

162 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MISSION

Civil Engineering squadron provides essential services and support to all portions of the 162nd Fighter Wing. In peacetime, our on-base mission is to maintain facilities, utilities and pavement surfaces to sustain Wing operations. When mobilized for our war time tasking, the mission expands to include force beddown and air base recovery after an attack with emphasis on restoring the runway and essential base capability for flying operations.

To help prepare for all of these missions, CE personnel are organized into Prime BEEF (Base Emergency Engineering Force) teams and assigned to mobility positions. Currently there are 79 personnel in CE with 67 assigned to the mobility mission. In addition to the construction engineering trades, all base firefighters and disaster preparedness personnel are part of Civil Engineering.

LINEAGE

162 Civil Engineering Squadron
Redesignated 162 Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Tucson, AZ

ASSIGNMENTS

162 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Michael Conarro

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

When the Wing first formed as a fighter interceptor squadron 40 years ago, CE was a small group of innovative and hard working men. As the base and flying mission developed, CE became organized initially as a flight, and eventually a squadron with more than 180 persons assigned at its peak personnel level in 1990. That strength authorized a 100 person construction team, a 48 man fire department and 35 person services flight. As the overseas threat diminished, the Air National Guard reorganized the CE squadrons into either Prime BEEF lead or follow-on teams to better match deployment scenarios and available funding. Services formed a separate flight and disaster preparedness joined the CE squadron organization as part of a follow-on Prime BEEF team.

Mobility missions during peace time or a contingency task require not only skill, but practice. Squadron level off-base deployments provide exceptional training for all personnel and are the highlight of the CE year. During National Guard Bureau directed deployments, teams are sent to all corners of the world. From Kunsan AFB, South Korea to Sembach AB, Germany and from King Salmon AFS, Alaska to Howard ARB, Panama the 162nd Civil Engineer squadron has sent its people to work and train. Whether it's a humanitarian mission to build a school in a central American jungle or participation in an Operational Readiness Inspection at snowy Volk Field, Wisconsin, these deployments have left us with a great sense of satisfaction and confidence.

The Fire Department program is intensified through continuous training, and highly motivated personnel who are dedicated to duty and prepared to meet the day-to-day challenges of Wing mission objectives. The Fire Department provides emergency response coverage for structural, aircraft, medical and hazardous material incidents at the 162nd, as well as offering base-wide fire prevention education. In addition to their many responsibilities, the Fire Department is always equipped and prepared to deploy in support of major conflicts worldwide.

The Fire Department has come a long way from its humble beginnings of a full-time Fire Chief and firefighter augmentees "borrowed" from other shops on the base. In 1969, they were finally able to hire ten Civil Service Air Technicians. Due to the requirements created by low level approaches in Marana in the 70s (to keep fighter aircraft traffic clear of the greater Tucson area), the Fire Department was given a P-4 crash truck and additional firefighters. In 1980, the manning in the Fire Department more than doubled, and additional manning requirements were met by other Air National Guard firefighting teams that used the 162nd to train during

two week tours. Due to policy changes at the National Guard Bureau in 1985, the 162nd firefighter program went from Civil Service to a State Operations and Maintenance system. The work week changed to a 24 hour operation, consisting of two 12-person shifts (up until that point, firefighters worked a normal 40-hour workweek.) Housed in a new state-of-the-art firehouse, the current Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Richard M. Vinson (who succeeded Fire Chief of 15 years, Don Moody, in 1990) has grown to a full-time force of 24.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *162 Fighter Wing, 1956-1996*.