

97 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



MISSION

The squadron supports the training, airlift and refueling missions of the 97 Air Mobility Wing by providing top quality facilities, infrastructure, utility services, disaster preparedness support, environmental stewardship, accompanied and unaccompanied housing and fire protection services. The squadron has 280 personnel and manages a \$20 million annual operating budget. Additionally, the squadron is an integral part of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force with 134 members on prime Base Engineer Emergency Force teams. This year, 64 personnel were deployed in seven countries for a total of 6,840 days.

The squadron is comprised of eight flights. The operations flight is the force behind maintaining the utilities, real property and environment that Altus AFB people live and work in every day, from heating and air conditioning to the operation of aircraft hangar doors. To supplement the squadron's in-house craft workers, over \$4.2 million in service contracts are managed every year. These include grounds maintenance, custodial, housing maintenance, refuse and other supporting contracts that help keep the base in top condition at all times. The flight was named runner-up as the best operations flight in Air Education and Training Command for 2004.

The engineering flight manages the planning, programming, designing and construction of a \$190M program of military construction, non-appropriated funds, defense logistics agency, anti-terrorism/force protection, medical, operations DLA/DESC (Fuels) and maintenance projects. The flight is nearing the end of the \$6.68M BCE Phase I project along with starting the \$6.1M BCE Phase II project within the past month. The flight has also completed the following projects within the past six months: a \$3.05M C-17 Cargo Compartment Trainer; the \$6.65M renovation of

Hangar 285 for a KC-135 Iso-Dock; the \$3.11M renovation of Hangar 518; the \$711K renovation of Bldg. 89 for a C-17 WST simulator and the \$624K project to renovate Bldg. 179 for a new VTRAT (Visual Threat Recognition and Avoidance Trainer) training environment.

The environmental flight excels in providing the engineering and regulatory expertise necessary to keep Altus AFB in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations. As a partner with surrounding communities and government agencies, the squadron prides itself in being custodian of the environment. In addition, flight members have reduced the base's hazardous waste disposal by 78 percent since 1995 and recycled more than 1,013 tons of materials last year resulting in a \$200K savings.

The fire protection flight provides structural, hazardous material, aircraft crash, fire prevention, fire protection and emergency medical response services for all aircraft, facilities and personnel. Additionally, the flight manages contract fire protection support for aircraft operations at the Clinton-Sherman Auxiliary Field at Burns Flat, Okla. The fire protection flight made 738 emergency responses and performed 276 aircraft maintenance standbys during FY 05. The Fire Prevention section conducted 368 facility fire safety inspections and trained 3,088 members of Altus AFB in fire safety and extinguisher use. Through the use of a state of the art mobile fire prevention trailer, 897 children received home fire safety and fire reporting training as part of a community wide education program in the Altus Public School system.

The readiness flight provides all peacetime emergency management training, wartime contingency training to 1,368 active duty personnel and their dependents and provides personnel readiness for the squadron's Civil Engineer Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force team. The flight also provides all chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosives (CBRNE) defense and HAZMAT disaster response training for all base personnel supporting the Emergency Management Plan (formally FSTR 10-2 O-plan) to all major accidents, natural and terrorist uses of WMD. Readiness coordinated with Fire and Bio-Environmental to create a team of first responders to Weapons of Mass Destruction to engage all detection equipment and personnel to test for the presence of WMD materials and provide leadership the results quickly. This team of experts is call "Team One."

The housing flight manages the assignment, operation and maintenance of 963 family housing units and 402 dormitory rooms. Additionally, the flight supports the Altus AFB community by providing housing referral services for members who live off base. The flight was named the best housing flight in the Air Education and Training Command for 2004.

The housing privatization flight works aggressively with higher headquarters, local installation leadership and the local community to transition 963 government-owned military family housing units to a private developer in spring 2006.

The resources flight manages the squadron's \$20M budget and automation programs as well as the squadron's manpower and human resources services. The flight is responsible for the wing's geospatial information system (GeoBase) program providing the situational planning tools for

wing leadership for daily, emergency/contingency operations. The flight provides management analysis support for squadron operations and services. And finally, the flight provides administrative support for files maintenance, defense travel system and government travel card, to name a few.

LINEAGE

Squadron C, 97 Airdrome Group Designated, 11 Sep 1947
Organized, 1 Dec 1947
Discontinued, 12 Jul 1948

97 Installations Squadron, Bombardment, Medium constituted, 28 May 1948
Activated, 12 Jul 1948

Squadron C, 97 Airdrome Group and 97 Installations Squadron, Bombardment, Medium
Consolidated, 3 Oct 1948. Consolidated unit designated 97 Installations Squadron,
Bombardment, Medium

Redesignated 97 Installations Squadron 16 Mar 1950
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952
Activated, 1 Jul 1959
Redesignated 97 Civil Engineering Squadron, 1 Jul 1960
Inactivated, 1 Aug 1992
Activated, 1 Oct 1992
Redesignated 97 Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

STATIONS

Mile 26 Field (later, Eielson AFB), Alaska, 1 Dec 47-12 Mar 48
Smoky Hill AFB, Kansas, 21 Mar 48
Biggs AFB, Texas, 17 May 48-16 Jun 52
Blytheville (later Eaker) AFB, Arkansas, 1 Jul 59-1 Aug 92
Altus AFB, Oklahoma, 1 Oct 92

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

1LT Millard E. Loomis, 1949
LTC B. V. Dixon, #1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988

1 Oct 1992-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1995- 30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2004–30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2006–30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008

1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010

1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2011

1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2012

1 Jul 2013-30 Jun 2014

1 Jul 2014-30 Jun 2016

1 Jul 2016-30 Jun 2017

1 Jul 2017-30 Jun 2019

1 Jul 2019-30 Jun 2021

EMBLEM



Azure, on a cogwheel Gules a peace pipe bendwise sinister, mouthpiece to base pendant with two feathers from bowl bendwise Proper, surmounted by a tomahawk head to chief and pendant with three feathers bendwise sinister Proper; all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the disc a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow 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 cogwheel suggests the unit's function and it's meshing with other base organizations in providing support to its parent unit and the Air Force mission. The tomahawk and peace pipe denote the unit's commitment to excellence in war and peace. It further allies itself to the parent unit's coat of arms by enforcing symbolism through Native American symbols. (Approved, 8 May 97)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS



Firefighters, 97 Installations Squadron, Biggs AFB, TX. (USAF)



Firefighters, 97 Installations Squadron, Biggs AFB, TX.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 18 Nov 2010

Updated: 16 Apr 2023

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *97 Bombardment Wing, Biggs AFB, TX. @1948.*

Unit yearbook. *Biggs AFB, TX, El Paso, TX. 1949.*

Unit yearbook. *Blytheville AFB, AR, 1964.*