

**Vietnam Re-Dedication
Memorial Ceremony
19th ENGINEER BATTALION**



**Bridle and Reins!
Stand Tall!**

**12 July 2016
Fort Knox, KY**

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Welcome

***Invocation**

CPT Bernardino Yebra– *19th Engineer Battalion Chaplain*

***National Anthem**

Vietnam Memorial Re-Dedication

LTC James Handura – *Battalion Commander*

Memorial Wreath Presentation

Honoring the Fallen

Mr. Mike Newell - *Veterans' Association Chapter President*

Moment of Silence

***Benediction**

CPT Bernardino Yebra– – *19th Engineer Battalion Chaplain*

The Engineer Song

The Army Song

Conclusion

Post-Ceremony Social

1230 – Samuel Adams Brewhouse

** Please Stand*

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES J. HANDURA



Lieutenant Colonel Handura was commissioned in the US Army Corps of Engineers in May 1996. Prior to his assignment to the 19th Engineer Battalion, LTC Handura served as the Deputy District Commander for New Orleans District, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

His previous assignments include: Enlisted Combat Engineer with the 82nd Engineer Battalion (Germany and Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield) and the 20th Engineer Battalion (Ft. Campbell and Ft. Hood); Sapper Platoon leader, Equipment Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Brigade Engineer with the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT); Assistant Division Engineer Liaison Officer (including deployment to Kosovo), Company Commander U.S. Army Garrison Ft. Drum, and Commander, Bravo Company 41st Engineer Battalion, 10th 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, 7th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, 18th Airborne Corps (including deployment to Afghanistan).

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 (20) and Ani (12).

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 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 there 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.

HISTORY OF THE 19TH ENGINEER BATTALION

MOTTO: *A cutum Acumen* (Sharpness of Ingenuity).

The 19th Engineer Battalion was constituted 1 October 1933 in the Regular Army as 3rd Battalion, 36th Engineers (General Service). The Battalion activated in June of 1941, and was re-designated in 1942 as the 3d Battalion, 36th Engineer Combat Regiment. The Battalion departed in November of 1942 for overseas service and landed at Casablanca, North Africa.

In World War II, the Seahorse Battalion participated in amphibious assault landings at Algeria-French Morocco, Licata Sicily, Naples, and Anzio in Italy, and in Southern France between 1942 and 1944. They also participated in the Rhineland campaign, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central European campaigns. The 19th Engineers reorganized at Val-et-Chatillon France and re-designated in 1945 as the 2828th Engineer Combat Battalion. The Battalion inactivated in June 1946 in Germany and was re-designated in April 1947 as the 19th Engineer Combat Battalion.

The Battalion was again activated July 1952 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, and re-designated in 1953 as the 19th Engineer Battalion. In 1965 the 19th Engineer Battalion deployed to Vietnam. During the next five years of continuous service in Vietnam the unit participated in the Vietnam Defense; Counteroffensive Phases One through Seven; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer-Fall 1969; Winter-Spring 1970; and the Sanctuary Counteroffensive. Following service in Vietnam, the Battalion again inactivated in December 1970 at Fort Lewis, Washington.

The 19th Engineer Battalion moved to Fort Knox, KY, and activated in December 1975. During that time, the Battalion participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, including the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait and Cease Fire. The Battalion again inactivated in September 1997.

The Seahorse Battalion re-activated 16 October 2005 at Fort Knox, KY and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom from August 2006 through November 2007 where its mission focused on rapid route repair and patrol base construction in support of the troop surge. The 76th Engineer Company deployed separately and served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan through March 2008.

HISTORY OF THE 19TH ENGINEER BATTALION

Continued...

The 19th Engineers returned to the Middle East by deploying to Afghanistan to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom from April 2009 to April 2010 where its mission focused on Forward Operating Base and Combat Outpost expansion and construction in Regional Command South in support of Coalition Forces.



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.

19th Engineer Battalion Valorous Unit Award Presentation And Vietnam Memorial Dedication

BINH DINH AND QUANG NGAI

During the period 16 July 1967 to 31 December 1968, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Engineer Battalion including A Company, B Company, C Company, D Company, 70th Engineer Company, 73rd Engineer Company, and the 137th Engineer Company displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in support of military operations in Binh Dinh and Quang Ngai Provinces, Republic of Vietnam. Despite constant enemy harassment, in the form of mining roadways and stationing snipers along key transportation points, the unit worked tenaciously to upgrade and rebuild the roadway network from Bong Son to Duc Pho. In doing so, the unit transformed the vehicular pass to a Class 31 All-Weather Road, allowing the transport of critical supplies to the north during severely inclement weather, when previously, the monsoon season would ground aircraft and limit coastal shipping. Additionally, the battalion strove to render the finest support possible, thereby furthering the free world counterinsurgency objectives within the Republic of Vietnam. The unit's record of achievements serves as a testament to its Soldiers' outstanding courage, ingenuity, initiative and responsiveness. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Engineer Battalion's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects distinct credit upon the unit and the United States Army.

