



"THE CHARGING CHARLIE" Prime BEEF and RED HORSE Newsletter



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE: PACAF Regional Training Center / GUAM.



Navy Seabees and RED HORSE Airmen working together to place the foundation of a new PRTC Silver Flag building.



Constructing PACAF's new Regional Training Center, the 554 RHS used their "Can Do, Will Do" attitude to achieve mission success.



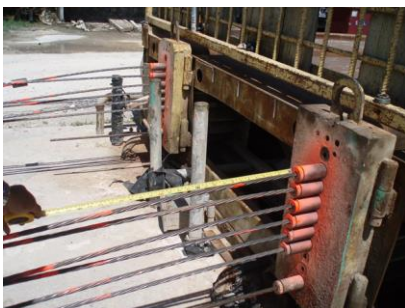
120-Ton Crane lifting a Double Tee beam to place on the building walls. The Tee beam construction was a new construction technique developed by 554th.



Forms for Double Tees are prepared with reinforcing steel.

If building a 200 million dollar, 2,000 acre compound on a small island in the Pacific, seems far-fetched to you, it's been happening since 2006, when Airmen of the 554th RED HORSE Squadron (554 RHS) arrived on Guam, permanently relocating from the Republic of Korea. The PACAF Regional Training Center when complete will be comprised of 55 facilities and is scheduled to be fully constructed by the year 2020. This center will provide training to all Civil Engineers and Security Forces personnel in the PACAF theatre as well as provide opportunities to partner with our allies and sister services within the region.

See main article starting on page 3 and follow-on article on page 14.



Steel reinforcement stressed prior to casting concrete beams.



The Construction of the PACAF Regional Training Center by RED HORSE Airmen in June 2014.



Future construction plans will use the Tilt-up design with the new double T-Beams for the roof systems which will save money and decrease construction time.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO AIR FORCE COMBAT CIVIL ENGINEERS (RED HORSE AND Prime BEEF) PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.



PRESIDENT'S STABLE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Prime BEEF

50 years ago three sixty-man Prime BEEF teams were organized from the Air Training Command, Air Defense Command, Strategic Air Command and deployed to Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, and Da Nang Air Bases to construct aircraft revetments and complete whatever other work that was needed. During their 120 day deployment, the teams constructed over 12,000 linear feet of revetments, several miles of roads, and many parking aprons. In addition, Prime BEEF teams continued to perform critical repair and construction work in Southeast Asia from 1964 to 1972. Today our Prime BEEF teams continue to respond to war time operations and natural disasters and emergencies around the world.

Check out the webpage posted by BG Timothy Green, Director of Civil Engineers. (<http://www.afcec.af.mil/news/50yearsofcandowilldo/index.asp>)

We welcome the NEW MEMBERS that have joined our Association since the last newsletter; mark your calendars now for the 50th Anniversary celebration in Fort Walton Beach, FL of RED HORSE, October 12-16, 2015 with a Golf Tournament on October 17, 2015 to support our RHA "BG William Tom Meredith Honor Scholarship" fund.

Plans for the 50th Anniversary of RED HORSE are coming along on schedule. We have many surprises planned and I'm sure you do not want to miss out on this once in our life time event. All related information will be posted on our webpage, check it often.

As the Holidays approach we tend to reflect on the past year with Thanksgiving and the New Year with eager anticipation of positive forthcomings, while keeping our Troops and their families in our thoughts and Prayers.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors I wish you and your families:

Warmest Thoughts and Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Greg

PACAF REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

COMING TO GUAM. *Capt. Naseem Ghandour and Capt. Brian Lassiter.*

ANDERSEN AFB, GUAM: The 554th RED HORSE Squadron arrived home to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in April 2013 from a squadron-wide deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom to be met with a huge task: building the new Pacific Air Forces Regional Training Center (PACAF). The Silver Flag training site was moving to a 2,000-acre compound on Northwest Field at Andersen from its former location at Kadena Air Base, Japan, as part of the “Rebalance the Pacific” strategy. After some well-deserved family time, the squadron reconstituted its tools and equipment and quickly got to work.

There was an extremely aggressive construction timeline. The 554 RHS had to complete 12 projects (10 vertical and two horizontal) in one fiscal year to achieve initial operating capability for the Silver Flag site. The timeline included the herculean task of constructing eight buildings simultaneously, six more than maximum capacity for the 554 RHS. Creative solutions for labor and construction techniques became a requirement for mission success.

Additional manpower came from total force Airmen, sister units and services, including project engineer teams from Andersen’s 36 Civil Engineer Squadron and the 35 CES from Misawa AB, Japan. RED HORSE answered the call with teams from the Air National Guard’s 254 RHS at Andersen and the 823 RHS (an active duty unit) at Hurlburt Field, FL. Finally, the main joint partner was the 11th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion from Gulfport, MS.

