



## **19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion 2015 ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

### **POINT OF CONTACT:**

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion is comprised of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Forward Support Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Horizontal Construction Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Clearance Company, 76<sup>th</sup> Vertical Construction Company, 502<sup>nd</sup> Multi Role Bridge Company, 541<sup>st</sup> Combat Engineering Company, and 72<sup>nd</sup> Survey and Design Detachment.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion has a long history of being ready to support America in its time of need. The year 2015 was no exception, with an intensive training cycle executed to prepare for multiple contingency operations. HHC, FSC, 76<sup>th</sup> (Vertical) and 502<sup>nd</sup> (MRBC) were prepared to support Special Operations Command (SOCOM) operations with severe weather response support during fierce winter conditions by opening roadways and providing the installation with a Quick Reaction Force able to deploy to any key facilities. The 541<sup>st</sup> EN CO (Sapper) sustained high readiness for Global response Force (GRF) mission by conducting various field training exercises including validation via a Platoon Certification Exercise (PLT CERTEX) and NTC 15-07 to certify them. 15<sup>th</sup> EN CO (Horz) prepared to support the Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Force (DCRF) mission while OPCON to JTF-CS by training to provide support to civil authorities, protect personnel and public property, and providing a corridor of relief to restore the JOA to operational levels.

**Bridles and Reigns – Stand Tall!**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion is on order to deploy engineer forces to provide mission command, combat engineers, and general engineer support to enable decisive action in unified land operations worldwide.

On order, Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides sustainment support to the battalion in support of unified land operations, with construction, surveying, medical, operational and unit level administrative functions.

On order, Forward Support Company deploys logistical support to engineer units in an expeditionary, Army, joint, or combined military operations worldwide in support of unified land operations.

On order, the 15<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Horizontal) provides mission command and coordination of repair, maintenance and construction of air/ground lines of communication.



They are also responsible for the emplacement of culverts, hauling, force protection and limited clearing operations in support of unified land operations.

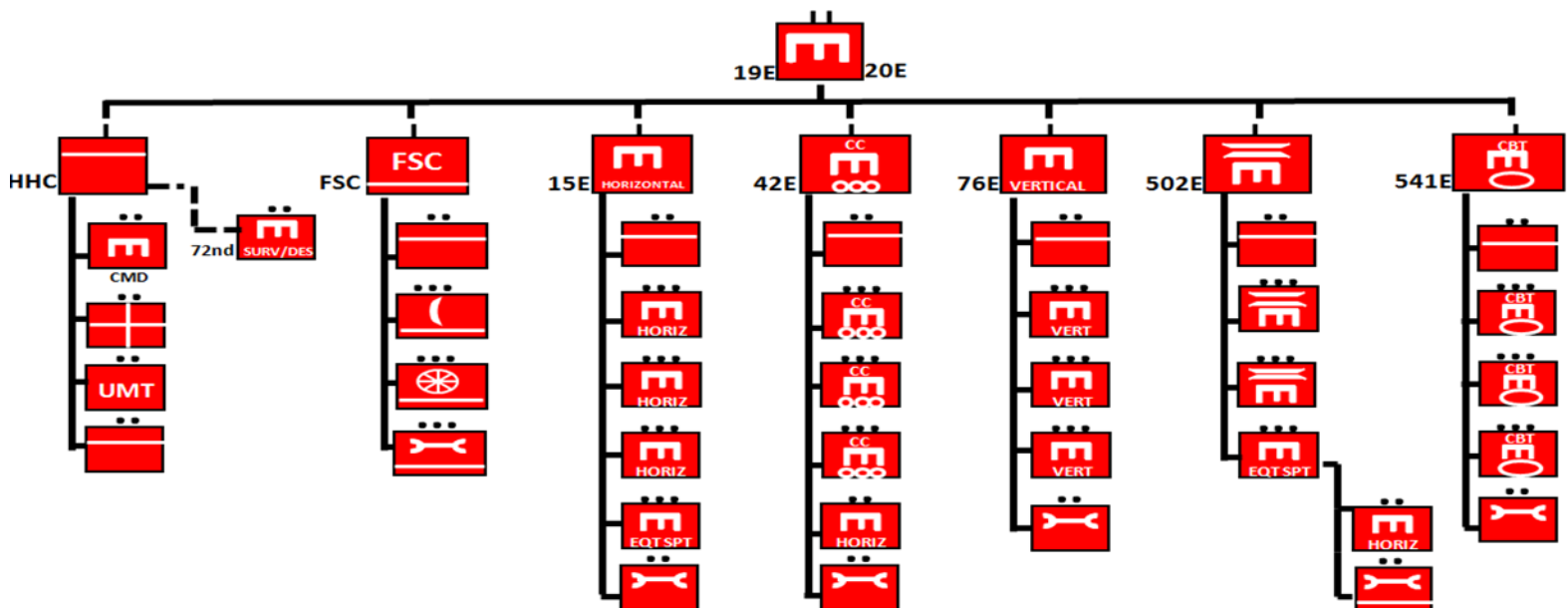
On order, the 42nd Clearance Company deploys in support of unified land operations worldwide to execute route and area clearance operations by providing assured mobility.

