



## 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion

*"Whatever it Takes!"*

**January 01, 2006 – December 31, 2006**

### *...From the Battalion Commander:*

The Battalion has been preparing for its upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom through a vigorous training schedule. Our Marines and Sailors have deployed to 29 Palms, CA, Parris Island, SC, as well as conducted training right here in Camp Lejeune, NC. All are eager to get into the fight, roll up their sleeves, and get the job done. Our mission remains clear: provide the best general support to the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

The Battalion's Remain Behind Element has been established and stands ready to support our efforts forward as well as support II MEF's operational efforts back here in Camp Lejeune. Team effort remains the hallmark of the Battalion and the motto rings true; "Whatever it Takes!"

*Semper fidelis...*

D. P. O'HORA

LtCol, Commanding Officer

8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion



**MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. (July 30, 2006)** - Combat Engineers with Company B, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, level a concrete slab before building a South East Asia hut used for recruit training at the depot. The Marines refurbished 14 South East Asia huts and built four new huts on training areas crucial to recruit training at the depot. Photo by: Courtesy of Co. B, 8th ESB, 2nd MLG

As seen in article at: [http://www.marine-corps-news.com/2006/08/2nd\\_mlg\\_engineers\\_aid\\_recruit.htm](http://www.marine-corps-news.com/2006/08/2nd_mlg_engineers_aid_recruit.htm)



### **The Marine Corps Engineer Association (MCEA) 2006 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

#### Combat Engineer Field

NCO Sgt Miguel Esser

#### Utilities Field

Staff NCO SSgt Richard Vaneycke

#### Bulk Fuel Field

Staff NCO GySgt Richard Lundquist  
NCO Sgt Marcus

#### Explosive Ordnance Disposal Field

EOD Tech Sgt William Callahan

8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion has a big impact on the Marine Corps Engineer Association Awards.



North Topsail Street named after fallen Camp Lejeune Marine

December 11, 2006

#### STAFF REPORTS

**NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH** — North Topsail Beach paid tribute to a fallen Marine this week. The town decided to rename Marine Drive after Gunnery Sgt. Darrell Boatman, who was killed at age 38 by an improvised explosive device in Habbiniyah, Iraq, on Nov. 2, 2005. Town officials renamed the road because it had the same name as another road in Onslow County. The Marine Corps suggested Boatman in response to the town's request of honoring a fallen Marine with local ties. Boatman, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, spent more than 20 years in the service and his family still resides in Onslow County. A number of friends and town officials attended a ceremony to rename the street this week. The town changed the name of Marine Drive to GySgt. D.W. Boatman Drive.



#### MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion gears up in December, and braves the cold weather and simulation rounds to participate in a battalion-wide field exercise at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain Facility, Dec. 6-12. 8<sup>th</sup> ESB's training exercise involved Casualty Evacuation, Detainee Handling, Basic Urban Skill Training, and Convoy Security. Fine tuning these essential skills with 24 hour operations guarantee success in the fight for the Marines facing the upcoming deployment to Iraq.





HONORS AWARDED 8<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

IRAQ

2003

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

SOUTHWEST ASIA

1990-1991

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER

LINEAGE

1950- 2006

ACTIVATED 11 DECEMBER 1950 AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA, AS 8<sup>TH</sup>  
ENGINEER BATTALION, FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC

ASSIGNED DURING SEPTEMBER 1962 TO FORCE TROOPS, FLEET MARINE FORCE,  
ATLANTIC

REDESIGNATED 1 JANUARY 1976 AS 8<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION, FORCE  
TROOPS/2D FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP, FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC

REDESIGNATED 7 JULY 1978 AS 8<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION, 2D FORCE  
SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP, FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC

PROVIDED COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT TO MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNITS IN THE  
UNITED STATES, CARIBBEAN, AND MEDITERRANEAN DURING THE 1980S

ELEMENTS PROVIDED DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT TO CHARLESTON, SOUTH  
CAROLINA, AFTER HURRICANE HUGO, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1989

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST  
ASIA, DECEMBER 1990-APRIL 1991

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN HAITIAN REFUGEE OPERATIONS, CUBA, NOVEMBER  
1991-SEPTEMBER-1992

ELEMENTS PROVIDED DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT TO SOUTHER FLORIDA AFTER  
HURRICAN ANDREW, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1992

ELEMENTS PROVIDED DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT TO PUERTO RICO AFTER  
HURRICANE GEORGES, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1996

ELEMENTS PROVIDED DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT TO HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR,  
NICARAGUA, AND GUATEMALA AFTER HURRICANE MITCH, NOVEMBER 1996-  
MARCH 1998

DEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 2003 TO KUWAIT IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION  
ENDURING FREEDOM

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, MARCH-MAY 2003

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION SECURE TOMORROW, HAITI,  
FEBRUARY-JUNE 2004

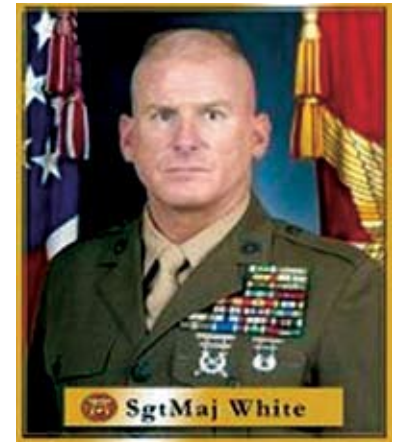
ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, JANUARY 2005-  
MARCH 2006

*"The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the rest willing to let them."*

*Robert Frost (1874-1963)*



LTCOL MARK MENOTTI



SGT MAJ WHITE

## 9TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

From 1990-1991, members of the Battalion were among the first units from III MEF to deploy to Southwest Asia for Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, and the last to depart Saudi Arabia. Our vital role in providing engineer support to increase combat effectiveness was at an all-time high during Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. The Marines performed round the clock operations to intensify the efforts required to expel Iraq from Kuwait. Though facing the constant threat of indirect fire, the Marines of 9th Engineer Support Battalion relentlessly proved themselves.

