

379th EXPEDITIONARY CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

379th Installations Squadron

Redesignated 379th Civil Engineering Squadron

Redesignated 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Homestead AFB, FL, 1 Nov 1955-1 Jun 1956

Wurtsmith AFB, MI, 16 Dec 1959

Al Udeid AB Qatar

ASSIGNMENTS

379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The primary mission of the 379th Civil Engineering Squadron was to acquire, design, construct, operate and maintain real property facilities and utilities. Also, it provided related management, engineering and support work and services.

The squadron managed more than 1,340 military family housing units and operates the housing referral office. It also conducts fire prevention, protection and crash rescue operations.

Base facilities alone represented and investment of more than \$157 million.

More than 18,000 maintenance and minor construction jobs are done each year, in addition to operating utility plants and airfield sweeping and snow removal operations.

Al Udeid Airlift Operations Relocating on Base A crew of nearly 320 airmen is relocating the Air Force's airlift presence from a part of al Udeid AB, Qatar, known as Ops Town, to another part of the base at the Qataris' request, according to a base release. "The host nation has plans to build another ramp and their flying academy in the space that we are currently occupying," said Capt. Anna Narduzzi, the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's chief of portfolio optimization. The Qatari academy will be similar to the Air Force Academy, she said. Squadron members are moving equipment, personnel, and temporary facilities, such as tents, to the new location, all while ensuring airlift operations continue, states the Jan. 24 release. "We know the move is stressful to a lot of units, but we are ensuring that there is no mission impact," said SMSgt. Roddy Martin, 379 ECES superintendent. Within 30 days, the unit plans to complete the move from the first two of Ops Town's four zones, states the release. 2014

C-17 Infrastructure Expansion at Al Udeid Air Forces Central Command is shifting its posture in certain areas from an expeditionary footing to a more enduring presence. The 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, as a result, is undertaking projects to improve infrastructure at al Udeid AB, Qatar, one of AFCENT's operating hubs. This includes constructing a permanent C-17 spare parts facility to improve access to spares and shorten supply chains, according to a release. Having spares readily available for the aircraft, like C-17s, moving through al Udeid is "critical," said Maj. Timothy Scheffler, the 379th ECES engineering flight commander. At present, more than 16,000 C-17 spare parts are stored in connexes on a dirt lot on base. This setup, however, leaves some parts prone to degradation due to exposure to dirt, sand, heat, and humidity. Proper storage and organization of these parts will help to prevent this, saving money and enabling members of the 8th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron return C-17s to mission-ready status faster, said Lt. Col. Jesse Baker, the unit's commander. 2015

ABDULLAH AL-MUBARAK AIR BASE, Kuwait (AFNS) -- Construction is nearly complete on 'Cargo City,' a new operating location for U.S. and coalition forces to conduct aerial port operations in Kuwait. This aerial port will continue to serve as a major-military logistics point, and also functions as the largest aerial port of debarkation in the Middle East. Cargo City, located adjacent to a vacant aircraft parking ramp at Kuwait International Airport, will serve as home to both Kuwait Air Force,

U.S. military and coalition personnel during the airport's massive expansion. The location will serve as a temporary operating location until its replacement, West Al-Mubarak Air Base, is complete which is projected to be in 2023.

"Once finished, the total functional space at Cargo City will feature an area of nearly 33,000 square meters," said Capt. Sean Murphy, 387th Expeditionary Support Squadron civil engineering flight officer in charge. "We are optimizing our workspace by reducing our footprint from 230,000 square meters, excluding the flightline." Murphy said the consolidation of joint-service units and personnel will provide a higher ceiling of capability, as it enables direct contact with coalition and host-nation partners, streamlining communications processes by proximity alone. While the project will benefit all parties involved, it did not come without its initial set of challenges.

"Moving everything to an entirely new location does not seem ideal at first, and building an entire base from scratch is a different conversation altogether," he said. "The current base personnel also have to overcome the displacement of staff – all while still executing their mission." The move wasn't all bad news for Murphy and the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron team, however. Their victories included more than just turning a blank slate into to a fully-functional operating location. "During the build process, we were able to form friendships and build bonds with our generous host-nation partners," he said. "We wanted to go into this project with the clear intentions of building not just an operating location, but a lasting partnership."

This partnership was evident during the build and construction process, as the 386 ECES and 387 ESPTS relied on their Kuwaiti counterparts for a colossal project – importing more than 1.24 million cubic meters of fill for the construction site. "When we first arrived, the build site was not even close to ideal for our goals," said Capt. Jesse Lantz, 386 ECES deputy commander. "The entire site was pretty much a 10-foot deep hole and needed to be filled in and graded properly, which is a huge project in itself. After a few meetings, we were able to hammer out a logistics plan for the site and get to work alongside the Kuwaitis."

And get to work they did. To make the land suitable for construction, a team of local trucking companies performed 24-hour transport operations, transporting nearly 400 trucks of soil, dirt and rock every day. This operation lasted nearly four months. After the task to fill, level, and compact the construction site was complete, the ECES began constructing the War-Reserve Material shelters, which is slated to serve as the new operating location for the 5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron's Aircraft Maintenance mission. In addition to constructing the base's facilities, the 386 ECES, the 387 ESPTS, 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, and the Army's 505th Engineer Battalion partners teamed up to install the heart and soul of the base – electricity and communications lines.

"After the site was prepared, we had three months to have the base move-in ready," said Lantz, who has an extensive background in construction and project management. "Just a short time ago, there was nothing here but a patch of land. It is amazing to see something of this scale develop in front of your eyes." Lantz said while he may not be able to see the end result of this \$32-million project in person, he plans on contacting his replacement to request photos. With the Kuwait-contracted effort to complete the aircraft parking ramp slated to be complete in August 2018, and the connecting taxiway slated for a November 2018 completion, there will be plenty of photos for his successor to send.

While Cargo City will be replaced eventually, he said the project will ease the transition to the final destination, West Al-Mubarak Air Base – once it is complete. "Cargo City was built with the

intention of being a temporary solution, but will have long-lasting benefits," he said. "This is one of the projects I am most proud of in my career. The teams here did an incredible job and I look forward to what this location will be capable of in the very near future."

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.