

S-Teams “BEEF Up” the Force

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240th CEF/CEOV

S-Teams (Prime BEEF Staff Augmentation Teams) are an unknown commodity to a lot of people in the Air Force—including their fellow civil engineers. But those who have worked with them or know about them have nothing but tremendous respect for the talent and capability of these teams.

S-Teams are senior-level engineering flights with the primary mission of augmenting command staffs during contingency operations such as federal emergencies, humanitarian relief, and war. Because of ongoing operations and high demand for S-Teams, The Air Force Civil Engineer authorized the creation of several new S-Teams and increased manning at some existing ones.

architectural, electrical, mechanical, structural, and environmental engineering.

When augmenting a command staff, S-Team members track, procure, plan, and coordinate the utilization of theater or area-of-responsibility engineering assets; track repairs to damaged airfields and facilities; and brief and coordinate with other military functional areas. S-Teams are particularly valuable during exercises; corporate knowledge gained from many years of participation in similar exercises is shared with their active duty partners.

Members also often deploy as individuals or as small “consultant” teams to assist with

| | Unit (# of S-Teams) | Unit Location | Commands Supported | Contact Number |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Reserve | 628 CEF (2) | Dobbins ARB, Ga. | PACAF | 770-919-3309 |
| | 810 CEF (1) | Carswell ARS, Texas | ACC | 817-782-5156/7 |
| | 904 CEF (1) | March ARB, Calif. | PACAF | 951-655-6607/8 |
| Guard | 235 CEF (3) | Martin State Airport, Md. | USAFE, EUCOM, JCS | 410-918-6567 |
| | 231 CEF (3) | Lambert-St. Louis Airport, Mo. | PACAF, AMC | 314-526-6410 |
| | 240 CEF (3) | Buckley AFB, Colo. | PACAF | 720-847-6395 |

There are currently only 13 S-Teams in the Air Force; nine in the Air National Guard and four in the Air Force Reserve (see table).

“We are always on the lookout for great engineering talent,” said Col Mike Flood, commander of the 240th Civil Engineer Flight. “The demand for our services always exceeds our available resources.”

A typical S-Team has 10 engineering officers, one senior NCO engineering superintendent, one civil engineer manager, one fire protection manager, and two senior NCO fire management personnel. As components of the Air National Guard and Reserve, S-Teams benefit from their members’ varied backgrounds and collective experiences: all military services are represented, as are the fields of civil,

various engineering and environmental projects. S-Teams can produce a professional product with much less expense than private contractors. Projects have included airfield surveys and pavement evaluations, facility programming, preliminary site plans and cost estimates, real estate inventories, updates to natural and cultural resource management action plans, environmental and OSHA assistance, and spill plan updates.

Since 9/11, S-Teams have been widely used at their home bases, their major commands, the Pentagon, and in Southwest Asia. Although some members did augment command staffs, the majority found their civilian job skills extensively used to support other military engineering teams—designing for Army combat engineers, overseeing bases’ Bureaus of Public Works, creating master plans, managing projects, and inspecting facilities.

From August 2004 to May 2005, members of the 231st CEF deployed to Afghanistan. Team members were attached to an Army group and provided engineering design and construction management for bases. Projects included electrical systems, water distribution and wastewater collection, a helicopter parking/refueling apron, and a C-130-capable airfield. Record snowfall in 2005 caused damage to many facilities; the runoff from the thaw damaged or destroyed roadways and bridges. S-Team members conducted prompt, accurate evaluations and repair/replacement designs that were critical in sustaining operations.

In 2005, several S-Team members from the 810th CEF deployed to Iraq, joining engineers from other units to form the 732nd ECES, Det. 14. The detachment was responsible for base master planning; utility renovation and expansion; environmental remediation; base and airfield surveys; war damage facilities inspection; and repair programming. They were the lead design team and project

managers for the new Army Corps Distribution Center.

The 240th CEF received a crash course in Army culture as 19 S-Team members performed engineering functions in Iraq for the U.S. Army; three team members earned the Bronze Star for their efforts. Tasks varied from base planning, public works management, engineering design, and facility inspections to decommissioning bases. One member of the 240th CEF, Maj Phil

eight EAs from the 452nd CES and 624th CES combined to support Army engineering facility requirements in Southwest Asia. The team manned three 6-month rotations in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, working on several high-priority engineering projects: alternate supply convoy route siting, design, and specifications; military retention camp inspection and review; and design and construction of

Members of the 240th CEF joined Active Duty engineering assistants to help the U.S. Army build bridges in Iraq. These two float bridges give civilians and coalition forces an important river crossing. (photo by Maj Phil Landeros)



Landeros, found his civilian structural engineering expertise invaluable as he worked to keep critical roads open and joined Active Duty engineering assistants from Eielson AFB, Alaska, to aid the 372nd Combat Engineering Group with their bridging mission.

Ten engineers from the 904th CEF S-Team and

a border crossing facility. They proved to be a valued part of a joint-service team and continued the tradition of excellence begun by their predecessors.

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