



Photos by Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny

1st. Lt. Christian Leighton (left), Senior Airman Thomas Ard, Senior Airman Steven Greenleaf and Master Sgt. John Garabedian, 407th ECES, sit inside one of the bunker barriers to illustrate taking cover in the shelter.

407th AEG reinforces base safety

ECES places bunkers and t-walls in key locations

By Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Measures to increase the safety of the Airmen assigned to the 407th AEG have been introduced as a result of recent rocket attacks to the base.

During the July 28 Commander's Call, Col. David Orr, 407th AEG commander, said that he was being proactive to increase the safety and security here.

"We immediately purchased bunker barriers and placed them in the Airmen living areas," Colonel Orr said. "Now when we get strategic warning, we have hardened shelters to protect our Airmen."

The 407th ECES and the 407th ECONS started making arrangements to purchase t-walls and bunker barriers to place around the Airman's living area, various work centers and high

traffic locations to increase safety during an attack.

"We made a plan to place the bunkers and t-walls by dividing Airmen living areas into quadrants and identifying areas where people traveled," 1st Lt. Christian Leighton said. "Once Colonel Orr approved the plan, we put these shelters in areas that were easily accessible. The recreation areas have also been fortified with t-walls and can provide shelter for a large amount of people. If we do come under attack, all of these areas can provide splinter protection."

These bunkers will provide splinter protection from the fragmentation of rockets and any shrapnel or flying debris. At each location, two bunkers were placed together to provide protection for more than a dozen people.

While the placement plan

was being developed, Tech. Sgt. Michael Tusinger from the 407th ECONS said he modified an existing Blanket Purchase Agreement for concrete to add \$54,860 to purchase the bunker barriers and additional t-walls to fortify existing buildings and to provide the additional bunker shelters. It only took one day to get the bunker barriers and t-walls on their way.

Once the contract was awarded, Senior Airman Thomas Ard, 407th ECES, worked with local contractors to make sure the bunkers were placed properly in the correct locations.

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Bunkers

Bunkers

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In the near future, benches will be placed inside the bunkers, and the bunkers will be reinforced with sandbags.

This project happened extremely fast, said Lieutenant Leighton.

“The very next morning after the attack, we started putting them up,” he said. “Captain Douglas Leedy and Tech Sgt. Tusinger from the 407th ECONS were very helpful in expediting the contracts. The 407th FP flight was also very accommodating by making last minute changes to their schedule to escort the additional local contractors who put the bunkers and t-walls into place.”

“Everyone put this on the fast track,” Lieutenant Leighton continued. “It was comforting to know that we are focused on defending the base and protecting the people.”



Senior Airman Thomas Ard, 407th ECES, monitors the contractors who are placing a t-wall at one of the entrances to a bunker barrier at the passenger terminal, July 31.

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Some things are worth repeating...
over and over and over and over and over ...

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