During Operation SEA ANGEL in 1991, members of 9th Engineer Support Battalion responded to the call for humanitarian assistance for the flood-ravaged people of Bangladesh while operating from the USS St Louis, LKA 116. Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion performed a variety of tasks ranging from: water purification, to electrical and construction support.

During Operation FIERY VIGIL I in 1991, the Marines and Sailors of 9th Engineer Support Battalion responded once again to the call for humanitarian assistance, as elements of the Battalion deployed to U.S. Naval facilities in the Philippines due to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. Joined by the detachment of Operation SEA ANGEL Marines returning from Bangladesh, Marines worked around the clock to provide the basic necessities of water, shelter and electricity.

In Operation FIERY VIGIL II in 1991, Marines from Engineer Company B deployed to the Republic of the Philippines while attached to elements of 3d Combat Engineer Battalion. In support of Operation FIERY VIGIL II, Company B fulfilled the role of a provisional rifle company for the Ground Combat Element of Marine Air Ground Task Force 90, to assist with the security of Subic Bay Naval Facility and the Binictan Housing Area. They were the lead unit for potential missions involving the reinforcement of the U.S. Embassy and Seafront Compound in Manila and for non-combatant evacuations operations. Once again, 9th Engineer Support Battalion showcased the versatility of U.S. Marine Corps Engineers.

In July 1992, elements of the Battalion returned from a humanitarian assistance mission in the Federated States of Micronesia where relief was provided to the drought-stricken state of Chuuk. Members of the Battalion performed numerous tasks, of which, the most significant was the purification of salt-water to provide drinking water in Truk Lagoon, Island of Dublon, and Chuuk, Micronesia. Operating from the Maritime Pre-positioned Force Ship MV Lopez under direction of the U.S. Federal Emergency Assistance Management Office, Marines of 9th Engineer Support Battalion worked with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Detachment, Navy Boat Team 1 and 3d Reconnaissance Battalion. Over three million gallons of potable water was produced and delivered to Dublon Island residents.

In 1993 during Operation RESTORE HOPE, Marines from Bulk Fuel Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion were among the first III MEF personnel to deploy to Mogadishu, Somalia. They arrived on 1 January 1993 and augmented 1st Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, I MEF, Camp Pendleton, California. They assembled and operated a large Amphibious Assault Fuel System at Mogadishu Airport. Providing 24-hour bulk fuel storage and distribution in the extreme weather conditions of the African desert made this mission critical to force readiness.

In January of 1993, a detachment of Bulk Fuel Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion was ordered to move north to relieve Marines of 7th Engineer Support Battalion at the Balidogle and Baidoa Airfields. Baidoa was the staging area for imported grain distributed to the Somali people. Engineer Support Company also provided Utilities Marines for bath & laundry services and electrical power. Marines from both companies also provided security at various food distribution points. While serving in Somalia many of 9th Engineer Support Battalion personnel came under constant but sporadic attack from small arms fire and rocks from armed insurgents.

From 1994 to 1995, Engineer Support Company provided equipment and personnel from 29 August 1994 to 11 March 1995 to help relieve the drought stricken Naval Base in Sasebo, Japan. Engineer Support Company produced over 10.5 million gallons of potable water.

In April 2002, 9th Engineer Support Battalion provided real-world operational support to Joint Task Force 510 (Special Operation Command), Basilan Island, Philippines in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. By improving 81 kilometers of roads, creating helicopter landing zones, and clearing an overgrown airfield, the Battalion improved the mobility of U.S. forces on the island during the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

During Operation UNIFIED ASSISTANCE in 2005, members of 9th Engineer Support Battalion responded to the call for humanitarian assistance in the wake of the Tsunami that struck South East Asia. Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion in conjunction with NMCB 7 and the Austrian Army led the way in distributing well over 10,000 gallons of drinking water to relief camps near and around Sri Lanka's tsunami-hit coastline.

On 20 February 2006, 9th Engineer Support Battalion (-) (FWD) deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07.1. The Battalion deployed with Engineer Company A and a detachment of Engineer Support Company. During the deployment, the Battalion participated in numerous route repair, route clearance, and horizontal and vertical construction missions.

From September to December 2000, Engineer Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion participated in operations in the Pacific Command in East Timor. Marines from Engineer Company A were the lead element in planning and conducting humanitarian construction operations in East Timor. They replaced a bridge on Atauro, an isolated Island about 20 miles from Dili with 8,000 inhabitants and replaced a roof on a tuberculosis clinic. The clinic was one of about a half-dozen major projects the Marines of Engineer Company A undertook during the operation. They also helped rebuild a school in Manatuto, about 45 miles outside the East Timor capital of Dili.

From 10 March to 31 March 2006, 9th Engineer Support Battalion Continued to provide general engineer support to Multi National Force-West throughout the area of operation. The Battalion conducted 19 route clearance missions, eight route repair missions, one route reconnaissance and one bridge reconnaissance operation in Al Anbar Province. The Battalion deployed one survey team to Al Asad to conduct a site survey for a general engineering project.

In April 2006, the Battalion finished the Ramadi Joint Control Center project which entailed making substantial improvements to the force protection and survivability of the camp.

On April 27, Engineer Company A began Operation RATIB, which consisted of building a combat outpost for the Iraqi Army. On 27 April, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company departed Camp Taqqaddum to conduct a general engineering project in the vicinity of Al Asad to improve the survivability, force protection, and standard of living on a combat outpost. On 30 April, Engineer Support Company departed for Al Asad to begin conducting route repair operations.

From May to August 2006, Engineer Company A constructed four observation posts, conducted 66 route clearance missions; resulting in the detection of 58 Improvised Explosive Devices, conducted 27 route repair missions resulting in the repair of 2.2 kilometer of road surface, and provided force protection upgrades to various combat outposts. 9th Engineer Support Battalion heavy equipment operators assisted engineers from Bravo Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion with the construction of two observation posts in the area of operations. The Battalion also conducted weapons cache sweeps in conjunction with route clearance in support of Iraqi Army operations.

