

910 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

910 Civil Engineering Flight constituted, 19 Jun 1969

Activated in the Reserve and organized, 25 Oct 1969

Redesignated 910 Civil Engineering Squadron, 15 Nov 1978

Redesignated 910 Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

STATIONS

Youngstown Muni Aprt (later, Youngstown MPT-Air Reserve Station; Youngstown-Warren Regional Aprt-Air Reserve Station), OH, 25 Oct 1969

ASSIGNMENTS

910 Tactical Airlift (later, 910 Tactical Air Support; 910 Special Operations; 910 Tactical Fighter; 910 Tactical Airlift; 910 Airlift) Group, 25 Oct 1969

910 Support (later, 910 Mission Support) Group, 1 Aug 1992

COMMANDERS

Maj Geoffrey S. Howard, 27 Jan 1992

Lt Col William Kowalewski

Lt Col Christopher L. Kenny, 2003

Lt Col Bryan C. Miner

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1983-31 Aug 1985

1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1997

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Enter the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron. Members from the squadron have cycled through Martha's Vineyard in two-week increments over a seven-week span this Spring to construct a cultural center and receive training in horizontal and vertical construction skills to include carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, and wiring thru the Innovative Readiness Training program. DOD's civil-military Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program serves as an opportunity for both DOD and tribes to benefit from work being done by the military.

As part of their training, military personnel carry out civil engineering projects in communities and reservations throughout the country through the IRT program. The communities and reservations targeted for IRT projects greatly benefit from the work done by the military personnel. "This has been excellent hands-on training," said Maj. David Kattler, operations officer for the civil engineer squadron. "We had some good, hard-core construction. It was a very unique opportunity to work with Native Americans and to be introduced to some of their culture. We did, although, have some challenging logistics to overcome. Working on an island takes some proactive planning that we normally don't run into.

But we met that challenge, and moved people into roles they may normally not fill, such as project managers, supervisors, and First Sergeant. Everyone from top to bottom did an outstanding job." Located on sovereign land in the town of Aquinnah, the cultural center will be the only facility of its kind in the community and will include a child daycare center, classroom(s), cultural arts and education, elder day center, kitchen, and community gymnasium for year-round indoor sports, after-school programs, as well as a space for large cultural and social events. "I hope you will all understand what a huge difference the cultural center will make for us and our community for years to come," boasted Woody Vanderhoop, assistant planner for the project. "We really appreciate your involvement. It's something to be proud of."

The summer of 2009 was unseasonably cool and pleasant for northeastern Ohioans. It was common to walk through neighborhoods and smell outdoor fires burning during summer evenings. thousands of miles away, near the equator in the country of Guyana, South America,

the climate was much different. Intense heat, humidity and bouts of heavy rainfall greeted the Service members of the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) as they arrived in Guyana to work on a summer-long project.

The mission: Build a school for a group of local fifth and sixth-grade children. The school, housing approximately 60 students, was built between June and August as part of New Horizons Guyana, according to Master Sgt. David Gurnak, an electrician supervisor with the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron. New Horizons is an annual series of joint and combined humanitarian assistance exercises that U.S. Southern Command conducts in Latin American and Caribbean nations. The exercises improve joint training readiness of U.S. Engineer, medical and combat service support units through humanitarian and civic assistance activities and usually involve construction of schools, clinics and water wells.

Approximately 50 members of the 910th Airlift Wing took part in the nearly \$250,000 project near the community of Bel Air in the city of Georgetown, Guyana. As the school project progressed, there were other opportunities for the Airmen to aid the residents of Bel Air. "This project had a heart moving moment when we were passing out school supplies and clothing to the children and teachers," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Metts, a power production supervisor with the 910th CES. "They were very grateful for what they were receiving." "The average wage there is \$10 a day," Sergeant Metts said. "The things that are average stuff here just aren't available there. Instead of firing a weapon to defend helpless people, we're swinging hammers to make a difference." Sergeant Gurnak, who returned from the six week mission with superior performance awards, described an impoverished country where trash was strewn along the coastline and horse and buggy brought supplies to the working Servicemembers. According to the Airmen, they worked 10 hours a day and had midnight curfews, but the Reservists were able to spend time with the residents and sample some local foods.

During their time off, some of the Airmen took a trip to see Kaieteur Falls. Located deep in the rainforest, the waterfall has a drop of more than 700 feet, making it one of the largest waterfalls in the world. In addition to aiding some of the residents of Guyana, this humanitarian project also helped some of the participating Reservists. Sergeant Gurnak said he works in the construction business, but work has been scarce lately. This project provided him needed income for his day-to-day life.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.