



Senior Airman Aaron Herrera uses a metal grinder to smooth the edges of a weld for a hand rail.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy



## The 49th CES Structure Shop keeps buildings and quality of life maintained

by **Laura Pellegrino**  
Sunburst staff writer

When a lock is broken, a window cracked or a wall damaged, there's one shop at Holloman with the tools and the skills to fix it.

The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron Structure Shop has almost \$1 million in tools they use to repair the structures on base. The shop's seven divisions – metal, welding, carpentry, sign, paint, locksmith and masonry – each specialize in a different area to ensure all repair needs can be met.

"Without the structure shop, the base would become rundown," said Master Sgt.

Daniel Holdridge, assistant NCOIC. "We maintain and repair every facility on base."

The shop also creates additions to facilities. In an upcoming project, members will build a new pizza shop in the community center.

Members of the carpentry or masonry shops will build walls, the metal shop will create ventilation ducts and the paint shop will add the finishing touches.

According to Sergeant Holdridge, the shop's 37 members complete about 250 jobs a month.

"Jobs are constantly coming in," he said. "There is a never-ending flow of repair work as well as major work orders."

When someone calls with a need for a repair, the controller fills out a form with the building number and a brief description of the problem. Depending on the type of problem, a group of repairmen are selected to check it, repair it and order materials if needed.

Besides unplanned repairs, the shop has a facility maintenance team to perform regular maintenance for several buildings on base.



Senior Airman Aaron Herrera uses an electric arc welder to weld pieces of metal together for a hand rail.

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Six shop members are part of the facility maintenance team. On a three month rotation, these members visit approximately 15 high-use buildings and dorms, maintaining problems as they arise.

On Mondays, the team inspects a building and creates a list of areas that need maintenance, said Master Sgt. Eddie Henry, facility maintenance NCOIC. The rest of the week is spent completing the projects on that list.

To efficiently complete their jobs, new shop members complete several months of technical school and have continual on the job training.

"It's great to watch the new airmen grow," Sergeant Henry said. "When they get out of tech school, they don't know much. We see them become skilled in their profession."

According to Sergeant Holdridge, maintaining structures helps maintain the quality of life on base.

"The jobs completed by the structure shop enhance the living conditions for everyone on base," he said.

For information about repairs, call 572-7784.



Top, right: Airman 1st Class Alex Varela uses tweezers to pin cords for dormitory locks.



Airman 1st Class Thomas Agee uses a tablesaw to cut a piece of wood for a dormitory project.