In June 2006, much of the Battalion's efforts were focused on constructing observation posts in support of Iraqi Security Forces. A total of four observation posts were constructed for the Iraqi Army allowing them to effectively control more battle space. The Iraqi Engineer Company, 1st Iraqi Army Division joined in a partnership with 9th Engineer Support Battalion to construct one of their observation posts. By training the Iraqi Engineers how to design and construct a survivable position, 9th Engineer Support Battalion was able to significantly increase the capability of the Iraqi Engineers to become more self sufficient. During this month, the Battalion was able to help fellow Marines secure and establish force protection measures to reinforce their observation posts.

On 8 September 2006, 9th Engineer Support Battalion (-) (FWD) transferred authority to 9th Engineer Support Battalion (-) (REIN); at this point, the Battalion Colors were finally posted in Iraq making only the 2d time in Battalion history of this event. During this period, the Battalion executed general engineering projects from Al Taqqadum and Al Asad Air bases; improving force protection measures and shaping the battlefield at key locations in support of battle space commanders. Engineer Company B deployed two construction teams to the vicinity of Al Asad to build South West Asia (SWA) Huts and provide force protection measures for two observation posts.

From September 2006 to February 2007, the Battalion's accomplishments during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07.2 included 31 general engineering projects completed, 53 Improvised Explosive Devices detected and reduced, two horizontal constructions completed, and 1,913 miles of road work and repair.

From November 2006 to February 2007, 9th Engineer Support Battalion executed general support engineering construction projects from Al Taqqadum and Al Asad; projects included construction of observation posts along major supply routes and demilitarization of combat outposts, construction of a patrol base in support of Iraqi Army forces, spreading gravel on three combat outposts and building a new bridge, 200m long by 20m wide, in support of a Marine Infantry Battalion along a major route.

In December 2006, Engineer Company B, an augment from 6th Engineer Support Battalion (Reserve), focused their efforts on route clearance missions. During this period the route clearance teams were successful in prosecuting five Improvised Explosive Devices and ran 19 route clearance missions from Al Taqaddum to Fallujah. The route clearance teams also ran several missions in support of 2d Battalion 8th Marines.

Engineer Company B partnered with the Iraqi Engineer Company to complete improvements to the headquarters and barracks spaces of an Iraqi Army Battalion to facilitate living and working conditions for the Iraqi soldiers and Military Transition Team. On 27 November 2006, Engineer Support Company deployed to a bridge site to complete repairs to a severely damaged bypass; it took Engineer Support Company a total of five days to complete the project.

On 11 January 2007, Engineer Company B and Engineer Support Company joined in a combined effort to construct three observation posts and a 5 Kilometer long military road; it took both companies a total of 20 days to complete both projects.

Currently, 9th ESB will be returning from theater in March 2007.

### *Honors Awarded*

Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with One Bronze Star

VIETNAM

1966-1967

1968

21 Apr 68 - 30 Jun 68

by 1st Marine Division Award

31 Jan 68 - 2 Mar 68

B Company only

25 Apr 67 - 5 Jun 67

Operation Union & Union II

1 Apr 66 - 15 Sep 67

those only attached to the 5th Marines

15 Jun 67 - 15 Sept 67

1st Marine Division

16 Sept 67 - 31 Oct 68

1st Marine Division

Navy Unit Commendation Streamer

1980-1984

Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer

VIETNAM

1968-1969

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer



1 Sep 69 - 24 May 70  
 for 2n Provisional and Clearing Operation  
 1 Jul 68 - 31 May 69  
 by Sec. of the Navy  
 16 Sep 67 - 20 Apr 68  
 U.S. Army Commendation  
 6 Jun 66 - Sep 69  
 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/Palm  
 VIETNAM  
 1967-1968  
 National Defense Service Streamer with two bronze stars  
 Vietnam Service Streamer with Two Silver and Bronze Stars  
 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer  
 Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Actions Streamer

## *LINEAGE OF THE 9TH ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION*

1965-1966

Activated 1 November 1965 at Camp Pendleton California  
 Reassigned 1 April 1966 as 9th Engineer Battalion Force Troops

1966

Deployed May 1966 to Chu Lia, Republic of Vietnam, May 1966-August 1970 to 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. Participated in the war in Vietnam, May 1966-August 1970 Operating from Chu Lai and Da Nang

1970

Relocated August 1970 to Camp Pendleton, California and reassigned to the 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Force

1970

Deactivated 30 October 1970

1976-2007

Reactivated 1 May 1976 at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, as the 9th Engineer Support Battalion and reassigned to 3d Force Service Support Group Fleet Marine Force

Elements participated in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, and South West Asia August 1990-April 1991

Elements participated in support of Operation SEA ANGEL, Bangladesh, May-June 1991

Elements participated in support of Operation FIERY VIGIL, Philippines, June 1991

Elements participated in support of Operation RESTORE HOPE, Somalia, January-March 1993

Elements participated in support of Operation PACIFIC HAVEN, Guam, November 1996-April 1997

Elements participated in Humanitarian Demining Operations in southwest Asia throughout the 1990s to present

Elements participated in Operation UNIFIED ASSISTANCE, Tsunami Relief, Indonesia, 2005

Re-designated as 3D Marine Logistics Group on October 30, 2005

Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, February 2006-present

Deployed February 2006 to Al Anbar Province, Iraq to 1st Marine Logistics Group, Multi National Forces-West. Participated in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07, February 2006-March 2007 operating from Al Fallujah to AR Ramdi and from Hiditha to AL Qaim to Hit to AR Rutbar.

