EVALUATION OF SHEAR TIE CONNECTORS FOR USE IN INSULATED CONCRETE SANDWICH PANELS

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Protection against blast loads has become a high priority for many government agencies. Blast retrofitting and structural hardening, much like earthquake retrofits, can prove to be costly. For this reason, it is important to understand that any structural element has an inherent capacity to absorb energy and provide some level of protection. An evaluation of an existing structure may allow a designer to utilize the full absorption capacity of a structural element, precluding the need for a blast-specific retrofit. To illustrate this concept, the blast resistances of non-load bearing precast/prestressed or tilt-up concrete sandwich wall panels (WP) are examined. These components are used extensively in modern construction for cladding of framed building systems and often provide a significant level of protection from blast events.
# Table of Contents

Summary ........................................................................................................................................ 1

1 Introduction .................................................................................................................................. 2
   1.1 Background .......................................................................................................................... 2
   1.2 Research Objectives ........................................................................................................... 3
   1.3 Scope .................................................................................................................................... 4

2 Shear Tie Mechanics .................................................................................................................... 5
   2.1 Shear Stress Demands .......................................................................................................... 5
   2.2 Approximate Shear Response of Ties .................................................................................... 6
   2.3 Shear Performance Modeling ............................................................................................... 8
   2.4 Shear Stiffness of Ties .......................................................................................................... 9

3 Experimental Program .................................................................................................................. 12
   3.1 Shear Tie Descriptions ........................................................................................................ 12
   3.2 Experiment Description ........................................................................................................ 15
   3.3 Test Specimens ................................................................................................................... 16
   3.4 Concrete Strength ................................................................................................................ 17

4 Experimental Results ................................................................................................................... 19
   4.1 Summary of Results ............................................................................................................ 19
   4.2 Discussion of Results .......................................................................................................... 20
   4.3 Summary Performance ........................................................................................................ 22

5 Conclusions and Recommendations ............................................................................................ 30
   5.1 Conclusions ....................................................................................................................... 30
   5.2 Recommendations .............................................................................................................. 30

6 References .................................................................................................................................. 31
# List of Figures

1. Shear Tie Connections in Sandwich Wall Panel ................................................................. 2
2. Shear Tie Installation in Foam in Sandwich Wall Panel ....................................................... 3
3. Shear Flow Free Body Diagrams ...................................................................................... 5
4. Backbone Development ................................................................................................... 7
5. Multi-linear Approximations ............................................................................................ 8
6. Shear Tie Deformation Demands ..................................................................................... 9
7. Typical Shear Slip of Exterior and Interior Wythes under Flexural Demands ................. 10
8. Flexural Panel Response and Relative Shear Slip .............................................................. 11
9. Photographs of Shear Tie Connectors ............................................................................. 14
10. Tie Specimens (Drawn to Scale) .................................................................................... 14
11. Measured Shear Tie Dimensions .................................................................................... 15
12. Testing Configuration ........................................................................................................ 16
13. Shear Specimen Configuration ...................................................................................... 17
14. Estimate Concrete Strength Gain for Group 1 Specimens ............................................... 18
15. Summary of Shearing Force - Deformation Performance ................................................. 21
16. Tie A - Dayton Delta Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response .................................... 22
17. Tie B - THERMOMASS Composite Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response ........... 23
18. Tie C - THERMOMASS Non-Composite Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response .... 23
19. Tie D1 – Altus Group C-Grid (EPS) Measured Shear-Deformation Response .................. 24
20. Tie D2 – Altus Group C-Grid (XPS) Measured Shear-Deformation Response .................... 24
21. Tie E – Universal Building Products Teplo Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response ... 25
22. Tie F – Universal Building Products Rockbar Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response 25
23. Tie G – Galvanized Steel C-Clip Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response .................. 26
24. Tie H1 – Galvanized Steel C-Clip Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response ............... 26
25. Tie H2 – Stainless Steel C-Clip Tie Shear-Deformation Response ..................................... 27
26. Tie I – M-Type Tie Shear-Deformation Response .............................................................. 27
27. Tie J – Meadow Burke Truss Girder Shear-Deformation Response .................................... 28
28. Tie K – Wire Truss Tie Shear-Deformation Response ......................................................... 28
29. Tie L – Ladur Truss Tie Shear-Deformation Response ....................................................... 29
List of Tables

