

# 163 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

163 Civil Engineering Flight  
163 Civil Engineer Squadron

## STATIONS

March ARB, CA

## ASSIGNMENTS

163 Mission Support Group

## COMMANDERS

LTC Robert Mitton, #1973  
LTC Richard Schmitt  
LTC Eleanor Bailey, 1 Jun 1993

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## EMBLEM

## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

The 163<sup>rd</sup> Civil Engineering Flight provides building maintenance, construction programs and provides the all-important firefighting and rescue capabilities as essential to a flying base.

Jun 1989 Squadron deployed 40 personnel to Albrook AB, Panama

2005 2 Sep Nine Civil Engineer personnel assigned to the 163rd Air Refueling Wing, California ANG, deployed to New Orleans to help with reconstruction.

2008 Five members of the 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to McCalla Airfield, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in early September to work on a construction project with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. Three of the five 163rd RW members, Master Sgt. Earl Rankin, Tech. Sgt. Paul Gomez and Staff Sgt. John Barber, recently returned from the deployment. Still in country, and slated to return sometime in March, are Wing members Master Sgt. Moses Alvarado and Tech. Sgt. Karl Childress. 163rd RW Civil Engineers Deploy to Guantanamo Bay Cuba The 474th is comprised of Air National Guardsmen from across the country to include Indiana's 122<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Wisconsin's 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing, Ohio's 150<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and California's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing. The project was to construct a \$10.2 million dollar Expeditionary Legal Complex. Here, the U.S. Office of Military Commissions will start the process of prosecuting enemy combatants detained in the Global War on Terror. The original completion date of the project was slated for March, 2008, but is now scheduled for mid February. "One of the people I give a lot of credit to is one of our traditional guardsman, Tech. Sgt. Paul Gomez," said Sgt. Rankin, "He had prior experience working on this kind of prefabricated building, so he was a huge contributor to getting the overall project closer to completion." "In my shop, there were three other master sgt. and I did not have the most seniority, so while I was there I acted as a heavy equipment operator," said Sergeant Rankin. "Being just an operator gave me a little more time to enjoy myself in country." "We (474th) were able to knock out some of the daily tasks quicker than expected," said Heavy Equipment Branch Chief Sgt. Rankin, "As a result, they were able send some members home earlier"

The 163rd Civil Engineer Squadron, which hosts the Air National Guard's West Coast Regional Training Site, trained more than 1,500 National Guard, active duty Air Force and Marine personnel in 2008. It supported many construction projects, including a school restoration in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Department of Homeland Security's Mexico border fence; and construction at Guantanamo Bay. The squadron remains busy executing \$6 million in projects in support of the wing's Predator missions.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *163 Fighter Interceptor Group 1943-1973*.  
Unit yearbook. *163 Fighter Interceptor Group 1943-1993*.