

459 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

459 Installations Squadron constituted, 30 Dec 1954

Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jan 1955

Redesignated 459 Civil Engineering Squadron, 1 Jul 1960

Discontinued and inactivated, 17 Jan 1963

459 Civil Engineering Flight constituted, 18 Jun 1976

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1976

459 Civil Engineering Squadron and 459 Civil Engineering Flight consolidated, 24 Aug 1984

Redesignated 459 Civil Engineering Squadron, 1 Oct 1984

Redesignated 459 Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

Redesignated 459 Civil Engineer Flight, 24 Jul 2015

STATIONS

Andrews AFB, MD, 26 Jan 1956-17 Jan 1963

Andrews AFB, MD, 1 Jul 1976

ASSIGNMENTS

459 Air Base Group, 26 Jan 1955-17 Jan 1963

459 Tactical Airlift (later, 459 Military Airlift; 459 Airlift) Wing, 1 Jul 1976

459 Support (later, 459 Mission Support) Group, 1 Aug 1992

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Nov 1978-31 Oct 1980

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1983

1 Jan 1984-31 Dec 1985

1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1995

1 May 2002-30 Apr 2004

1 Jan 2005-31 Dec 2006

EMBLEM

On an Air Force golden yellow disc bordered Air Force blue, a red fireman's axe bendwise, trimmed white, surmounted by a brown beaver, highlighted Air Force golden yellow holding in his forepaws an Air Force blue wrench; all between in chief the United States Capitol dome, Air Force blue, highlighted white and in dexter (right) an Air Force blue transit, trimmed white. Significance. The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The "Eager Beaver" represents the hard work and construction which are associated with that animal. The tools and equipment for fire fighting and construction symbolize our major responsibilities. The Capitol dome indicates a tie with the 459th Troop Carrier Wing, which also displays a Capitol dome on its emblem, and is known as the Congressional Wing. The emblem displays the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, and the national colors, red, white, and blue. (Approved, 5 Jul 1962)



On a blue disc, the lower third a white cloud formation issuing from base bearing two scarlet lightning flashes one in bend and one in bend sinister, overall a scarlet bulldozer emitting white smoke from the exhaust pipe and suspended from a green parachute canopy in chief detailed white with white shrouds; all within a narrow blue border. Attached below the disc a yellow scroll edged with a narrow blue border and inscribed UNIVERSAL BUILDERS in blue letters. Attached above the disc a yellow scroll edged with a narrow blue border. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The elements on the shield depict the unit's mission--assemble personnel and prepack equipment on aircraft for deployment; deploy to an unknown location; and accomplish any heavy construction. The lightning flashes signify speed immobilization. Cable Numbers of Colors (Approved, 17 Mar 1988)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

They were here two years ago, almost to a day. When they left people said, "Now there's a team of professionals." They are the 459th Civil Engineering Flight from Andrews AFB, Md. Last time around they beautified the entrances and hallways of the 94 TAW and what was then the Eastern AFRR building.

On this last two-week stint, the team renovated a portion of the CBPO of the 94th TAW, by installing a suspended ceiling with recess lighting; modifying the air conditioning duct system; removing some old unit heaters; relocating a few light switches and electric outlets; paneling the Director's office; painting walls and renovating the ladies lounge. Other projects included the removal of a section and cutting a new road to bypass a dangerous hill on Patrol Road which has been the cause of accidents. A drainage ditch was cut to prevent water from flowing from the hill across the road.

Some members of the 459th were trained at the Base CE Office in POL systems, cost accounting, real property, work control and one man in entomology. Four others worked at

Lockheed-Georgia Company sanitary and industrial sewage plant. Three firemen received upgraded training at Dobbins Fire Department.

The 459th is commanded by Major Alvin L. Day, a professional civilian engineer from Dover, Delaware. Their construction superintendent is SMSgt Gus Almode, a postman who has chalked up over 22 years of active and reserve time, including four in the Navy.

Everyone who has watched this unit perform is impressed not only with the speed and skill they show but by their pleasant, cheerful manners. "They truly are professionals in every sense of the word," says Major Day. 1977



SSgt Charles Stribling (L) and SSgt James Lane work on electrical circuits at Dobbins AFB, GA 1977(USAF photo)



Amn Tony Linhart saws a length of two by four section at Dobbins AFB, GA 1977 (USAF photo)



TSgt Laven T. Moody (L) and TSgt James Armstrong panel and office wall at Dobbins AFB, GA 1977 (USAF photo)

CARSON CITY, Nev. – After a six-year delay, the Head Start school on the Stewart Indian Colony should be complete within weeks and ready to open in September, thanks to U.S. Air Force volunteers. The 459 Civil Engineer Squadron arrived April 3 and began work immediately - replacing Sheetrock, recommending design changes and making overall improvements to the initial work started six years ago by a job corps. Concrete had been laid and exterior walls erected before the job corps abandoned the site. Head Start leaders could not find another group to complete the work, until the fortuitous connection with the Air Force.

The 459, with 20-30 people coming in two-week shifts, expects to finish the Head Start school in five weeks. The 5,100-square-foot building will house four classrooms, a kitchen, administrative offices and two full-size children's bathrooms. There will be a playground out back. "I'm so excited," said Gail Brown, family service coordinator for the Washoe Tribe. "We're as happy as can be." It's three weeks until the deadline.

"In the back of my mind, I'm skeptical it will get done because of how long it's taken," said Sharon Doan, Head Start program manager. "We've already made such progress on it though, we feel like we will have our school open for next year." The Washoe Tribe Head Start program has been teaching 3-5 year olds for nearly 10 years. For most of that time, it's been at the community center on the Stewart Colony. Doan said she's grateful the tribe has let them operate out of the center. The new school is next to the community center on Clear Creek Avenue. About 25 men worked Thursday at the site, including Senior Master Sgt. Arthur "Flea" Flecker Jr., who fastened a gutter to the exterior of the building in the afternoon sun. Flecker, a full-time warehouse manager from Virginia, is one of a few men working beyond a two-week shift.

"I had my boss's permission to take off a month to be here," he said. "It's a humanitarian project. Any time it's a humanitarian project, he supports it." The men are all Air Force reservists and while volunteers for the project, do receive government pay. "The whole thing for us is training," said Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Woody, project manager of the site. "It's to get the training we need for the Air Force. We have a lot of young guys coming through, so if we're called up to go somewhere, this gives them the knowledge to know what to do." The unit is an engineer squadron. Members have worked all over the world on similar projects. "This is what we do," said Chief Master Sgt. Donald Ellington. "We are a construction company. There's really nothing construction that we can't do." When the school is finished, the squadron will have three other projects to complete before its late June departure - repave the parking lot in front of the school and the community center, build a 1,400-squarefoot house on the Stewart colony and build a wellness center on the Dresslerville colony in Gardnerville.

About 150 people will have rotated through the four projects. The Washoe Tribe Head Start program is the only one in Carson City and is open to all children age 3-5. Despite a small waiting list every year, Doan said they do their best to find a place for everyone. The program offers buses to pick up students, morning and afternoon meals and basics in letters and numbers. Some children even start to learn to read. "(The Head Start program) is kindergarten readiness," Doan said. "It's to give the children a head start for kindergarten. We have teachers in the Carson City School District who say they can tell when the kids come in from Head Start.

USAF Unit Histories
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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.