



Chronology of Significant Prime BEEF Historical Events



<p>December 1963</p>	<p>A Civil Engineering Manpower Study Group was established in December 1963, to determine the distribution, alignment, reliability, credibility, and skills required in the Civil Engineering Manpower resource to perform Essential Civil Engineer functions in support of the Air Force mission. The need for this study was dictated by the lack of a military source specifically designed to meet combat support requirements and other emergency conditions. It was also recognized, that due to the varying military/civilian manning ratios and utilization policies among the commands, the position of the military and civilian in the day-to-day work force required better definition. The findings enabled the Air Force to define its Civil Engineering manpower requirements in terms of quantity, quality, and civilian/military mix. The result of this study was the Prime BEEF program that was instituted effective Oct. 1, 1964.</p>
<p>Oct. 1, 1964</p>	<p>The Prime BEEF program was officially implemented.</p>
<p>May 1, 1965</p>	<p>First Prime BEEF deployment to San Isidro AB, Dominican Republic, from Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C. The team was assigned to support the airlift fleet that was moving U.S. Army forces into the area as part of Operation POWER PACK. HQ Tactical Air Command continued to rotate Prime BEEF teams into San Isidro on 60-day rotations for the duration of the operation.</p>
<p>Aug. 6, 1965</p>	<p>The first Prime BEEF teams deployed to Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, and Da Nang Air Bases, Vietnam, to construct revetments.</p>
<p>Sept. 7, 1965</p>	<p>Hurricane Betsy struck south Florida, causing major damage to Homestead AFB. Roofs on 150 facilities were destroyed, airfield lighting was damaged, overhead power distributions systems were downed, and liquid fuel lines and pump stations were damage. Within 36 hours, 91 Prime BEEF carpenter, electrical, liquid fuel, sheet metal and airfield lighting technicians from nine Eighth Air Force bases were on site to assist base civil engineers. Power was completely restored by the morning of Sept. 11 and roofless buildings were secured within three days.</p>
<p>April 1, 1966</p>	<p>Civil Engineer Construction Operations Group, or CECOG, created at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, as a field extension of the Directorate of Civil Engineering, HQ USAF. The unit was manned by 18 officers and 32 airmen and was located in Building 287, near the old Civil Engineering Center (precursor of CE school at AFIT) location. CECOG coordinated activities of Project RED HORSE squadrons and provided field management of Prime BEEF operations. According to AFR 85-32, CECOG was “responsible for the field organization, training, deployment, use, and logistical support of civil</p>

	engineering forces to meet heavy repair and minor emergency construction requirements in support of the Air Force mission worldwide.”
August 1967	Prime BEEF personnel from 23 continental United States bases and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, (206 people) responded to severe flooding in the Fairbanks, Alaska area. Rising flood waters at Eielson AFB eventually inundated the fighter interceptor alert area of the base and caused damage to roads, utilidors and basements. The Corps of Engineers estimated total area damage in excess of \$177 million. \$14 million of that was at Ft. Wainwright, where Prime BEEF teams did the majority of their work.
January 1968	A Prime BEEF team headed by Maj. James Hagen deployed to Thule AB, Greenland, in support of the Strategic Air Command Disaster Control Team responding to Project CRESTED ICE. Hagen was awarded the 1969 SAME Newman Medal in recognition of his outstanding leadership and initiative.
Jan. 23, 1968	North Korean forces seized the <i>USS Pueblo</i> . The AF deployed several fighter squadrons to bases in Korea under Operation COMBAT FOX. Civil engineering at Fifth Air Force was tasked to provide essential facilities for aircraft, crews and support personnel. CE manpower and facilities at Osan, Kunsan, and Kimpo had only limited facilities. None could support greatly increased operations, and only immediate source of manpower was from Prime BEEF teams. A Pacific Air Forces team, composed of men from nearly all PACAF bases outside Southeast Asia, was the first deployed. Seven more teams from the CONUS arrived shortly thereafter. Later operational expansions justified the requirement for two additional teams and realignment of those teams already in Korea. Although the original temporary duty period was for 980 days, it was necessary in most cases to extend it. By the time the teams left Korea, they had erected 700 tents for billets and almost 300 for other uses. They dug wells, erected frame buildings, laid airfield matting, installed aircraft arresting barriers and sandbag bunkers, and accomplished building and utility system rehabilitation. Most noteworthy was erection of Type B aircraft revetments and pre-engineering steel buildings.
Oct. 28 & Nov. 10, 1968	Two airmen assigned to Prime BEEF Team 75, supporting Operation DEEP FREEZE 69, became the first Air Force members to reenlist on the continent of Antarctica. Staff Sgt. James B. Tarr of the 3020th Civil Engineering Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla., reenlisted on Oct. 28, 1968, in Scott’s Hut, an historic site near McMurdo Station. Staff Sgt. Theodore Babin of the 2852d Air Base Group at McClellan AFB, Calif., reenlisted on Nov. 10, 1968. The –43 degree temperature did not stop the ceremony, except when signing the papers. The signing was performed inside because the ink froze in the pen.
Fall 1972	In response to Hurricane Agnes, a joint Prime BEEF/RED HORSE Team (73-2) deployed to the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania for 90 days in August 1972. Known as a combined Ready Repair Team, they helped provide suitable housing for thousands of people who lost or were forced from their homes. The Department of Housing and Urban Development procured several thousand mobile homes, and the Army readied 33 sites to provide pads for the homes. Air Force civil engineers completed all tasks to set up mobile home