But, increasing manpower alone wasn’t enough. The engineering team analyzed construction schedules, costs and material availability and determined new building methods also had to be considered.

The lead time for shipping structural steel from the mainland posed the biggest schedule challenge for using the 554 RHS’s typical technique. The shipping adds 10-16 weeks to a project’s schedule, unacceptable for completing the center’s projects by the first quarter of fiscal year 2015. New building methods had to be considered. Key objectives of the new method were to reduce the construction equipment and manpower required; producing a facility capable of withstanding the harsh environment; and ensuring the project remained on time and on budget. With designs flying off the printer for fast-turn execution, the RED HORSE engineers had to find a new way of raising the roof. They did just that.

The 554th’s typical construction uses concrete, a material well suited to withstand the strength of Guam’s typhoons and seismic activity, and a technique, unique to them, of precast concrete wall panels, and tilt-up construction with steel trusses. Concrete wall panels are cast on the ground, then “tilted” up using a crane. Walls are temporarily braced until trusses are placed between them, and additional supports are placed

under the roof until the steel and concrete is placed onto it. The average timeline to lift the walls, remove the temporary supports and start interior construction is three weeks.

In May of 2014 they utilized their new 100 ton crane to perform the first Tilt-up lift from start to finish as seen in the pictures below of the Silver Flag building.



The 554 RHS turned to pre-cast/pre-stressed double tee beams, in which the reinforcing steel is placed under stress prior to casting in concrete. This allows the beams to span longer distances and carry a greater load. They can also be delivered within 3 weeks from on-island sources. There were other benefits as well: they provided natural corrosion resistance, met the strict seismic engineering requirements, and required less manpower and equipment to prepare and erect. Best of all, they cost less than a steel truss roof.



Forms for double tees are prepared with reinforcing steel.

The concept of pre-stressed concrete beams has been in use for many years and in various kinds of structures, predominately highway bridges. The process is rooted in placing the reinforcing steel strands under tensile stress, according to the engineer's load calculations, before casting the concrete beam. Once cast and cured, the tension is released and the beams develop an upward deflection, which allows greater strength capacity to counteract the loads placed on the beam and therefore, smaller beams can be used.



Completed double tee beams staged after curing and awaiting delivery to job site.

Pre-stressed double tee beams consist of a section with two beams under stress and a 2-inch slab decking connecting them together. Sections are cast using 6,500-psi concrete and covered with a curing blanket to create a controlled environment that allows the beams to reach their 28-day strength, at 90 percent of ultimate strength, in just 3 days. The beam is then lifted out of its form using an overhead crane and placed in a staging yard.

With double tee beams the construction process from walls to finished roof is shortened from 3 weeks to 2 days, since the beams have a hardened concrete roof slab. This hardened concrete roof slab allows for construction to occur both on the roof, preparing for the reinforced 3-inch concrete topper, and inside the building, since the beams do not require temporary supports. The 554 RHS could go from exterior building shell into interior construction in record time.



Curing blanket to create a controlled curing environment.



An overhead crane lifting the cured double tee beam.



A 554 RHS Airman watches as Double Tee beams are delivered to the job site.



With no need for temporary supports, interior framing started prior to Double Tee installation.

Currently, six of the eight buildings have been erected using double tee beams, with the other two buildings using previously ordered steel trusses. The six projects that utilized double tee beams have estimated cost savings of \$258,000 and construction time savings of 37 weeks.

The success of this pre-stressed/precast double tee beam system has made it the 554 RHS's method of choice for roof systems designed for the 2015 and 2016 facility construction program. For three new warehouse facility projects in fiscal year 2015, the system will result in an estimated cost savings of about \$410,000.



554 RHS Airmen placing 3 inch concrete topping on a Double Tee roof.

Tasked to build PACAF's Regional Training Center support infrastructure on a compressed timeline, the 554th RED HORSE Squadron went outside the standard issue "box" and came up with a solution that is faster, uses less man-power and meets all engineering requirements. This effort was pivotal to achieving the project's timeline and mission success. The annual pipeline of 1,200 Pacific Air Forces' engineers and Force Support Airmen will commence training in October 2014 as scheduled.

Capt. Ghandour is the Engineering Flight Deputy Commander, 554 RHS, Andersen AFB, Guam.

NEWS ARTICLES

181ST INTELLIGENCE WING (IW) DURING EXERCISE SILVER FLAG, U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Frank Howard/Released.

TERRE HAUTE, Indiana. In late March, members of the 181st Intelligence Wing (181 IW) Civil Engineering Squadron, Terre Haute IN., participated in Exercise Silver Flag at Tyndall Air Force Base, FL. During the week long course, 144 students from 27 different organizations perfected their skills in building and maintaining bare-base operations at forward deployed locations.