## *Commanders*

Year in Command	Grade	Last Name	Initials
Nov 1965-Feb 1967	LtCol	Crispen	RW
Feb 1967-Aug 1967	LtCol	Babe	GE
Aug 1967-Aug 1967	LtCol	Lifset	EL



Aug 1967-Sep 1968	LtCol	Perea	HE
Sep 1968-Mar 1969	LtCol	Visage	BF
Sep 1969-Feb 1970	LtCol	Maxwell	EK
Feb 1970-Oct 1970	LtCol	Kraynak	JP
May 1976-May 1977	LtCol	Johnson	SA
Apr 1977-Jul 1977	Maj	Guthrie	CL
Jul 1977-Jul 1978	Maj	Mitchell	NF
Jul 1978-Jun 1979	Maj	Plowman	FC
Jun 1979-Jul 1980	Maj	Blenkle	AJ
Jun 1980-Jun 1982	LtCol	Ford	WR
Jun 1982-Aug 1982	Maj	Randel	KO
Aug 1982-Jan 1984	LtCol	Edwards	RI
Jan 1984-Jun 1985	LtCol	Motto	AW
Jun 1985-Jul 1985	Maj	Fields	PR
Jul 1985-Jul 1987	LtCol	Champeau	JB
Jul 1987-Jun 1989	LtCol	Drury	JE
Jun 1989-Jul 1990	LtCol	Cooley	JL
Jul 1990-Feb 1992	LtCol	Barnes	RB
Feb 1992-Jun 1994	LtCol	Engelen	NL
Jun 1994-Jun 1996	LtCol	Hestir	WR
Jun 1996-Jun 1998	LtCol	Smith	RJ
Jun 1998-Jun 2000	LtCol	Oltman	RJ
Jun 2000-Jul 2002	LtCol	Hearnsberger	B
Jul 2002-Jul 2004	LtCol	Medeiros	SA
Jul 2004-Jun 2006	LtCol	Bowen	EJ
Jun 2006-Present	LtCol	Menotti	MJ

## 11TH ENGINEER BATTALION



The 11th Engineer Battalion came into existence on 22 November 1946 at Fort Henry, Baltimore, Maryland. The reserve battalion increased in strength and in July 1948 performed active duty training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. With the call-up of reserves for the Korean conflict, the Baltimore engineers answered the call and departed 31 August 1950. At Camp Pendleton, California, personnel were transferred to training and replacement regiments. The 11th Engineer Battalion was disbanded on 15 December 1950.

On 1 June 1966, the 11th Engineer Battalion colors were unfurled again, as the battalion was reactivated as part of the 5th Marine Division, FMF, at Camp Pendleton, California. After a comprehensive lock-on training period, the main body of the battalion departed Camp Pendleton on 31 October 1966 and arrived in the Republic of Viet Nam during 18-30 November 1966. The command post was within the Dong Ha combat base on 1 December 1966.

During 1967, the battalion provided engineer support to the 3d Marine Division and other units. Roads were swept of mines and improved.

Culverts were installed, and bridges were built and upgraded. Major missions were tasked to the battalion to build bunkers, create a massive “fire break” and install tens of thousands of mines in Northern I Corps.

In April 1968, the battalion was given the important mission of opening Route 9 from CaLu to Khe Sahn in Operation Pegasis, which extracted Marines from Khe Sahn. During 1969, projects improving routes of communication, mine clearance, and road and bridge construction were continued. At the close of 1969, the 11th Engineer Battalion returned to Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Subsequently, the battalion returned to the United States from Okinawa and was deactivated at Camp Pendleton on 30 November 1970.

The Campaign Streamers of the 11th Engineer Battalion include the Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Commendation with one Bronze Star, the National Defense Service Streamer, the Vietnam Service Streamer with one Silver and four Bronze Stars, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF 11TH ENGINEER BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel T. E. Drummond	Nov 46 - Nov 48
Major C. W. Hjerpe	Dec 48 – Apr 49
Major R. W. Drugert	May 49 – Sep 50
Captain J. L. Shelton	Jun 66 – Jul 66
Major H. L. Welch	Jul 66 – Aug 66
Lieutenant Colonel R. L. Mulford	Aug 66 – Jul 67
Lieutenant Colonel W. N. Christopher	Jul 67 – Nov 67
Lieutenant Colonel V. A. Perry	Nov 67 – Aug 68
Lieutenant Colonel R. C. Evans	Sep 68 – Sep 69
Major D. R. Thibalt	Sep 69 – Dec 69
Lieutenant Colonel B. A. Kaasmann	Dec 69 – Nov 70



Images from the 11th Engineer Battalion's website [www.11thengineervietnamvetsusmc.org](http://www.11thengineervietnamvetsusmc.org). Above photo of Jim Hanser and Micro Dolack at Con Thien. (Photos by Joe Rhody)



COLONEL BENJAMIN BRADEN



SGTMAJ JIMMY MINCEY

## MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 17

What is known today as Marine Wing Support Group-17 was activated on 1 July 1953 at Itami, Japan and designated as Marine Wing Service Group-17. Later the same year, MWSG-17 was relocated to Iwakuni, Japan where Marines and Sailors served with distinction until 1966. That year it was re-designated as Marine Wing Support Group-17 and deployed to the Republic of Vietnam.

MWSG-17 actively participated in the Vietnam War from September 1966 until August 1970 while Operating from Da Nang, Vietnam. During this period, the Group earned a Presidential Unit Citation as well as a Meritorious Unit Citation. In the summer of 1970, MWSG-17 returned home to Iwakuni. Nine years later MWSG-17 moved to Okinawa, Japan and took up residence at Camp Foster.

During the 1980s and 90s, Group-17 Marines and Sailors participated in various operations and numerous exercises. Their actions led to the awarding of a second Meritorious Unit Citation in 2002. MWSG-17 continues to maintain a high operational tempo, deploying personnel and equipment throughout and beyond the Pacific theater. Some of the unit's larger exercises include Cobra Gold, Foal Eagle, Eagle Warrior, Southern Frontier, Ulchi Focus Lens, and Jigsaw. In addition to these training evolutions, MWSG-17 deployed Marines and Sailors to support the Global War on Terrorism. In the Nation's effort to repatriate its fallen heroes MWSG-17 attaches Marines to Joint task Force Full Accounting, aiding in the search for U.S. Military MIAs from previous conflicts in the Western Pacific.

