307th RED HORSE SQUADRON

LINEAGE
HQ AFRES REDESIGNATED 307 CES, HEAVY REPAIR AS 307 CES, RED HORSE AT KELLY AFB ON 15 SEP 88.

STATIONS
Kelly AFB, TX, 17 Mar 1976
Lackland AFB, TX
Barksdale AFB, LA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS
Service Streamers
Campaign Streamers
Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers
Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

1985/307 CES
COL WILLIAM A. MYERS WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER, 307 CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON, HEAVY REPAIR, 2 AUG 85.

10 AIR FORCE CONDUCTED IN DEPTH READINESS ASSISTANCE VISIT. 307 CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON PERSONNEL ATTENDED RED HORSE (RAPID ENGINEER DEPLOYABLE, HEAVY OPERATIONS REPAIR SQUADRONS, ENGINEER) COMMANDERS CONFERENCE, AND VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT MANAGERS' WORKSHOP.

307 CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON, RED HORSE (RAPID ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT AND HEAVY OPERATIONAL REPAIR SQUADRON, ENGINEERING), REDESIGNATED 307 RED HORSE CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON.

As the active duty squadrons decreased in number at the end of the Vietnam War, RED HORSE capability expanded to the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. The 307th RHS was originally organized in July 1971. Detachments 307 and 308 were located at Ellington AFB, TX, and Barksdale AFB, LA, respectively. In 1976, the Ellington unit relocated to Kelly AFB, Texas, and was designated the headquarters. The Barksdale unit remained on location but was redesignated Detachment 1, 307th RHS. The 307th deployed to Central America in both 1999 and 2000 to drill several water wells and provide medical assistance as part of the New Horizons humanitarian exercise. In 2003, the squadron deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. It is assigned to the 610th Regional Support Group, Air Force Reserve Command.

To support Air Force Civil Engineer wartime missions, performing heavy damage repair required for recovery of Air Force facilities and utility systems needed for aircraft launch and recovery that have been subjected to enemy attack or natural disaster. In peacetime, provide an engineering response force, supporting special construction efforts and humanitarian civic action projects in remote areas or operating contingency airfields and operating locations.

307 RH

Throughout 2008, Air Force civil engineers continued to provide exceptional support to combatant commanders around the globe. From Iraq to Afghanistan, from Romania to Peru, they were involved in operations, deployments, and contingencies in support of American, allied, and coalition forces. Unfortunately, 2008 was also a deadly year as civil engineers lost two members to improvised explosive devices.

The tempo of operations continued at a high pace for Air Force civil engineers in FY08 as they filled the various requirements by Combatant Commands. CENTCOM's Joint Sourcing Solution (formerly "in lieu of") taskings remained a large percentage of the Air Force's total contingency requirements.
In FY07, Ak Force engineers supported "The Surge" by constructing basing facilities for the buildup of Air Force, Army, and Marine forces in Iraq. During FY08, they continued their efforts on the various bases, but their focus was often on a different aspect of the operation: working with Iraqi civilians to improve their everyday living and working conditions and with the Iraqi military to improve their facilities and train Iraqi engineers and firefighters.

Engineers often find themselves fulfilling three distinct but interrelated roles during contingencies: warrior, professional, and ambassador. In 2008, this was true for the members of the traditional CE units as well as the individual civil engineers deployed to Joint or specialty assignments. It was certainly true for members of the 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron (ERHS).

In October 2007, traditional members of the 819th and 307th RED HORSE Squadrons (RHSs) deployed to Southwest Asia as members of the 557th ERHS. They were replaced by members of the 823rd RHS in April 2008. Augmented by deployed Reserve, Guard, and active duty Prime BEEF engineers, the 557th ERHS accomplished a great deal during FY08. During their six-month deployment, the more than 550 Airmen worked together in 14 locations throughout the theater and were responsible for approximately $54M in construction projects. The unit worked in support of Multi-National Corps—Iraq (MNC-I) — the tactical unit responsible for command and control of operations throughout Iraq — and U.S. Air Forces Central (AFCENT) projects during their deployment.

As part of its MNC-I efforts, the 557th ERHS filled an approximately 400-person JSS tasking to provide direct combat engineering design, heavy construction, and general engineering support to the Army's Theater Engineer Brigade. A 150-person force from the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group provided heavy construction support directly to AFCENT for completion of priority airfield construction projects anywhere in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. During a typical month of 2008, the unit completed 19 projects worth $3.26M, and had 40 projects under construction worth $32M and 22 projects in design worth $17.5M.

