

301 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

Squadron C, 301 Airdrome Group designated, 15 Oct 1947

Organized, 5 Nov 1947

Discontinued, 1 Aug 1948

301 Installations Squadron, Bombardment, Medium constituted, 28 May 1948

Activated, 1 Aug 1948

Redesignated 301 Installations Squadron, 16 Mar 1950

Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952

Redesignated 301 Civil Engineering Squadron, 18 May 1971

Activated, 1 Jul 1971

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1979

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Sep 1984

301 Civil Engineering Flight constituted, 17 Jun 1976

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1976

Inactivated, 15 Nov 1978

Squadron C, 301 Airdrome Group, 301 Civil Engineering Squadron, and 301 Civil Engineering Flight
Consolidated, 3 Oct 1984. Consolidated unit designated 301 Civil Engineering Squadron

Redesignated 301 Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

STATIONS

Smoky Hill AAFld (later, AFB), KS, 5 Nov 1947-1 Aug 1948
Carswell AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1976-25 Nov 1978.
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Aug 1948-16 Jun 1952
Lockbourne (later, Rickenbaker) AFB, OH, 1 Jul 1971-30 Sep 1979
Carswell AFB (later, ARS), TX, 1 Sep 1984
NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

301 Airdrome Group, 5 Nov 1947-1 Aug 1948
301 Combat Support Squadron, 1 Jul 1976
301 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Feb 1977-15 Nov 1978
301 Airdrome Group, 1 Aug 1948
91 Air Base Group, 10 Feb 1951
301 Air Base Group, 1 Jun 1951-16 Jun 1952
301 Combat Support Group, 1 Jul 1971-30 Sep 1979
301 Tactical Fighter (later, 301 Fighter) Wing, 1 Sep 1984
301 Support (later, Mission Support) Group, 1 Aug 1992

COMMANDERS

Lt Simon W. Manning, #1950
Lt Col Stephen Becker
Lt Col Ted Luke
Lt Col Robert F. Villarreal, 7 Nov 2016
Lt Col Jennifer Almonte, 4 Apr 2019

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
14 May 1992-13 May 1994
30 Jun 1995-1 Jul 1997
1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2002
1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004
1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006
1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2008

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Disaster struck on March 21, 1951, as number B-45, 47-041 was completing a courier mission from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. Twenty miles out from Barksdale, Captain Melvin W. Kaiser radioed that he had an in-flight fire and was shutting down two engines. During his final approach, Kaiser suddenly aborted and applied power to the two remaining engines for another go around. The B-45 climbed, then stalled on its left wing and fell 2,000 feet to the ground, crashing just left of the runway. Kaiser, Lieutenant Floyd R. Herberling, and Captain Kenneth E. Neville all perished. Hours later, the tragedy was compounded when the smoldering wreckage exploded while inspectors were combing through it, killing Sergeant William H. Shelton of the 301st Air Installations Squadron.

Reserve Airmen Aid Guyana: Air Force Reserve Command airmen from the 301st Civil Engineer Squadron at NAS JRB Fort Worth, Tex., working on a joint humanitarian mission to Guyana, completed their first project, repairing, remodeling, and upgrading a nursery school, last week, after just a month. The first rotation of 301st CES airmen started their project July 6 as part of New Horizons Guyana 2009. Among tasks they accomplished were correcting electrical problems, repairing and rebuilding toilets, adding kitchen cabinets and countertops, adding a gutter to the roof, improving water drainage, installing a pedestrian bridge across a drainage ditch, and painting the interior and exterior of the school. "This has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done in my career," said SMSgt. Scott Lacey, project manager, and added, "I would absolutely volunteer to do this again."

Texas is known for doing things right and for doing them BIG, so it was no surprise when a group of Texas Air Force Reservists got involved in a big Hawaii-style 'labor of love' honoring some of its most Reserve Airmen build homes, relationships valued citizens. Twenty-two civil engineers from the 301st Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field, Texas, are the most recent reserve Airmen working on homebuilding projects for the elderly and handicapped next to the Helemano Plantation.

"My guys have hit the ground running," said Chief Master Sgt. Ronnie Barham, 301st Civil Engineer Squadron team leader. "They came here wanting to make a big difference because they knew the work wasn't just another construction project — it was impacting the lives of some very important people." The chief explained that the organization spearheading the project, ORI Anuenue Hale ('Rainbow House'), is a nonprofit group dedicated to providing relief to and promoting the general welfare of the elderly, disadvantaged and disabled people of Oahu. Members of the group — the initials of which stand for "Opportunities for the Retarded, Inc." — have been supporting the elderly and disabled communities since 1980.

