

Brigade Returns to USAREUR After 11 Years

By Mr. Arthur McQueen

Note: This article is a reprint from a U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) News Release from 21 January 2003.

Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg, Germany—The 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) was reactivated 21 January here in a ceremony attended by more than 150 people.

USAREUR Chief of Staff Major General Anthony R. Jones unfurled the colors of the brigade, cased in 1992 at another ceremony just 50 kilometers away in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Jones presented the colors to the new commander, Colonel William H. McCoy, Jr., who also serves as USAREUR's Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer. McCoy then passed them to Engineer Regimental Command Sergeant Major William D. McDaniel, Jr., for inclusion in the color guard.

McCoy told the attendees the brigade will be at full strength by the end of the year and praised the efforts of the

USAREUR staff and others who made the reactivation possible. McCoy challenged his soldiers to be "ready to deploy, tactically and technically proficient." He told USAREUR Commanding General B. B. Bell, "Sir, we are ready."

Specialist Abraham Santana was picked by his first sergeant to be the first soldier to receive and carry the colors. "It's really an honor to carry this flag because of the Army tradition behind it."

The 18th Engineer Brigade, whose motto "Essayons" means "Let us try," has a history dating back to 1921 when it was constituted as the 347th Engineers (General Service) as a reserve unit. It entered active service on 6 May 1942 and entered combat on 29 June 1944, in France.

The brigade was inactivated and reactivated several times prior to July 1965, when it was reactivated and moved to Vietnam. The brigade constructed everything from depots to seaports and

airfields to orphanages throughout central and northern Vietnam. It won four meritorious unit commendations and one Republic of Vietnam civil action honor medal, first class, prior to inactivation in 1971.

USAREUR benefited from 15 years of service by the 18th Engineer Brigade, from 1977 to 1992. The brigade provided rail and sea deployment support to the VII Corps and deployed a combat heavy battalion and topographic company to support operations in southwest Asia.

The brigade also coordinated all engineer efforts of a joint and combined engineer force, providing construction and relief support to Kurdish refugees during Operation Provide Comfort. It was last inactivated as part of the reduction of forces in Europe on 15 October 1992.



Mr. McQueen is a public affairs specialist with Headquarters, USAREUR and 7th Army in Germany.



Colonel William H. McCoy, Jr. (left) passes the just-unfurled colors of the 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) to Engineer Regimental Command Sergeant Major William D. McDaniel, Jr. (right).

Photo by Arthur McQueen