

817 CONTINGENCY RESPONSE GROUP



MISSION

The 817 Contingency Response Group provides first response teams in support of Air and Space Expeditionary Forces (AEF), Contingency, Exercise, Humanitarian Relief Operations (HUMRO), Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) or Homeland Defense for purpose of establishing initial airfield operations. Unit controls airbase activities through expertise in airfield operations, security, force protection, aerial port, maintenance, air traffic control, and expeditionary combat support functional areas.

LINEAGE

817 Contingency Response Group constituted, 28 Feb 2005
Activated, 4 Apr 2005

STATIONS

McGuire AFB [later Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst], NJ, 27 Jun 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

621 Contingency Response Wing, 4 Apr 2005

COMMANDERS

Col Nelson
Col Mark Ellis
Col Patrick Hollrah
Col David P. Kuenzli, Apr 2011
Col Michael B Frymire, Jul 2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award

1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2012

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

4 Apr 2005-30 Sep 2005

1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2006

1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2007

1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2008

1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009

EMBLEM

Azure, in sinister chief a seven pointed sun Or, issuant from base demi-sphere Celeste with land masses Vert, emerging from dexter of the demi-sphere and arcing per bend a stylized aircraft Silver Gray emitting a contrail Argent, all within a narrow bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "817 CONTINGENCY RESPONSE GROUP" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 sun represents the head office – 621st CRW and the old office – 721st AMS. The globe symbolizes worldwide mobility. The flight symbol, with contrail "tip of the spear" circling the globe, means the unit is ready to go anywhere, anytime. (Approved, 14 Dec 2005)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

8/2/2005 - SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN) - About a dozen Airmen with the 817th Contingency Response Group from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., arrived here July 28 to support the Rhein-Main Transition Program. The five-year Rhein-Main Transition Program, scheduled for completion in December, calls for closing down Rhein-Main Air Base, transitioning its cargo and passenger service mission to Ramstein Air Base, and beefing up Spangdahlem Air Base as the overflow base for Ramstein. The 817th will support the program by providing temporary airlift command and control capability for the incoming 726th Air Mobility Squadron here. It will help transition the fighter wing to coexist with a fully functioning Air Mobility Command unit here to support increased air traffic. "CRGs are the Air Force's global reach crisis response force," said Maj. Scott Sveinsson, the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group liaison officer. "They are geared toward

deploying trained and equipped Airmen with serviceable equipment to function as the command and control, initial airfield operations and initial operating support of an AMC CRG."

Typically, the groups are a multiskilled expeditionary unit that deploys to various locations to open up an air base. That air base could be anywhere from the middle of the desert with nothing there, to a fully functioning base such as Spangdahlem. "We're usually the first guys in the door to open up the air base to get it prepared for the follow-on mission support group," said Col. Dean Nelson, 817th CRG commander. "Once everything is in place, squared away and everyone's on the same sheet of music, we leave and head to our next project." The time frame for transition is currently open-ended, Colonel Nelson said. But wing and group leaders are geared toward the end of October for the airlift mission to be fully integrated into the wing mission here. "With the new arrivals, we currently have about 20 people here, and that's enough to handle one airplane a week," the colonel said. "At the end of August, we'll have an additional 20 people arriving - basically doubling our workforce - and that will allow us to operate two airplanes at a time with four airplanes a day during Spangdahlem operating hours." The ability to handle airflow through the creation of a crawl, walk and run mentality is key for a smooth transition, and creating a livable and workable environment for Airmen is what the CRG is all about, said Maj. Scott Deitz, 817th CRG deployed operations officer. "Until the 726th (AMS) is ready to handle the mission unassisted, we're here (for them)," he said.

Airman from the 817 Contingency Response Group at McGuire Air Force Base New Jersey participated in the Vigilant Guard exercise held in Puerto Rico in March 2009. The exercise involved more than 17 Air Force Air National Guard and local and federal government agencies focused on providing a coordinated response following a simulated natural disaster in Puerto Rico. During the exercise a hub and spoke operation was used to move passengers and cargo to four locations around the island.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.