

19th Engineer Battalion

Deployment Ceremony



Bridle and Reins!

**24 April 2009
Sadowski Field House
Fort Knox, Kentucky**

**The Officers and Soldiers
of the 19th Engineer Battalion**

**welcome you to their
Deployment Ceremony**

as

COL Richard G. Kaiser

formally departs

the Battalion

on the

Twenty Fourth day of April,

Two Thousand and Nine.

Sequence of Events

Formation of Troops

Posting of Colors

Invocation

National Anthem

Casing of the Colors

Introduction of VIPs

Remarks

**COL Richard G. Kaiser
Commander, 20th Engineer Brigade**

**LTC Heath C. Roscoe
Commander, 19th Engineer Battalion**

Engineer Song

Army Song

Benediction



A Wisconsin native, Colonel Richard G. Kaiser was commissioned in 1987 as an engineer officer and ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Marquette University, a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and a Master of Arts Degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College.

He has served in a variety of command and staff assignments including the 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division; 20th Engineer Brigade (Corps) (Airborne) and Commander, A Company, 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Airborne); US Army Engineer Center and School; 326th Engineer Battalion (AASLT), 101st Airborne Division (AASLT); Senior Engineer Observer-Controller at the Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC), Hohenfels, Germany; Commander, 41st Engineer Battalion and Commander, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Course, Airborne, Air Assault, Jumpmaster, and Ranger Courses, Combined Arms Services Staff School, British Joint Command and General Staff College, the Senior Officer's Logistics Management Course, and the US Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal w/oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal w/4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal w/1 Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2 Bronze Stars, Afghan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal w/1 Bronze Star, Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 2, NATO Medal, the Kuwaiti and Saudi Liberation Medals, Army Service Ribbon, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

He has been awarded the Combat Action Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, German Parachutist Badge (Bronze), and the Australian Parachutist Badge. He is a recipient of the Bronze Order of the DeFluery Medal. Colonel Kaiser is married and has two sons.

History of the 19th Engineer Battalion

The 19th Engineer Battalion was constituted 1 October 1933 in the Regular Army as 3d Battalion, 36th Engineers (General Service). Re-designated 13 January 1941 as the 3d Battalion, 36th Engineers (Combat). Activated 1 June 1941 at Plattsburgh Barracks, New York. (Departed New York Port of Embarkation 2 November 1942 for overseas service and landed at Casablanca, North Africa on 11 November 1942. Participated in amphibious assault landings at Licata, Sicily on 9 July 1943, at Salerno Italy on 10 September 1943, at Anzio on 22 January 1944 and in Southern France on 15 August 1944). Reorganized at Val-et-Chatillon France and re-designated 15 February 1945 as 2828th Engineer Combat Battalion. Inactivated 16 June 1946 in Germany. Re-designated 29 April 1947 as the 19th Engineer Combat Battalion. Activated 9 July 1952 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Re-designated 19 June 1953 as the 19th Engineer Battalion. Inactivated 15 December 1970 at Fort Lewis, Washington; activated 21 December 1975 at Fort Lewis. Participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm January through May 1991. Inactivated 15 September 1997; Activated 16 October 2005 at Fort Knox.

COAT OF ARMS

SHIELD: Per bend wavy gules and argent, on the first a sea horse naiant or the second; a bordure similarly divided counterchanged.

CREST: On a wreath of the colors (argent and gules) between two palm branches or a castle tower embattled with four merlons barbed sable and pendant there from a plumb bob stringed or charged with three barrulets of the second.

MOTTO: *Acutum Acumen* (Sharpness of Ingenuity).

The shield of the coat of arms originally approved for the 36th Engineers, differenced by a border, is used to indicate the descent of the 19th Engineer Battalion from the 3d Battalion of that regiment. The colors red and white are used for Engineers. The wavy partition line and the sea horse symbolize service and participation in marine transportation operations. The palm branches represent two campaigns in North Africa during World War II; the castle tower denotes eight campaigns in Europe and the barbed merlons on the castle signify participation in four assault landings. The yellow plumb bob with three red bars refers to the flag of the Republic of South Vietnam where the unit served in thirteen campaigns.

Bridle and Reins!

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II

Algeria-French Morocco (w/ arrowhead)
Tunisia
Sicily (w/ arrowhead)
Naples-Foggia (w/ arrowhead)
Anzio (w/ arrowhead)
Rome-Arno
Southern France (w/ arrowhead)
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Vietnam

Defense
Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase VII
Cease-Fire

Southwest Asia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

GWOT

Iraq

DECORATIONS

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class

History of the Bridle and Reins

It seems that on 22 January 1944, LTC Larson, the Battalion Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 36th Regiment, from which the 19th Engineer Battalion is descended, was in a landing craft headed for the port of Anzio. It was pre-dawn on that fateful day and LTC Larson's instructions were to land with a Ranger Task Force and clear the Port of Anzio, so that the rest of the Regiment with equipment could land there. Although unprepared for the invasion, the Germans did manage to get a few rounds of Artillery off at the approaching small landing craft. One round was so close that it threw LTC Larson's boat into the air and dumped LTC Larson into the sea. Weighted down by all of his equipment, LTC Larson immediately started to go under.

In his semi-conscious state, LTC Larson reached out and grabbed at what he thought was a piece of rope as a drowning man clutches at a straw. Still in a semi-conscious state, he swears that what he thought was a rope was actually the reins of a bridle worn by, of all things, a Seahorse.

When LTC Larson recovered consciousness he was lying on the dock with an aid man kneeling beside him. He started to tell the aid man of the experience when he stopped himself. He figured the story was too unbelievable. As he started to get up, he looked in his hand and he still had the reins with the bit. Forgetting about it temporarily he got up, placed the reins and bit in his pack and took command of the Battalion again. So thoroughly did his Battalion clear the port that the rest of the Regiment was able to land at the port rather than assault the beach as anticipated.

During a rest period, he mentioned the incident to the Regimental Commander who passed it off as a good story but hardly true. The Regimental Commander concluded that LTC Larson picked the bit and reins at the dock where one of the many horses around the port may have lost them in the confusion of battle. However, as LTC Larson retold the story to some Italian workers, they said they had never seen such a bit before and that certainly none of the horses around Anzio ever had one like it, and also there were no teeth marks on the bit, as the horses frequently took the bit in their teeth as they went along. Still being unable to fully resolve the story himself, LTC Larson gave the bit and reins to one of the workers around the dock.

The story, however, did not die and was told and retold so much that the story was still around at the end of the war when the 2828th Engineer Battalion, formerly the 3d Battalion, was renamed the 19th Engineer Battalion.

When the 19th was activated in 1952 the legend was still around, but by this time it was just a vague memory. It remained this way until August of 1961. At this time LTC Regn assigned the Battalion Executive Officer the task of finding more information out about the legend or contacting someone who had served with the old 36th or knew of its exploits. One of the letters he wrote went to the Mayor of Anzio. The Mayor sent us the name of Antonio Batelli, the worker who claimed to be the one to whom LTC Larson gave the bit and reins. Further correspondence with Mr. Batelli revealed that he had kept the bit and reins as a souvenir and had never used it since it was different than any he had used. During September 1961 the bit and reins were returned to the Seahorse Battalion, and kept as a symbol of the command.

*19th Engineer Battalion
Commanders and Staff*

ARMY SONG

**First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along**

**Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.**

**Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong
(TWO! THREE!)**

**For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.**

**Thank You For Attending
Today's Ceremony and
Thank You For Your Support
Of The 19th Engineer
Battalion!
Bridle and Reins!
Stand Tall!**