1. Backbone Parameters ................................................................................................................. 7
2. Shear Tie Matrix .......................................................................................................................... 13
3. Summary of Experimental Results .......................................................................................... 19
Summary

Protection against blast loads has become a high priority for many government agencies. Blast retrofitting and structural hardening can prove to be costly. It is important to understand that any structural element has an inherent capacity to absorb energy and provide some level of protection. An evaluation of an existing structure may allow a designer to utilize the full energy absorption capacity of a structural element precluding the need for a blast-specific retrofit. To illustrate this concept, the blast resistances of non-load bearing precast/prestressed or tilt-up concrete sandwich wall panels were examined. These components are used extensively in modern construction for cladding of framed building systems and often provide a significant level of protection from blast events.

To provide resistance against lateral loads, like those generated by wind or blast pressures, sandwich wall panels behave in a composite manner. Shear ties are utilized to achieve a level of composite action between the interior and exterior concrete layers. A variety of shear tie types are used in domestic construction. This study evaluated the performance of shear ties to understand the failure modes of sandwich wall panels conducted on the performance of shear ties. This report provides an in-depth examination of the shearing force - deformation characteristics of ties commonly used in the United States. This data can be used to develop predictive response models for sandwich panels under extreme events in future research.

The experimental results indicate that shear ties used in sandwich wall panels have a considerable variation strength, stiffness, and deformability. The maximum shear strength of the connectors average approximately 2,400 lbs with a minimum of 595 lbs and maximum of 6,008 lbs. The connectors varied in their responses from pseudo-rigid-brittle, elastic-brittle, elastic-plastic and plastic-hardening.

Tri-linear constitutive relationships were developed for each type of shear connector tested. The ranges of response were divided into three regions: elastic, plastic, and unloading. The elastic stiffness, $K$, was defined by the slope of the secant to 75% of the ultimate load, $V_{max}$. The yield displacement, $\Delta_y$, was defined at the intercept of the ultimate load and the elastic curve. The ultimate displacement, $\Delta_u$, was taken at the point when the strength decreases by 50% of the ultimate.

The constitutive relationships developed in this work are recommended for use to model the performance of shear tie-sandwich wall panel systems in a blast event. However, it is important to note that for traditional design, shear tie connectors are used to resist construction-related stresses during handling and placement as well as in-service live loads such as wind loads. Under these demands adequate overdesign is used to ensure that the ties remain in their elastic range. The data generated within this report are applicable in cases where sandwich wall systems are loaded above service conditions, i.e., in a blast event, and should be used accordingly. Consequently, the results generated herein are not recommended to predict sandwich wall system capability under conventional gravity and live load demands.
1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The information presented in this report represents the second phase of work under a Collaborative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between the Portland Cement Association (PCA) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Airbase Technology Division, Tyndall Air Force Base, Force Protection Branch (CRADA 05-119-ML-01). Sample donations have been provided from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) and Tilt-up Concrete Association (TCA) with support of their associated member companies. The overall research objective was to assess the inherent blast resistance of conventional concrete products. Conventional concrete products can be further defined as systems that are commercially and readily produced or engineered without any blast considerations/details in their design.

In the precast concrete wall industry, a large development thrust has been in green building technology and acquiring Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification. With these requirements and guidelines the industry has turned to encased insulation to enhance the thermal performance of the building envelope. The insulation is sandwiched between an exterior and interior concrete layer to limit damage of the insulation and to ease construction. Shear ties are used to provide integrity between the interior and exterior concrete sections, referred to as wythes, as illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The shear ties allow the panels to be lifted and handled during building erection and allow the panels to behave as a composite against flexural demands. Varying the type and arrangement of the shear tie connectors allowed the panels to act as partially to fully composite.

