



**United States Army
Unit 29060
APO AE 09081**

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: 2010-11-12-01**

November 12, 2010

New Engineers Take Charge

Story by: 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, 15th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – On Friday, Nov. 12, the 15th Engineer Battalion officially assumed responsibility as a theater level construction capability. The transfer of authority (TOA) from the 367th EN BN to the 15th EN BN was commemorated with a ceremony, in which the outgoing battalion's colors were encased, and the incoming unit's were unfurled.

During their year long tour, the outgoing 367th EN BN has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. The Army Reserve Unit comes all the way from Minnesota, and has completed over 130,000 hours of construction work in the Middle East. Though Kuwait has a requirement for a construction effects battalion, the 367th is the first unit to fill that capability in over two years.

Taking over their responsibility is the 15th EN BN, recently deployed from Schweinfurt, Germany, where they've executed a variety of horizontal and vertical construction missions across Europe. The battalion will conduct general engineering missions throughout the area of operations. Elements from the 902nd Engineer Company have already received a construction mission in Afghanistan, and are preparing to depart in the coming weeks. 1LT Dawn Hoch, a Platoon Leader in the 902nd EN CO from Sunrise, FL, has been selected as part of the element that moves forward. "Of course there's a lot of apprehension – this is the unit's first deployment since our reactivation. But we're ready to go, and motivated to do some good work."

The following Saturday morning, the battalion commemorated the authorization of the "Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service," also known as the "combat patch." A formation was held in which the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Baumgartner, placed the combat patch on Command Sergeant Major Bradley Houston and his commanding officers, who in turn placed one on the officers and NCOs in their charge, and so forth down the chain of command until each Soldier had been "patched."



Lt. Col. Craig Baumgartner and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Houston, command team of the 15th Eng. Bn., uncase the battalion colors at the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, 15th Eng. Bn. Public Affairs)



From right to left: CPT Sonie Munson (HHC CDR), CPT Brandy West (FSC CDR), CPT Karo Anderson (500th EN CO CDR), and CPT Samuel Galyk (902nd EN CO CDR) stand at parade rest awaiting the commencement of the Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, 15th Eng. Bn. Public Affairs)



MAJ Matthew Luzzatto, 15th EN BN Operations Officer, presents arms as the National Anthem plays during the Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, 15th Eng. Bn. Public Affairs)