

254th CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

254th Civil Engineer Squadron

STATIONS

Andersen AFB, Guam

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

RED HORSE squadrons from around the globe are combining forces at Osan AB to improve the quality of life for military members and safety conditions for Airmen and aircraft in South Korea. Engineers from Osan's 554th RHS have worked closely with Guard, Reserve and active duty units from the 307th RHS at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; 555th RHS and 820th RHS at Nellis AFB, Nev.; and the 254th CES from Andersen AFB, Guam, on several construction projects since April. "In

total, we have about 170 HORSE brothers and sisters supporting us and rotating through Korea from April through September (this year)," said CMSgt Jeff Slocum, 554th RHS operations chief. "Some are just doing their two-week annual tours, while others are staying on for a while, which helps provide additional continuity on the jobs." "RED HORSE is all about diversity. Although considered a civil engineer unit, only two-thirds of the squadron personnel carry a (civil engineer) AFSC," said Lt Col Richard Sloop Jr., commander of the 554th RHS. "The remainder makes up the support element that allows RED HORSE to be a self-sufficient operation. With our Reserve and Guard component, we also pick up contracting, security forces and medical personnel." Completed projects across the peninsula include construction at air bases at Kimhae, Wonju, Suwon, Kunsan and Osan. "(At Kunsan), we replaced old expeditionary aircraft arresting systems," said CMSgt Slocum. "We (also) built access roads, drainage culverts and buildings to house the arresting engines. The new system is motor-driven and provides for a smoother, more controlled engagement. Basically, it improves operational safety for any aircraft with barrier engagement capability, which better protects the aircraft and pilot during a barrier engagement." One of RED HORSE's primary wartime responsibilities is to provide aircraft launch and recovery capabilities wherever the Air Force needs it, said Osan project engineer 1Lt Theresa White. "It was great that we (had) the chance to upgrade Kunsan's barrier system. We got to hone our skills for war, and the 'Wolf Pack' [knows] they have a better system in place to more safely support sortie take off and landing operations." Some of the many projects included two steel arch warehouse buildings at Kimhae that will provide security and weather protection for RED HORSE and war reserve materiel; 30 contingency cabins at Kunsan to support air expeditionary force rotations, joint exercises, and operations; and a shower, latrine and laundry facility at Suwon which improves quality of life for deployed forces. "It's great to have such tremendous support from each of these units. We called for help, and they came running," CMSgt Slocum said. "The RED HORSE community is a very tight-knit family. The camaraderie among the people from all the units is fantastic. They work together, play together, and just blend very well to get the job done. Having all of us working together is definitely a production and morale booster." 2006

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- The Guam Air National Guard's 254th Civil Engineer Squadron held a Flagging Ceremony April 4 at Andersen AFB as they converted from a CES unit to a Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) squadron.

"This is definitely an exciting time for us and we are happy to carry on the flag for the youngest RED HORSE unit in the Air National Guard as we become an associate unit with the oldest RED HORSE unit in the Air Force," said Maj. Audie Artero, 254th REDHORSE Commander. "RED HORSE is deeply rooted in tradition and we hope we can proudly carry on the Taotaomona pride as we open this new chapter in our organization's history," said Artero.

The unit will be an associate unit with the Air Force's 554th RED HORSE Squadron at Andersen, with current plans to relocate to Northwest Field. There will be no changes to the current chain-of-command at this time.

"I already look forward to deploying with such an outstanding unit," Artero said. The Guam Air National Guard's 254th CES was federally redesignated from an engineering flight to a squadron on July 1, 1985. This conversion changes the primary skill sets from an engineering sustainment to a small scale engineering construction force. "It's a big change for all our

personnel, and it's a challenge we've been looking forward to," said 2nd Lt. Leo Palomares, 254 RED HORSE Squadron engineering flight chief.

This conversion will increase opportunities for additional training. It will grow the workforce and provide more opportunities to work with active duty Air Force counterparts, especially with Silver Flag and Commando Warrior coming to Guam, said Lieutenant Palomares. "We are all very excited and we thank everyone involved for their support," said the lieutenant. RED HORSE squadrons provide the Air Force with a highly mobile civil engineering response force to support contingency and special operations worldwide. They are self sufficient, mobile squadrons capable of rapid response and independent operations in remote, high-threat environments worldwide.

Their major wartime responsibilities are to provide a highly mobile, rapidly deployable, civil engineering response force that is self-sufficient to perform heavy damage repair required for recovery of critical Air Force facilities and utility systems, and aircraft launch and recovery. In addition, they accomplish engineer support for bed down of weapon systems required to initiate and sustain operations in an austere bare base environment, including remote hostile locations.

The primary RED HORSE tasking in peacetime is to train for contingency and wartime operations. They participate regularly in Joint Chiefs of Staff and major command exercises, military operations other than war, and humanitarian civic action programs. They also perform training projects which assist base construction efforts while simultaneously honing wartime skills.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 6 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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