

14 CES in North Carolina

“Deployment for training” (DFT) is not new to the members of 14 Construction Engineering Squadron (14 CES), as they have participated in numerous such exchanges to the United States over the past 15 years. Over the years members of 14 CES have taken on construction projects in Arkansas, California, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Florida, Pennsylvania and Arizona. 14 CES last deployed to North Carolina in 2011.

So it was sort of “routine” when twenty-six members of 14 Construction Engineering Squadron (14 CES), along with two fire fighters from 14 WG and one Captain from 192 CEF Aldergrove, BC, deployed via military airlift to Stanly County, North Carolina, on 11 March. There were three projects in support of the 145th Civil Engineer Squadron (145 CES) of the North Carolina Air National Guard (NCANG) and the 14 CES team took over the work that had been initiated by a team from 3 WG Bagotville. 145 CES is a unit of the 145 Airlift Wing of the NCANG. There are a number of ambitious and on-going construction projects to enhance the training capacity and capabilities of the 145 CES Regional Training Site (RTS). The North Carolina RTS is one of only two such sites in the USA and is utilized for training by the USAF, Air National Guard, and US Army Special Forces.

A new two-storey barracks (“double decker Hooches” is the suggested American nomenclature) will house 40 personnel when completed. The 14CES team completed the majority of the electrical, insulation, flooring, ventilation, and finish works. Final works shall be conducted by an ANG CES.



The team from 3 WG was able to erect the walls and install the doors of a 30' x 60' two-storey steel-frame metal clad building prior to the arrival of the 14 CES team. A small team of personnel from 91 CEF (Gander) and 144 CEF (Pictou) installed the roof and the overhead door mechanism. 145 CES intends to complete the remaining work by utilizing the skills of an ANG CES at a later date. The building, once completed, shall be used as a large fire training classroom.

Erecting a new steel-shell building was a challenge. The UBM (Ultimate Building Machine) held by 145 CES had not been used in six years so there were concerns about the internal bending mechanisms and the computer software. Adding to the concerns was the fact

that the host unit wanted to try erecting a building utilizing a design that they had never attempted before. After a day of trial and error the team of Sgt Ellis and Cpl Cook (both of 143 CEF Lunenburg), with the assistance of LCol Tim Moran the CO of 145 CES, were able to work out the software and mechanical bugs. Steel was cut, bent into arches, and swung into place at a rapid pace with the entire team working to 2100 on a Friday night. When the time came for 14 CES to leave the work site all arches were in place, water and sewer lines had been run and buried and the ground was ready to accept fibre re-enforced concrete for a floor. Completion of the building, which will be fitted out as a gym, will be done by an ANG CES.



While in North Carolina the team members were housed on-site in 8-person rooms, with a military cook from 3 WG and 3 cooks from the NCANG looking after the feeding arrangements. Some of the team members took time over the St Patrick's Day weekend to visit some of the local attractions. The Charlotte Motor Speedway (NASCAR) drew some attention as did the city of Charlotte. The humungous Bass Pro Shop in Concord lured in most of the folks at sometime during the deployment.

The team members gained valuable experience in cross-trades training, heavy equipment operations, deployment planning and execution, production and safety supervision, problem solving, and working with our American counter-parts. Valuable lessons were also learned about utilizing RCAF airlift when crossing international boundaries. This was a deployment for 'training' and was not tied to a production end state. That being said it was noted by our American hosts that the members of 14 CES did dedicate themselves to the construction tasks, utilizing all materials made available by 145 CES. They worked like sled-dogs and had fun.

14 CES is headquartered in Bridgewater and encompasses three semi-autonomous units – 91 CEF (Gander), 143 CEF (Lunenburg County) and 144 CEF (Pictou). Since being stood-up in 1994, personnel of 14 CES have served or trained in every province and territory in Canada. They have also served in over 25 countries such as Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cuba, Diego Garcia, Egypt, Eretria, France, Haiti, Jamaica, Kosovo, Kuwait, Macedonia, Netherlands and the UAE.

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