The exercise "provided realistic hands on training and provided experience with skills and activities, not previously exposed to," stated Air Force Staff Sgt.

Nicholas Pirtle, 181st IW Civil Engineering Squadron. Students honed a variety of combat and survival skills, such as repairing bomb-damaged runways, preparing runways to receive aircraft with mobile aircraft arresting systems, setting up base facilities and providing the command and control for these operations.

"Silver Flag provides core competencies to be able to establish a bare base anywhere in the world," said Air Force Lt Col Martin White, 181st IW Civil Engineering Squadron commander.

Airmen from various Air Force Specialty Codes had to work together to set up and sustain a base. This training is mandatory for all civil engineers in the U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard. In addition to contingency operations, these skills are vital in the 181 IW state domestic response mission.

Air National Guard Wings have both a federal and state mission. The skills honed at Silver Flag will increase the 181st IW's ability to respond to overseas deployments and ensure rapid and expert assistance during domestic emergency response.



Civil Engineers of the 181st Intelligence Wing, under the supervision of Silver Flag cadre, assemble the Mobile Aircraft Arresting System (MAAS) during Exercise Silver Flag, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., March 26, 2013. The MAAS is a cabling system used to stop an aircraft that has lost braking power for landing.

THE NEW PAD OUT OF TOWN, Bagram report by Senior Airman Sandra Welch.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan: Civil engineering airmen enlarged the helicopter ramp at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, to support the closure of five forward operating bases as part of the US drawdown in theater. "It is truly a proud moment when you get tasked to turn a six-acre field into a fully operational helicopter landing zone," said MSgt. Orlin Rohde of the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron in a June 13 base release. The 15 airmen sent from Al Udeid AB, Qatar, were tasked with completing the landing pad in only three months to support the flow of personnel, equipment, and supplies out of the FOBs. Hickory Landing Zone cost \$425,000 and required significant earth moving and drainage work to prevent the pad from flooding during the region's monsoon season, according to the release.

219th RED HORSE SUPPORTS MISSIONS

GLOBALLY, Jenn Rowell, *Great Falls Tribune*;
Photo: U.S. Air National Guard Photo/Staff Sgt. Austen Adriaens.

Ogulin, Croatia: School bathrooms are being renovated by airmen from the 133rd and 148th Civil Engineering Squadron, and 219th Red Horse Squadron in partnership with the Croatian Army.



Master Sgt. Donald Maier, left, and Tech Sgt. Douglas Dial, of the 219th RED HORSE Squadron, take a work break after working at an elementary school in Ogulin, Croatia June 19.

In 14 years, Master Sgt. Donald Maier has been to 15 different countries.

Most recently, he returned to Croatia with the 219th RED HORSE Squadron to remodel bathrooms at a school in Ogulin.

The 219th augmented the 133rd Civil Engineering Squadron from the Minnesota Air National Guard, which is teamed with Croatia through the National Guard State Partnership Program. The Montana National Guard is teamed with Kyrgyzstan through the program.

In 2012 and 2013, the 219th joined the 133rd for construction projects at the school and a local hospital.

The projects were Humanitarian Civic Assistance projects coordinated through the U.S. State Department.

Maier said the Croatians were happy to see them back and the school lunch lady stayed to make them lunch every day they worked, though school was out.

"People were so nice," he said.

Members of the 219th worked with 12 members of the Croatian army, Maier said, and the Croatian troops also traveled with them after hours to help them explore and communicate with the locals.

They also taught the Americans a few Croatian words and phrases. Maier and the other American troops played soccer with the Croatian kids every day and experienced the local culture.

While a handful of 219th airmen were in Croatia, others were working with the 260th Engineering Company of the Montana Army National Guard to repair the main

switchback road in Makoshika State Park as part of their annual training, in cooperation with Montana State Parks.

The 260th recently converted to an engineering unit so the 219th supported them and helped with training, said Lt. Col. Rusty Vaira, 219th commander.

The Montana troops repaired a 900-foot section of road that required stabilization due to excessive erosion, poor surface drainage and difficult soil conditions.

The mission also allowed members of the 219th a chance to work on equipment they don't have, preparing them for future joint missions stateside or in deployed locations, Vaira said.

This weekend they'll hit the halfway point of the project, Maj. Todd Mortag with the 219th said.

Another 30 members of the 219th are completing a project they started last year at Tabor Dam, in cooperation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead nation.

The dam is an earthen structure that provides water storage capacity for irrigation.

In order to meet current safety regulations, the overall height of the dam must be raised 2.5 feet, which involves hauling, placing, compacting and grading more than 30,000 cubic yards of material.

The 219th completed the first phase of the project in 2013 and will complete the project in September.

