

# 911 CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

911 Civil Engineering Flight constituted, 19 Jun 1969

Activated in the Reserve, 25 Oct 1969

Redesignated 911 Civil Engineering Squadron, 15 Nov 1978

Redesignated 911 Civil Engineer Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

## STATIONS

Greater Pittsburgh Aprt (later, Greater Pittsburgh IAP-Air Reserve Station; Pittsburgh IAP-Air Reserve Station), PA, 25 Oct 1969

## ASSIGNMENTS

911 Military Airlift (later, 911 Tactical Airlift; 911 Airlift) Group, 25 Oct 1969

911 Support (later, 911 Mission Support) Group, 1 Aug 1992

## COMMANDERS

Maj N. Wartonick

Maj Maureen Downen, 11 Feb 2017

Maj Corey Chance, 1 Oct 2020

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1977-31 Dec 1978

1 Aug 1987-31 Jul 1989

15 Sep 1990-14 Sep 1992

16 Sep 2006-15 Sep 2008

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Four members of the 433d Communications Squadron participated in a humanitarian operation in Tohago, "Robinson Crusoe Island" in the Caribbean. The members provided communications support for the 911th Civil Engineering Squadron, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 911 CES built a bridge joining two villages as part of CARIB Exercises 92-10.

A choice assignment went to members of the 911th Civil Engineering Fit., Greater Pittsburgh IAP, Pa., and the 927th Civil Engineering Fit., Selfridge ANGB, Mich., last year when they received orders to fly to Torrejon Air Base, near Madrid, Spain for their annual training. Flying nonstop from Pittsburgh in a C-141, the Reservists landed at Torrejon at 6 a.m., arriving within 20 minutes of the scheduled time. Considering the planning and organization that went into transporting the group, along with their special tools and standard gear, and the many other components that had to be integrated, the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Ernest Dirrig, was justifiably proud of the accomplishment. At Torrejon, the 911th was met by Maj. Paul Carroll, who was in charge of coordinating the work planned for the period.

The 911th CEF, composed of four officers and 84 enlisted personnel, is a Category A combat ready Reserve unit—one of 35 similar units based throughout the United States with the objective of gaining in-depth experience in the civil engineering field in the event of a call-up in a national emergency. Most of the participants work in the same or similar jobs in civilian life and as Lt. Col. Dirrig states, on an average are older, more mature individuals than in the active force. There are plumbers, carpenters, painters, electricians, heavy equipment operators, firefighters, and other trades as well as engineers, planners, designers, cost accounting clerks, typists, and the first sergeant, MSgt. James Phillips—a complete unit, ready to go into the field

In the unit are three women all in real property specialties. These are Amn Marilun Russell, Amn Sandy Joyner and Amn. Lori Gaston. The 927th also has two female personnel: SrA. Linda Snipes, an administrative clerk, and SrA. Virginia Johnson, a supply specialist. The women must qualify on the M-16 along with the men and must be capable of living under field conditions.

The 911th personnel were integrated immediately into the system, with members being assigned to their own specialties, whether the paint shop, carpenter shop, fire department, real property, or the flight line. Torrejon's CE motto of "Ready, Willing and Able" applies to the Reserve units as well. All members of the 911th were greatly impressed with being able to work on a large base such as Torrejon with such varied responsibilities. As one member put it: "Now I can see what my portion of a job is in relation to the whole. Now I feel I'm getting the entire picture."

The 911th departed Torrejon on May 28, overlapping by one day the arrival of the 927th CEF from Selfridge. Maj. Louis M. Berra, commander of the 927th and his unit took over immediately, continuing projects begun by the 911th and taking on new jobs. According to Lt. Col. William Randall, base civil engineer, "The assistance provided by these two outstanding Reserve units has definitely made a major impact on maintenance and repair efforts at Torrejon. We have received many favorable comments from virtually all organizations on the base concerning the professional capabilities displayed by these Air Force Reserve units."

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USAF Unit Histories

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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit history. *Kelly AFB, TX, Heritage of Service, Seventy-Five Years of Military Aviation at Kelly Air Force Base, 1916-1991*. Office of History, San Antonio Air Logistics Center. Kelly AFB, TX. 1991.