In Memory of the Soldiers of the 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Army) Who Lost Their Lives in the Vietnam War 1965-1970

PFC Elton Harrold Alexander
PVT William Robert Asquith
SGT Harry Adelbert Barber
PFC Robert Lee Barker Jr.
SP4 Isidro Sigfredo Bazan
CPL Clarence Bowman Jr.
1LT James Kenneth Brierly
SP5 Robert Allen Brown
PFC Marshall Eugene Callahan
SP4 Steven Lynn Coffey
PVT Samuel Earl Coker
SP4 Charles Robert Cunningham
PFC Booker T. Davie Jr.
PVT George Nathan Davis

SSG Hugh Mozell Davis
SP4 Samuel M. Davis
SSG Berton Decker
SP4 Edward Paul Deibel III
SP5 Cecil F. Dixon
PFC Eliezer Dominguez-Cortes
1LT David Michael Drob
SP4 William Gary Eggenberger
CPL Ronald Lee Eidson
SP4 Mark William Fenner
PVT Elmer Eugene Fields
SP4 Frederick Lee Fields
SP4 Ronald Howard Gable
CPL Robert Wayne Gibbins

PFC John Joseph Glynn Jr.
PFC Leonard Michael Gomolicke
CPT Siegfried Louis Graebner
SP4 Albert E. Graham Jr.
SP4 Michael John Grecu
SP5 Jerry Eugene Guerra
PFC David Allen Hargens
SP5 Clarence Eugene Harper Jr.
PFC Paul Dearing Haydon
SP4 Joseph Emerson Heath
SP4 Harvey Rickert Howard
PFC Charles Wayne Hughes
SP4 James Idlett
SFC Salvatore Iozzia
SP4 Samuel Julius Izzard
PFC Felix Jacques
SP5 Charles Anthony Jamack
SP4 Larry Dean Johnson
SP4 Milton Joseph Jones
SP5 Jimmie Eugene Keith
SP4 David Bruce Kelley
SP4 John C. Kennebrew
PFC Gerald Dennis Kiesling
SGT Phillip Henry Kilver
PFC Myron Dale Kjellerson
PFC Gary Ray Large
PFC David James Levier
SP4 John David Lindberg
SP4 Gary Vaughn Lovellette
PVT Carl Frederick Lybrand
SP4 Frank Elliot Lyon
SP4 Kenneth Carroll Major Jr.
SP5 Ross Edward Mandeville
CPL Timothy George Mattson
PFC Clarence McCraney
PFC Michael Paul McLaughlin
PFC John Joseph McNabb
CPL Jerry Bruce Menane
SP4 Robert Earl Miller

SP4 Robert Gene Moore
SP4 William Clarence Moore
SP4 Joseph Morgan Jr.
PFC Bruce Anderson Murray
SP4 Robert Dean Neasham
SP4 Gary Arnold Neavor
PVT Archie Lee Nelson Jr.
1LT David Allen Paddock
SP4 Michael Gene Phillips
SP5 Charles David Riffe
PFC Israel Rodriguez
SP4 James Wesley Rowlett
PSG George Washington Schook
SP4 Alton Browning Sebastian
SP5 Roger Dale Shafer
PVT Ronald Eugene Sheppard
SP4 William Lawrence Shrum
SP4 Joseph Edward Shubiak
SP4 Jerry Lee Shultz
SGT Douglas Soward
PFC John Leslie Stabler
PFC Frankie Stanley
CPL John Charles Sterling
PFC Wayland Kent Thompson
SFC Roger Lee Troxell
SSG Valentine Tucker
SP4 Nicholas Randle Tunny
SP4 Stanley Turner
PFC Marc Gregory Van Dalsem
CPL John Charles Wells
SGT Robert Jay Westrate
SP4 John Dennis Whorff
SGT Gary Robert Willeke
1LT Jeremy Robert Wojtkiewicz
SP4 Larry Michael Wolpert
SP4 James Lewis Wood
SP5 Howard Edgar Yost Jr.
SP4 Douglas Lee Zeller

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

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

ENGINEER 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!