

555 RED HORSE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

555 Civil Engineering Squadron (Heavy Repair) constituted and activated, 1 Oct 1965

Organized, 12 Oct 1965

Redesignated 555 Civil Engineering Squadron, Heavy Repair, 15 Oct 1969

Inactivated, 15 Dec 1969

Redesignated 555 RED HORSE Squadron, 21 Aug 2001

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 2001

STATIONS

Cam Rahn Bay, South Vietnam, 12 Oct 1965-15 Dec 1969

Nellis AFB, NV, 1 Oct 2001

ASSIGNMENTS

2 Air Division, 12 Oct 1965

Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966

1 Civil Engineering Group, 15 May 1967-1969

610 Regional Support Group, 1 Oct 2001

622 Civil Engineer Group, 1 Oct 2012

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Adam Roberts

Lt Col Michael P. Kozak

Lt Col Francisco Badiano, 16 Jul 2018

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Defensive 1965-1966

Vietnam Air 1966

Vietnam Air Offensive, 1966-1967

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II 1967-1968

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III 1968

Vietnam Air/Ground 1968

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV 1968-1969

TET 69/Counteroffensive 1969

Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969

Vietnam Winter/Spring 1969-1970

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Jan-31 Aug 1967

1 Jan-15 Dec 1969

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-15 Dec 1969

EMBLEM



Approved, 11 May 1966



On a disc Or, above three fountains arcing reversed in base, a draft horse forcener Gules, detailed, eyed and unguled Azure, highlighted and dented Argent, harnessed with a collar of the third charged with a vol of the field and bridled to match, the reigns in the form of two lightning bolts in fess Blue, the topmost enfiling an annulet Yellow, all within a narrow border of the like. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "555TH RED HORSE SQUADRON" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "TRIPLE NICKEL" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The draft horse rearing and reigned by lightning flashes signify the unit's mission, mobility and speed of accomplishment. The collar charged with wings symbolizes the use of heavy equipment by the Air Force support units. (Approved, 4 Dec 2001)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 555th, one of the original RED HORSE units and the second squadron to arrive in Vietnam, was headquartered at Cam Ranh Bay from February 1966 to early 1970. The unit completed much of the troop housing, roads, and utilities on the base. The 555th constructed hundreds of buildings, maintained AM-2 runways, taxiways, and parking aprons, and sent deployed units to several other locations to construct facilities. An 18-man unit constructed radar site facilities on Phu Quoc Island, and the unit deployed a 50-man detachment to Nha Trang to accomplish major construction projects at the direction of the 1st Civil Engineering Group.

The 555th was inactivated at Cam Ranh Bay on 15 December 1969. Nearly 32 years later, on 21 August 2001 the unit was redesignated the 555th RED HORSE Squadron in preparation for reactivation in the Air Force Reserve. On 1 October 2001 HQ Air Force Reserve Command activated the unit at Nellis AFB, Nevada, with assignment to the 610th Regional Support Group, to augment the 554th RED HORSE Squadron at Osan AB, Korea. Gaining command was Pacific Air Forces.

RED HORSE squadrons from around the globe are combining forces at Osan AB to improve the quality of life for military members and safety conditions for Airmen and aircraft in South Korea. Engineers from Osan's 554th RHS have worked closely with Guard, Reserve and active duty units from the 307th RHS at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; 555th RHS and 820th RHS at Nellis AFB, Nev.; and the 254th CES from Andersen AFB, Guam, on several construction projects since April.

"In total, we have about 170 HORSE brothers and sisters supporting us and rotating through Korea from April through September (this year)," said CMSgt Jeff Slocum, 554th RHS operations chief. "Some are just doing their two-week annual tours, while others are staying on for a while, which helps provide additional continuity on the jobs." "RED HORSE is all about diversity. Although considered a civil engineer unit, only two-thirds of the squadron personnel carry a (civil engineer) AFSC," said Lt Col Richard Sloop Jr., commander of the 554th RHS.

"The remainder makes up the support element that allows RED HORSE to be a self-sufficient operation. With our Reserve and Guard component, we also pick up contracting, security forces and medical personnel." Completed projects across the peninsula include construction at air bases at Kimhae, Wonju, Suwon, Kunsan and Osan. "(At Kunsan), we replaced old expeditionary aircraft arresting systems," said CMSgt Slocum. "We (also) built access roads, drainage culverts and buildings to house the arresting engines. The new system is motor-driven and provides for a smoother, more controlled engagement.

Basically, it improves operational safety for any aircraft with barrier engagement capability, which better protects the aircraft and pilot during a barrier engagement." One of RED HORSE's primary wartime responsibilities is to provide aircraft launch and recovery capabilities wherever the Air Force needs it, said Osan project engineer 1Lt Theresa White. "It was great that we (had) the chance to upgrade Kunsan's barrier system. We got to hone our skills for war, and the 'Wolf Pack' [knows] they have a better system in place to more safely support sortie take off and landing operations."

Some of the many projects included two steel arch warehouse buildings at Kimhae that will provide security and weather protection for RED HORSE and war reserve materiel; 30 contingency cabins at Kunsan to support air expeditionary force rotations, joint exercises, and operations; and a shower, latrine and laundry facility at Suwon which improves quality of life for deployed forces. "It's great to have such tremendous support from each of these units. We called for help, and they came running," CMSgt Slocum said. "The RED HORSE community is a very tight-knit family. The camaraderie among the people from all the units is fantastic. They work together, play together, and just blend very well to get the job done. Having all of us working together is definitely a production and morale booster."2006

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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