The group's newest development is the Aloha Gardens, a 40-acre project that will include a day-care and wellness center for the elderly; a vocational training center; a campground area; agricultural and aquaculture operations; a country market and mini-golf area; and short-term respite care facilities.

"This entire project of love and goodwill has been the vision and dream of one lady, Susanna Cheung," said Chief Master Sgt. Luis S. Ayala, military project coordinator. "Mrs. Cheung is a

very determined and passionate person who has seen a great need among the elderly and handicapped and she has done everything in her power to make a difference. I'm glad the military has gotten the chance to be involved." Initially, the Air Force Reserve signed on to build three five bedroom homes and a social hall in 2006 as part of its IRT initiative, which, according to officials, has agreed to continue its support. IRT is a civilian/military partnership through which Reservists receive training while supporting local communities throughout the United States. Reserve civil engineers have been involved in IRT projects for the past 10 years.

Aloha Gardens was one of the more than 100 projects across the nation selected in 2006 by the IRT. "Our people are doing excellent work," said Chief Barham. "They get to work every day by 6 a.m. and they don't finish until late in the evening. We take pride in our work and have been extremely glad to be part of this important humanitarian program." Yvonne C. de Luna, Helemano Plantation public relations specialist, voiced similar enthusiasm for the 301st Fighter Wing's efforts. "The military has done an amazing job here – their tremendous support is making Mrs. Cheung's dream a wonderful reality," she said. During the past two weeks, the 301st has completed the installation of a 750-foot fence, framed up three cabins, installed 10 15-foot street lights, set up and converted a trailer into an office and set up a supply tool system; and installed a water fill station; and dug a 40-foot trench and installed a water line for the fill station.

"I'll go anywhere with these guys – they're a class act," said Chief Ayala. "Very few civil engineer teams specialize, but the 301st FW is a complete civil engineer team. They would be one of my first choices if I had to get a big job done." The chief added that the 301st has supported other humanitarian projects in Honduras in 1996 and in Guatemala in 2001. Other reserve units will follow the 301st to continue the IRT project as a training opportunity. Team members have been able to train in various fields not directly related to their Air Force specialty. Senior Airman B.J. Alexis, a heating and air conditioning specialist, said he has got the chance to do more than his regular job here in Hawaii.

"It's been a valuable learning experience," he said. "This is my first time to Hawaii but what has mattered most to me is the training and the work being done. We are helping out people who have difficulty helping themselves. That type of work makes you feel good inside." Construction work on many military bases is done completely by contractors whereas other bases have been greatly limited in their upgrade and proficiency training options specifically with the Civil Engineer Squadrons.

Founded specifically for training, Innovative Readiness Training, or IRT, is utilized where civil engineer units don't have control over normal CE career functions on their home base. At a base where functions have taken over many of CE's base responsibilities, it's the contractors, not CE, who have control over the equipment, buildings and maintenance. "This leaves CE in the dark as far as training," said Chief Phillip Watkins, Helemano Plantation Air Force Reserve Command project manager who originally hails from the 908th Airlift Wing, CES, at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala. "The only true wartime skills training [the CE career field] has is at Silver Flag conducted on Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; the Training Combat Center (TCC) at Dobbins AFB, Ga., or on annual tour where they can practice their jobs." An IRT is a civil-military partnership through which Reservists receive valuable training while leaving something of value behind for communities throughout the United States. Reserve civil engineers have been involved in IRT projects for the past 11 years.

In 2005 alone, more than 400 Reservists participated in IRT projects, racking up more than 60,000 training hours. Utilizing IRT projects gives CE troops an opportunity to give back to the community while maintaining and upgrading necessary training requirements. There have been a number of IRTs conducted within the past year: San Pasqual Indian reservation, San Diego, Calif., - roadway system and bldg.; Washoe Indian reservation, Gardener Ville Nev., - community center and housing; Operation Footprint, Gallop, N.M., - modular homes; Montana Crow Indian reservation - road project; and The Opportunity for Retarded Inc. (ORI)-Anuenue Hale, Inc., at the Helemano Plantation, Oahu, Hi., - building cabins, houses, and a Wellness Center slated for Fiscal Year 2008. The 301st Civil Engineers, from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field, Fort Worth, Texas, participated in the IRT at the Helemano Plantation for the second time this year. A 36-member team participated in a two-week deployment to the site just south of North Shore on Oahu, Hawaii. This phase of the project required many aspects of a civil engineer's career field.

