

## 482 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

482 Installations Squadron constituted 26 May 1952  
Activated in the Reserve, 14 Jun 1952  
Inactivated, 1 Dec 1952  
Activated in the Reserve, 18 May 1955  
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957  
Redesignated 482 Civil Engineering Squadron, 25 Feb 1981  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Apr 1981  
Redesignated 482 Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

#### STATION

Miami IAP, FL, 14 Jun-1 Dec 1952  
Dobbins AFB, GA, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957  
Homestead AFB (later, Homestead ARS), FL, 1 Apr 1981

#### ASSIGNMENTS

482 Air Base Group, 14 Jun-1 Dec 1952  
482 Air Base Group, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957  
482 Tactical Fighter (later, 482<sup>nd</sup> Fighter) Wing, 1 Apr 1981  
482 Support (later, 482 Mission Support) Group, 1 Aug 1992

#### COMMANDERS

Lt Col Scott W. McPherson, 8 Jan 2017  
Lt Col Francisco J. Badiano, 19 Nov 2020

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

### Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1981-5 Oct 1982

1 Jan 1989-31 Jul 1990

2 Oct 1991-1 Oct 1993

1 Nov 1993-30 Aug 1995

1 Oct 1999-30 Sep 2001

1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006

1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2008

1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009

1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2010

## EMBLEM



On a disc Or, a gearwheel Azure throughout, charged by between in base two lightning bolts pilewise of the first, a stylized bull's head cabossed Sable, eyed Gules, detailed Argent; all within a narrow Yellow border. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "LEAD THE WAY" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "482D CIVIL ENGINEER SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine Blue and Air Force 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 bull represents the unit's Prime BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force) mission and their ability to provide support at a moment's notice to ensure the mission can be sustained during emergencies. The red eyes of the bull suggest that civil

engineers are the life blood of a base and without their support, there is no air power. They also signify the courage, hardiness, and valor that has been proven through numerous contingencies. The lightning bolts depict the power engineers hold, whether it be the power to keep the lights on or the ability to rapidly repair the runways to ensure air power. The lightning bolts further allude to the danger that emergency responders experience during their mission. Lastly, the gear border portrays the driving force of the Squadron – civil engineers keep bases running. (Approved, 15 Mar 2022)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The Army Corps of Engineers is nearing completion of a major \$16 million repair project of the Homestead Air Reserve Base flight line, scheduled to wrap up in mid-February. “90 percent of the work is done,” said corps project engineer Zachary Kluckowski. “The remaining work is ‘punch work’ – items here and there that need to be finished,” he said. The flight line had a significant amount of deteriorating asphalt and concrete, according to Airfield Operations Manager Bill Comber.

The project resolves that issue and brings the runway up-to-date with Air Force and FAA standards, making the flight line safer for pilots and their aircraft. “When the pavement begins to break up we now have a problem with foreign object debris and sharp edges of pavement may cut aircraft tires,” said Comber. “FOD to jet engines can be very expensive and hazardous to the health of the pilots,” he said. The HARB runway was due for large-scale overhaul, especially after weathering major hurricanes over the years. Prior to the project, only limited patchwork was needed to keep the airfield operational. “Major runway repairs should be done about every ten years,” said Kluckowski.

“It had been 20 years since the last major repair on the asphalt, and some taxiways hadn’t been repaired in nearly 40 years. Now all taxiways are open,” he said. The airfield remained open throughout most of the construction work, with few exceptions, thanks to a rather unique feature of the HARB runway. “Because [we] have 300 footwide runways, we can shut down half, and planes can still take off and land,” said Mr. Kluckowski. “That’s not typical of most Air Force flight lines. We wouldn’t have been able to do what we did without such a wide runway,” he said. This also allowed the base to support incoming aircraft to deliver over a million pounds of emergency supplies after Hurricane Wilma.

