

## 202<sup>nd</sup> RED HORSE SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

The 202nd Red Horse (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer) is a highly mobile, rapidly deployable civil engineering response force that is self-sufficient for limited periods of time. The unit performs heavy damage repair for recovery of critical Air Force facilities and utility systems following enemy attack or natural disaster.

The 202<sup>nd</sup> Red Horse squadron represents a major element in the Air Force Red Horse program, tasked with a mission to provide highly mobile, rapidly deployable civil engineering response force self sufficient for worldwide deployment. The 202 RHS represents one of only six such units in the Air Force whose primary capability consists of recovery, repair and maintenance of bombed or otherwise damaged military air bases and facilities.

The Florida Army National Guard's primary training area is Camp Blanding located in north-central Florida. Camp Blanding is a military installation near Jacksonville, Florida that totals approximately 73,000 square acres. The training schedule continues almost year-round to meet the training needs of tens of thousands of National Guardsmen, Active Army and Reserves from all over the United States.

### STATIONS

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke, FL

### ASSIGNMENTS

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Frank W. Kozdras, Jan. 5, 1985

Col Jere Cook, Apr 1, 1993

Col Wallace J. Paschal, II, Nov 6, 2003

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 202nd RED HORSE Squadron joined the growing list of FLANG units in the mid-1980s. On Jan. 5, 1985, after receiving federal recognition, the unit conducted a formal ceremony at the unit's temporary facilities at Camp Blanding to honor the occasion. Approximately 43 charter members and guests braved near freezing weather to witness Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Robert F. Ensslin Jr., present the squadron guidon to the unit's commander, Lt. Col. Frank W. Kozdras. The unit boasts skill sets that include specialties in constructing airfield lighting, asphalt paving, communications, concrete, disaster preparedness, mobile facilities erection, water purification, K-Span construction, aircraft arresting systems repair, water well drilling, and demolition team duties.

RED HORSE units are frequently called upon to supply manpower for humanitarian and civic assistance projects. Originally the unit operated out of six temporary facilities with only 24,000 square feet of space to use for administration, shop, and warehouse functions, but in January

1993 the unit's permanent facilities were completed and dedicated. The unit currently occupies a 55,000-square-foot complex located on more than 140 acres of leased land at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

As part of the Global War on Terrorism all members of the 202nd RED HORSE deployed to the Middle East to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The unit deployed their equipment and personnel to assist with construction projects in Doha, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Iraq, with several members involved in the reconstruction efforts at the Baghdad and Tallil Airports.

In 2004 the unit deployed 12 members to support missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, and the Horn of Africa.

In 2004, the 202<sup>nd</sup> responded to provide assistance to bases in Florida in the wake of three disastrous hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan.

Also in 2004, the RED HORSE partnered with the 125th Fighter Wing Medical Group to form Florida's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) unit. As one of only 12 teams nationwide, the team trains to respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents. After training for six months the fledgling team was evaluated by First Army and earned a 96 percent rating the highest rating of all units evaluated.

3 Sep 2003 The 202<sup>d</sup> RED HORSE Squadron, Florida ANG, deployed fiftyseven personnel to Bay of St. Louis, Mississippi for base camp construction.

In 2006 the RED HORSE deployed for a seven-month mission supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The mission required the members to facilitate more than 130 construction projects as the lead element for the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron and the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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