



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Lineage and Honors

15th ENGINEER BATTALION

The 15th Engineer Battalion has a proud and distinguished lineage. Constituted on 1 July 1916 as the Fifth Reserve Engineer Regiment. On 8 August 1917, the Regiment was redesignated as the 15th Engineers. During World War I, the Regiment received battle streamers for the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns. Deployed to France in July 1917, the 15th planned and constructed railroads, and helped build barracks, hospitals, and supply depots. The unit was demobilized on 15 May 1919. As the United States mobilized in preparation for World War II, the battalion reactivated and first saw action in North Africa in 1943, fighting with the 9th Infantry Division during the Algerian-French Morocco and Tunisian Campaigns.

Next, the battalion participated in the invasion of Sicily, hitting the beach at Palermo in August 1943. With Sicily secured, the 9th Infantry Division sailed to England and prepared for the Normandy invasion. Landing at Utah beach on 10 June 1944, the Battalion drove on to Cherbourg and later took part in the St. Lo breakthrough. Fighting its way across France earned the Battalion a battle streamer for its role in the Northern France Campaign. In September, the Battalion earned the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions on the Siegfried Line. In December 1944, the Battalion helped defeat Hitler's forces in the Battle of the Bulge to earn another battle streamer. In March 1945, B Company earned the Presidential Unit Citation for its part in

seizing the Ludendorf Bridge, crossing the Rhine, and extending the Remagen Bridgehead. After the Rhineland Campaign, the Division advanced eastward, fighting through the remnants of Hitler's army to earn a battle streamer for the Central European Campaign. The war's end brought about the 15th's inactivation in November 1946.

The battalion reactivated during the Korean War, but remained stateside throughout the duration of the conflict, and was deactivated once again in January 1962.

The battalion reactivated in 1966 as the United States entered the Vietnam War. In Vietnam the 15th Engineers earned numerous battlefield honors: including two awards of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm as well as a Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class. The Battalion rotated to Hawaii in August 1969, where it inactivated.

The 15th was reactivated at Fort Lewis in June 1972 and remained in active service for almost 18 years. The Battalion was inactivated on 15 April 1991 and relieved from assignment to the 9th Infantry Division.

The 15th Engineer Battalion was reactivated on 16 July 2008 in Schweinfurt, Germany as part of the 18th Engineer Brigade.

On 23 October 2010, the battalion deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. During the deployment, the battalion planned, coordinated and executed force protection construction, base expansion, and quality of life improvements throughout Kuwait and Afghanistan. The battalion, serving as United States Army Central Command's Reserve Engineer Force, maintained capability in six separate camps within Kuwait, served in three separate regional commands in Afghanistan, executed a fixed site security mission in Bahrain and conducted a facility assessment in Jordan in support of theater security cooperation missions. The 902nd Engineer Company (Vertical) was re-missioned on two separate occasions to Afghanistan during the deployment, first to the Kabul Base Cluster in Regional Command-Capital, then to FOB Sharana in Regional Command-East with elements from the 500th Engineer Company (Horizontal) and to Regional Command-South. During the deployment, the battalion conducted over 67 separate projects, completed over 100

technical inspections and site visits, and contributed an estimated 6.7 million dollars worth of construction effort. In October 2011, the 15th Engineer Battalion redeployed to Germany.

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/eng/0015enbn.htm>