

7 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON



MISSION

The 7 Civil Engineer Squadron maintains and repairs all base facilities, conducts disaster preparedness training, manages all fire protection and prevention activities, manages base environmental programs and handles housing responsibilities for accompanied and unaccompanied personnel.

LINEAGE

Squadron C, 7 Airdrome Group designated, 3 Nov 1947

Organized, 17 Nov 1947

Discontinued, 1 Aug 1948

7 Installations Squadron, Bombardment, Heavy constituted, 20 Jul 1948

Activated, 1 Aug 1948

Redesignated 7 Installations Squadron, 16 Mar 1950

Inactivated, 20 Jun 1953

Activated, 1 Dec 1957

Discontinued, 15 Mar 1960

Redesignated 7 Civil Engineering Squadron, 29 Jan 1964

Squadron C, 7 Airdrome Group and 7 Civil Engineering Squadron consolidated, 3 Oct 1984

Consolidated unit designated 7 Civil Engineering Squadron

Organized, 1 Sep 1964

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1993
Activated, 1 Oct 1993
Redesignated 7 Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

STATIONS

Fort Worth AAFld (later, Griffiss AFB; Carswell AFB), TX, 17 Nov 1947-20 Jun 1953
Carswell AFB, TX, 1 Dec 1957-15 Mar 1960
Carswell AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1964-30 Sep 1993
Dyess AFB, TX, 1 Oct 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

7 Airdrome (later, 7 Air Base) Group, 17 Nov 1947-20 Jun 1953
7 Air Base (later, 7 Combat Support) Group, 1 Dec 1957-15 Mar 1960
7 Combat Support (later, 7 Support) Group, 1 Sep 1964-30 Sep 1993
7 Support Group, 1 Oct 1993

COMMANDERS

Lt Col David L. Biesheuvel, 15 May 1997
Lt Col Dennis Yates, 2000
Lt Col Darren R. Daniels, Dec 2001
Col Barry Mines, Jul 2004
Lt Col Chris Womack, Jun 2006
Lt Col Christopher G. Duffy, 10 Jul 2008
Lt Col John Tyron, 29 Jun 2010
Lt Col Michael J. Harner, 29 Jun 2012

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976
1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1977
1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

EMBLEM



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Officials at Dyess AFB, Tex., recently awarded Balfour Beatty Communities of Newtown Square, Pa., a contract to privatize the base's military housing. Col. Glen VanHerck, Dyess' 7th Bomb Wing commander, signed the base's first privatized housing lease on Aug. 27, as part of the Air Force's efforts to offer airmen a higher quality of life with more amenities and enhanced living quarters. Balfour Beatty will begin upgrading the housing units and working on multiple community enhancements on Oct. 1 after the current residents sign new lease agreements this month. The community improvements include a barbecue picnic area, tennis and volleyball courts, and upgraded playground facilities. "By allowing the private sector to manage these homes, the Air Force is saving money on designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining base housing facilities," said Dolores Green, chief housing manager for the 7th Civil Engineer Squadron. Dyess is one of the final Air Force installations to privatize on-base housing. 2013

January 2002 The 7 CES participated in a Silver Flag exercise at Tyndall AFB, FL. Joining 129 other airmen, 46 CES airmen took part in a total force exercise to repair a runway, clear unexploded ordinance, and construct a tent-city in a combat zone to prepare for future missions. Lt Col Darren Daniels, 7 CES/CC, said the exercise was "invaluable training when you consider what we are doing in the world as we speak."

February 2002 The 7 CES started construction on the main gate for a force protection upgrade. The upgrade included two sliding gates, reconfiguration of the main gate center island, and construction of a new center island gatehouse. The visitor center temporarily relocated to the Dyess Heritage Center.

2003 The 7 CES oversaw the construction of 85 new housing units on Dyess AFB. Built in a neighborhood named "Lonestar Trails," the units consisted of 36 two-bedroom units and 49 three-bedroom units.

2007 – 2008 7 CES oversaw the construction of 326 new housing units. The neighborhood Eagle Heights contained 34 units: 18 three-bedroom units, eight four-bedroom units, seven four bedroom Senior Officer Quarters, and one four-bedroom Installation Commander Unit.

The Patriot Acres/Frontier Meadows neighborhoods contained 99 units: 56 three-bedroom units, 39 four bedroom units, three three-bedroom Chief Prestige units, and one four-bedroom Command Chief unit.

Freedom Run contained 17 units: 11 three-bedroom units and 6 four-bedroom units.

Liberty Crossing/Frontier Meadows contained 176 units: 131 three-bedroom units and 45 four-bedroom units

April – June 2012 Constructions crews completed a \$1.67 million project to "mill/grade existing damaged roads in Munitions Storage Area and resurface with new asphalt."

April – July 2012 Constructions crews completed a \$2.44 million project to replace existing cast iron and asbestos water lines along Louisiana Dr. with new piping and isolation valves.

April – July 2012 7 CES crews installed new vanities and mirrors in dormitories located in buildings 6113, 6114, 6126, 6127, 6138, 7219, and 7220. The project cost approximately \$841,000.

April – August 2012 7 CES crews replaced the existing fire suppression systems in buildings 6113 and 6114 at a cost of \$841,000.

2008 – 2009 The 7 CES oversaw the construction of 90 new housing units in the Frontier Meadows neighborhoods, including: 13 two-bedroom units, 63 three-bedroom units, and 14 four-bedroom units.

