

86 VEHICLE READINESS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

86 Vehicle Readiness Squadron constituted, 14 Apr 2003

Activated, 22 May 2003

Inactivate, 15 Jan 2004

Activated, 16 Jul 2009

STATIONS

Ramstein AB, Germany, 22 May 2003-15 Jan 2004

Ramstein AB, Germany, 16 Jul 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

86 Logistics Readiness Group, 22 May 2003-15 Jan 2004

86 Logistics Readiness Group, 16 Jul 2009

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Uduak Udoaka

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan-31 Dec 2003

[16 Jul] 2009-31 Dec 2010

1 Jan 2014-31 Dec 2015

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, a compass rose with alternating facets Gules and Or, surmounted by a terrestrial globe Proper, encircled by three contrails orbiting bendwise and terminating in flight symbols ascending to dexter Argent, all entoured by a truck tire Sable, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "SO OTHERS MAY ROLL" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "86TH VEHICLE READINESS SQ" 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 truck tire represents the vehicles which the unit services and employs. The globe and compass rose represent all points on earth that serve as the Squadron's primary operating locations.

MOTTO

SO OTHERS MAY ROLL

OPERATIONS

8/19/2009 If it has four wheels, an engine and runs on gasoline, the 86th Vehicle Readiness Squadron is most likely responsible for the means to get behind the wheel. The Ramstein VRS has one mission -- to keep the Kaiserslautern Military Community moving, through rain, snow and sunshine. From the smallest matter such as getting your driver's license, to driving the big busses, the 86th VRS has their hands in just about everything transportation related at Ramstein. "One of the biggest missions the VRS supports is the wounded warriors coming in from downrange," said Master Sgt. Richard Albeck, 86th VRS material control foreman.

"We provide all the busses and ambulances that take troops up to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center." Wounded warrior transportation is just one part of a never-ending mission for the Air Force's only vehicle readiness squadron. "We are in charge with keeping the flightline

functioning, especially during the winter," Sergeant Albeck said. "When the snow starts to fall, the squadron is on red alert." The 86th VRS not only supports one of the Air Force's biggest flightlines, but also takes care of all personnel in the KMC. "

Before anyone can come through Germany, they have to come through us," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Dennis, 86th VRS NCO in charge of driver's testing. "From getting their U.S. Army Europe license to getting their privately owned vehicle inspected, to getting their government owned vehicle license, they have to come through us. Without us, the base would not be able to move." Because of the obvious dependence on transportation, one thing the unit has to be sure of is timeliness, said 1st Lt. Allison Gilchrist, 86th VRS vehicle operations officer. "Sometimes a plane part has to be delivered to the flightline, and at that point we have 30 minutes to get it out there to them," she said.

"Also, we have to be sure to pickup and drop off the aircrew at the correct time." Supporting one of the biggest bases, the 86th VRS has become a teaching tool for other vehicle readiness operations throughout the Air Force. "We were one of the first bases to try out AFSO21, or Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century," said Senior Airman Danae Hayes, 86th VRS vehicle mechanic and unit deployment manager. "AFSO is where each shop is broken down into sections for specific areas such as electrical or brakes. When a young Airmen straight out of tech school comes through, they are taught one cell at a time.

This allows them to learn the specific parts and the breakdown of tools. It has increased efficiency, and this process is now spreading throughout the Air Force." Finding efficiencies in their operations is definitely needed, considering the squadron is charged with not only maintaining the largest fleet of government vehicles at a 90 percent vehicle in-commission rate, but also in accomplishing over 22,000 POV inspections a year.

Every day the Air Force becomes more accurate and advanced to make sure the mission is accomplished. They do this by innovating, managing equipment, reducing manpower and reducing cost. Members of the 86th Vehicle Readiness Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, are doing exactly that by acquiring a new driving simulator to train Airmen who aren't familiar with German roads and weather conditions. The simulator was purchased with money from the Squadron Innovation Funds.

The 86th VRS is responsible for operating and maintaining a variety of government-owned vehicles such as military vehicles, pickup trucks, police cars, transport vehicles and special-purpose vehicles. "Before the simulator, whenever we got new Airmen, we'd take them out on the road and get them familiar with the vehicle," said Master Sgt. Daniel Moffett, 86th VRS noncommissioned officer in charge of training validation and operations. "Then we conducted the actual driving portion where they would get in the vehicle, drive around the base and drive around the highway as well."

The old process took more time, resources, fuel and added maintenance cost from more wear-and-tear to the vehicles. "This is a more timely and effective way to train, as opposed to actually having to go out, check out and operate a vehicle for hours on the road," said Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Lindke, 86th VRS training validation and operations supervisor. "They can get that familiarization training completed within the confines of this building. I'd say that is one of the biggest benefits, it's going to end up saving a lot of man hours." The simulator helps safely prepare Airmen for less than ideal road conditions and possible vehicle failures they could face.

“The simulator provides a plethora of different tools built into the program that allows us to put them in different scenarios, whether it be fog, snow or other conditions that they're going to be facing yearly at Ramstein,” Moffett said. “In addition to that, we have the capability to do blow outs to the vehicle tires, create accidents and add situational events where they have to react quickly.” With sensors throughout the simulator, including the gear stick, instructors are able to get better feedback on how to help new Airmen be proficient vehicle operators.

By gaining more time and resources, members of the 86th VRS are able to certify new Airmen quicker and keep the mission rolling on. “This will help us get them better prepared to operate the vehicles and get certified with little to no failures, which is the ultimate goal,” Moffett said.

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.