Mortag said 10 people per rotation are covering three rotations over 45 days to complete the project.

Later this month, they'll head to Kalispell to help prepare for the airshow where the Thunderbirds, the Air Force aerial demonstration team, will be performing.

The 219th will install the mobile aircraft arresting system for the Thunderbirds. It's a catch wire that the jets can latch on to if needed in an emergency, similar to the line they catch on aircraft carriers.

It's been a busy year for the 219th, which includes airmen fresh out of high school up to a 58-year-old member, Vaira said.

They have a variety of backgrounds, such as school teachers, college students, business owners, highway patrol and construction, Vaira said.

Some are the original members from when the unit was established in 1997.

Since Guard members typically stick with a unit for many years, unlike the active duty side where they change assignments every few years, "you get to know your people," Vaira said.

On Sunday, the unit will be presented with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Gen. Bryan Fox, commander of the Montana Air National Guard, will present the award during a ceremony at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

The award is for a two-year period and the award they'll receive Sunday covers 2011-2013, Vaira said.

They last received the award in 2012.

For monthly training, members of the 219th come from all over Montana and Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington.

"It's a very devoted group. When there's a mission out there, they're willing to do it," Mortag said. "It's a very close team that always gets out there and accomplishes the mission."

RED HORSE INVOLVEMENT AT USAFA FIELD ENGINEERING AND READINESS LABORATORY (FERL),

Submitted by Lt Col Pat Suermann, USAFA (Comm) DSN.

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY: This year was the 21st offering of the "Field Engineering and Readiness Laboratory" (FERL) where rising junior cadets and midshipmen learn about how to do field work like surveying, wood frame construction, heavy equipment ops, concrete, asphalt, steel bridges, water flow, sprinklers, and deployed ops activities. The motto is "Construct First, Design Later" and we use the course as a basis of practical understanding for theoretical topics later in the major.

Cadets have been learning at our Field Engineering Lab since the summer of 1994 from seasoned enlisted and officer mentors from around the active, guard, and reserve total force. It is the hallmark of our world class engineering program and everyone loves it! We know we sure are lucky to have RED HORSE support, as of course, they are the very best mentors!!



Outstanding RED HORSE Airmen working here at USAFA the first three weeks of June.



TSgt Ward (823RHS) was recognized by our 3-star Superintendent, LT. Gen. Michelle Johnson, for outstanding performance and attitude above all other mentors.



Chief Monkman (819RHS) is helping cadets at the heavy equipment activity.



Cadets learn how to do hands on work so they can appreciate the technical side of accomplishing work they will later be designing.

OPERATION COOKIE DROP, Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. *Submitted by Janis Robinson, 201st RED HORSE Family Readiness Group Volunteer.*

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pennsylvania: Family members of the 201st RED HORSE Squadron along with 201st Unit members, retirees and friends (about 50 total participants) gathered on July 12, 2014 for a special activity called Operation COOKIE DROP. Before Cookie Drop assembly day, we sent out a request to Guard Family members for homemade cookies (mostly drop cookies such as chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal raisin) as well as other goodies.

On assembly day we put the cookies (made by about 75 bakers) in adorable homemade RED HORSE stockings. We added a flamingo to each box as well as a Santa hat with distribution instructions saying "Seasons Summer Greetings to you." Flink the flamingo served as the official "tropical Wingman" and filled in for reindeer to deliver the stockings (along with the help of the U.S. Postal Service).

We mailed stockings to every deployed member of the 201st RED HORSE Squadron, Detachment 1 from Willow Grove, and a few others currently attached to those groups. This is our third Operation COOKIE DROP, but was by far the largest.



Flink the flamingo served as the official "tropical Wingman".



Homemade RED HORSE stockings / Santa Hats.



We well exceeded our cookie goal and mailed about 500 dozen cookies which is a total of 6000 cookies; i.e., 940 pounds in 38 boxes delivered to the 201st RED HORSE Squadron.



We filled 250 extra-large Ziploc bags with LOTS of goodies.

The day after our Operation COOKIE DROP assembly we had a pool party at the Fort Indiantown Gap pool to celebrate our efforts. It was a great weekend for all who participated. Operation COOKIE DROP was a fun and meaningful way for families to get together during this deployment and to send a little bit of "back home appreciation" to our service men and women serving overseas.

We received the message below from Lt. Col. Richard Frattarelli, the DET 1, 201 RHS Commander and deployed RED HORSE Commander, 557 ERHS:

*"I want to say thank you to you and the FRG and the Operation Cookie Drop volunteers that organized, made, packaged and shipped the fabulous treats. Although none of us "needed" the treats they were in fact appreciated. The "homemade" effect moves your emotions right down to the soul with fond thoughts of "home". The "fresh baked" cookies available here just do not compete when you touch someone's taste buds and their emotions. Thanks for all the hard work, time, and thoughts. Much appreciated. My stocking is hung on the wall. As the boss, I'll probably get coal from here on out.
Rich"*

557th RED HORSE BUILDS NEW PASSENGER TERMINAL FOR THE 386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING, Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bowcock.