On order, the 76th Engineer Company (Vertical) deploys worldwide to execute general engineering operations in support of unified land operations.

On order, the 502nd Multi Role Bridge Company (MRBC) provides personnel and equipment to transport, assemble, disassemble, retrieve and maintain all standard and nonstandard U.S. Army bridging systems for wet and dry gap crossings. 502nd MRBC supports the full range of military operations and humanitarian assistance, and is capable of transporting PLS configured cargo.

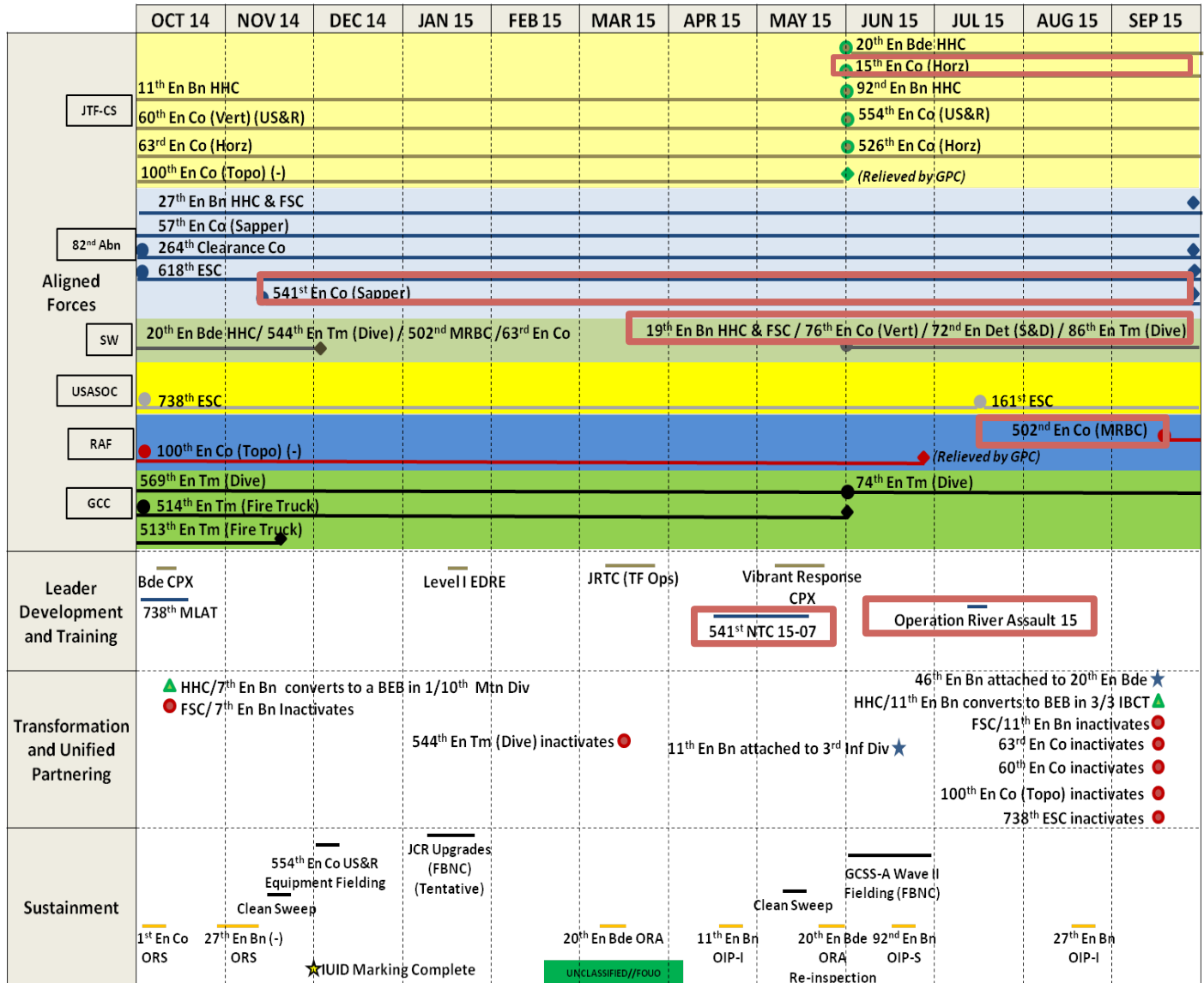
On order, the 541st Sapper Company deploys in support of unified land operations worldwide to execute mobility, countermobility, and survivability engineer operations.