![Figure 1. Shear Tie Connections in Sandwich Wall Panel](image-url)
Shear ties are available in a variety of materials and configurations. These include carbon steel, stainless steel, galvanized carbon steel, carbon fiber reinforced polymers (CFRP), glass fiber reinforced polymer (GFRP), and basalt fiber reinforced polymer (BFRP). The various materials are chosen for their cost, thermal, or corrosion resistance benefits. Steel ties are commonly used when thermal and corrosion resistance is not a concern. These connectors are available at the lowest cost. When corrosion resistance is needed stainless steel or galvanized steel can be used at an increased cost. Unfortunately, steel has a high thermal conductivity which results in lower insulation properties for the walls. When high thermal requirements are specified and corrosion is a risk, GFRP, CFRP, or BFRP can be used.

Connectors are produced in a variety of configurations including trusses, pins, rods, and grids. From a force-based perspective, the shear capacity of the connectors can be determined either through first principles of engineering or through experimental validation. From a deformation-based perspective the variation in the shear connector configuration results in a range of deformation ability. For example, a FRP truss connector would likely produce a stiff, brittle response while a steel rod would likely result in a flexible response with large ductility. As a consequence the large displacement flexural response of a wall panel can vary significantly based on the type of connector used. To accurately predict the ultimate response of a sandwich panel subject to an increasing lateral pressure, the response of the shear tie connectors must be well defined. Due to the variety of connectors available, a consistent experimental approach was used to quantify and compare the effectiveness of shear ties in this research.

1.2 Research Objectives

A series of experiments were conducted on commercially available shear ties for use in precast concrete sandwich wall panels. A validated methodology is needed to predict the
ultimate flexural strength of sandwich panels. To accomplish this, the characteristics of the
ties used in the panel must be known. The objectives of the research were as follows:

- Quantify the shear strength of tie commercially-available domestic tie connectors
  for sandwich wall construction.
- Quantify the shearing force – deformation response of each connector type.
- Develop a simplified backbone response for each connector to facilitate modeling of
  composite action.

1.3 Scope

For traditional design, shear tie connectors are used to resist construction-related stresses
during handling and placement as well as in-service live loads such as wind loads. Under
these demands adequate overdesign is used to ensure that the ties remain in their elastic
range. The data generated within this report are intended to be applicable in cases where
sandwich wall systems are loaded above service conditions, i.e., in a blast event, and must be
used accordingly. Consequently, the results generated herein are not recommended for use to
predict sandwich wall system capability under conventional gravity and live load demands.
2 Shear Tie Mechanics

2.1 Shear Stress Demands

The flexural demands placed on sandwich panels produce internal compression, tension, and shear stresses. To support these internal demands as a composite section, the sandwich panel must have adequate tie reinforcement between the interior and exterior concrete wythes. This is accomplished by the placement of shear ties or the use of solid concrete zones between wythes. This study did not consider the solid concrete zone shear transfer mechanism, because the industry is moving away from these designs to ensure greater thermal properties in the wall panel. As illustrated in Figure 3, the flexural demands produce a shear demand perpendicular to the direction of loading. The magnitude of the shear can be computed using three techniques summarized as follows:

- Method 1 – Shear stress is computed from the maximum compression or tension force at the maximum moment region. This method is recommended by PCI [1997].
- Method 2 – Shear stress is computed from first principles. The derivation of this method is based on the elastic response of the member, thus the assumption is violated once cracking occurs.
- Method 3 – Shear stress is computed from the vertical shear acting on the panel. This method is recommended by American Concrete Institute (ACI) Committee 318 [2005].