Airmen from the 557th Expeditionary Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) Squadron build a new passenger terminal on August 3, 2014, for the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing here.

Currently, the passenger terminal has been operating out of tents. This new building will establish a more permanent structure for the terminal that processes hundreds of military and civilian passengers each day traveling throughout the area of responsibility.

"Almost all of the forty-two members of the 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron detachment assigned to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing have contributed to the construction of the PAX terminal, many of them outside their career field," said MSgt William Meiser, 557th EHRs heating, ventilation and air conditioning NCO in charge. "The mission is to build the K-Span building. That means no matter what your regular assignment is, get ready for the all hands call to sling steel or pour concrete. Everyone helps when it comes to the K-span, everyone in one capacity or another."

To build the structure, heavy equipment operators grade the site and prepare to dig footers and the foundation. The building utilities such as electrical, mechanical and communications raceways are installed, then the footers and walls that are concrete are poured in place. Next the seaming team will produce the 75 foot arches that are 21 feet high. After each arch is produced and inspected, a series of five

arches are seamed together and set in place to form the building. The base of the arches are then welded in place. The entire building takes approximately 90 days to complete, said Meiser who deployed from the 201st RHS, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Staff Sgt. Jesse Mitchell, 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron pavement and equipment operator, cuts a metal structure with a blow torch Aug. 3, 2014, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. Airmen from the 557th ERHS came from Al Udeid to build two K-Span buildings to establish more permanent structures than the current tents used as passenger terminals. The unit is comprised of all Air National Guard members deployed from PA. in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I feel very good about the work my Airmen are doing here," said Maj. Camille Nemr, 557th ERHS site officer in charge who deployed from the 201st RHS Detachment 1, Horsham Air Guard Station, PA. "For some of our Airmen, this is their first deployment and working on projects outside of their specific career field. They have adapted to a high paced tempo, aggressive schedule, semi-austere conditions and weather. They have become a fully integrated team of highly effective Air Force Civil Engineers who have produced outstanding work."



Senior Airman James Driscoll, 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron pavement and equipment operator, uses a hand seamer to bind two steel arches together.



Staff Sgt. James Derbyshire, 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron structures craftsman, runs an Ultimate Building Machine to shape steel arches for a K-Span building Aug. 3, 2014.



Airmen from the 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron use a crane to position steel arches for a K-Span building.



Senior Airman Nathan Hagy 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron water fuels systems maintenance journeyman, passes a hand seamer to Staff Sgt. Nicholas Mundorff, 557th ERHS, while binding two steel arches together.

AIRMEN OF RED HORSE SQUADRON COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL ROTATION (Iraq),
Courtesy Story and photo by Sgt. Waine D. Haley.

The Air Force does more for the Army than provide air support "when the Air Force's Red Horse Squadron gets involved, the Army's entire living and working conditions improve.



Staff Sgt. Josh Florea, Structural Engineer of Lincoln, Neb. is constructing one of 10 new housing units on Contingency Operating base Speicher.

The 219th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer is simply known as Red Horse Squadron. While the squadron is deployed, their unit designation is 557th Red Horse; the number designation is changed because the squadron's Airmen are from multiple units of active duty Air Force and Air National Guard. The 557th is a squadron unique to Iraq.

The Airmen of this unit have a six-month rotation in Iraq. They arrived on Christmas Day last year and have completed 28 projects as their rotation comes to a close.

"We've completed over \$3.5 million in projects," said Maj. Ryck Cayer, commander, 557th. He added his team has performed "nothing short of outstanding as this is a great group of (Airmen)."

This group of Airmen improved the working and living conditions at Contingency Operating Base Speicher and Forward Operating Bases Razor and Olson. All of the bases had living quarters improved and additional quarters added.

"They (FOB Razor and Olson) have really seen the value of our mission." Cayer said. "We improved the

FOB's kitchens, added CHU's (Containment Housing Units) and shower units. The Soldiers there really gained a respect for our Airmen."

The most extensive work was done at COB Speicher" with the repaving of the airfield and the construction of 10 multiple housing units, the Red Horse Tactical Operation Center and four hanger-type buildings that can be used as workshops or warehouses, all built from the ground up.

As the Airmen of the 219th leave Iraq, the Airmen of the 823rd Red Horse Squadron will step in to take their place in the 557th and will inherit the \$3 million worth of projects that are ongoing.

The 557th is scheduled to deactivate within the next 15 months, giving them a total of five years activation in Iraq.