The construction of nearly SIOM of aircraft shelters, taxiways, and temporary shelters at Al Asad AB, Iraq, by the 557th embodied the "Joint" spirit. As MSgt Richard Kapp, 557th ERHS, described their work, "We're here working on a Marine base, taking on an Army job while using Navy parts."

In their role as ambassadors, the 557th began teaching construction classes at the Village of Hope vocational school in Hawr Rajab, Iraq. As peace and security were established in this area one that had been under the control of Al-Qaeda in Iraq forces and where nearly all economic activity had ceased — 557th engineers opened a school to teach Hawr Rajab citizens the basics of construction — skills they greatly needed. With the ultimate goal of encouraging activity in the village and recreating a normal life for its citizens, the engineers-turned-teachers offered both the classroom instruction and the hands-on training needed to rebuild the village's homes. A total of 210 students in four classes graduated from the Village of Hope School in FY08. TSgt Christopher Collins, a plumbing class instructor, summarized his feelings about the experience, "I've deployed five times but I've never had the chance to help someone change their life."
Engineers from Det 6, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron (ECES), aided the Iraqi Army by constructing a joint combat outpost in the Diyala River Valley, in an area that had been an Al Qaeda in Iraq stronghold. The Airmen built more than 25,000 sq. ft. of living, dining, and operations buildings for the U.S. Army and Iraqi Army to be able to quickly respond when needed.

Air Force firefighters were instrumental in training both Iraqi and Afghani firefighters, helping them sharpen their skills. At All Base, Iraq, the 407th ECES fire department offered a six-week course to teach 8-10 students the basics of fire fighting, search and rescue, and life saving, and familiarize them with equipment donated from fire departments in the United States. At Kirfcuk AB, firefighters from the 506th ECES used a new training facility oil base to train thek Iraqi counterparts ill search and rescue tactics and worked -with city of Kirkuk firefighters to improve fire response and overall safety for Iraqi citizens in the region.

In Afghanistan, Air Force firefighters trained members of the Afghan National Army Air Corps to serve as the first firefighters at Kabul International Airport's new Afghan National Army Air Corps North Side Cantonment. The bonds of firefightiing broke through the walls of language and culture. "No matter what country a person is from or what they believe, firefighters are firefighters...so there is an automatic brotherhood between us and we take each other in like family," said TSgt John Dunne, a 506th ECES firefighter.

Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams represented 29 percent of the overall Joint EOD capability in Iraq and Afghanistan for FY08, and overall EOD operations showed a significant improvement. The success of the Surge operations and the improved security conditions in Iraq reduced EOD team activity from the previous year's levels in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters (FY07/FY08). Air Force EOD teams made fewer overall responses in FY08 in the following categories: IED responses (3,706/2,091), Unexploded Ordnance responses (3,682/2,237), and Munitions Caches removed (1,388/284).

Engineers supported additional missions outside of SWA during FY08. In Romania, civil engineers bedded down hundreds of Airmen and several aircraft at Campia Turzii to support Operation NOBLE ENDEAVOR, a Romanian-led effort to police the sky above the NATO summit in Bucharest. Since local hotels were not available, the engineers cleared an old Romanian paratrooper obstacle course and began building a tent city that included 1,500 feet of concertina wire and two retaining dikes for two 210,000 gallon-capacity fuel bladders. It was a remarkable opportunity for USAFE Airmen to deploy forward, establish an expeditionary mission, and then disassemble everything for redeployment to home station.

Members of the 820th RHS, 555th RHS, and the 219th RHF teamed up for the 2008 version of the New Horizons program and served as the lead for the task force. The engineers deployed for a three-month period to Peru and completed several construction projects, including a clinic and a school in Yanama, a village with a population of almost 8,000, and a clinic in San Cristobal, a town of 9,000. New Horizons is a long-running, SOUTHCOM-sponsored program that annually provides humanitarian assistance to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
During Operation CONTINUING PROMISE, Prime BEEF engineers from the 5th CES, Miriot AFB, N.D., partnered with Seabees aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Ktarsarge to conduct civil-military operations and build strong partnerships in the Caribbean that can be called upon in the event of a regional situation requiring cooperative solutions. The original plans called for primary activities in six nations. However, the Kearsargy diverted to Haiti for most of September after tropical storms produced devastating flooding in that country. After aiding with relief efforts in Haiti, the Kearsarff — and the Prime BEEF engineers — completed the scheduled activities in the Dominican Republic.

