

219th RED HORSE SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 219th RHS is to organize, train and equip its 120 personnel for its role as a highly mobile, rapidly deployable, self-sustaining heavy construction and repair unit capable of supporting airpower worldwide and especially in remote and austere operating environments. The 219th RHS rounds-out the 819th RHS with a heavy vertical construction capability, but also maintains proficiency in horizontal construction.

LINEAGE

219th Red Horse Flight
219th Red Horse Squadron

STATIONS

Malmstrom AFB, MT

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Shortly after its activation, the 819th RED HORSE deployed to Ban Sattahip Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, and, in May 1966, to Phu Cat AB, Vietnam.

In 1970, the 819th RED HORSE moved to Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam to assist with closing the base. While stationed in Vietnam, the RED HORSE completed tremendous amounts of construction. Almost all construction including buildings, earthen revetments, and pavements at Phu Cat were completed by RED HORSE, making it the only base in Vietnam with that claim. The unit was awarded “seven Vietnam campaign honors and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.”¹³¹ Additionally, the 819th received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat “V” Device three times during the Vietnam War.

After Tuy Hoa, the unit’s home station changed to Westover AFB, Massachusetts, until 1973, when it changed to McConnell AFB, Kansas, and again it changed to RAF Wethersfield in 1979. The 819th RED HORSE was inactivated August 1990.

The 219th RED HORSE Squadron, Montana Air National Guard, was established by order of the Secretary of the Air Force on 03 September 1997 and was stationed at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. The 219th RED HORSE Squadron was made an “associate” unit to the 819th RED HORSE Squadron which was officially reactivated on 07 August 1997. The 219th RHS provides a total of one-third of the manpower and equipment of the 404 person 819th RHS.

Although the 219th RHS is a relative newcomer to the RED HORSE mission it is, in fact, a long established Air National Guard civil engineer unit with a distinguished past in service to both nation and state. The 219th RHS has its roots from the 120th Civil Engineer Squadron assigned to the 120 Fighter Wing located at Great Falls International Airport, Montana. In November of 1996 an advance team of six personnel were detached from the 120th CES with orders to prepare for the rerole of the 120 CES operations flight to a RED HORSE unit. Along with 6 USAF personnel this team began the stand-up of a fully operational RED HORSE Squadron.

Training for the RED HORSE mission began even before the activation of the 219th RHS was official. On January 11 and 12, 1997 84 personnel participated in the first RED HORSE Unit Training Assembly (UTA) which was conducted in a former KC-135 nose dock at Malmstrom AFB. That winter and spring this converting unit performed an ANG directed Deployment for Training to PACAF and supported emergency flood relief efforts in Grand Forks ND by providing water purification support to a major hospital. The remainder of 1997 was spent organizing, training, equipping and preparing facilities for the unit.

Training is the primary peacetime duty of the 219th RHS. Great emphasis is placed upon training in order to maintain the unit in a high state of combat readiness and preparation for operations involving natural disasters and other contingencies. Unit Training Assemblies and Annual Training tours emphasize individual and collective skill and readiness training. To this end, from Oct 97 to Aug 02, the unit conducted 34 deployments to Germany, Honduras, Kuwait, Korea, Guatemala, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Japan, Guam, Israel, Afghanistan and several stateside bases where they constructed base camps, repaired roads, installed aircraft arresting systems, built schools, aided in Central American flood relief, placed concrete foundations, erected steel structures and performed utility work.

The 219th RHS was involuntarily activated on 15 September 2002 under Presidential Partial Mobilization authority in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The 219th RHS joined with its associate unit on 22 September 2003 and departed for Southwest Asia. The 819th/219th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron completed 27 projects in Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, and Oman with a cost of \$28.1 million within 5 ½ months. The 219th RHS was the project lead and conducted spoke operations for eight of the projects. The projects included erecting steel structures, constructing concrete structures, runway construction and repair, and utility work.

Again the 219th RHS volunteered to support The Global War on Terrorism in January 2004, the unit deployed an advance team to the Horn of Africa in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the construction and renovation of clinics, schools and other humanitarian civic action projects.

Members of the 820th RHS, 555th RHS, and the 219th RHF teamed up for the 2008 version of the New Horizons program and served as the lead for the task force. The engineers deployed for a three-month period to Peru and completed several construction projects, including a clinic and a school in Yanama, a village with a population of almost 8,000, and a clinic in San Cristobal, a town of 9,000. New Horizons is a long-running, SOUTHCOM-sponsored program that annually provides humanitarian assistance to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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