	<p>parcs, repair existing damaged mobile homes, and restore utility services. The 819th Civil Engineering Squadron (Heavy Repair) responded from Westover AFB, Mass., and five major commands provided seven, three-man Prime BEEF crews to perform the work. They were later joined by the 820th CES (HR) from Nellis AFB, Nev., and Prime BEEF teams from three additional commands. The first teams responded in August. When the program was turned over to HUD in late October, CE crews had repaired 1,533 trailers at individual sites and 1,904 in trailer parks, for a total of 3,437 units, and had made several thousand new friends in Pennsylvania.</p>
1975-1978	<p>A succession of 9-man Prime BEEF Civic Action Teams on 8-month rotations constructed a perimeter road on Fefan Island, TRUK District, Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. The 12-mile coral road facilitated farm-to-market transportation for the local population.</p>
Dec. 22, 1975	<p>Following a study of public law and Air Force policy, the Director of Civil Engineering issued a letter authorizing women to be assigned to Prime BEEF teams, both mobile and recovery, but not to RED HORSE Squadrons.</p>
1978	<p>Prime Readiness in Base Services, or RIBS, program began. It was patterned after the existing Prime BEEF program.</p>
Oct. 1-5, 1984	<p>The first true multi-command Prime BEEF Rodeo was held at Dobbins AFB, Ga., testing the proficiency of 15 teams from Air Force Logistics Command, Mobility Air Command, TAC, the Air Force Reserve and the Air Force Academy.</p>
Oct. 29, 1984	<p>The PACAF Prime BEEF/RIBS contingency training site was activated at Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea. Training cadre was comprised of members of Det. 1, 554th CESHR at Kunsan.</p>
May 1985	<p>Exercise SALT DEMO was held at Spangdahlem AB, Germany.</p>
1986	<p>Prime BEEF deployments began to Joint Task Force Bravo at Palmerola AB, Honduras. A total of 32 team members were deployed with firefighters for 90-day rotations on a continuing basis.</p>
June 1986	<p>First Readiness Challenge competition held at Eglin AFB, Fla. The competition highlighted the wartime skills of Prime BEEF and Prime RIBS teams.</p>
Oct. 1, 1987	<p>In October 1987, the over 3,600 Prime BEEF teams were restructured into approximately 200 squadron-size teams to provide flying units with a dedicated wartime engineering capability. Active, Guard and Reserve units were employed in a total force approach utilizing four basic team sizes: 200, 150, 100 and 50. The new structure and concept improves engineer unit integrity and teamwork, and enhances wartime employment and peacetime training. The restructured force gives increased flexibility of air power by ensuring adequate engineering support over a wide range of possible employment situations.</p>
August 1990-February 1991	<p>Air Force civil engineers deployed to Southwest Asia, in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD. Between August and December 1990, the 3000 Prime BEEF personnel bedded down 55,000 personnel at 30 bases stretching from RAF Fairford in the UK to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The engineers erected 5,000 tents and constructed 300,000 square feet of expeditionary buildings.</p>
April 16, 1991	<p>AFM 3-2, "Air Force Civil Engineering Combat Support Doctrine,"</p>

