



1964
TO
2014

FIFTY YEARS of

ALL IN: The Guard's Prime BEEF Mission

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NGB/A7X

Whether a Prime BEEF civil engineer serving as an active duty or Air Reserve Component Airman, your fundamental mission, training and unit composition are basically the same. Guard Prime BEEF units are deploying and serving worldwide, side-by-side with their active and Reserve counterparts. The key factors that differentiate an ANG Prime BEEF citizen soldier is their activation by state leadership, experience during an emergency response, and knowledge and involvement within the community they serve.

In fiscal 2013, a total of 399 Prime BEEF personnel deployed. During fiscal 2014, 558 Prime BEEF Guardsmen (15 mobilizations and 529 manpower authorizations) deployed under the old Air and Space Expeditionary Force "banding" approach. The latest changes on AEF rotations reflect an even higher commitment for our deploying units as compared to previous rotational business rules. A proposed total of 280 personnel will deploy in fiscal 2015 and, in fiscal 2016, a total of 830 (all mobilizations). Fiscal 2015 is the first year for the ANG under the new AEF Teaming concept and many of the wings are being re-postured under this new cycle, thus a lower 280 personnel count.

ANG civil engineers will be tasked in supporting enduring missions around the world for fiscal 2016 and beyond. The National Guard is ... "all in," according to a recent memo by Gen. Frank J. Grass, the National Guard Bureau chief. The ANG is committed to one period of mobilization to three periods of dwell time for unplanned operations and a one-to-five ratio for steady-state operations.

Along with AEF deployments, the Deployment for Training program plays an important part in keeping our civil engineers trained and ready. The DFT projects provide valuable training opportunities not normally available in home station scenarios and are essential for developing unit preparedness, flexibility, confidence, initiative and integrity. They provide the best possible exposure to challenges approximating real world missions.

Each year an average of 2,600 to 2,800 Guard CEs from approximately 60 units participate in AEF deployments and DFT projects (see Map for fiscal 2014 examples). We are actively supporting three combatant commands, two major commands, the U.S. Coast Guard, Navy and Army Guard, as well as NATO. In fiscal 2015, our Prime BEEF DFTs will visit seven CONUS locations with 15 rotations and nine OCONUS locations with 15 rotations.



Air National Guard civil engineers deployed to Australia tie rebar on a pedestal for a radar center at Holt Naval Communications Center. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Some Prime BEEF DFT deployments are not NGB-directed, but are instead driven by State Partnership Programs. An SSP is a bilateral relationship between a U.S. state (through the National Guard) and another country with the mission to "Enhance combatant commanders' ability to establish enduring civil-military relationships that improve long-term international security while building partnership capacity across all levels of society."

On a recent SPP deployment, a team from the 190 CES in Kansas, visited Darbas, Armenia, where they completed their assigned mission — renovation of three school classrooms, a teacher's lounge and a medical clinic and extra upgrades as well. Members from three ANG units— the 133 CES and 148 CES (Minn.) and the 219 RED HORSE Squadron (Mont.) — completed an SSP project in Oguilin, Croatia, demolishing or renovating six restrooms in a 100-year-old building on a Croatian Army installation.

The above deployments are only one side of the coin for a Guard CE unit. Our dual status and ability to quickly make our strength available to state leadership is an important "value-added" differentiation. During a localized crisis, governors can immediately reach out to our Air National Guard resources for support. During their state's floods last year, Colorado's 240th Civil Engineer Flight was activated to support the local authorities. They were quick to identify the requirements. Other guard units took their plans and made the needed repairs a month ahead of schedule. Even though it was not in the original plan, the engineers paved the road. "The professional work of our Airmen was lauded at every level," said Brig. Gen. Peter Byrne, Director of State,



Master Sgt. Joshua Graves (left) and Master Sgt. Jeremiah Graves, brothers deployed from the Guard's 148 Civil Engineer Squadron, work on runway repairs at Bagram Field, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Bobby Cummings)

Joint Force Headquarters-Colorado. "Their ability to bring civilian skills to bear for our communities is amazing...." Several of the Guard CEs were civilian employees of the state's department of transportation. This type of connection gives our Guard CEs a unique perspective or an "edge" during recovery efforts.

The Guard Prime BEEF CE's civilian community connection is also displayed through deployments such as the Innovative Readiness Training program. The IRT program allows military construction units to partner with non-profit organizations during military training projects in the United States. One of our larger IRT projects is a partnership between the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense and the Boy Scouts. Recently at Camp Hinds, N.H., Airmen from the 161th (Ariz.), 126th (Fla.), 127th (Mich.), 123rd (Ken.), 188th (Tenn.), and 141st (Wash.), joined Marines and Soldiers for annual training. They honed their construction trade skills by cutting a new road, constructing a parking lot, building cabins and preparing a site for a new dining

facility. Work done by Missouri's 139th CES at the YMCA's Snow Mountain Ranch near Winter Park, Colo., building and improving parks, ball fields and other facilities provided an immediate return the community as well as valuable hands-on training to the CEs.

In summary, through a hardy deployment schedule and hands-on experience, when called upon, Prime BEEF Airmen have the capability to perform mission requirements in a moment's notice. Since the 1960s, they have continued to provide consistent response across components and areas of responsibility. The Air National Guard Prime BEEF Airman's responsiveness to state and federal leadership as well as their civilian experience and community involvement are unique qualities of today's units — hallmark differentiators of a true citizen soldier.

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Examples of DFTs and units for FY14

Tarheel Challenge, N.C. — CEs from the 149th (Texas), 156th (Puerto Rico) & 159th (La.) helped the North Carolina ANG remodel an elementary school for the NC Youth Challenge Program

Kinloss Barracks, Scotland — CEs from the 140th (Colo.) provided support at troop training sites in an exchange program with the British Royal Army Engineers

Bagram, Afghanistan — CEs from the 142th (Ore.) completed main runway repairs at one of the AOR's busiest airfields

Clearwater Air Station, Fla. — CEs from the 103rd (Conn.), 186th (Miss.) & 157th (N.H.) completed several projects to make the station more energy efficient and safe, saving >\$300K in labor expenses

Exmouth, Australia — CEs from the 151st (Utah), 138th (Okla.), 176th (Alaska) & 118th (Tenn.) relocated/upgraded a C-band radar from Antigua to Holt Naval Communications Station