Finally, and most significantly, 2008 was a year in which the Air Force Civil Engineering community sustained two substantial losses in the Global War on Terrorism. Two civil engineers, TSgt Anthony L. Capra, and Maj Rodolfo Rodriguez, were killed serving in contingency duties.

TSgt Capra, 31, died April 9 near Golden Hills, Iraq, of wounds suffered when he encountered an improvised explosive device during his 107th combat mission of this tour. He was deployed from Detachment 63, 688th Armament Systems Squadron, Indian Head City, Md., as an EOD leader assigned to the 332iid ECES at Balad AB.

Maj Rodriguez, 34, died Sept. 20 from injuries sustained in an explosion in Islamabad, Pakistan. A member of the 86th Construction and Training Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany, he was deployed to the area in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

In late May, members of the Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE Squadron from Barksdale Air Force Base, LA, attempted to drill a well at the Gillis Long Center in Carville, LA. However, due to heavy flooding from Tropical Storm Allison, 3 to 4 feet of standing water at the site, the team had to evacuate before the project was completed. Luckily, the waters soaked into the ground, and they were able to return in July to finish the project. By then the facility, which had originally been getting by with two aging water wells, was down to one well that was producing only 30 gallons of water per minute. The supply of water was less than the demand. The Gillis Long Center is a 330-acre, 100-building campus. Formerly a U.S. Public Health Service hospital for Hansens disease, or leprosy, research and treatment since 1921, after starting as a state-run facility in 1894. The site was transferred back to the state in 1999 and its treatment and research functions moved to other locations. Patients living in the dormitories and cottages there are allowed to stay as long as they want and continue to receive health care and other services.

About 25 patients remain at the center, said Capt Michael Falcon, 307th RHS operations officer. Most of them are in their 80s now. One of the women that Captain Falcon met had been there since she was a teenager almost 70 years. She even met her husband there. The site is now used
to promote public health and education, and is home to the Louisiana National Guards Youth ChalleNGe Program, which educates and trains at-risk youth. The Louisiana Army National Guard manages the center and other facilities at the site, in addition to its regular mission. Since the Gillis Long Center is a government facility, the approval process for drilling the well was easier for RED HORSE. We usually can get approval to drill a well when it can be proved that the people cannot economically afford to drill one themselves, said Falcon. We were in a situation where the one well we had needed maintenance, and we dont have access to city water said camp utilities supervisor Byron Gautreau. Eventually the camp, which is in a somewhat remote location, hopes to be connected to the Baton Rouge public water system. Once that happens, they will use the wells for irrigation. We are required to drill a well once a year to keep up our proficiency, said Falcon. Were supplying the know-how, and they.re supplying the materials. Eight people worked on the well and five were in training. Normally the team drills 8- to 10-inch diameter wells, but the one they drilled for the center is 14 inches, because it needs to produce enough water to keep up with the needs of all the people at the facility. According to CMSgt Louis Carroll, 307th RHS vehicle maintenance manager, every well is different, and just when you think you know what you.re doing, Mother Nature throws you a curve. It takes about three years of drilling before you get good at it. These guys desperately needed the water, said Falcon. They were to the point of shipping in water by truck the last week of our drilling. The well was completed July 25 and is now supplying the approximately 500 people at the center with almost 300 gallons of water per minute. This gives them more water than they will need, said Falcon. The 307th RHS said that not only has the water pressure increased, but also the water quality. 2011