RHODE ISLAND NATIVE LEARNS NEW TRADES IN BELIZE, *Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Kali Gradishar.*

BELIZE CITY, Belize, Sadie Vernon Technical High School. A U.S. Air Force pavements and construction equipment operator from the 820th RED HORSE Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, NV., is learning new construction trades while deployed in support of New Horizons Belize 2014.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Justin Gonzalez, New Horizons pavements and construction equipment operator deployed from the 820th RED HORSE Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., cuts blocks for use on the Sadie Vernon Technical High School construction site April 24, 2014, in Belize City, Belize.



BDF and U.S. service members are working together to build five school buildings and one medical facility throughout Belize during New Horizons Belize 2014. New Horizons is an annual event coordinated between the U.S. and the host nation to provide mutual training opportunities.

Less than three years ago, Gonzalez realized he needed to find a good path to follow, he said, and that's what led him to the Air Force and the RED HORSE unit.

"I grew up poor and didn't feel like I could afford college. I joined the military, and now I can get my degree with tuition assistance and travel around the world," said Senior Airman Justin Gonzalez. "I'm working on my (Community College of the Air Force) degree in Construction Technology, and Belize has been my first opportunity to travel."

Gonzalez is stationed at Nellis AFB with his wife, Stephanie, both natives of Rhode Island. He is looking for overseas opportunities, he said, and his wife is very supportive.

"She's excited for me to be able to do things like this," said Gonzalez. "It's time away from her, but she knew what we were in for when I joined the military."

Gonzalez is now supporting New Horizons, a multi-faceted exercise geared toward providing mutual engineering and medical training opportunities for Belize Defense Force, Canadian and U.S. military members. He's experiencing a number of firsts with less than three years in service.

"This is my first deployment, and it's also the first time I've done so much work outside my career field," said Gonzalez, originally from Providence, R.I. "I'm supporting the (entire RED HORSE team). It's good work, and it's different from what I usually do; but work is work to me. I'll do it."

During New Horizons, Gonzalez is expanding his knowledge into the vertical construction of structures.

"Normally, I would be working on runways, operating giant trucks and excavating," said. "But here in Belize, I'm learning a lot of things outside what I would usually do at Nellis.

"I've learned about laying block and mixing mortar to make sure it's not too sloppy or too dry," said the

Airman. "I'm looking forward to learning how to do electrical work and putting the roof on. I'll also get the chance to lead the concrete pour for a sidewalk.

Gonzalez said the work is hard, but one of the important aspects of hard work is keeping up morale.

"Here, they're calling me "Yeah-Yeah" like from the movie "The Sandlot," even though I've never seen it. It's a funny group of guys here," said Gonzalez. "We're working about (5 a.m. to 5 p.m.), so it's good that we're able to keep up morale. The long days and painful block hands can get to you, but as long as you keep your mind in the right place, your body will be fine."

823rd RED HORSE SQUADRON, U.S. Air Force photos by Capt. Holly Hess.

BELIZE CITY, Belize, Sadie Vernon Technical High School. Civil Engineers from both the U.S. and Belize are constructing various structures at schools throughout Belize as part of an exercise called New Horizons. Building these facilities will support further education for the children of the country and provide valuable training for U.S. and Belizean service members.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Natalie Taylor, right, heavy equipment operator for the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, places a cinder block as a splash pad for a gutter down spout while U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Jones, heavy equipment operator for the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, ensures proper placement of the block at Ladyville Technical High School May 31, 2013.



Tech. Sgt. Elisha Frazier, electrician from the 556th RED HORSE Squadron, tests the voltage at Ladyville Technical High School.



U. S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Natalie Taylor, heavy equipment operator from the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, shovels dirt and rock in order to clear and level the ground at Ladyville.



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Robert Lafleur, combat engineer from the Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, cleans excess caulk from the door frame at Ladyville.



Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Erich Sullivan, combat engineer from Engineer Company Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, removes a nail from a piece of wood so it can be reutilized for the construction of Ladyville.

ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN: RED HORSE BRINGS COMFORT TO AUGMENTEES;

Story by Staff Sgt. Cody H. Ramirez / (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Racheal E. Watson/Released), 8/22/2014.

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea: More than 3,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines from throughout the Pacific theater and the United States journeyed to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 18 through 29 to take part in Ulchi Freedom Guardian, a command post exercise aimed at increasing the readiness and defensive capabilities of U.S. and Republic of Korea forces.

Many aspects varied between the travelers: their jobs, where they came from and their military experiences. But one thing remained constant for the group of military personnel ranging from young enlisted to field-grade officers, their need for beds, food and water.

Members of the 254th RED HORSE Squadron, an Air National Guard unit stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, provided hundreds of augmentees with those needs. The 14-member team came to Korea weeks before to set up Rush Park, a small, deployment-like community containing tents, K-Spans and connexes.

