



200th, 203rd, 219th RED HORSE Squadrons Mock Runway Demolition and Reconstruction

In March 2016 a five person team from the 200th RED HORSE Squadron (200 RHS) traveled to the 203rd RED HORSE Squadron (203 RHS) in Virginia Beach to conduct a site visit for a potential project. This project would consist of the demolition and reconstruction of an 875' x 150' mock runway. Original coordination for this project began back in August of 2015 when the 203 RHS was notified they would be receiving funding for the project, which was going to be the same time as their mobilization. At that time the 200 RHS stepped up to lead the planning and execution with support from the 203 RHS members who stayed back from the deployment.



The training opportunities provided by this project were rare and highly sought after. RHS units are not often afforded the opportunity to train on extensive airfield operations unless mobilized and the unique project created a training environment where heavy equipment operators had the opportunity to train on earthwork, concrete and asphalt. The seven foot deep crater also allowed for the structural skillset to be utilized, as well as integration of vehicle maintenance to ensure the project never came to a standstill. Because of the

excellent training opportunity, a request for volunteers for the project was pushed out to the entire Air National Guard RED HORSE enterprise.

The site visit team established a project timeline of 10 July through 3 September, with four, twenty person rotations consisting of personnel from the 200 RHS and 219 RHS, and supported by three to four 203 RHS personnel. Planning and coordination continued through the spring with 200 RHS personnel eager to begin tackling the aggressive schedule. However, due to unforeseen contracting delays materials were not going to arrive until 26 July, putting the team almost two and a half weeks behind schedule.





With some creative schedule manipulation by the 200 RHS and an aggressive push from the 203 RHS to ensure contracting would be completed as quickly as possible, the first rotation still hit the ground running, almost as planned.

Without materials on ground, the team was able to focus the first two weeks entirely on demolishing the existing asphalt and getting the entire site to grade.

Trimble technology was used on the grader which allowed for excellent training, as well as extremely accurate grading operations.



With the having demolition rotation away with and plan for

of the floor and walls. Along with crater, the second rotation

over 3,000 tons of base course, and pour three of the six lanes totaling 310 cubic yards of concrete. With such a large portion of the concrete work complete, the third rotation was able to focus on the most extensive portion of the work, asphalt paving operations.



first rotation tackled all the work, the second started right crater excavation development of a the complex pour tackling the managed to prep

The team was determined to get the 725' x 150' asphalt pad perfect. They spent the first week on prepping the remainder of the base course, pouring two lanes of concrete, and developing a plan for the asphalt operations. With the combination of extensive planning, a few very long days and a



knowledgeable crew, the expansive area was paved in just three days. The final rotation had the task of completing the two access aprons, one final lane of concrete, a Mobile Aircraft Arresting System (MAAS) training pad, and all backfill and final grading for drainage of the adjacent site.

Even with the aggressive schedule and early contracting delays the team was able to complete the project ahead of schedule, culminating in a small ribbon cutting ceremony on 30 August. The final product included 550 cubic yards of concrete, 6,300 tons of base course and over 2,800 tons of asphalt. Overall, \$850,000, over 60 personnel, 2,250 equipment hours and 7,200 man hours went into the completion of the mock runway. A project that will provide Airfield Damage Repair training, a section of concrete 12" thick for dowel training, MAAS installation, Emergency Airfield Lighting System installation, as well as a real world helicopter landing area. This project will provide a training area not only for the 203 RHS, but other units in the Virginia Air National Guard, Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Army Reserves as well as the Navy Seals, making this a highly valued Joint asset.



The joined leadership from the 200 RHS, 203 RHS and the additional labor provided by the 219 RHS led to a successful project, and truly displayed the unique capabilities that RED HORSE possesses.



(The 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, is based out of Camp Perry and Mansfield Ohio; 203rd RED HORSE Squadron, Virginia Air National Guard is based out of Virginia Beach, Virginia; 219th RED HORSE Squadron, Montana Air National Guard is based out of Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls Montana. Story by 1st Lt Ashley Klase, SMSgt McBride and MSgt Barker)