MWSG-17's squadrons have established a legacy of excellence in supporting the community by participating in events like the Boy Scouts and JROTC Summer Leadership School. Marines and Sailors from Group also take pride in being good ambassadors by remaining active in the local community. Their times and effort spent performing various community relations projects, such as teaching English and maintaining schools, shows our sincere desire to be good neighbors.

### HONORS AWARDED

MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 17

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER VIETNAM 1966-1967

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER VIETNAM 1968

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER STARS AND ONE BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM STREAMER

VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION CIVIL ACTIONS STREAMER

### LINEAGE OF MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 17

1953-2002

ACTIVATED 1 JULY 1953 AT ITAMI, JAPAN, AS MARINE WING SERVICE GROUP 17 AND ASSIGNED TO THE 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE



RELOCATED DURING NOVEMBER 1954 TO IWAKUNI, JAPAN  
 DEPLOYED FROM JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1966 TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, SEPTEMBER 1966-AUGUST 1970  
 OPERATING FROM  
 DA NANG  
 REDESIGNATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1966 AS MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 17  
 RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1970 TO IWAKUNI, JAPAN  
 RELOCATED DURING JUNE 1979 TO CAMP BUTLER, OKINAWA, JAPAN  
 PARTICIPATED IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS OPERATIONS AND NUMEROUS TRAINING EXERCISES DURING THE 1980S  
 AND 1990S

### *MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 17 COMMANDING OFFICERS*

COL	ROBERT J. JOHNSON	1 JUL 1953 - 3 NOV 1953
COL	RICHARD M. BAKER	4 NOV 1953 - 1 JAN 1954
COL	FRANK H. WIRSIC	27 MAR 1954 - 11 JUN 1954
LTCOL	ELMER A. WREN	12 JUN 1954 - 23 JUN 1954
COL	JOHN F. DUBIN	24 JUN 1954 - 8 JUN 1955
COL	ARTHUR H. WEINBERGER	9 JUN 1955 - 27 NOV 1955
LTCOL	WILLIAM E. BAIRD	28 NOV 1955 - 1 JAN 1956
COL	HENRY C. LANE	2 JAN 1956 - 2 NOV 1956
COL	HARRISON BRENT, JR.	3 NOV 1956 - 25 JUL 1957
COL	EVERETT H. VAUGHN	26 JUL 1957 - 14 FEB 1958
COL	RALPH R. YEAMAN	15 FEB 1958 - 2 AUG 1958
COL	JAMES L. NEEFUS	3 AUG 1958 - 9 SEP 1959
COL	JOHN H. EARLE, JR.	10 SEP 1959 - 19 JUN 1960
LTCOL	PHILIP L. CRAWFORD	20 JUN 1960 - 1 AUG 1960
COL	ARTHUR C. LOWELL	2 AUG 1960 - 3 JUL 1961
COL	JAMES K. DILL	4 JUL 1961 - 15 APR 1962
COL	JOE HOWARD MCGLOTHIN, JR.	16 APR 1962 - 15 JUN 1962
COL	MARTIN E. W. OELRICH	16 JUN 1962 - 2 JUL 1963
COL	VANCE H. HUDGINS	3 JUL 1963 - 16 MAY 1964
COL	GOERGE D. WOLVERTON	17 MAY 1964 - 21 DEC 1964
COL	HERBERT A. PETERS	22 DEC 1964 - 14 AUG 1965
COL	JAMES T. MCDANIEL	15 AUG 1965 - 10 APR 1966
COL	WILLIAM I. ARMOGOST	11 APR 1966 - 4 AUG 1966
COL	ORLANDO S. TOSDAL	5 AUG 1966 - 28 MAR 1967
COL	VICTOR A. ARMSTONG	29 MAR 1967 - 14 JUN 1967
COL	JOHN E. HANSEN	15 JUN 1967 - 23 FEB 1968
COL	ROBERT D. LIMBERG	24 FEB 1968 - 15 JUL 1968
COL	WILLIAM FARRELL	16 JUL 1968 - 8 SEP 1968
COL	RICHARD S. RASH	9 SEP 1968 - 28 FEB 1969
COL	STANLEY H. CARPENTER	1 MAR 1969 - 10 AUG 1969
COL	RICHARD A. SAVAGE	11 AUG 1969 - 8 FEB 1970
COL	HARVEY L. JENSEN	9 FEB 1970 - 2 OCT 1970
COL	THOMAS E. MULVIHILL	3 OCT 1970 - 8 JUL 1971
COL	WILLIAM G. MCCOOL	9 JUL 1971 - 22 JUN 1972
COL	JEROME L. GEOBEL	23 JUN 1972 - 16 JUN 1973
COL	ROYCE M. WILLIAMS	17 JUN 1973 - 29 MAY 1974
COL	JOHN W. IRION, JR.	30 MAY 1974 - 13 JUN 1975
COL	JOSEPH R. DOBBRATZ	14 JUN 1975 - 14 JUN 1976
COL	WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM	15 JUN 1976 - 1 MAY 1977
COL	GRAY W. HINTZ	2 MAY 1977 - 17 APR 1978
LTCOL	HERBERT F. SAEGER	18 APR 1978 - 14 JUN 1978