![Shear Flow Free Body Diagrams](image)

While Method 2 and 3 can be used; Method 1 is typically used for the design of shear reinforcement for concrete sandwich wall panels following the practice of PCI [1997]. The maximum horizontal shear force is computed by taking the minimum of the compression and tension capacity of the section at midspan. The number of ties needed to resist the shear force must be placed on each half of the wall spanning from midspan to the support. To simplify the calculation the assumption is made that the entire exterior wythe is acting in compression.
The required shear capacity, $V_{\text{required}}$, can be computed as follows:

$$V_{\text{required}} = \min (T, C), \text{[kips]}$$

$$T = A_{ps} f_{ps} + A_s f_y$$

$$C = 0.85 f'_c b t_c$$

where

- $A_{ps}$ = Area of prestressing steel in tension wythe, [in$^2$]
- $A_s$ = Area of non-prestressed steel in tension wythe, [in$^2$]
- $f_{ps}$ = Stress in prestressing steel at ultimate flexural strength, [ksi]
- $f_y$ = Yield stress in non-prestressed steel [ksi]
- $f'_c$ = Concrete compressive strength, [ksi]
- $b$ = Width of wall panel, [in.]
- $t_c$ = Thickness of compression wythe, [in.]

To achieve a fully composite panel response the required number of shear ties, $N_{\text{required}}$, can then be computed using the following relationship:

$$N_{\text{required}} > \frac{V_{\text{required}}}{V_{\text{tie-capacity}}}$$

where

- $V_{\text{tie-capacity}}$ = Strength of tie in shear [kips]

The strength of the shear ties commercially available in the U.S. are determined in this study and are summarized in section 2.4.

### 2.2 Approximate Shear Response of Ties

A simplified multi-linear curve was developed for each connector to model their response. The backbone curve was based on the average response computed for each connector type. The ranges of response are divided into three regions: elastic, plastic, and unloading. The elastic branch is defined by the secant to 75% of the ultimate load, $V_{\text{max}}$. The yield displacement, $\Delta_y$, is defined at the intercept of the ultimate load and the elastic curve. The ultimate displacement, $\Delta_u$, is taken at the point when the strength decreases by 50% of the ultimate. The elastic stiffness, $K$, is tabulated along with the displacement at the ultimate load, $\Delta_m$. A schematic of the tri-linear curve development is illustrated in Figure 4. The measured properties from the experiments are summarized in Table 1 and Figure 5. These backbone curves can be used to model the shear response of connectors.
Figure 4. Backbone Development

Table 1. Backbone Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>$K$ [lb/in.]</th>
<th>$V_{max}^*$ [lb]</th>
<th>$\Delta e$ [in.]</th>
<th>$\Delta y$ [in.]</th>
<th>$\Delta m$ [in.]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95500</td>
<td>2164</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>22243</td>
<td>2675</td>
<td>0.090</td>
<td>0.120</td>
<td>0.326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1145</td>
<td>1104</td>
<td>0.723</td>
<td>0.964</td>
<td>1.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>161806</td>
<td>3220</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2</td>
<td>1027099</td>
<td>2966</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>3058</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>0.189</td>
<td>0.251</td>
<td>0.646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>2926</td>
<td>1737</td>
<td>0.445</td>
<td>0.594</td>
<td>0.529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>2064</td>
<td>0.834</td>
<td>0.676</td>
<td>0.984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>0.336</td>
<td>0.448</td>
<td>0.637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2</td>
<td>33719</td>
<td>1086</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>0.544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>4304</td>
<td>3847</td>
<td>0.670</td>
<td>0.894</td>
<td>1.178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>214584</td>
<td>4939</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>26830</td>
<td>2036</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td>0.076</td>
<td>0.308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>2320</td>
<td>1593</td>
<td>0.515</td>
<td>0.687</td>
<td>0.825</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Ultimate strength from average response curve
** Displacement at 50% of $V_{max}$ not measured
2.3 Shear Performance Modeling

