

Air Force Civil Engineering History

Significant Events Timeline



- 4 Jun 1940 • The 21st Engineer (Aviation) Regiment was activated at Ft. Benning, Georgia.
- Sep 1944 • Brig Gen Robert Kauch became Chief, Air Installations Division.
- 18 Sep 1947 • The Air Force became a separate service, responsible for operation and maintenance of its installations and airfields. The Army was designated the construction agent for the Air Force and the agent for acquisition and disposal of real estate.
- Oct 1947 • The Air Installations School was created at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Field, Ohio.
- 10 Oct 1947 • The Air Force established the Directorate of Air Installations under the DCS Materiel.
- 11 Jul 1950 • Company A of the 802nd Engineer Aviation Battalion became the first Aviation Engineer unit to land in Korea, where they began work on a 500-foot extension to the runway at Pohang AB.
- 1954 • The monthly publication Installations Engineer Beacon, the forerunner of today's Civil Engineer Magazine, was begun to inform the field activities on important policies, procedures, and new ideas.
- 4 Jun 1954 • The Air Force Academy Construction Agency was established to oversee work for the new institution.
- Feb 1957 • DoD Directive 1315.6 entitled Responsibilities for Military Troop Construction Support of the Department of the Air Force was issued to clarify the responsibilities for airfield construction and maintenance in overseas contingency situations.
- 1959 • Air Force Installation Representative (AFIR) offices were redesignated Air Force Regional Civil Engineers. The AFIRs originally had been organized and collocated with Corps of Engineer Division Offices in 1948. In 1968, the number of AFRCs was reduced to three.
- 28 Feb 1959 • The Installations Engineering Occupational Field title was changed to Civil Engineering.
- 1 Oct 1964 • The Prime BEEF program was officially implemented.
- 6 Aug 1965 • The first Prime BEEF teams deployed to Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, and Da Nang Air Bases, Vietnam, to construct revetments.
- Feb 1966 • The first two RED HORSE units, the 554th and 555th Civil Engineering Squadrons (Heavy Repair), deployed to Vietnam.
- 1 Apr 1966 • The Civil Engineer Construction Operations Group, the forerunner of AFCEC, was created at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.
- 15 Nov 1966 • Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam, the only Vietnam-era base built by the Air Force, became operational.
- 15 May 1967 • The 1st Civil Engineering Group (Heavy Repair) formally activated to provide command and control for the five RED HORSE squadrons in Vietnam.
- 5 Feb 1968 • The 557th Civil Engineering Squadron (Heavy Repair) was activated and quickly deployed to Korea in April 1968 to provide engineering support following the North Korean seizure of the USS Pueblo.
- Aug 1975 • The HQ USAF Directorate of Engineering and Services was created with the merger of the two functional areas.
- Jun 1986 • First Readiness Challenge competition held at Eglin AFB.



- Jan 1988 • RED HORSE opened to women.
- Sep 1989 • CMSgt Larry R. Daniels became the first Chief of Enlisted Affairs for Engineering and Services.
- Aug 1990 • Air Force civil engineers began deploying in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD.
- 1991 • AFESC was redesignated as the Air Force Civil Engineering Support Agency.
- 23 Jul 1991 • The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence was activated at Brooks AFB, Texas.
- 3 Oct 1991 • The Vice Chief of Staff aligned Airbase Operability, Disaster Preparedness, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal under Civil Engineering.
- 15 Nov 1991 • The Air Force Base Disposal Agency was activated, a forerunner of the Air Force Real Property Agency.
- 1 Mar 1993 • Det 1, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron was activated to assume responsibility for the new Silver Flag Exercise Site at Tyndall AFB, Florida.
- Aug 1993 • The Air Force Fire School moved from Chanute AFB, Illinois, to Goodfellow AFB, Texas.
- 11 Sep 2001 • In the aftermath of the World Trade Center and Pentagon bombings on 11 September 2001, Air Force civil engineers provided a wide range of support to the recovery efforts and homeland defense initiatives.
- Sep 2001 • Operation ENDURING FREEDOM Prime BEEF teams conducted beddown operations at bases in Southwest and Central Asia. 823 RHS undertook construction projects, including major MILCON projects.
- 10 Oct 2001 • An Air Force civil engineer became the first fatality of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. MSgt Evander E. Andrews, assigned to the 366 CES at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, died in a heavy equipment accident at Al Udeid AB, Qatar.
- 19 Mar 2003 • Operation IRAQI FREEDOM began as Air Force engineers opened new bases, expanded additional bases, and recovered captured Iraqi bases.
- 1 Feb 2006 • HQ USAF/ILE was redesignated A7C as part of the HAF transition to the A-Staff structure.
- 19 Oct 2006 • Gen John Corley, AF/CV, signed a memo approving Civil Engineering's five transformation proposals: centralizing capital construction execution at AFCEE; reengineering fire emergency operations based on risk assessment; reengineering three AFMC CE Groups to smaller units; realigning military positions into EOD and RED HORSE; and restructuring CE units at all organizational levels.
- 1 Jun 2007 • The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence was renamed the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment.
- Sep 2009 • The first-ever Expeditionary Prime BEEF group and squadrons were activated in Afghanistan.
- 16 Nov 2009 • The Air Force Real Property Agency moved from Rosslyn, Virginia, to Kelly Annex, Lackland AFB, Texas.
- Dec 2011 • The last AF CE members left Iraq.
- 1 Oct 2012 • CE Transformation... Accelerated reached IOC with a ceremony establishing the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, a combination of AFCEE, AFRPA, and AFCESA.
- 22 Jun 13 • Maj Gen (S) Gen Theresa C. Carter became the first female to serve as The Civil Engineer.