COL	CHARLES G. FREDRICK	15 JUN 1978 - 16 MAY 1979
LTCOL	J. M. DYE	17 MAY 1979 - 27 JUN 1979
LTCOL	J. E. HAYES	28 JUN 1979 - 23 JUL 1979
COL	RONALD E. BLANCHARD	24 JUL 1979 - 7 JUL 1980
COL	PAUL L. MOREAU	8 JUL 1980 - 26 JUN 1981
COL	DAVID L. MCEVOY	27 JUN 1981 - 10 JUN 1982
COL	RAYMOND A. O'NEILL	11 JUN 1982 - 5 JUN 1983
COL	DENNIS C. BEYMA	6 JUN 1983 - 26 JUL 1984
COL	JAMES A. MCGINN	27 JUL 1984 - 21 NOV 1984
COL	PAUL H. COURTNEY	22 NOV 1984 - 11 JUN 1986
COL	MARION F. STONE	12 JUN 1986 - 14 JUN 1988
COL	F. L. JONES	15 JUN 1988 - 18 JUL 1989
COL	GERALD J. POLYASCKO	19 JUL 1989 - 22 MAY 1991
COL	MICHAEL J. SONIAK	23 MAY 1991 - 9 JUN 1993
COL	CHARLES F. YOUNG	10 JUN 1993 - 27 JAN 1995
COL	RANDALL T. SMITH	28 JAN 1995 - 12 JUL 1996
COL	WALTER E. LEHNER	12 JUL 1996 - 26 FEB 1998
COL	EDWARD J. HAMILTON	27 FEB 1998 - 13 APR 2000
COL	CHARLES T. HAYES	14 APR 2000 - 31 MAY 2002
COL	STEPHAN M. FENSTERMACHER <sup>2</sup>	8 MAY 2002 - 17 JAN 2004
COL	BYRON F. STEBBINS	18 JAN 2004 - 6 JUL 2006
COL	BENJAMIN R. BRADEN	07 JUL 2006 - PRESENT

## MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 171



Commander LTCOL BRYANT LANDEAN



Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, also known as “America’s Squadron,” began as Detachment “C” of Marine Wing Support Group 17, activated 16 April 1979. Formed from elements of Wing Engineer Squadron 17, Wing Transportation Squadron 17, and Headquarters Squadron 17, the unit’s primary mission was to provide combat service support for elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing located at Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan. In June of 1986, Marine Wing Support Group 17 was reorganized to better support the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, the Aviation Combat Element of the Third Marine Expeditionary Force. Having absorbed personnel and equipment from Marine Air Base Squadrons 12 and 15, Detachment “C” was re-designated Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 on 16 June 1986. The Squadron’s new mission was to provide all essential Aviation Ground Support requirements to a designated fixed wing component of an Aviation Combat Element and all supporting or attached elements of the Marine Air Control Group. Additionally, the Squadron has the implied mission to supplement air base facilities and services at a co-located Marine Corps Air Station, which MWSS-171 does aboard MCAS Iwakuni.

In June 1991, after over 600 years of inactivity, Mount Pinatubo on the island of Luzon (Republic of the Philippines) catastrophically erupted. Before the disaster, about 15,000 people lived in small villages on the volcano’s flanks. A much larger population, about 500,000, lived in cities and villages surrounding the volcano. The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo led to the largest known evacuation of people due to a volcanic threat and required a great deal of support. In 1992, elements of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 assisted in the final retrograde of personnel and equipment from Subic Bay Naval Base and Cubi Point Naval Air Station, located just 40 km to the southwest of the volcano.

Expanded peacekeeping in Somalia began after the failure of an initial United Nations mission and the specter of 500,000 Somalis dead from famine by fall of 1992. Hundreds of thousands more people were in danger of dying. Clan violence in Somalia interfered with international famine relief efforts, and President Bush sent American troops to protect relief workers. Operation Restore Hope, the US-led coalition approved by the U.N Security Council in December 1992, had a mandate of protecting humanitarian operations and creating a secure environment for eventual political reconciliation. Elements of MWSS-171 served among the almost 30,000 US military personnel that participated in the operation, returning home to Iwakuni in May of 1993.

On January 17, 1995 at 0546, a 6.9 magnitude earthquake hit the western part of Japan with the highest intensity and most severe damage occurring in the southern part of Hyogo prefecture. The damage intensity in Kobe City and north of Awaji Islands was extremely high. The quake caused more than 5,243 casualties, 26,804 injuries, 106,763 damaged buildings and more than 300,000 people being sent to emergency shelters. The quake further caused severe damage to the area's infrastructure with several bridges being knocked down, extensive damage to roads and railways, and, for the first time, severe damaged to several underground tunnels and subways. The quake further disrupted gas, electric, telecommunications, and water service to more than 800,000 houses. The people of Kobe recognized MWSS-171 and Hyogo prefecture for the assistance provided in the massive recovery operations.

Elements of the squadron have continued its high tradition of support by deploying Marines to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom, in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom from September 2001 to the present. Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 continues to fulfill its demanding mission of providing Aviation Ground Support aboard Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni and in deployed locations throughout the Pacific. At the same time, the Squadron remains "Ready for All Things."

*Unit Awards*

Navy Unit Commendation Bronze Stars  
Meritorious Unit Commendation w/ One Bronze Star  
National Defense Service w/ One Bronze Star  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

*Commanding Officers Date*

LtCol B.E. Landean	June 06 - Present
LtCol Y.R. Escalante	June 04 - June 06
LtCol S. S. Seitz	June 02 - June 04
LtCol G. C. Lewis	June 00 - June 02
LtCol D.R. Lewis	June 98 - June 00
LtCol B. C. Anderson	July 96 - June 98
LtCol P. K. Pisano	July 94 - July 96
LtCol S. D. Summers	July 92 - July 94
LtCol B. D. Jameson	May 90 - July 92
LtCol J.L. Reeves	May 88 - May 90
LtCol J. E. Hodges	June 86 - May88

*MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 172*



LTCOL TRACY KING



SGTMAJ JOHN CARMAN



Marine Wing Support Squadron-172 was activated at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on 16 June 1986. After MWSS-174 was disbanded, MWSS-172 became the sole support squadron on Okinawa. The Squadron continually grew adding enhanced motor trans-



port and engineer capabilities. Originally located on Ie Shima, our Squadron made numerous improvements while stationed there. To include: construction of a control tower, a state-of-the-art Close-in Approach Indicator guidance system, and a Vertical Short Take-off and Landing (VSTOL) facility. This VSTOL facility is the only one of its kind in the Western Pacific. Since the facility's beginnings on Ie Shima, MWSS-172 has been responsible for maintenance and serviceability of the VSTOL strip, to include the complete replacement of 432,648 square feet of AM-2 matting, as well as the coral resurfacing of the entire runway on Ie Shima. In 2001 MWSS-172 relocated to Camp Foster and continues to support MCAS Futenma and Marine Aircraft Group 36 (MAG-36). MWSS-172 has assisted and supported many real world operations to include: DESERT STORM, SEA ANGEL, RESTORE HOPE, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, AND NOBLE EAGLE. The Squadron has participated in many exercise such as Team Spirit, Valiant Blitz, Cope Thunder, Bear Hunt, Balikatan, Golden Eagle, Cobra Gold, JTF Full Accounting, 31st MEU, Freedom Banner, Jigsaw, Beachcrest, Evergreen, Cloud Warrior, RSO&I Valiant Usher, Ulchi Focus Lens, Dragon Slayer, Korean Integrated Training Program, Hawaiian Combined Arms Exercise, Southern Frontier, Millennium Edge, Talon Vision, Crocodile, Foal Eagle, and multiple JTF humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

## *HONORS AWARDED MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 172*

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

1995-1996

2000-2002

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER

## *LINEAGE OF MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 172*

1986-2004

ACTIVATED 16 JUNE 1986 AT FUTENMA, OKINAWA, JAPAN, AS MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 172, AND ASSIGNED TO MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 17, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION SEA ANGEL, BANGLADESH, MAY-JUNE 1991

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN JOINT TASK FORCE FULL ACCOUNTING, CAMBODIA, JUNE AND SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1992

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE, SOMALIA, DECEMBER 1992-FEBRUARY 1993

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHANISTAN, JANUARY-JUNE 2002

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, JULY-DECEMBER 2002

## *The Commanding Officers of MWSS-172*

LtCol Jefferson D. Dorroh II	16 Jun 86 – 07 May 87
LtCol William Harley	08 May 87 – 19 May 89
LtCol Michael G. Przepiora	20 May 89 – 07 Jun 91
LtCol William C. Tourek	08 Jun 91 – 11 Jun 93
LtCol Frank M. Scott	12 Jun 93 – 13 Jun 95
LtCol Samuel E. Roberts	14 Jun 95 – 12 Jun 97
LtCol Lawrence P. Stawicki	13 Jun 97 – 16 Jun 99
LtCol Gregory V. Corbett	17 Jun 99 – 25 Jan 00
LtCol Peter M. Warker	26 Jan 00 – 11 Jul 02
LtCol Stephen F. Kirkpatrick	12 Jul 02 – 23 Apr 04
LtCol Donald P. Baldwin	24 Apr 04 - 28 Nov 05
LtCol Tracy W. King	29 Nov 05 -



COL PETER WARKER



SGTMAJ LEWIS BELL

## MARINE WING SUPPORT GROUP 27

Marine Wing Service Group 27 was activated on 1 July 1953, and redesignated as Marine Wing Support Group 27 on 1 April 1967. The Support Group was established after years of staff study, several reorganizations and extensive planning to determine the organization needed to best meet its unique mission. That mission encompasses most of the capabilities needed to establish and operate airfields and aviation forward sites in an expeditionary environment.

In earlier years, Marine Wing Support Group 27 (MWSG-27) was composed of three squadrons and a sub unit: Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron (H&MS-27), Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR-252), Wing Equipment and Repair Squadron (WERS-27), and sub-unit 1 (SU-1) of Marine Weapons Unit 2 (MWWU-2). With the implementation of the Marine Corps Combat Service Support Concept, the Group ceased all aviation functions on 20 April 1976. This included the separation of VMGR-252 from the Group and the detachment of SU-1, MWWU-2. On 13 May 1976, Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 27 and Wing Equipment Repair Squadron 27 were redesignated Headquarters and Ground Maintenance Squadron 27 and Wing Transport Squadron 27 (WTS-27) respectively. On that same date Wing Engineer Squadron 27 (WES-27) was activated.

Detachments (Dets) "A" and "B", were activated at MCAS New River and MCAS Beaufort to provide support service at those stations. Det "A" was activated on 10 September 1976; Det "B" was activated on 27 October 1976. MWSG-27 was then composed of three squadrons and two detachments: H&MS-27, WES-27, WTS-27, and Dets "A" and "B". During December 1979 through January 1980, MWSG-27 once again reorganized under the Service Support concept at which time H&MS-27 was redesignated as Headquarters Squadron 27 (HQS-27).

On 1 January 1986, MWSG-27 reorganized in to its present configuration with the implementation of the Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) concept. The reorganization required MWSG-27 to consolidate personnel and equipment from the three squadrons and two detachments with the five Marine Air Base Squadrons (MABS) located at four different geographic airfields. HQS-27 was redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 27 (H&HS-27), WTS-27 with MABS elements became MWSS-271, Det "A" with MABS elements redesignated as MWSS-272, Det "B" with MABS elements was redesignated as MWSS-273, and WES-27 with MABS elements was redesignated as MWSS-274.

In August Of 1990 with the invasion of the Kingdom of Kuwait by Iraqi military forces, the United States began a military buildup which required the deployment of elements of the MWSG to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Two of the Marine Wing Support Squadrons deployed to Saudi Arabia and set up forward expeditionary airfields in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The MWSG-27 headquarters also sent elements to coordinate the two squadrons during the combat operations in the desert. In the summer of 1991 those deployed elements returned to the United States.

From the summer of 1991 to the summer of 1997 the MWSG continued providing support to the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing during normal operations, exercises, deployments and training. During this same period, MWSS 271 was designated as the principal squad-

ron to run one of two expeditionary airfields currently in operation within the United States at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field (MCALF) Bogue field while maintaining support in conjunction with MWSS-274 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

In April of 1997, the MWSG-27 headquarters element went through a restructuring and redesignation. The Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron-27 was redesignated as Headquarters 27 and the Personnel and Support Detachment 27 was incorporated into this new structure.