For a sandwich panel to behave as a true composite, the ties must have a rigid response under shear. Three of the connectors (D1, D2, and J) exhibited pseudo-rigid response up to an identifiable shear force. If the shear demand exceeds the limit of the rigid response, the ties deform, and the panels are expected to act independently beyond this point. This action is illustrated in Figure 6. As the tie becomes more flexible with progressive damage, the behavior of the panels approaches a non-composite response. The non-composite deformation response can be considered as a stacked plate where each plate is individually deforming with the same shape at the contact surface. Under this condition the shear ties would be subject to zero shear deformation at mid-span and with increasing shear deformation reaching a maximum at the supports. Knowing the relative slip at each connector, the shear demand in each shear tie can be determined from the constitutive relationship illustrated in Figure 5. Thus, the influence of tie stiffness and strength on ultimate panel capacity can be calculated. Further research on this topic is ongoing.
2.4 Shear Stiffness of Ties

In many cases the stiffness and failure mode of the shear tie can influence the ultimate flexural capacity of a sandwich panel. In a related study [Naito et. al., 2010] a series of sandwich wall panels were subjected to a monotonically increasing uniform load until failure occurred. The flexural response of the panel and the relative shear slip of the interior and exterior wythes were measured as illustrated in Figure 7. A number of different shear ties and reinforcement strategies were examined.
Figure 7. Typical Shear Slip of Exterior and Interior Wythes under Flexural Demands

The shear response of the ties influenced the shear failure modes of the panels. As an example, the results of two experiments are presented in Figure 8. The results include the applied pressure and support rotations for three panels with the same flexural design. The tie type was varied between the panels. Panel PCS4 incorporated a flexible tie, panel PCS5 a moderately stiff tie, and PCS6 a stiff tie. The variation in tie types resulted in a change in the amount of relative slip measured between the wythes and a change in the ultimate capacity of the panels. As illustrated, the load-deformation behavior is sensitive to the tie type used. Between cracking and ultimate capacity, the use of a stiff tie increases the strength of the panel. To properly determine the load – deformation response, or resistance function, of a sandwich panel subjected to uniform loads, the connector shear load-deformation characteristics must be known.
Figure 8. Flexural Panel Response and Relative Shear Slip
3 Experimental Program

3.1 Shear Tie Descriptions

Direct shear experiments were conducted on commercially-available connectors from the United States. The research program included both thermally-efficient polymer-based connections and traditional steel connections. The polymer connections included the following:

- (A) Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Delta Tie produced by Dayton Superior;
- (B) THERMOMASS® composite GFRP pins;
- (C) THERMOMASS® non-composite GFRP pins;
- (D) Altus Group CFRP Grid;
- (E) Universal Building products GFRP Teplo Tie; and
- (F) Universal Building products Basalt FRP RockBar.

The traditional steel connections included the following:

- (G) a galvanized steel C-clip by TSA,
- (H-1) galvanized C-clip produced by Dayton Superior,
- (H-2) stainless steel C-Clip produced by Dayton Superior,
- (I) galvanized steel M-Clip,
- (J) welded wire truss by Meadow Burke,
- (K) galvanized welded wire truss by Dayton, and
- (L) galvanized welded wire ladder by Dayton.

