

146 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

146 Civil Engineering Flight
146 Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Van Nuys, CA
Channel Islands ANGS, Port Hueneme, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

146 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Lloyd G. Ellis, #1974
Cpt Patrick Shanahan (Acting)

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The California Air National Guard's 146th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) completed its final duty as the 474th Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during a change-of-authority ceremony on Jan. 12. The 146th arrived in Guantanamo Bay in July for a six-month tour in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay during which it gained valuable experience and grew to be a more cohesive unit. Designated the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron at Guantanamo Bay, the unit maintained the expeditionary legal complex and Camp Justice during its deployment, said Maj. Patrick Shanahan, commander of the 146 CES. "I believe it's been an outstanding deployment for our team," he said, noting that this was the first time the unit had deployed together. "My team understood [the importance of the mission], accepted the challenge and did an excellent job." Shanahan added that the Airmen did not know what to expect upon arriving at Guantanamo Bay, or Gitmo, as it is commonly called.

"There is a lot of talk about Gitmo, and what you see that's presented in the news doesn't always tell the whole story," he said. "So I know that coming here and seeing everything firsthand was really enlightening for all of us to know what the Joint Task Force mission is." The unit's greatest accomplishment during the tour was constructing two buildings for public affairs personnel, Shanahan said. The 146th also made improvements to Camp Justice and surrounding facilities. When the 146 CES was not focusing on mission tasks, its members were volunteering their skills to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay. "We know what it means to work as a team, because in our jobs we can't work in isolation," Shanahan said. "We need the cooperation of other people, so we understand what it means for someone to help us, and we want to either pay that back or pay it forward by helping other people." The 146th was in a unique position to assist other members of the Task Force, Shanahan said, as it was the only squadron at Guantanamo Bay with their capabilities. "We've been able to provide expertise, skills and trades that the [Joint Task Force] wouldn't have otherwise, so we wanted to fill that void and provide those services," he said.

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.