6 April – 2 September 2009 Civil engineers from 7 CES demolished 13 old structures, removing more than 90,000 square feet and reducing the use of utilities for structures that no longer utilized. The old alert facility and the old fire station, amounting to 49,000 square feet of open land near the runway apron. Mr. Dan Frieberg, 7 CES, said that "our goal is to reduce our operating costs by reducing the facility footprint we have to maintain."

11 June 2012 Constructed started on a new logistics building for the 7th Civil Engineer Squadron. A 33-airman team from the 819th RED HORSE Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, MT constructed the preengineered 8,500-square-foot facility. The project cost \$695,000 but saved \$600,000 by using the 819 RED HORSE rather than an outside contractor.

2022 The 7th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), commanded by Lt. Col. Rick Vermillion, is responsible for Dyess Air Force Base's real property infrastructure to include utilities and land. His squadron has an end strength of 327 personnel, to include 244 active duty military, 75 civilians, and 8

contractors. If any unit on Dyess Air Force Base exemplifies people, mission, and base, it is the 7th CES.

They do everything from maintaining the parking aprons where lifters and strikers await their orders, offices where missions are planned and budgets forecasted, hangars where aircraft are maintained, and the myriad of administrative buildings where Airmen reside and support the mission to responding to fires, medical and in-flight emergencies, unexploded ordnance, and hazardous materials. The 7th CES is truly ubiquitous.

The squadron is responsible for 1,291 facilities and non-domicile buildings and 1,076 housing units on and off base across 6,972 acres. Though the housing units have been privatized, the 7th CES is responsible for inspecting pre-repair work, post-repair work, and maintaining all water, electric, and sewer lines up to those buildings.

The 7th CES is comprised of six flights: Readiness and Emergency Management, Operations, Installation Management, Engineering, Fire and Emergency Services, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

The Readiness and Emergency Management flight is led by 1st Lt. John Loss and his Superintendent Master Sgt. Jessica Clayton. In peacetime, the flight's role is to respond, plan and train. The flight's mission is to respond to all incidents or accidents involving hazardous material spills or leaks and any chemical, biological, or radiological/nuclear incidents. "We aren't needed until we are needed, therefore we feel underappreciated when we aren't needed, but that's a good thing," Clayton said.

The Operations flight is led by Maj. Zachary Stanton, his deputy, Mr. Roger Harris, and his Superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. Brandon Coffman. The flight is responsible for the maintenance and repair of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, buried gas and water lines, electrical lines, paved and unpaved roadways and sidewalks, vertical infrastructure, pest management, and overseeing service contracts to include, but not limited to grounds maintenance, trash removal, and custodial. This flight has a daily battle with an aging infrastructure that keeps them busy day in and day out.

The Installation Management flight is led by Mr. James Robertson who has worked for the Air Force at Dyess Air Force Base for 34 years. His flight is responsible for maintaining real property records, environmental safeguards, maintaining the squadron's IT capabilities, and overseeing privatized housing and the dormitories. His flight and its predecessor flight configurations have been sustaining the infrastructure since 1958. The flight also manages the resources and budgeting for current and future projects. Robertson's flight recently spent six weeks inventorying every facility listed on the real property records which included putting eyes on 1,187 structures on base and a few locations off base.

"The total value of our real property is about \$3.1 billion," Mr. Robertson said. "We receive two percent of that amount, or about \$60 million in funding, for maintenance of the existing

infrastructure regardless of whether costs escalate year over year.”

Mr. Conda Richards leads the Engineering Flight which is responsible for repairing and renovating the installation’s infrastructure and overseeing any new construction that takes place. Among the current 40 ongoing projects are facilities, parking aprons, fire suppression systems, and fuel tanks to name a few. These projects comprise 85 percent of the flight’s construction work, with another 15 percent underway to support the B-21 bed down. Over the next several years the 15 percent will grow and overtake the flight’s workload.

Not all of the projects are under the control of the 7th CES. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers, is responsible for certain projects by law. The Air Force Civil Engineering Center is another organization that manages certain projects. This does take the 7th CES a step away from having direct oversight of the projects, but provides additional resources as needed and the 7th CES works with each organization by providing feedback on issues such as poor quality of work, etc. When asked about his diversity of projects, Mr. Richards said “It is never boring.”

The last two flights, Fire and Emergency Services and Explosive Ordnance Disposal, led by Chief Master Sgt. Charles Clawson and Capt. Brennan Bosworth respectively, are in the business of protecting and preventing the destruction of real property and injury to Airmen and their families who work and reside on Dyess. Both flights also respond with and support first responders in the Abilene and surrounding communities that may need their specialized capabilities.

Besides providing a comfortable home for the B-1B Lancer and C-130J Super Hercules, the 7th CES will soon build a new home for the B-21 Raider. In fact, the squadron will be at the tip of the spear providing the facilities and infrastructure to support the B-21 by the time it touches down on the Dyess runway later in this decade. In the meantime, Lt. Col. Vermillion’s squadron will continue to touch just about every function on the installation in support of the B-1B and the C-130J. The nation’s adversaries are formidable and are an increasing threat. Therefore, the Dyess Airmen must be ready to sustain the fight, whether that is on station or deployed down range. Modernization, innovation, understanding the threat, and maintaining a competitive operations tempo are required to meet this global challenge and the 7th CES is in the fight to sustain people, mission and the base.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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