The overall test matrix is summarized in Table 2.
Table 2. Shear Tie Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Tie Type</th>
<th>Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
<td>Delta Tie</td>
<td>GFRP Grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>THERMOMASS</td>
<td>Composite Tie</td>
<td>GFRP Pin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>THERMOMASS</td>
<td>Non-Composite Tie</td>
<td>GFRP Pin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-1</td>
<td>Altus Group</td>
<td>C-Grid w/ EPS</td>
<td>CFRP Grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-2</td>
<td>Altus Group</td>
<td>C-Grid w/ XPS</td>
<td>CFRP Grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Universal Building</td>
<td>TeploTie</td>
<td>GFRP Tie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Universal Building</td>
<td>RockBar</td>
<td>Basalt FRP Bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>TSA Manufacturing</td>
<td>C-Clip</td>
<td>Carbon Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-1</td>
<td>Dayton Superior</td>
<td>C-Clip</td>
<td>Galvanized Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-2</td>
<td>Dayton Superior</td>
<td>C-Clip</td>
<td>Stainless Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Dayton Superior</td>
<td>M-Clip</td>
<td>Galvanized Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Meadow Burke</td>
<td>Welded Wire Girder</td>
<td>1008 Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Dayton Superior</td>
<td>Single Wythe Truss</td>
<td>Hot Dipped Galvanized Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Dayton Superior</td>
<td>Single Wythe Ladur</td>
<td>Hot Dipped Galvanized Steel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Two tests conducted.
2 One test conducted.
3 Four tests conducted.

The thirteen connectors are illustrated in Figure 9. The connectors as they were configured in each specimen are illustrated in Figure 10. The dimensions of each connector were measured and are reproduced in Figure 11.
Figure 9. Photographs of Shear Tie Connectors

Figure 10. Tie Specimens (Drawn to Scale).
3.2 Experiment Description

An experimental fixture was developed to evaluate the shear response of connectors. The loading fixture is illustrated in Figure 12. The specimen contains two connectors to minimize eccentricity and secondary demands on the connection during evaluation. An alternate fixture is specified in ASTM E488 Strength of Anchors in Concrete and Masonry Elements [2003]. The method illustrated in ASTM consists of a connector with a shear load applied directly to the connector. This creates an unrealistic boundary condition and produces prying forces on the connector resulting in a non-conservative measurement of strength. The fixture illustrated in Figure 12 was chosen to more accurately replicate the stresses acting on sandwich wall connectors under large flexural demands.

A minimum of three replicate tests were conducted for each connector type unless otherwise noted. Each tie was loaded to failure under a monotonically increasing displacement demand. This demand was used to replicate the conditions that would occur on ties located in a sandwich wall panel under a uniform blast-generated load. Blast pressure demands on walls are characterized by a high intensity dynamic load which exponentially decays over a short duration (typically, less than 100 msec). As a consequence the predominant flexural response of the panel occurs once during the initial positive pressure application. The shear ties are thus subject to the greatest demand once during the inbound cycle and subsequently are loaded to a lesser degree as the panel undergoes free vibration response. The cyclic response was not examined in this study.
The experiments were conducted with a Material Testing System (MTS) closed-loop servo-controlled testing frame. The test frame was operated in displacement control of the MTS actuator. The specimens were examined at quasi-static loading rates. A displacement rate of 0.50 inch per minute was used for specimens A through F. Samples G through L were loaded at 0.25 inch per minute. The applied force was measured using a load cell in line with the MTS actuator. The shear strength tabulated in the report represents the force per connector (half of the load cell reading). The displacement was measured directly on the specimen using a linear variable displacement transducer (LVDT) as illustrated in Figure 12.

3.3 Test Specimens

All connectors were tested in a standardized specimen configuration. The tie specimens utilized 2 inches of insulation, which is commonly used in sandwich wall construction. Each specimen was fabricated from concrete with a compressive strength of approximately 4,000 psi at 28 days. The insulation consists of extruded polystyrene (XPS, also known as blue or pink board) in all cases except D1. Because of the low thermal conductivity of the C-grid system Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), also known as bead board, is commonly used for this
connector. For completeness the C-grid connection was evaluated with both XPS and EPS insulation.

A standard embedment was used on each connector. To fit the connectors within the concrete specimen, 3-inch-thick exterior layers and a 5-inch-thick interior layer was used. The specimen details are illustrated in Figure 13.

