



**18th Engineer Brigade
United States Army
Unit 29060
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PRESS RELEASE

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18th Engineer Brigade cases colors, prepares for deployment

Story by Pfc. David Huddleston, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

SCHWETZINGEN, Germany – Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, gathered at Tompkins Barracks, here, June 7 to case the brigade’s colors in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The headquarters will join their already deployed subordinate units in theater. The 54th Engineer Battalion and the 243rd Construction Management Team are both in Afghanistan, and the 15th Engineer Battalion is currently in Kuwait.

“We’re the last to deploy, and we’ve been leaning forward so far at times I think we’re about to fall over with anticipation,” said Col. Paul M. Paolozzi, the commander of the 18th Eng. Bde. and a native of Utica, N.Y.

The 18th Eng. Bde. has been training and preparing for this deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for the past year and is ready to take on the mission at hand.

“We have done a lot of training,” said Pfc. Chad Finholt, an 18th Eng. Bde. technical engineer specialist and a native of Denton, Texas. “Sometimes it was rough and frustrating, but it was good training.”

All the training for the upcoming deployment has not solely been in Europe for the brigade, but preparations have required the unit to be in places such as Fort Hood, Texas as they participated in Unified Endeavor 11-2.

“I feel that our unit has properly trained us and adequately prepared us from all levels, from the brigade level down to the section and MOS (military occupational specialty) level,” said Sgt. Darius Cooper, an 18th Eng. Bde. technical engineer sergeant and native of Portsmouth, Va.

The 18th Eng. Bde. is no stranger to deployments, having returned from its last deployment to Iraq in 2009 and deployed several other times prior to that throughout the units history.

“The training plan was well thought out, planned, and executed,” said Capt. Joseph Caperna, the 18th Eng. Bde command group tactical officer from Huntington, N.Y. “The unit started at a crawl phase and progressed over the last year to a walk and then a run phase.”

The 18th Eng. Bde. will leave behind the 565th Eng. Bn. to serve as its rear detachment headquarters here in Germany.

“The 18th Eng. Bde. will be missed,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber, the United States Army Garrison Baden-Wurttemberg command sergeant major and a native of Havelock, N.C. “Our loss is another nations benefit.”

CUTLINES:

110607-A-0000X-0596: The 18th Engineer Brigade color guard stands prepared to case the colors during the unit's deployment ceremony, June 7 at Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany. The unit is preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Pfc. David Huddleston, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)



110607-A-0000X-0659: Col. Paul M. Paolozzi, the commander of the 18th Engineer Brigade and a native of Utica, N.Y. and Command Sgt. Maj. David Clark, the 18th Eng. Bde. command sergeant major and native of from Knoxville, Tenn. case the unit colors during its deployment ceremony, June 7 on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany. The unit is preparing for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Pfc. David Huddleston, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)



110607-A-0000X-0669: Capt. Po Tsui, the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade and a native of Honolulu, HI, stands in front of his formation during the headquarters deployment ceremony, June 7 on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany. The unit is preparing for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Pfc. David Huddleston, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)



110607-A-YN528-2276: Capt. Po Tsui, the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 18th Engineer Brigade and a native of Honolulu, HI, and 1st Sgt. Thetus Roberts, Jr. case the company guidon during the unit's deployment ceremony, June 7 on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany. The unit is preparing for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Sgt. Wesley Petrus, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)

