

# **376<sup>th</sup> EXPEDITIONARY CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

376<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

## **STATIONS**

Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's heavy equipment shop revels in performing the dirtiest of jobs. "The one thing about our job is the people love doing what they do," said MSgt Stevie Wells, 376th ECES heavy equipment shop superintendent. The heavy equipment operators,

affectionately known as the “Dirt Boyz,” perform many tasks on the base. “We are responsible for all roads, sidewalks, storm sewer systems, and airfield pavement,” said MSgt Wells. “We run the sweepers, cranes, and backhoes to support other construction projects and CE shops. We also do all the snow removal on Air Force properties here.”

Recently, the Dirt Boyz have been the ones wearing concrete residue on their uniforms from forming and pouring sidewalks throughout Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan. “We have a sidewalk plan of 3,000’ for the base,” said SSgt Troy Pietz, 376th ECES heavy equipment operator deployed from Grand Forks AFB, N.D. “Right now, this is our priority—to complete these sidewalks.” The plan for 3,000’ is a straight-line distance but, when pouring the concrete, it measures a whole lot more. “We’ve formed and poured enough concrete in the last 30 days that, when measured 4’ wide by 4” thick, it equals 1.6 miles,” said MSgt Wells, also deployed from Grand Forks. “Our goal is to do as much as we can before weather turns bad.”

This rotation’s crew has completed more than 10 times the distance of the previous rotation. MSgt Wells credits it to the crew’s familiarity with one another; most came from the same base. For one of the Dirt Boyz who is not from Grand Forks, this deployment is special. “This is my first deployment, and I’m loving it,” said Amn Christopher Petrosky, deployed from Charleston AFB, S.C. “There is a higher work tempo here, and a little more sense of accomplishment because of the larger-scale projects we get to do.” As winter draws near, having a solid surface to walk on and to be able to clear is most important. “We’re...in charge of snow removal, so having the sidewalks will make our job easier,” said SSgt Pietz. The Dirt Boyz recently completed sidewalks around some of the dormitories and the new fitness center. But there’s still more work to be done. “We’re connecting the sidewalks all the way to the new ETDC [Expeditionary Theater Distribution Center] location (the old fitness center) and post office,” said MSgt Wells. “We will connect Temporary Cantonment Area Annex to Main TCA and run a full sidewalk from Dormitory 300 to the chapel before winter sets in.”

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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

MSgt Mitch Gettle. Air Force Civil Engineer, Vol 15, No. 1, 2007.