

**CHANGE OF COMMAND  
CEREMONY  
19th ENGINEER BATTALION**

*From  
Lieutenant Colonel James J. Handura  
to  
Lieutenant Colonel Estee S. Pinchasin*



**Hosted by**

**Colonel Jayson C. Gilberti  
Commander  
20th Engineer Brigade (Combat)**

**Fort Knox, KY  
13 July 2016**

## **Sequence of Events**

**Two-Minute Warning**

**Guest Introductions**

**Invocation**

**Flower Presentation**

**Entrance of the Reviewing Party**

**National Anthem**

**Change of Command**

**Remarks by:**

**Colonel Jayson C. Gilberti**

Commander, 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat)

**Lieutenant Colonel James J. Handura**

Outgoing Battalion Commander

**Lieutenant Colonel Estee S. Pinchasin**

Incoming Battalion Commander

**Pass and Review**

**The Engineer Song**

**The Army Song**





## Unit History



The 19th Engineer Battalion has a long and distinguished lineage. Their parent unit, the 36th Engineer Regiment, was constituted 1 October 1933 in the Regular Army. The 19th Engineer Battalion originated as the 3rd Battalion of the 36th Engineer Combat Regiment and activated at Plattsburg Barracks, New York in June 1941.

During World War II, The battalion conducted five amphibious landings while accompanying the victorious allied armies through Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria. The battalion suffered 902 combat casualties including 144 killed in action. For their gallantry and service, the battalion was awarded 10 campaign streamers from World War II, and soldiers from the battalion were awarded 7 Silver Stars and 13 bronze Stars.

In 1965, the Battalion deployed to Vietnam in an amphibious landing on the beaches of Qui Nhon. The Battalion' primary mission was to upgrade highway QL-1 from virtually a dirt trail to an all weather road from Qui Nhon to Bong Son. From March 1965 thru June 1970 the 19th Engineer Battalion served with distinction and was awarded 13 campaign streamers for action in Vietnam and received the valorous unit award for its actions. 105 Soldiers gave their lives while serving in Vietnam and over 400 were wounded in action.

The Battalion participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm where it was awarded three campaign streamers. Five Soldiers gave their lives in support of these missions.

The 19th Engineer Battalion was again activated 16 October 2005 at Fort Knox, Kentucky as the first modular Engineer Battalion, capable of commanding any type of Engineer organization from sappers to construction to topographic units. The Battalion then mobilized to Iraq and served from August 06 thru November 07 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Battalion provided assured mobility and general engineering support to the 25th Infantry Division and MND-N, including training Iraqi Engineers. One Soldier gave his life in Iraq. The battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. From April 2009-April 2010, the Battalion deployed to Regional Command, South, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. The Battalion deployed for 9 months in November 2014 to Kuwait.

The modularity of the 19th Engineer Battalion led to individual companies deploying to support the Army's Building, Bridging, and Breaching needs. The 76th Vertical deployed to Afghanistan to support surge expansions of Bagram Airfield and FOB Salerno from December 2006 to March 2008, the 502nd MRBC deployed to Helmand Province supporting the Marines during the OEF Surge in 2010. Elements deployed within 96 hours to support Hurricane Sandy relief efforts in New York City in 2012. The Battalion currently has the 42nd Clearance deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel and one team from the 502nd MRBC that is currently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.





## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES J. HANDURA OUTGOING BATTALION COMMANDER**

Lieutenant Colonel Handura was commissioned in the US Army Corps of Engineers in May 1996. His previous assignments include: Enlisted Combat Engineer with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion (Germany and Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield) and the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Ft. Campbell and Ft. Hood); Sapper Platoon leader, Equipment Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Brigade Engineer with the 326<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (AASLT); Assistant Division Engineer Liaison Officer (including deployment to Kosovo), Company Commander U.S. Army Garrison Ft. Drum, and Commander, Bravo Company 41<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) (including deployment to Afghanistan); Project Engineer and Deputy Resident Engineer Florida Area Office, Mobile District, USACE; Deputy Resident Engineer Ramadi Resident Office, Gulf Regions Central District, USACE; CJ3 Future Operations Plans Officer and Strategic Planner, Commander's Initiatives Group, US Forces-Iraq; Battalion Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer, 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, 18th Airborne Corps (including deployment to Afghanistan); and Deputy District Commander for New Orleans District, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

LTC Handura earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from Austin Peay State University, a Masters Degree in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and a Masters Degree of Military Art and Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He is also a graduate of the School of Advanced Military Studies, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, the Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth KS, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

LTC Handura's military awards and decorations include: the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Basic Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, French Commando School Badge, and the Army Engineer Association's Bronze de Fleury Medal. LTC Handura is married to the former Ms. Julie Boucher, of Seminole, FL. They have two daughters: Rachel and Ani. LTC Handura's follow on assignment is to the Joint Staff, J7, at Suffolk VA.





## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL ESTEE S. PINCHASIN INCOMING BATTALION COMMANDER**

Lieutenant Colonel Pinchasin is originally from Long Beach, New York and commissioned as an Engineer Officer in July 1998.

Prior to her assignment to the 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, LTC Pinchasin served as the Deputy G35 Future Operations for I Corps, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington. As a lieutenant, she served as a Platoon Leader, Assistant Operations Officer, and Company Executive Officer in the 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Topographic), Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Upon graduating from the Aviation Captain's Career Course, at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, LTC Pinchasin was assigned to the 249<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where she served as the Battalion Logistics Officer for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Company Commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Battalion Liaison Officer in Iraq, and Battalion Adjutant. Following graduate school and promotion to major, she served as the Area Engineer for the New York Metro Area Office in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) New York District. From New York, she deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, to serve as Area OIC for the Kandahar Area Office, in USACE Afghanistan Engineer District – South. After completing Command and General Staff College, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, LTC Pinchasin was assigned to the 84<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and served as the Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer. LTC Pinchasin returned to Fort Leavenworth to attend the School of Advanced Military Studies and subsequently served as a Plans Officer in I Corps Headquarters at Joint Base Lewis McChord.

LTC Pinchasin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science from Boston University, Master of Science in Civil Engineering and the Engineer Degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University, and a Master of Military Art and Science from the United States Army Command and General Staff College' School.

LTC Pinchasin's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and the Army Engineer Association's Bronze de Fleury Medal. LTC Pinchasin is joined by her husband Robert, of Lakeland, Florida and their two year old son Joey.



# 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion

## Command Group

<b>Battalion Commander:</b>	<b>LTC James Handura</b>
<b>Executive Officer:</b>	<b>MAJ Mark Gillman</b>
<b>Command Sergeant Major</b>	<b>CSM LLirenelli Mari</b>

## Battalion Staff

<b>S1:</b>	<b>1LT Markesha Price</b>	<b>SFC Tia Bishop</b>
<b>S2:</b>	<b>CPT Lorne McCallum</b>	<b>SFC Kelly Parziale</b>
<b>S3:</b>	<b>MAJ Stephen Lucas</b>	<b>MSG Stefan Libowsky</b>
<b>S4:</b>	<b>CPT Daniel Moore</b>	<b>SFC Claudia Ascencio</b>
<b>S6:</b>	<b>SSG Kevin Walker</b>	

## Company Command Teams

### Headquarters and Headquarters Company

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>CPT Jason Selby</b>
<b>First Sergeant:</b>	<b>1SG Gregory Lehman</b>

### Forward Support Company

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>CPT Jennifer Williams</b>
<b>First Sergeant:</b>	<b>SFC James Myers</b>

### 15<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>CPT Charles Adams</b>
<b>First Sergeant:</b>	<b>1SG Phillip Goddard</b>

### 42<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company (FWD)

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>CPT Jason Schwarz</b>
<b>First Sergeant:</b>	<b>1SG Timothy Barksdale</b>

### 76<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>CPT Trevor Gerard</b>
<b>First Sergeant:</b>	<b>1SG Tony Collins</b>

### 502<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>CPT Lawrence Griffith</b>
<b>First Sergeant:</b>	<b>1SG Anthony Polite</b>

### 541<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>CPT Scott Sylvester</b>
<b>First Sergeant:</b>	<b>1SG Carlos Melvin</b>



***The Engineer Regiment Song***

**Pin the Castle on my collar,  
I've done my training for the team.  
You can call me an engineer Soldier,  
The warrior spirit has been my dream.**

**Essayons, whether in war or peace,  
we will bear our red and our white.**

**Essayons. We serve America,  
and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.  
Essayons!! Essayons!!**

***The Army Song***

**March along, sing our song,  
With the Army of the free.  
Count the brave, count the true,  
Who have fought for victory.  
We're the Army and proud of our name,  
We're the Army and proudly proclaim!**

**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 'til the battle's won  
And the Army goes rolling along!**

**And its Hi! Hi! Hey!  
The Army's on its way!  
Count off the cadence loud and strong!  
For where e'er we go  
You will always know  
That the Army goes rolling along!**





**SHIELD:** The shield of the coat of arms is used to indicate the descent of the 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment.

**COLORS:** The colors red and white are used for Engineers.

**Seahorse:** The wavy partition line and the Seahorse symbolize participation in Marine Transportation and Amphibious Landings by the 36<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment.

**MOTTO:** ACUTUS ACUMEN (1952-1976)  
ACUTUM ACUMEN (1976-Present)  
Translation - "SHARP INGENUITY"