![Figure 13. Shear Specimen Configuration](image)

### 3.4 Concrete Strength

The specimens were fabricated in four sets. The first consisted of A, B, C, E, F, and G. The second group consisted of H, I, K, and L. The third group consisted of D connectors and the fourth group consisted of J and an addition H detail (H2-4). For the first group the compressive strength of the concrete used in fabrication of the specimens was measured prior to the shear test series and repeated after the series was completed. A concrete strength gain curve was developed in accordance with ACI 209 procedures and was used to estimate the strength of each specimen at time of testing. The strength gain formulation for the first group of tie tests is presented in Figure 14. The compressive strength for these specimen were based on the age of the concrete at the age of testing. The second group of tests was conducted over a period of two days. A compressive strength of 4,056 psi was measured at the time of shear testing in accordance with ASTM C 39 procedures. Group 3 and 4 were tested over a few days. Concrete compression strength tests were conducted in accordance with ASTM C39 following the last shear test. The compressive strength of group 3 was 10,357 psi. The compressive strength of group 4 was 5,081 ± 26 psi. The concrete compressive strength of each test is summarized along with the shear capacities are presented in Section 4.
Figure 14. Estimate Concrete Strength Gain for Group 1 Specimens

\[ f'c(t) = \frac{t}{14.969 + 0.475t} \times 4491 \text{ psi} \]
4 Experimental Results

4.1 Summary of Results

A summary of the measured response of each experiment is presented in this section. The concrete compressive strength at the time of testing, $f'_c$, the peak shear strength, corresponding displacement, energy absorbed at the peak load, the average strength and the coefficient of variation on the strength are presented in Table 3. The shear strength measured represents the strength of one connector. The measured force was divided in half to account for the two tie experimental setup. The energy absorbed also represents the performance of one connector.

Table 3. Summary of Experimental Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Tie Type</th>
<th>$f'_c$ [psi]</th>
<th>Peak Shear Strength [lbs]</th>
<th>Corresponding Displacement [in.]</th>
<th>Energy Absorbed at 0.2in. [lbs-in.]</th>
<th>Energy Absorbed at peak [lbs-in.]</th>
<th>Average Strength [lbs]</th>
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<tr>
<td>A1</td>
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Table 3. Summary of Experimental Results (Concluded)

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<th>ID</th>
<th>Tie Type</th>
<th>$f'_{c}$ [psi]</th>
<th>Peak Shear Strength [lbs]</th>
<th>Corresponding Displacement [in.]</th>
<th>Energy Absorbed at 0.2in. [lbs-in.]</th>
<th>Energy Absorbed at peak [lbs-in.]</th>
<th>Average Strength [lbs]</th>
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</table>

4.2 Discussion of Results

As illustrated in Table 3 and Figure 15, shear ties used in sandwich wall panels have a considerable variation in strength, stiffness, and deformability. The maximum shear strength of the connectors averages approximately 2,400 lbs with a minimum of 595 lbs and a maximum of 6,008 lbs. The connectors exhibited pseudo-rigid-brittle, elastic-brittle, elastic-plastic, plastic-hardening and a variety of other responses.

The variation in shear force-deformation response was directly related to the variability in connector design. The FRP truss type connections (A and D) exhibited an elastic brittle response, because the shear behavior was dominated by FRP in tension. The steel wire truss...
(K) exhibited an elastic plastic behavior, because the shear behavior was dominated by steel in tension. The steel M-clip (I) and the C-clip with adequate embedment (G) exhibited an elastic-plastic behavior at low shear deformations, because the leg of the connection is subjected to dowel action. As the deformation increased, the connector legs changed to a tension mode resulting in the observed increase in strength. A similar behavior was observed in the steel ladder connection (L); however, a smaller wire diameter caused the forces to be lower. Post-yield hardening did not occur in the standard C-clip details (H) because of the lack of embedment. Post-test inspection revealed that these connections failed due to pullout from the concrete. The FRP non-composite pins (C and E) exhibited an elastic-plastic response with minor hardening. These connections failed by combined flexure-tension demands at the concrete interface. The composite FRP pin (B) produced an elastic-plastic response with high deformation capacity. The failure mode of these connections was dominated by laminar fracture of the connector and a combined flexure-tension mode at the concrete interface.