	was published, following a long process of development. This was the first-ever Air Force Civil Engineering doctrine.
Dec. 24, 1991	117 Prime BEEF plumbers from 21 CONUS bases responded to record freeze in Abilene, Texas, on Christmas Eve 1991. The all-time record-low temperature broke all plumbing lines, froze and shattered commodes, and cracked all fire sprinkler systems in the city of Abilene and in particular on Dyess AFB that were not designed to withstand that low of temperatures. It was the largest single collection of AF CE plumbers in one location at one time. The \$7 million in plumbing and structural repairs took five weeks, with materials flown in from six other SAC bases and the city of Ft Worth, Texas.
Spring/Summer 1992	The 307th RED HORSE Civil Engineering Squadron planned, coordinated and executed a six-month engineering exercise to the Republic of Panama in support of JCS Exercise Fuertes Caminos-92. The effort involved 800 RED HORSE, Prime BEEF, Prime RIBS, medical personnel and security police personnel from 12 Air Force Reserve locations. Civil engineers completed major facility repairs on 20 schools and four clinics and repaired or replaced 169 water well pumps throughout Panama.
November 1992	Eleven members of the 823rd RH deployed to Mombasa, Kenya, where they were based while conducting airfield assessments in Kenya and Somalia in preparation for increased air traffic bringing in aid and American military. An additional 83 personnel were deployed on Dec. 17, 1992, to help bed down Air Force personnel at Mogadishu for Operation RESTORE HOPE. When the beddown activities were completed, the RED HORSE personnel turned the facilities over to the Prime BEEF Team deployed from Dover AFB, Del.
March 1, 1993	Detachment 1, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron was activated to assume responsibility for the new Silver Flag Exercise Site at Tyndall AFB, Fla. The Prime BEEF and RED HORSE training and exercise site at Eglin AFB, Fla., which made the move to Tyndall, was previously administered by Det. 1, Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency, which inactivated July 23, 1993.
Aug. 3, 1993	Silver Flag Exercise Site at Tyndall AFB opened and Det. 1, 820th RED HORSE Squadron assumed responsibility for the new site that provided training to Prime BEEF personnel.
June 1994	The ANG established its first Regional Home Station Training Site, or RHSTS, at the 188th CES, Fort Smith, Ark., with a goal to have it operational by September 1997
December 1994	HQ AFCESA approved a second Regional Home Station Training Site at the 119th CES, Fargo, N.D., with a goal to have it operational by September 1997
February 1995	HQ AFCESA approved a third Regional Home Station Training Site at the 145th CES, Badin, N.C., with a goal to have it operational by September 1997
December 1995	A Prime BEEF team from the 52nd CES, Spangdahlem AB, Germany, was deployed to Tuzla AB, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to operate and maintain the base. Fire protection was provided by 12 100th CES members from RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

