

## 560 RED HORSE SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

560 Civil Engineering Squadron (Heavy Repair) constituted and activated, 28 Oct 1966

Organized, 15 Nov 1966

Redesignated 560 Civil Engineering Squadron, Heavy Repair, 15 Oct 1969

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1970

Redesignated 560 RED HORSE Squadron, 6 Oct 2008

Activated, 1 Nov 2008

### STATIONS

Eglin AF Aux AFld 2, FL, 15 Nov 1966-31 Mar 1970

Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Nov 2008

### ASSIGNMENTS

Tactical Air Command, 28 Oct 1966

USAF Tactical Air Warfare Center, 7 Dec 1967-31 Mar 1970

610 Regional Support Group, 1 Nov 2008

622 Civil Engineer Group, 1 Oct 2012

### COMMANDERS

Col Daniel J. Leveille, Mar 2009

Lt Col Marty A. Hughes, 2 Dec 2010

Maj Lance F. Turner, 29 Apr 2011

Lt Coll Joseph M. Swaim, 1 Jul 2012  
Col Justin Duncan

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM



(Approved, 17 Jun 1968)



On a disc Or, in base a demi-globe Azure, gridlined Argent, charged with draft horse fampant

Gules, eyed of the third, detailed, bridled, and collared Sable, collar and bridle details of the third, reins as lightning bolts piercing a ring on the collar of the fifth; in chief a lamp of knowledge Argent, detailed Azure, flamed Proper, all within a narrow border Blue. Below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "560TH RED HORSE SQUADRON" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The horse is the symbol for all Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer units. The horse is depicted in a raised stance representing a quick reacting, aggressive and powerful force, readily called whenever and wherever needed. The thunderbolts emanating as reins on the horse depict the guidance system of the overarching Air Force missions which direct the employment of the RED HORSE weapon system. The banner adorning the horse's forefront represents the sincere heart and purity of honor as the RED HORSE leads the way to create a safer projection platform for other battle ready airmen. The globe represents the entire earth as a battleground. The lamp of knowledge symbolizes both the historical combat skills training mission of the unit during the Viet Nam conflict and the current Air Force Reserve Command mission to organize, train and equip battle ready airmen with RED HORSE heavy civil engineering capabilities. (Approved, 10 Sep 2009)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

In a related development, AFRC's 315th Civil Engineer Squadron at Charleston AFB, S.C., is now authorized to stand up a new RED HORSE squadron, the 560th RHS, by early next year. The new unit, which will be made up of 209 Reservists, will partner with active duty civil engineers of Charleston's host 437th Airlift Wing. The 560th RHS is one of the two new RED HORSE units that AFRC is establishing; the second will be based at Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.

The 560th was activated at Eglin AFB, FL, in November 1966. Also known as the Civil Engineering Field Activities Center, the unit was responsible for training replacement personnel destined for RED HORSE units in Southeast Asia. The 560th was capable of field training 2,400 individuals each year to keep the six RED HORSE squadrons up to strength. The 560th continued this mission until inactivated in early 1970.

4/12/2013 - JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. -- Hundreds of family members and friends waited anxiously in a packed Joint Base Charleston Passenger Terminal for a 747 charter jet carrying nearly 100 Airmen from 560th Red Horse Squadron returning from a six-month deployment April 11. The Air Force Reservists have been deployed as part of the the 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron since November and were responsible for heavy construction projects at various Middle Eastern locations. This marks the first deployment for the newly formed squadron, which started operations on Nov. 1, 2008.

"These HORSEmen have done some amazing work," said Lt. Col. Joseph Swaim, 560th RHS commander. "Much of this could not be possible without the support of the family back home - the wives, husbands, moms and dads that make things possible for these men and women to

do what they did." Reserve leadership was the first to welcome the troops back home. Col. James Fontanella, 315th Airlift Wing commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Gigi Manning joined Lt. Col. Swaim, and his 560th RHS chiefs, Chief Master Sgt. James Hampton and Chief Master Sgt. Tonya Blythe at the side of the jet. Col. Timothy Lamb, 622nd Civil Engineer Group commander at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. Also was on hand to welcome the Airmen back home.

Family members holding up welcome home signs cheered as the first returning Airmen in red hats stepped out the jet's door and made their way down the stairs to the tarmac. One sign read: "We are so Proud of You Welcome Home," and another read: "We Miss Our Hero." Other signs and banners had similar cheerful messages--many, no doubt, made by the tiny hands of these Airmen's children. Tears of joy stained the cheeks of some of the loved ones as they jumped up and down waving. "The difference that we're making in the world; you see it on the news, but to see it first hand, it's a terrific experience to be there and do it," said one of the returning Airmen Senior Airman Michael Crump as he held his two children in his arms. "I wouldn't say I want to do it often, but any time our country calls on us we'll be there."

"This is what we have been waiting on, it's fantastic," said Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Rice of the enthusiastic reception. "We really missed them and we are just ready to go and spend some good time with our family. It's good to be home."

Approximately two months into their deployment, the 560th RHS executed a critical \$31 million construction program spanning from the Middle East to Central Asia. Projects included a tactical operation center, command and control infrastructure, strategic airlift ramp and fuel farm, emergency airfield repairs and several other facilities delivering mission and life-support functions across the U.S. Central Command area of operation. Swaim said there were over 20 individual Red Horse construction projects distributed across eight different sites throughout Southwest Asia, with majority of the projects located in Afghanistan. The HORSEmen moved over 100,000 tons of dirt, maintained over and distributed over \$20 million worth of materials, and performed many maintenance actions on Air Force Central Command's largest single-unit fleet worth \$85.2 million.

"These HORSEmen have done some amazing work," Swaim added. "Much of this could not be possible without the support of the family back home. The wives, husbands, moms and dads that make things possible for these men and women to do what they did." Red Horse squadrons are capable of rapid response and independent operations in remote, high-threat environments worldwide and provide heavy repair capability and construction support for the Air Force.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
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