Some of the work required was concrete foundation construction; framing; commercial/residential electrical work; entomology; supply; and surveying. The work continues, in the coming months, with a team required to install an HVAC air conditioning system in the ORI-Anuenue Hale, Inc.'s Wellness Center. "Our civil engineer squadron received outstanding skills training while constructing a community facility for special needs and elderly Hawaiians," said Col. Vince Wilcox, 301st Fighter Wing vice commander and former 301st CE operations commander. "I've never been on a work site where every CE career field can develop and hone their Air Force Speciality Code skills. Furthermore, the product of our labors will greatly benefit those in need in the local community.

Getting support for an IRT project isn't a simple process but when Mrs. Susanna Cheung, president and chief executive officer of the ORI-Anuenue Hale, Inc., started looking for help, she went straight for the Air Force Reserve Command. "We went out and put the word out," said Chief Watkins, "if it's within our guidelines — all labor, per diem and food costs are paid by AFRC — the nonprofit will cover the material costs. Our people get training and [the ORI-Anuenue Hale, Inc.] gets something for their efforts. ORI-Anuenue Hale, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing relief to and promoting the general welfare of elderly, disadvantaged and disabled people in the rural and geographically isolated Central and North Shore areas of Oahu. ORI-Anuenue Hale, Inc. and its sister organization, the ORI, have been lending a helping hand to some of Hawaii's neediest citizens since 1980. Chief Watkins expressed that AFRC has a lot of IRT applicants to pick from. "It's what ever fits our training needs! Here we have a need for vertical and horizontal structures as well as civil, mechanical, electrical and structural engineering. All disciplines are used here."

During last month, the Air Force and Army team, totaling 133 members who worked twelve-hours days, side by side, was the largest team assembled to date. The team consisted of people from the Air National Guard from 132nd CES, Iowa, 114th CES, South Dakota, Army Guard from 230th CES, Honolulu, Hawaii and from AFRC, was the 301st CES. The training they received was invaluable commented Chief Watkins. "Between the 15 people in one, three and five-level upgrade training, they received 939 training hours. That's more than 62 hours per person in a two-week period." To achieve the abundance of training these members gained against their CE AFSC would, under normal UTA conditions, take an Airman at least a year to acquire. This tour wasn't all work and no play said Col. Wilcox. "The opportunities for off-duty activities and entertainment are essentially limitless in Hawaii. Our civil engineers live by the motto 'work hard,

play hard.” During this tour in Hawaii, Reservists experienced a dust storm, effects from Hurricane Flossie, and a wild fire that consumed more than 5000 acres of land just across the highway from the plantation.

This latest IRT tour adds to a growing list of IRT projects the 301st CES has participated in. Some of the others include Camp Barrow in Nome, Alaska; Gallop, New Mexico, and most recently was Romania in the summer of 2003. “Comparing today with ten years ago, when I was 301st CES operations officer,” commented Col. Wilcox, “I am amazed at how the young Airmen and junior NCOs that I worked with then have gained experience and expertise, advanced, and are now stellar senior NCOs and unit leaders. Not only do their leadership skills shine bright, but they are also passing on their craftsmen skills and know-how to today’s junior unit members so they will sustain this deservedly proud and exceeding competent and capable Prime BEEF team.”

It’s an honor to have been selected to command the 301st Civil Engineer Squadron. This squadron has a sustained history of excellence in Prime BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force). I was due to assume command of the 301st CES this UTA, however, I am deploying to Iraq with the 810th Civil Engineer Flight on a specialized mission in support of the U.S. Army. The Army has requested Air Force engineers to supplement their ranks on taskings throughout Southwest Asia. Air Force Reserve engineers are well known in the joint forces community for their superior engineering knowledge and experience. AF Reserve CE Prime BEEF teams bring years of experience which cannot be found in the active duty military. The other services are always glad to see us when we arrive. Many of our engineers are professionally registered and our Prime BEEF teams have experienced journeymen and craftsmen who are the best in the business at their respective trades.

Since the start of Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM, Air Force engineers have been fulfilling requirements by augmenting the Army in various capacities. These Army engineer requirements have been translated into our Air Force Specialty Codes so Air Force members can fill these taskings “in-lieu-of” (ILO) the Army. Some of the most common ILO Army teams are Facility Engineer Team (FET), Facility Engineer Detachment (FED) and Utility Detachment. Other Air Force specialties, Security Forces and Transportation, have been called to ILO Army missions. Working within the Army is a great experience, you have to be able to adapt to their culture and method of mission accomplishment. Once you do you become an integral part of the team. I deploy with prior joint experience working with the U.S. Army. I was an Air Liaison Officer in a Tactical Air Control party for several years before coming to the CE career field. I advised Army commanders in the battlefield on the use of Close Air Support (CAS). I enjoyed the mission and the opportunity to support the Army and their mission objectives with airpower. I was called on again to support the U.S. Army in 2005 on an ILO Army engineering tasking in Iraq. I was assigned to an Army Facility Engineer team at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, to support U.S. Marine operations. Our mission was base master planning and development. It was the best place to be — Air Force Reserve supporting the Army who was tasked to provide support to the Marines — a true joint mission.

