, tile installation and trimming. "We normally take all the tools we'll need, but this time, we only brought some small hand tools. About 95 percent of the equipment we needed was already in place," Smith said. Six full time guardsmen deployed and the balance was made up of traditional guard members. For two or three, it was their first deployment. "It was an excellent deployment," Smith said. There is a possibility that guardsmen will be used next year to add bath and shower facilities to the fire station, Smith said.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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