

917 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

917 Civil Engineering Flight constituted
Activated and organized, 25 Oct 1969
917 Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Barksdale AFB, LA

ASSIGNMENTS

917 Military Airlift Group
917 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Charles B. Chapman III, Mar 2008 - Dec 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

917 Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to Osan Air Base (Ab), Korea to renovate air passenger terminal. 1994/1995

In 2008, the 917th Civil Engineers Squadron became part of a test program for integrating active duty and reserve civil engineers to include the Readiness Flight called the ECS Test Program.

Regular Air Force and Air Force Reserve civil engineer squadrons at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., joined forces this spring to test working as an integrated unit. CE squadrons at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and Travis AFB, Calif., are also testing the process. The Air Force is looking into finding better ways to integrate Reservists into the total force and ensure the reserve components get the resources and manpower they need, according to an Air Force press release.

“The integration will not change the mission of either squadron,” said Maj. Charles Chapman III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command’s 917th CES at Barksdale. “What it will do is enhance the cohesion between the two units.” “The 2nd CES has the equipment and vehicles we need on a monthly basis to train. What we’ve been doing in the past is just borrowing that equipment,” said Col. Kevin Wolfe, 917th Mission Support Group commander. “By integrating, it’s going to draw us closer together.

The emphasis here is not only for us to borrow their equipment but to train together with them on that equipment.” The 917th CES is not the first Reserve unit at Barksdale to integrate fully with its regular Air Force counterpart. The 917th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight joined ranks with the 2nd EOD Flight in March 2003. “The EOD components of both squadrons have integrated so well that most can’t tell who is who when they see all of the EOD personnel together,” Major Chapman said.

“Several of our Airmen have backfilled for active duty when the 2nd CES deployed,” he said. “In fact, we have several Airmen whose civilian jobs are working at the 2nd CES. This makes it easy to share resources if needed.” Major Chapman said the fire departments of both squadrons are also integrated. “They are already co-located and share equipment,” he said. “Many Reserve firefighters also work as civilian firefighters at the 2nd CES.”

In December, Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg, Air Force civil engineer, will report to the Air Staff how the test integration is going. At that time, a decision will be made as to whether or not the integration will take place throughout the entire Air Force. “We’ll be training together, working together, so when they (Air Force officials) task Barksdale CES, they’ll know they’re getting a mix of active-duty and Reserve Airmen who are ready to go to war together,” Colonel Wolfe said.

2008

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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