The Corps of Engineers and the 482nd Civil Engineers teamed up with a contractor, Sunmount Corp., for the project, which was worked on in three phases, beginning in March. The first two phases focused on repairing about 3,000 feet of concrete and asphalt on each end of the flight line. By working at each end first, the 93rd Fighter Squadron, Det. 1, 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard, and U.S. Customs aircraft had easy access to the runway. During phase three, crews concentrated on the center portion of the runway. FANG and Customs aircraft had to temporarily deploy during that phase, but 93rd FS F-16s still had access. As of Dec. 5, all Customs aircraft returned, and FANG F-15s came back on the 9th to a fully restored airfield. At completion, crews replaced airfield pavement, added a new lighting system with lighted signs, removed rubber deposits and repainted symbols and lines on the pavement. 2005

By the time you read this, Homestead's 482d Civil Engineering Squadron will have begun their Department of Defense Humanitarian Mission; Lead Operational Unit for New Horizons 2005 El Salvador. Deploying from January 12 through May 7, more than 70 traditional reservists from the 482d Fighter Wing will work alongside active duty Air Force, Army and Navy personnel in the creation a one three-room school, a two room clinic and three MEDRETE, Medical Readiness Training Exercise Clinics in San Vicente, the central region of the country.

Normally awarded to a "Red Horse," Readily Deployable Team (self-sufficient and in-charge of heavy undertakings,) or active duty units, the mission will "provide excellent training and a real world contingency operation without the bullets for all service members involved," said Joint Task Force Commander, Major William S. Riehl III, 482d CE Chief of Contracts. The 482d Fighter Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron is the first reserve "Prime Beef" unit to lead and plan the entire New Horizons project. Prime Beef CE units provide tools and personnel for mission accomplishment.

According to 482d CE commander Lt. Col. Mark Wolfe, two previous New Horizons deployments to Guatemala and Honduras have paved the way for us to take charge of the current operation. With close to 40 percent of the 482d CE's deploying forces speaking Spanish, the mission is slated to be a highly publicized humanitarian and diplomatic event. El Salvador is the only Latin American Country that has troops in Iraq, added Lt. Col. Wolfe.

A new airfield lighting system is improving safety for both pilots and air traffic controllers here at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. The nearly \$8 million system includes new in-ground taxiway lights, runway edge lights, lighted directional signs and a new vault building with power regulators, controls and a generator. For the air traffic controllers, the new vault building is more reliable and a welcome improvement. "The old vault would flood after a good rain. So, before a forecasted thunderstorm was due to affect the base we would have to set the lighting system on a brighter setting in case the vault would flood and go into alarm.

If the vault went into alarm all control of the system was lost," said air traffic controller Tony Semeraro. He said it would sometimes take four to five hours before air controllers could regain control and resume normal operations. An upgraded touch-screen panel in the control tower is also helping to make life easier for the controllers, too. Air traffic controllers at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. now have greater ease of control with the upgraded touch screen panel. The 482nd Civil Engineering Squadron worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and contractors to replace the airfield lighting system.

"The panel has different lighting settings for weather and visibility conditions. This cuts down the time to set the lights. [With the old system] you would have to individually set each light by itself. Now the Preset page does all the lights at the same time for you," said Semeraro. The more dependable vault building and efficient touch-panel translates into a safer system. In addition, the lighting itself provides a better environment for flying operations. Semeraro said the lights seem to be brighter and make it easier for pilots to navigate from at night. Originally part of the Mega Airfield Project to resurface and improve the runway, the Army Corps of Engineers, the 482nd Civil Engineering Squadron and civilian contractors put the final touches on the system in late March.

Members of the 482nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., led a four-month exercise in El Salvador that involved the construction of two schools and three health-care clinics in and around the town of San Vicente. The exercise, dubbed Operation Para los Ninos (For the Children), was part of U.S. Southern Command's New Horizons, in which troops representing all branches of the armed forces participate in construction projects in six countries throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America. "This is the first time a Reserve unit has led this exercise, but we were ready," said Maj. William Riehl III, 482nd CES. "The 482nd took the lead and set the pace," said Lt. Gen. Randall Mark Schmidt, commander of 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Operation Para los Ninos included 650 Reservists. While in El Salvador, the Reservists were actively involved at all five work sites, completing the construction jobs on time, under budget and without major injury. As an added bonus, Major Riehl made sure all construction materials were purchased from merchants in El Salvador, injecting more than \$450,000 into the local economy. In addition to the construction projects, the major also oversaw medical treatment and veterinary services for the San Vicente community. A total of 41,000 people and 3,211 animals benefited from these services.

Manuel de Jesus Lopez Reyez, principal of the San Vicente school, said the construction projects will affect the lives of all the children in the community for many years. "I can't say how proud we are of the 482nd Fighter Wing and Homestead Air Reserve Base," said H. Douglas Barclay, U.S. ambassador to El Salvador. "They are fulfilling a great duty, and I am thankful for it."

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

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