Many military members have been in service long enough to have experienced multiple deployments, most commonly lacking hotel-quality facilities, but for a good number of the attendees of UFG, this was their first time away from the luxury of home. RED HORSE members kept this in mind while establishing tent city.

"We want to make sure people are comfortable while they are out here," said Capt. Patrick Sanchez, 254th RED HORSE member. Adding that shelter and basic needs are "something you should not have to worry about while you are out here, and that is something we try to provide ... a way for [exercises augmentees] to be comfortable."

RED HORSE stands for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers. The units are typically sent into a location where no facilities or structures stand and they are responsible for the initial foundation of a base. At Osan, the materials and foundation are there, so the team has a slightly different mission.

"When we first came out here, there were no tents, no [air conditioning units], everything is packed away in the K-Spans," Sanchez said. "We take out [the equipment and materials] and then make sure it is placed right and functioning. We make sure everything is ready for the people when they show up."

RED HORSE is made up of many smaller teams from a variety of civil engineer shops, and each team comes with its own specialty, Sanchez said. Everyone has their own responsibility whether it is construction, heating and air conditioning or heavy equipment.

"I check the water buffalos, make sure the water is safe to drink and maintain the bathrooms," said Senior

Airman Barry Munoz, 254th RED HORSE member, who also assists with other sections and their duties.

Munoz said his experience in Korea has been unique. "It is great to meet people from around the world, to get to know them and their concerns and make sure they are safe and happy," Munoz said.

Between establishing tent city and tearing it down, Sanchez, Munoz and the remaining 12 members of 254th RED HORSE, fill their time by handling work orders and doing handy-work to improve the quality of life around the expeditionary town.

Sanchez said he received outstanding support from the 7th Air Force and the 51st Fighter Wing during his stay in Korea.

"It is a beautiful relationship we have built," Sanchez said. "It is really great to deal with different types of leadership and make sure we get things done while we are here."

Sanchez said exercises like UFG remind him to "make the most out of every opportunity and to never stop learning. You may know your job, but every experience provides a new challenge."



Master Sgt. Roberto Pitter drills a screw into an air conditioner deflector. Pitter and 13 other members from the squadron provide civil engineer support to Rush Park, an expeditionary-like community of temporary quarters for exercise augmentees.



Master Sgt. Roberto Pitter and Tech. Sgt. Edward Mendiola, 254th RED HORSE squadron members, build an air conditioner deflector at Rush Park, Osan Air Base, South Korea, during the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, Aug. 13, 2014. RED HORSE personnel helped create a home away from home for UFG participants.



Members of 254th RED HORSE squadron fold TEMPER tents at Rush Park. UFG is an exercise that takes place about the same time every year, to ensure the U.S./ROK Alliance is prepared to respond to threats across the spectrum of conflict. Some of the 254th RED HORSE staff were forward deployed to support the personnel playing a part in the two-week exercise.



Master Sgt. Roberto Pitter assesses the wood for an air conditioner deflector.



Cots line the floor of a K-Span at Rush Park. Military personnel lived at Rush Park, an expeditionary-like community for exercise augmentees, for the duration of UFG.



Tech. Sgt. Edward Mendiola and Senior Airman Jamie Torres, 254th RED HORSE members, fasten TEMPER tents for storage at Rush Park. RED HORSE staff traveled from Andersen Air Base, Guam, to provide civil engineer support during the exercise.



Staff Sgt. Joe Sablan, 254th RED HORSE electrical engineer, tightens the TEMPER tent straps at Rush Park, Osan Air Base, South Korea. Rush Park provided shelter for a portion of the 3,000 personnel from the U.S. and Pacific region that came to participate in UFG.

RED HORSE STANDS UP SILVER FLAG ON GUAM (Follow-on article on 554th RHS), Story and photos (released) by Staff Sgt. Roger Hicks, 10/20/14.

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam: Exercise Silver Flag, an event designed to improve civil engineer and support airmen for expeditionary base operations, has been reestablished at Andersen AFB, Guam. The 554th RED HORSE Squadron Det. 1 opened up the new site, which will host the first iteration of Silver Flag

in over a year and a half, during an Oct. 15 ceremony at Andersen AFB, Guam. The exercise moved to Andersen from Kadena AB, Japan, with 111 airmen from bases across the Asia-Pacific attending. The eight-day Pacific Air Forces exercise event is specifically designed to improve and test civil engineer and force support airmen for operations at bare base and deployed locations, focusing on skills such as base and airfield recovery, setup operations, and command and control. Silver Flag also focuses on specialty training with equipment such as crane operations, setup of lighting and arresting barriers on airfields, generator installation, and operation and fire rescue technician training, according to officials with the 554th RHS. The Northwest Field site is still under construction, but it will consist of 18 facilities, 60 acres of training area, and a 5,000-foot training runway upon completion. The new site is a key milestone in the buildup of the PACAF Regional Training Center, and enhances expeditionary combat skills airmen need in US Pacific Command, said Col. Tyrell Chamberlin, the 36th Wing vice commander.



