

## 809 EXPEDITIONARY RED HORSE SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

809 Installations Squadron constituted, 4 Jun 1952

Activated, 16 Jun 1952

Inactivated, 1 Jun 1959

Redesignated 809 Civil Engineering Squadron and activated, 21 Feb 1963

Organized, 1 Jul 1963

Inactivated, 31 Jul 1972

Redesignated as 809 Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron, and converted to provisional status,  
3 Jun 2009

#### STATIONS

MacDill AFB, FL, 16 Jun 1952-1 Jun 1959

Francis E. Warren AFB, WY, 1 Jul 1963-31 Jul 1972

#### ASSIGNMENTS

809 Air Base (later, 809 Combat Support) Group, 16 Jun 1952-1 Jun 1959

Strategic Air Command, 21 Feb 1963

809 Combat Support Group, 1 Jul 1963-31 Jul 1972

Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 3 Jun 2009

#### COMMANDERS

LTC David J. Nolan

#### HONORS

Service Streamers

## **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

Approved, 5 May 1955

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

RED HORSE Airmen Complete Runway Project: Working together with Navy Seabees, members of the 809th Expeditionary RED HORSE unit at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, completed a set of 3,000-foot airstrips at a forward operating base in southeast Afghanistan. "They wanted two runways as soon as possible," explained TSgt. Colin Bennett, the project manager. "After the Seabees expanded the perimeter, we worked our magic and the first [runway] was operational within 13 days." The airmen created that first runway using fine dirt and local rock. Aircraft were able to launch from it to support combat operations in the region, while the RED HORSE airmen turned their attention to constructing the second, more durable, weather-resistant runway. They built it using more than one million pounds of cement and a layer of rock. The RED HORSE team completed the airstrips in late June. 2011

No Airfield, No Problem: Airmen of the 809th Expeditionary RED HORSE are changing bare-bones Forward Operating Base Dwyer in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province into a hub for increased combat operations and medical evacuations. RED HORSE members "have run a six-month marathon to get construction underway," said Capt. Vincent Rea, the detachment's OIC. They first created a 200-foot by 2,000-foot helipad for Cobra gunships and Huey medical evacuation helicopters and then an assault landing strip to accommodate C-130s. To complete the 4,300-foot airstrip, the airmen worked with a 12-man Marine Corps team. The RED HORSE team also will set the foundation for a concrete airstrip, a 8,600-foot by 120-foot project that must "be done with extreme precision and meet strict code specifications" to hold up under a fully loaded C-17, said TSgt. Chad Lepley, pavements and construction equipment craftsman

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 29 Jul 2020

Updated:

### **Sources**

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

Unit yearbook. *809 Air Base Group, MacDill AFB, FL, 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.