



200th and 202nd RED HORSE Squadrons Silmala, Latvia 2016

In late June 2016, the 200th and 202nd RED HORSE Squadrons (RHS) were approached by the National Guard Bureau to fill a last minute request to assist in completing a Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) project in Silmala, Latvia. The project was led by the 127th Prime BEEF Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) out of Michigan and kicked off on June 2, 2016. This project also incorporated soldiers from the Latvian National Armed Forces as well as Latvian civilian contractors.



HCA projects broaden the skillsets of U.S. troops by providing training in unique environments. HCA projects also present an opportunity to develop relationships with host nation personnel while enhancing facilities in the communities of the host nation.



The Silmala Kindergarten renovation included façade repairs, installation of insulation, lightning protection, as well as exterior improvements to include a paver sidewalk around the entire perimeter.

On June 27th 2016 the 200th and 202nd RHS team deployed to Silmala to provide the additional expertise and manpower needed to meet the project completion timeline. Upon arrival the team blended with the 127th Prime BEEF and Latvian Military Engineers. The team went straight to work, utilizing knowledge and skillsets from previous Deployments for Training (DFTs) in Eastern Europe, and quickly proved to be a vital asset to project completion.

Over the short 18 day deployment the team installed over 1,000 square feet of rock wool insulation, over 5,000 square feet of mesh and base façade coating, and 5,800 square feet of stucco. The fine detail work included 77 exterior windows, over 750 linear feet of lighting protection counterpoise system, and over 1,500 square meters of paver installation (all of which was completed by hand).





Though they worked tirelessly, putting in many 16 hour days, the RED HORSE and Prime BEEF team still found time to intermingle with the locals and develop valuable relationships. The team helped to enhance the image of the U.S. military and NATO in an area heavily influenced by Russia. Overall, the project was completed on time and provided an enhanced facility for Latvian students.



(The 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, is based out of Camp Perry and Mansfield Ohio; and the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron Florida Air National Guard, is based out of Camp Blanding, Florida; story by MSgt Robert Comer and 1st Lt Ashley Klase)