RED HORSE squadrons from around the globe are combining forces at Osan AB to improve the quality of life for military members and safety conditions for Airmen and aircraft in South Korea. Engineers from Osan’s 554th RHS have worked closely with Guard, Reserve and active duty units from the 307th RHS at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; 555th RHS and 820th RHS at Nellis AFB, Nev.; and the 254th CES from Andersen AFB, Guam, on several construction projects since April. “In total, we have about 170 HORSE brothers and sisters supporting us and rotating through Korea from April through September (this year),” said CMSgt Jeff Slocum, 554th RHS operations chief. “Some are just doing their two-week annual tours, while others are staying on for a while, which helps provide additional continuity on the jobs.” “RED HORSE is all about diversity. Although considered a civil engineer unit, only two-thirds of the squadron personnel carry a (civil engineer) AFSC,” said Lt Col Richard Sloop Jr., commander of the 554th RHS. “The remainder makes up the support element that allows RED HORSE to be a self-sufficient operation. With our Reserve and Guard component, we also pick up contracting, security forces and medical personnel.” Completed projects across the peninsula include construction at air bases at Kimhae, Wonju, Suwon, Kunsan and Osan. “(At Kunsan), we replaced old expeditionary aircraft arresting systems,” said CMSgt Slocum. “We (also) built access roads, drainage culverts and buildings to house the arresting engines. The new system is motor-driven and provides for a smoother, more controlled engagement. Basically, it improves operational safety for any aircraft with barrier engagement capability, which better protects the aircraft and pilot during a barrier engagement.” One of RED HORSE’s primary wartime responsibilities is to provide aircraft launch and recovery capabilities wherever the Air Force needs it, said Osan project engineer 1Lt Theresa White. “It was great that we (had) the chance to
upgrade Kunsan’s barrier system. We got to hone our skills for war, and the ‘Wolf Pack’ [knows] they have a better system in place to more safely support sortie take off and landing operations.” Some of the many projects included two steel arch warehouse buildings at Kimhae that will provide security and weather protection for RED HORSE and war reserve materiel; 30 contingency cabins at Kunsan to support air expeditionary force rotations, joint exercises, and operations; and a shower, latrine and laundry facility at Suwon which improves quality of life for deployed forces. “It’s great to have such tremendous support from each of these units. We called for help, and they came running,” CMSgt Slocum said. “The RED HORSE community is a very tight-knit family. The camaraderie among the people from all the units is fantastic. They work together, play together, and justblend very well to get the job done. Having all of us working together is definitely a production and morale booster.”

June, a second rotation of 50 men and women from the 307th RED HORSE, an attached unit of the 433rd Airlift Wing, deployed on a charter flight to Fort McCoy, Wis., for three weeks of combat skills training before leaving for their 6-month assignment overseas. The 400-member squadron deployed a diverse group of men and women ranging from Vietnam-era veterans to recent tech school graduates. Senior Airman Amanda Balyeat, an engineer, graduated from Basic Military Training just a year ago. A former waitress, she had no reservations about joining the Reserve during wartime. “I wasn’t making it waiting tables. I wanted to make more of my life. I wasn’t doing it before.” Airman Balyeat is also a single mom. Her 5-year old son realizes why she is away. “He understands that Mommy is working for the Air Force,” she said. “I am excited to go, mostly because of my son,” she said of her first deployment. In her civilian career, Airman Balyeat is a construction inspector with the Texas Department of Transportation. “The Air Force has helped me out a lot, I got the job with TexDOT,” she said. According to Airman Balyeat, without her Air Force training and on-the-job experience with the RED HORSE at Camp Bullis, she would not have been hired for the job. “I didn’t want to wait tables for the rest of my life,” the petite 24-year-old said. This deployment is the last “hurrah” for Tech. Sgt. Gerardo Santiago, 58, a Vietnam-era veteran who served in the Air Force in Japan as a communications specialist. “If anybody is prepared, we are,” said Sergeant Santiago, a vehicle maintenance mechanic. The week prior to leaving for Southwest Asia, the deploying members trained and worked in the compound wearing their 20-pound body armor the entire duty day. Annual landing field in Seguin, Texas, have also boosted the unit’s skills according to Santiago. “It has helped us stay sharp and will keep us safe,” he said. “The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.” Tough working conditions are nothing new to the RED HORSE. In January, they constructed a forward operating base dubbed Camp Anderson Peters at Camp Bullis, just north of San Antonio, by working seven days a week, 12 hours a day. “This was an awesome task for the unit,” said Chief Master Sgt. Tony Valdez, NCO in charge of Quality Assurance. Instead of a civilian contractor being hired for the job, the 307th was selected due to “speed and less red tape,” he said. The facility serves as a training site for deploying personnel and includes cadre quarters, classrooms, a dining facility, showers, latrines, and barracks. In January 2006, the team will return to San Antonio. “It’s an honor to be selected,” Sergeant Santiago said. “This will make the world a safer and better place. It’s better to do it over there than over here.”

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