Sept. 11, 2001	<p>In the aftermath of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Air Force civil engineers provided a wide range of support to the recovery efforts and to subsequent homeland defense initiatives. Among those helping at Ground Zero in New York City were Prime BEEF personnel from New York's five Air National Guard civil engineer squadrons: the 105th CES, Stewart ANGB, Newburgh; the 106th CES, Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Westhampton Beach; the 107th CES, Niagara Falls; the 109th CES, Stratton AGB, Scotia; and the 174th CES, Syracuse. They ran logistics supply points and equipment staging areas around Ground Zero. They worked with the New York Housing Authority in distributing and controlling generators and government trucks. They helped the Army National Guard set up a central warehouse facility and put up tents where needed and built wood crates for the fire department. They worked out a deal with the Coast Guard to use Governor's Island, a 172-acre island in New York harbor. A combined team of Prime BEEF from all five ANG units recommissioned old apartment buildings and the dining hall so that Guard troops would have a place to bed down and a base from which to operate in the local area. In exchange, they provided eight firefighters to augment the Governor's Island fire department. Fire protection personnel across the Air Force worked with local fire departments in responding to reports of white powdery substances in the wake of the anthrax scare following the attacks. EOD flights responded to numerous requests from local authorities to secure and test suspicious packages.</p>
September 2001	<p>As part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Prime BEEF teams conducted beddown operations at numerous bases in Southwest Asia and Central Asia. Prime BEEF troops constructed tent cities and provided power and other essential utilities and fire protection services.</p>
Oct. 10, 2001	<p>An Air Force civil engineer became the first fatality of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Master Sgt. Evander E. Andrews, assigned to the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron at Mt. Home, Idaho, died in a heavy equipment accident at Al Udeid AB, Qatar.</p>
Sept. 19, 2003	<p>Hurricane Isabel hit the East Coast of the U.S., causing an estimated \$200 million in damage at Langley AFB, Va. Isabel left 121 facilities with roof damage and another 283 with water damage, as well as 800 downed trees on the main base, 360 on the golf course and 140 in an off-base housing area. CEs from Langley and Shaw AFB, S.C., and RED HORSE members from the 823rd RHS at Hurlburt Field, Fla., conducted most of the cleanup, restoring commercial power, removing water from flooded facilities, removing downed and damaged trees and conducting detailed facility assessments. Dover AFB, Del., CEMIRT sent teams to provide electrical service and a CEMIRT team from Tyndall provided HVAC support. AFCAP task orders totaling \$14.5 million were issued to help with repairs, primarily pumping water from flooded basements, providing carpet cleaners, and cleaning and sanitizing basements and water-damaged areas.</p>
March 2003	<p>Operation IRAQI FREEDOM began. Engineers played an important role in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. During the first phase of the operation, 4,500 engineers established 12 new bases and expanded</p>

	10 existing bases on the Arabian Peninsula. They put up 3,200 bare base tents, installed 190 miles of expedient water piping, and built 200 million gallon POL storage and distribution systems.
August-September 2004	Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne all struck the U.S. within a six-week period, causing extensive damage in Florida, where they first made landfall, and throughout the Southeast. Hardest hit were Hurlburt, Eglin, Patrick, Cape Canaveral and MacDill. Also affected were: Tyndall, Keesler AFB, Miss., Moody and Robins AFBs in Georgia, Pope and Seymour-Johnson AFBs in N.C., and Shaw AFB, S.C. Prime BEEF teams assisted in the recovery efforts at many of these sites.
Sept. 9, 2009	The Vice Chief of Staff approved the organization change request to create the Air Force's first Expeditionary Prime BEEF Group, or EPBG, and squadrons, or EPBSs. Air Combat Command then published the special order to activate the 577th EPBG, 577th EPBS at Bagram AB, and 777th EPBS at Kandahar in Afghanistan. The EPBG leadership team was in-theater, and stood up the new units. The Prime BEEF units employed a hub and spoke operation where they provide regional installation master planning, project development and light vertical construction capabilities to the USFOR-A Commander. This change replaced the various FETs, FEDs, and U-DETs previously used to support the FOBs and other small installations distributed across Afghanistan. The EPBG consolidated these teams at two central hub locations, and sent task-oriented teams out to the installations across the country. This method of employment dramatically improved efficiency and effectiveness, and allowed a reduction in the number of engineers needed for this mission.
December 2011	When the U.S. pulled out of Iraq in December 2011, Air Force engineers had opened 206 operating locations and then closed them all ahead of schedule. More than 18,000 engineers had served in Iraq since 2003.
Dec. 9, 2011	In a rather quiet and subdued flight departing at 6:34 p.m. local time, the last AF explosive ordnance disposal operators left Iraqi air space. From March 20, 2003, until Dec. 9, 2011, AF EOD flights conducted over 36,000 missions with 13,400 of these being IED defeat operations. During this same period, they helped clear airfields after 870 enemy attacks with indirect fire from rockets and mortars.
March 23, 2012	Maj. Gen. James Jones, U.S. Air Forces Central Command deputy commander, activated the 1st ECEG at a ceremony at Al Udeid, Qatar. The 1st ECEG included a RED HORSE squadron and two Expeditionary Prime BEEF squadrons – the 577th and 777th.
Sept. 11, 2014	The last of the AF EOD personnel left Afghanistan and arrived at the Deployment Transition Center in Germany. This marked the end of combat operations in Afghanistan for AF EOD. Since Sept. 11, 2001, EOD Airmen completed 19,847 missions in the Afghanistan theater of operations.