#### TASK ORGANIZATION:





## OPERATIONS OVERVIEW:





## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

In August 2014 the battalion rear detachment had moved to a new complex on Fort Knox just in time for redeployment operations to receive the battalion from their deployment to Kuwait. The \$91 million dollar complex includes a new BN headquarters, company operation facilities and a barracks complex. Concurrently, the battalion also acquired Mansfield Motor Pool.

LTC James J. Handura took command from LTC John P. Lloyd on 5 September 2014. CSM Patrickson Toussaint also assumed responsibility from CSM Ethan N. Dunbar at that time. Together LTC Handura and CSM Toussaint oversaw reset operations from the 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion's Kuwait deployment. Reset was rapid, as an intensive training cycle was put in order to prepare the 19th for multiple contingency operations to include Severe Weather, DCRF and GRF.

Meanwhile, the 42nd Clearance Company had deployed to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California to support 3rd BDE, 1st AD. They immediately began conducting mission command and route clearance operations. The Soldiers continued this OPTEMPO for the next 30 days, officially wrapping up training in October 2014.

Redeployment operations were the focus of the remainder of 2014 in order to get the battalion successfully reintegrated from the Kuwait Deployment. In November 2014, a Santa Ruck was held where over 1,000 Soldiers and family members donated toys once again continuing the tradition of the Seahorse Battalion's support of Fort Knox and surrounding communities. The execution was well received and highly promoted by Soldiers. Many added festive décor to their equipment or donned holiday attire. The march proved a success and aided the installation in their overall collection of toys.

The new year of 2015 kicked off with a chilly start as the battalion conducted range densities to qualify on their assigned weapons in January. A severe snow storm caused many of the training events to be postponed. The 19<sup>th</sup> Engineers helped Fort Knox by conducting snow clearance operations.

76th Vertical Construction Company conducted a five day Field Training Exercise in March of 2015 at Mt. Eden Base Camp, Fort Knox, KY. The training consisted of convoy operations, mounted and dismounted C-IED operations, three MEDEVAC missions with 11th Aviation CMD, the construction of a Company size protective obstacle, and the demolition of five seahuts at Wilcox range. 1st and 2nd Platoons maintained crews at their jobsites while concrete placement at the Chapel Stairs project and demolition work at Kouma DFAC in the cantonment area continued.



Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 15th Horizontal Construction Company deployed to Nogales, Arizona with the 72nd Survey and Design Detachment in support the U.S. Border Patrol from March through May of 2015. They constructed a 0.5 mile road along the United States / Mexico border. The platoon built the road over mountainous terrain and cut through several feet of rock in order to meet the required elevation for the project. The road supports the U.S. Border Patrol mission to protect our borders. 72nd Survey and Design Detachment and 3rd Platoon, 15th Engineers supported the US Border Patrol by surveying a new road along the border in Nogales, Arizona. The road supports the U.S. Border Patrol mission by significantly increasing agent's response times to border threats in the area.

541st Combat Engineering Company deployed to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California to support 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, a heavy brigade combat team (HBCT) in April 2015. They immediately began conducting mobility support and engineering support in the force on force training environments. The highlight of the rotation was a mine clearing line charge (MICLIC) live fire. The Soldiers continued this OPTEMPO through 14 May 2015 when training was officially concluded.

The battalion staff conducted three STAFFEX/CPX in preparation for a rotation to NTC. The first CPX conducted in May focused on familiarizing all staff members with the MDMP process, battle tracking, and identifying short comings in SOPs. In July, CPX 2 focused on the mechanics of deploying and establishing the command post. In September, CPX 3 had the staff utilizing the mission command training center (MCTC) on FKKY in conjunction with tents to replicate a deployed expeditionary environment. While there, the MCTC provided a scenario and events for the staff to practice battle tracking.

The 19th Engineer Battalion also supported the future of the United States Army during the summer by providing officers to sit on United States Army Cadet Command leadership panels. They were also responsible for providing manpower and equipment support to the cadet summer training that occurs at FKKY.

Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 76th Vertical Construction Company deployed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California in May of 2015 to conduct construction projects. While there, the platoon constructed an air traffic control tower on the field landing strip. The air traffic control tower allows rotational training units to exercise their tactical air control party (TAC-P) operations.

502nd Multi Role Bridge Company traveled to Fort Leonard Wood to conducted LOC-B training in June 2016. 502nd trained on to two deployment bridge sets (Dry Support Bridge and Maybe Johnson Panel Bridge) and two legacy bridge sets (M2 Bailey Bridge and the Medium Girder Bridge, MGB)

541st Combat Engineering Company conducted a PLT CERTEX in June over an 11-day period in an austere environment. Forward Support Company provided support through field feeding, ammo distribution, fuel distribution, and maintenance tasks. Additionally, ice dip bins were provided in an effort to mitigate the heat levels once the environmental conditions exceeded



heat category five. This event utilized a team of external evaluators from the 4th CAV REG, which helped assess and provide leaders with feedback throughout the field exercise. The Platoons were given an OPORD brief to seize an objective defended by an 80m mine-wire tactical obstacle and a protective wire obstacle. The platoons maneuvered down a 4-km lane in both day and night conditions with the key tasks of conducting a mounted MICLIC breach with live rocket-inert charge, mounted target engagement to the objective, a dismounted breach of a protective wire obstacle, and the seizing of the objective using dismounts and support by fire positions. They then had to emplace an 11-row wire obstacle and hasty crater to disable a line of communication and were engaged in a complex attack that required the platoon to react to an IED, treat and evacuate a casualty, request QRF recovery, and execute a bump plan.

502nd Multi Role Bridge Company conducted a river assault exercise with the 411th Engineer BDE (US Army Reserves) at FT Chaffee, Arkansas from the end of July 25th through August 2015. The exercise was part of 19th Engineer Battalion's Army Total Force Partnership program, which stresses increased training events with active component, reserve component, and National Guard units. Over two weeks, the 502nd conducted various rehearsals leading up to the full scale assault crossing rehearsal. The culminating event was the construction of a 47 bay improved ribbon bridge spanning 300m across the Arkansas River.

15th Horizontal Construction Company deployed to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California to support 3-2SBCT's force on force rotation. The 15th immediately began executing the task of repairing a Forward Landing Strip. Throughout the rest of the rotation, the 15th Engineers provided mobility, counter mobility, and survivability operation to 3rd Brigade, 2nd Cavalry Division, a Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) in support of their decisive action rotation and force on force training. The Soldiers pushed hard throughout the rotation and maintained OPTEMPO through August 2015 when training was officially concluded.

The annual Seahorse Ball was held in August of 2015. Great attendance of 700-1,000 Soldiers, spouses and significant others attended the events. Key points at these events always include the traditional receiving line, Presentation of Colors, formal dinner, the Grog Ceremony and dancing. When we presented an Army Engineer Association's Bronze de Fleury Medal to SGM Anthony Warren, he was shocked and tears of joy ran down his face.

The 19th Engineer Battalion conducted an Officer FTX in August to build comradery and cohesion amongst the officers within the Battalion. The FTX featured flying in UH-60 Blackhawks, maneuvering across the Salt River in zodiac boats, and initiating road crater explosives.

541<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company conducted a Combined Armed Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) in support of 2-12 Infantry Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from 28 August through 1 September 2015. During this exercise they provided provides SQD Level Mobility and Counter Mobility engineer support. The sappers provided one squad per one maneuver platoon IOT conduct breaching operations. The company also supported 4ID on counter mobility operations by emplacing wire and mine obstacles. They Sappers also conducted Air Assault operations from U-H 60 Blackhawks.





42nd Clearance Company had deployed to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California providing assured mobility through combined arms route clearance.





Chinooks transported bays to the Arkansas River during the 502D MRBC's construction of an improved ribbon bridge spanning 300m across the Arkansas River



The 541<sup>st</sup> detonate a MICLIC charge to breach the emplaced obstacles to clear the lane and provide assured mobility.



The 3rd Platoon from 15th EN CO (H), went to Nogales, Arizona with the 72nd Survey and Design Detachment to help the U.S. Border Patrol by grading the roads, allowing quicker response to border threats in the area.





The 76<sup>th</sup> EN CO (V) places a concrete sidewalk at the Battalion Barracks in order to allow Soldiers and families to access the recreational area.



During the CALFEX with 2-12 IN BN the 541<sup>st</sup> create a footpath through obstacles with APOBS, clear obstacles with demolitions and construct wire obstacles.