The 301st CES also had a small presence on this deployment. Senior Master Sgt. Darlies Howard, 301st CES engineering section NCOIC, deployed with our team. I was immediately impressed with this sergeant and her engineering abilities. She is a true professional senior NCO

and very typical of the dedicated men and women of the 301st CES. I look forward to commanding the 301st Civil Engineer Squadron. I have met many of the unit's members and have seen a wealth of prior military experience from all branches of the armed forces. This adds value to our engineering squadron and the Air Force. I've been impressed with the level of dedication of the 301st CES men and women. This unit was recognized as the Air Force Reserve Command's Best Civil Engineer Squadron of the Year for 2005. I'm currently assigned to the 810th Civil Engineer Flight based here at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth Carswell Field, Texas. The 810th CEF is a unit of highly experienced Prime BEEF engineers who specialize in staff augmentation missions and an outstanding unit, the best Prime BEEF staff augmentation team in the business. One of the best aspects about this deployment is the opportunity to lead the young men and women of our armed forces and to witness their level of dedication and devotion to duty in accomplishing any mission — it is inspiring! I will assume command of the 301st Civil Engineer Squadron upon my return from this ILO Army deployment. The 301st CES will be commanded by Capt. Bill Wilkinson in my absence.

The 301st Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron made their mark in a Silver Flag Exercise May 24 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in which they reconstructed a bare base deployment area, as well as completing their annual tour training requirement. More than 37 301st Civil Engineer Squadron team members and officers completed the week-long exercise which combined active duty, guard and reserve to help complete the mission. The Silver Flag exercise site is home to the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron. The squadron's 68-person CADRE provides combat support training to active-duty units, the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, Army, Marine Corps and allied

nations. More than 5,600 people are trained each year at the site. "Civil engineers must complete this training every three years; it's vital to enhancing our skills whether needed at home-station or abroad," said Senior Master Sgt. Bob Gilligan, 301st CES team leader. He went on to explain how the exercise prepares the group to fulfill their mission by going into a bare base deployment area and provide the needed organization to execute the required military objective. "During the exercise, we were given specific wartime scenarios filled with attacks and chemical warfare situations. Our job is to literally hit the ground running putting together required power supply, water and electrical services, doing site surveys to provide the needed resources at the required times, and supply needed assistance to runway damage control making sure the flying mission can be accomplished,"

Sergeant Gilligan said. During the five and a half-day primary course, civil engineer, services, and Personnel Support for Contingency Operations (PERSCO) personnel learn how to build and maintain bare-base operations at forward-deployed locations. Military members from all the armed services learn to work together to make sure the mission is completed. Course instructors work within the wing operations center providing students with real-world scenarios to see how they hold under pressure. More than 97 students were involved in the recent exercise and according to Sergeant Gilligan this time provided great opportunities in sharing experiences. "You had people who had done these activities for many years — a wealth of experience teaching new people in the career field including the officers." Many people had book knowledge as to how to get things done, but it's a much different situation when you're out in the field and that's where the experience pays off — we all received the chance to learn valuable information, which in a

wartime event will pay huge dividends.” While at Tyndall, students hone a variety of combat and survival skills, such

as repairing bomb-damaged runways, setting up base facilities and disposing of explosive ordnance. Over the years, training has expanded to its current program, which includes force beddown, advanced base recovery after attack, disaster preparedness, fire protection, explosive ordnance disposal, food service and lodging skills, chemical warfare operations and personnel accountability.

“I’m so proud of our guys and was literally blown away with their professionalism and dedication out in the field. Their hard work and determination made me so proud to be a part of this civil engineer team,” said Master Sgt. Chris Bottoms, 301st CES first sergeant. “These guys are the best!” Noted for their outstanding work was Tech. Sgt. Mike Mitchell who did an outstanding job with his team and provided good training for those involved. But it was Master Sgt. Richard Nimitz and his team who were recognized by the instructors as an outstanding group. According to Sergeant Gilligan, this was the first time Silver Flag has ever recognized a group for their outstanding work and that honor went to the 301st CES. According to those involved, this was more than an annual training requirement, it’s the CE mission and, it’s what they do.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 26 Mar 2017
Updated: 8 Jan 2023

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *301st Bombardment Wing, Barksdale AFB, LA. 1950.*