Marine Wing Support Group 27 provides the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing with organic and deployable combat support and combat service support which is centralized for economy of personnel and equipment. Mission execution is decentralized for flexibility and responsiveness to changing tactical situations. Key capabilities include providing complete airfield operation services (less air traffic control), engineer and transportation support, medical assistance, food services, security support, and other direct combat and combat service support to Aviation Combat elements. Each MWSS is designed to operate an airfield and up to two Forward Arming and Refueling Points (FARP) sites.

## MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 271



LTCOL MARK LAVIOLETTE



SGTMAJ SUSAN BELLIS

The “Workhorse of the Wing” had Engineers participate in numerous exercises and operations from 1992 through the present, to include: Joint and Combined Exercise Roving Sands in 1995, Joint and Combined Exercise Purple Star, Operations UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti during 1996, 1997 and 1998, Operation SEA EAGLE in Cuba during 1996, Joint and Combined Exercise Strong Resolve in SOUTHCOM Exercise New Horizons-Nicaragua in 1999, and participation in Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) One, 04-06, and upcoming 06-08.

The landscape and attitude of the nation changed on 11 September 2001, as the World Trade Center was toppled and the Pentagon damaged due to terrorist attacks. As 2d MAW and Cherry Point went through various THREATCONS, MWSS-271 Engineers immediately answered the call to increase security and help protect our personnel, family members, and facilities. Auxiliary Security Teams conducted local patrols and Crisis Management Force was sent to augment station MP'S. Engineers provided mobile and static Barri-cades. Security for the air station and MCALF Bogue Field was a fluid mission, requiring flexibility and constant vigilance, which lasted the remainder of the calendar year.

November '02 was a busy month as Engineers and Expeditionary Airfield (EAF) personnel participated in Exercise SILVER FLAG at Tyndall AFB, FL. Personnel received instruction and hands-on training in the various entities of the airfield crew such as Marking Teams, Damage Assessment Teams (DAT) Damage Assessment Repair Teams (DART), Minimum Airfield Operating Strip (MOS) Cra-ter Crew, Arresting Gear Crews and Airfield Utilities, which purified and pushed water for the exercise.

Engineer Company also conducted specialized training at MCALF Bogue to include Airfield Damage Repair (ADR) and water purification operations, while Utilities personnel constructed a shower system for personnel decontamination and wash rack for equip-ment decontamination. Meanwhile, Engineer and NBC Marines built and tested the prototypes, demonstrating the ability to effectively



decontaminate a minimum of three Vehicles per minute, thus greatly enhancing the overall NBC Defense capability of the Squadron and, potentially, the entire Fleet Marine Force.

After the successful mission during OIF under Marine Wing Support Group 37, the Workhorses of 271 began 2004 fully engaged in support of operations by 2d Marine Aircraft Wing. January kicked off with the deployment of a detachment, led by Captain Cramer, Engineer Company Commander, to 29 Palms, California to provide Aviation Ground Support to MAG-31 during Combined Arms Exercises (CAX) 3 and 4, where the Combat Engineers conducted demolition training, while the remainder of Engineer Company prepared personnel and equipment to deploy to Barbados to construct two K-span aircraft hangars in support of the Caribbean Island Regional Security System for US Southern Command.

During the first six months of OIF 04-06, Engineer Company worked hard at providing vital engineer support to forward operating bases Al Asad and Al Qaim. They completed over 500 taskers, supporting 11 squadrons. The company worked on many extensive projects: The Mesa Fence Line Project, repairing the water lines in Baghdadi three times, BDOC renovations, clearing fields of fire for perimeter towers, and numerous HESCO projects.

Other highlights of Engineer work during OIF 04-06 include the construction of five buildings, including a two-story building for communications platoon; obstacles and fence work at TCP Flea; the emplacement of HESCOs at the TACC; and sending combat engineers to support RCT-2 for Operation "River Walk". Combat Engineers still provided other support to the Wing in forms of Mine Clearing Detachments for various missions, including water line repairs and vehicle recoveries. Drafters and Surveyors did excellent work updating the base maps, making blue prints for various buildings, diagramming the various HESCO projects around base, and augmenting combat engineers.

Heavy Equipment was heavily employed throughout OIF 04-06. They completed over 1,800 requests and logged over 5,300 hours. In addition to the daily support they provided to the flight line, Heavy Equipment platoon completed a variety of projects. They built a road for MALS-26, graded a billeting area for the Iraqi Security Forces academy, moved 7 towers, assisted EAF in the installation of the high power turn up ramp and M-31 arresting gear, cleared fields of fire, and bermed and cleared trash from an Iraqi Cemetery. Heavy Equipment also spent many hours emplacing HESCO barriers around the base, to include the TACC, yellow can city, the chow hall and the gym for HMM-465.

Utilities Platoon was the most called-upon platoon on base during OIF 04-06. They completed over 140 taskers, completely rewired the MWSS-271 Headquarters facilities, as well as AGSOC building, Maintenance building, all of Combat Engineer's new construction, installed or repaired numerous air conditioning units, including those at TCP Flea and ECP-1. They also brought Camp Workhorse onto Base power, which conserved Squadron assets: the number of generator sites decreased from 33 to 19. They also rewired the new BDOC, Rock Ridge, planned the HAS project, and conducted an assessment on the ATC tower. They purified 200,000 gallons of water.

Since returning from OIF 04-06 in October 2005, Workhorse Engineers have been focused on reconstituting, rebuilding their Battle Roster, and preparing for the upcoming OIF 06-08.1 deployment to Al Asad, Iraq. Engineer Co participated in Squadron Exercises Pegasus Flight and Clydesdale at MCALF Bogue Field from September to November 2006. For Clydesdale, the Engineers set up camp for the first "entire squadron" field exercise since returning from OIF 04-06. They repeated this feat at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), AZ in December 2006 for Exercise Desert Talon.