

3700 CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

3700 Installations Squadron
3700 Civil Engineering Squadron

STATIONS

Lackland AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 3700th Civil Engineering Squadron was organized and activated as a unit of the 3700th Air Base Group. Lt Col Dennis R. Topper became the squadron's first commander. 1 Jul 1988

3700 Civil Engineering Squadron activated 01 Jul 88

During 1988, the Air Force Military Training Center experienced several organizational changes, none of which altered the center's mission, structure, or operations in any significant way. The 539th Air Force Band was reassigned to AFMTC from the 3700th Air Base Group, effective 1 November 1988. The Air Training Command activated the 3700th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) and the 3700th Contracting Squadron (CONS), effective 1 July 1988. The activating orders assigned the engineering squadron to the 3700 ABG and the contracting squadron to the Air Force Military Training Center, with operational control (OPCON) exercised by the deputy commander for resource management.

The early activations of the engineering and contracting squadrons allowed AFMTC officials to carry out a smooth transfer of responsibilities, personnel, and equipment. The Air Force Military Personnel Center (AFMPC) could begin to assign advance cadre of military members to them, as activated units. Neither squadron achieved initial operational capability (IOC) in 1988, although the 3700 CES had begun to absorb the air base group's Civil Engineering Division duties, personnel, and assets by then. By the end of the year, 52 of its 104 military authorizations and 52 of its 721 civilian authorizations were manned. Assumption of SARPMA duties, people, and equipment was a more daunting maneuver, complicated by political implications: the military services were, in effect, declaring this ten-year Department of Defense idea and congressional creation a failure.

This centralized engineering and contracting arrangement was never popular among Lackland's leadership, depriving training center, medical center, and base commanders of direct control of essential housekeeping operations. The previous 3700th Civil Engineering Squadron, inactivated in 1978, had been led by military engineers and been part of the chain of command; the field engineering branch of SARPMA that succeeded it was manned almost exclusively by civilians; maintenance came under a different cost management system with unfamiliar procedures; commanders had less leeway in redirecting their organizations' budget allocations and materiel resources. Lackland officials also had developed a perception of the SARPMA/SACC structure as generally inefficient and costly in comparison to the old decentralized system.

Planning Disestablishment of SARPMA and SACC. The creation of contracting and civil engineering squadrons was in anticipation of the dismantling of the San Antonio Real Property Maintenance Agency (SARPMA) and San Antonio Contracting Center (SACC), scheduled for 1 April and 1 October 1989, respectively. The Air Training Command began the process of disestablishing the San Antonio Contract Center and San Antonio Real Property Maintenance Agency with a 12 April 1988 announcement. Inactivation of SACC was set for 31 March 1989 and SARPMA for 30 September. Civil engineering, facility maintenance, contracting, and local procurement functions would then be decentralized and returned to the immediate control of installation commanders.

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