![Figure 15. Summary of Shearing Force - Deformation Performance](image)

It is important to note that for traditional design, shear tie connectors are used to resist construction-related stresses during handling and placement as well as in-service live loads such as wind loads. Under these demands adequate overdesign is used to ensure that the ties remain in their elastic range. The data generated within this report are applicable in cases where sandwich wall systems are loaded above service conditions, i.e., in a blast event, and should be used accordingly. Consequently, the results generated herein should not be used to predict sandwich wall system capability under conventional gravity and live load demands.
4.3 Summary Performance

The measured force displacement response curves for each shear tie type are presented in this section. As noted previously displacements were measured using an external LVDT, and force was measured using the MTS load cell. The response of each test is presented in graphical form. For each connector three test replicates are presented. An average of the three responses is computed for each data set. The average curve is included in each figure.

![Figure 16. Tie A - Dayton Delta Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response](image-url)
Figure 17. Tie B - THERMOMASS Composite Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response

Figure 18. Tie C - THERMOMASS Non-Composite Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response
Figure 19. Tie D1 – Altus Group C-Grid (EPS) Measured Shear-Deformation Response

Figure 20. Tie D2 – Altus Group C-Grid (XPS) Measured Shear-Deformation Response
Figure 21. Tie E – Universal Building Products Teplo Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response

Figure 22. Tie F – Universal Building Products Rockbar Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response
Figure 23. Tie G – Galvanized Steel C-Clip Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response

Figure 24. Tie H1 – Galvanized Steel C-Clip Tie Measured Shear-Deformation Response
Figure 25. Tie H2 – Stainless Steel C-Clip Tie Shear-Deformation Response

Figure 26. Tie I – M-Type Tie Shear-Deformation Response
Figure 27. Tie J – Meadow Burke Truss Girder Shear-Deformation Response

Figure 28. Tie K – Wire Truss Tie Shear-Deformation Response
Figure 29. Tie L – Ladur Truss Tie Shear-Deformation Response
5 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The responses of shear ties used in precast concrete sandwich wall panels were investigated to assess their inherent resistance at loads beyond service loads, a demand typical of a blast event. Domestically available shear tie systems were procured and tested in a shear fixture. The strength, stiffness and deformation capability of these ties were measured. The following conclusions were drawn from this study.

Shear ties used in sandwich wall panels vary considerably in strength, stiffness, and deformability. The maximum shear strength of the connectors tested in this study averaged approximately 2,400 lbs with a minimum of 595 lbs and max of 6,008 lbs.

Connector responses include pseudo-rigid-brittle, elastic-brittle, elastic-plastic and plastic-hardening. Tri-linear constitutive relationships were developed for each type of shear connector tested. The ranges of response were divided into three regions: (1) elastic, (2) plastic, and (3) unloading. The elastic stiffness, $K$, was defined by the slope the secant to 75% of the ultimate load, $V_{\text{max}}$. The yield displacement, $\Delta_y$, was defined at the intercept of the ultimate load and the elastic curve. The ultimate displacement, $\Delta_u$, was taken at the point when the strength decreases by 50% of the ultimate. These relationships can be used to.

5.2 Recommendations

The constitutive relationships developed in this work are recommended for use to model the performance of shear tie-sandwich wall panel systems in a blast event. However, it is important to note that for traditional design, shear tie connectors are used to resist construction-related stresses during handling and placement as well as in-service live loads such as wind loads. Under these demands adequate overdesign is used to ensure that the ties remain in their elastic range. The data generated within this report are applicable in cases where sandwich wall systems are loaded above service conditions, i.e., in a blast event, and should be used accordingly. Consequently, the results generated herein are not recommended to predict sandwich wall system capability under conventional gravity and live load demands.

Experimental validation of these relationships is recommended using full-scale blast experiments.
6 References


