

Small team



Ohio RED HORSE Airmen build facilities for warfighters

By Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson
USAFCENT COMBAT CAMERA TEAM

As the troop surge continues in Afghanistan, a 15-man team of Airmen are paving the way to ensure warfighters here at Camp Leatherneck have facilities they need to win the fight.

“Our mission here is to construct the facilities that directly support the joint-Coalition war-fighter,” said Capt. Nick Anderson, 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group officer-in-charge, deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. We have a young and energetic team, we’re small but we are making a big impact.”

The team he’s describing is made up of Airmen from the Ohio Air National Guard’s 200th RED HORSE Squadron.

Although the team has been in country less than a month, it’s working on several projects worth about \$2 million. The projects include a new RED HORSE compound, a K-SPAN metal tent for the U.S. Army’s inbound 502nd Bridge Maintenance Brigade, a foundation for a new fire station, grading a burn pit, constructing an evaporation pond to collect waste water and a river bed extension to prevent flooding, all to be completed by mid July.

“As soon as we arrived and we saw an immediate push for us to get started on our projects,” said Tech. Sgt. Alfredo Perez, 1st ERED HORSE Group river bed project manager deployed from Nellis AFB. “As Air Force engineers, we are playing a big role in preparing our camp for the troops coming in. I feel like every project we are working on is making a difference and adding something useful to the fight.”

While a regular RED HORSE squadron has between 70 to 130 Airmen; the team of Total-Force Airmen has had to adjust with their limited recourses and personnel. Normal decisions that may take a month can take just two days.

“When we do surveys, we normally have an officer and an engineering assistant survey a site and put it into a system we use called CAD to calculate the exact dimensions of a work site,” said Master Sgt. David Hughes, 1st ERED HORSE Group site supervisor deployed from the Ohio ANG’s 200th RED HORSE Squadron at Camp Perry, Ohio.

“Our guys have to do it with their equipment and draw plans by

hand in a couple of days. With the troop buildup we don’t have time to sit around to make a decision we have to trust our guys and make a decision. It speaks volumes about the quality of Airmen we have out here doing what they’ve got to do to get the job done.”

As the team works from sun up to sun down to get projects completed, the 14 pieces of construction equipment and three trucks the RED HORSE team utilizes have to continue running in peak condition.

Big

“If there is daylight outside we are working,” said Staff Sgt. Terry Broshious, 1st ERED HORSE Group vehicle maintainer deployed from the 200th. “We cannot afford to have one vehicle out of order, we have a small team so we have to stay on top of all of our projects and as long as we are working my team is going keep them running”

RED HORSE Airmen may be building the facilities to improve the quality of life for Coalition Forces here, but they credit Prime BEEF Airmen stationed at the camp for having a plan in place for the camp before the RED HORSE Airmen arrived.

“It’s great that Air Force RED HORSE and Prime BEEF engineers have the opportunity to team up at Camp Leatherneck,” said Anderson. “The outstanding infrastructure and contract management that they provide the Marine leadership here has enabled the camp growth to happen smoothly.”

As RED HORSE continues to support Joint and Coalition Forces, they’re enabling expeditionary combat power on the air, and the ground Airmen are laying the foundation for a successful troop surge.

“I love getting the chance to show people what we got,” said Tech. Sgt. Bill Walter, 1st ERED HORSE Group vehicle maintainer deployed from the 200th. “The Air Force is here doing our part in Afghanistan and as the facilities go up, people will see the big impact a small team of Airmen can have.”

RED HORSE

Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer

Left: Tech. Sgt. Bill Walter, vehicle maintenance NCO-in-charge assigned to the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group, puts away an elevation measuring tool at a work site at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Bottom: Staff Sgt. Terry Broshious left, a vehicle maintainer, and Walter stand outside their CONEX workshops.



impact