Master Sgt. Michael English, 554th RED HORSE Squadron noncommissioned in charge of emergency management, unfurls the flag Oct. 15, 2014, during the opening ceremony of Silver Flag on Northwest Field at Andersen Air force Base, Guam.



Airmen from the 554th RED HORSE Squadron raise the U.S. flag during the opening ceremony of Silver Flag on Northwest Field.



STABLE NOTES:

1. New Articles are always needed: Please send anything concerning Prime BEEF and RED HORSE including photos to Dick Aldinger at famdinger@aol.com or mail to Dick at Dick Aldinger, 4088 Floralwood Ct., Orlando, FL 32812.
2. RED HORSE Website: www.rhassn.us
3. Special Note: Please add this newsletter to your Squadron Facebook page or distribute through other social media.
4. 50th Anniversary Reunion Information: Mark your calendar for the RED HORSE Association Reunion in Fort Walton Beach, FL, October 12–16, 2015. Planning is underway to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of RED HORSE and Prime BEEF (actually PB's 51st anniversary). Activities in work include presentations by original RH & PB Squadron and Team members respectively, active duty updates, a visit to the Naval Air Museum in Pensacola, interaction activities with 823rd RHS at Hurlburt Field AFB, a Golf Tournament and Banquet, with opportunities for renewing old friendships and making new ones. More information to come!
5. Two commemorative coins are being created as part of the RHA 50th Anniversary Celebration of Prime BEEF and RED HORSE.

RSA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

You can join the RED HORSE Association for a mere \$10 for the first year. Life memberships are also available. This is one way that you can keep in touch with what is going on with USAF Civil Engineering Combat Engineers today whether it be RED HORSE or Prime BEEF; see detailed information below and **Application form on back page.**

Regular Membership Dues are \$20 per year, except that the initiation year is set at \$10. Active duty personnel (to include AFRC and ANG) and Veterans, who are or were assigned to, are or were in support of RED HORSE or Prime BEEF units. Spouses, children, parents or guardians of those persons, living or deceased, who are or were members or eligible for membership, shall be eligible. Active military member dues are \$10 per year as long as they remain active in the military.

Associate Memberships: \$20 per year. Those persons, who do not qualify for regular membership, but have an interest in RED HORSE or Prime BEEF, may be considered for Associate Membership.

Life Memberships are to the schedule below:

- Age 45 and under - \$250
- Age 46 to 55 - \$215
- Age 56 to 65 - \$180
- Age 66 and above - \$125

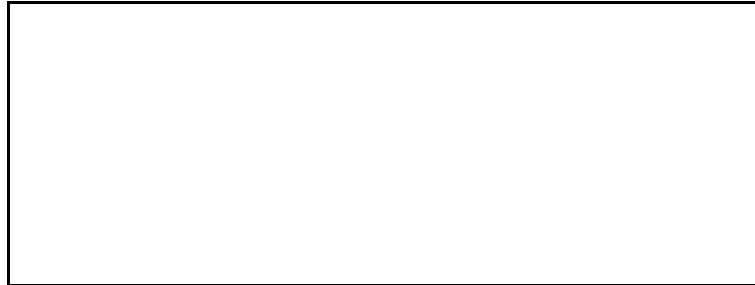
Affiliate Membership: Widows or Widowers of Regular or Life Members.

Please indicate on the application on the back page your war era service. (For IRS tax exemption purposes)

Applications received on or after August 1st will be credited to the next full year.

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Please include your check or money order with this tear-off application form and mail to the address above.

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|---|--|
| ___ Apr 06, 1917 to Nov 11, 1918 (World War I) | ___ Regular Membership, Initiation Year \$10 |
| ___ Dec 07, 1941 to Dec 31, 1946 (World War II) | ___ Regular Membership Renewal \$20 |
| ___ Jun 25, 1950 to Jan 31, 1955 (Korean War) | ___ Affiliate Membership (Affiliate Members do not pay dues) |
| ___ Feb 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War) | ___ Current Active Duty, Initiation Year \$10 |
| ___ Aug 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada) | ___ Current Active Duty, Renewal \$10 |
| ___ Dec 20, 1989 to Jan 31, 1990 (Panama) | ___ Life Membership (see Life Membership Schedule, page 13) \$ _____ |
| ___ Aug 02, 1990 to today (Gulf War/War on Terrorism) | ___ Associate Membership, \$20 |
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