



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

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## 565th Eng. Bn. activates in Schwetzingen

Story by Capt. Kathryn Werback and Spc. Aislinn Amig, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

SCHWETZINGEN, Germany - The 565th Engineer Battalion (Provisional), 18th Engineer Brigade activated at Tompkins Barracks here recently under the command of Lt. Col. John G. Dupeire from Thibodaux, La., and Sgt. Maj. David Morgan from Wagoner, Okla.

Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, attended the ceremony, as well as the last commander of the 565th Eng. Bn. before it deactivated in Germany in June 2005. His name is Col. Jose Ramos, and he currently serves as the deputy assistant inspector general at the Pentagon.

Col. Paul Paolozzi, the 18th Eng. Bde. commander, said the purpose of the 565th Eng. Bn. is two-fold. Not only will the battalion serve as a headquarters for non-deployed units within the 18th Eng. Bde., but it will hold the responsibility of setting precedence for Soldiers arriving to their first duty station.

Dupeire previously served as the 18th Eng. Bde. executive officer and said he looks forward to serving with all the Soldiers of the 565th Eng. Bn. and caring for the Soldiers and Families of the 18th Eng. Bde.'s deployed units.

Morgan served as the divisional engineer for the 1st Armored Division prior to arriving at the 565th Eng. Bn. and will use his institutional knowledge and prior experiences with rear detachments to set the standard for the battalion.

The 565th Eng. Bn. will serve as the headquarters for the 60th Engineer Detachment, the Emergency Management Assessment Team and the 243rd Construction Management Team, located in Schwetzingen.

The battalion will also be responsible for rear detachment operations for the 18th Eng. Bde. headquarters, as well as Company G and the 42nd Clearance Company of the 54th Eng. Bn. in Bamberg, and Company D, 15th Eng. Bn. in Schweinfurt.

The preparation required to activate a provisional battalion is extensive. Months before the actual ceremony, approval was granted from McQuiston to activate the battalion.

Once the 565th Eng. Bn. was approved, the 18th Eng. Bde. worked extensively to assign personnel to the new unit. A special balance was required to man the unit so it would be able to fully operate and support the brigade while at the same time leaving the appropriate personnel within the brigade in order for it to fulfill its upcoming mission in Afghanistan.

Once the personnel were assigned, new office space was allocated and as the 565th Eng. Bn. was activated, they moved into their new offices and began independent operations. Standing up the battalion prior to the brigade's deployment allows the battalion to establish their independent operations and support the brigade. These operations will continue throughout the 18th Eng. Bde.'s deployment.

In standing up the new battalion, Soldiers of the 565th Eng. Bn. are busy preparing their office spaces on Tompkins Barracks and assigning representatives to each staff section. They have begun diverting specific actions from the 18th Eng. Bde. to the 565th Eng. Bn. in order to establish enduring operations in preparation for the brigade's deployment.

### **565th Engineer Battalion History**

The 565th Engineer Battalion was constituted on Feb. 25, 1943, in the U.S. Army as the 183rd Engineer Combat Battalion and was activated Oct. 15, 1943, at Camp McCain, Miss. The 183rd Eng. Bn. was redesignated Nov. 21, 1943, as the 565th Engineer Battalion and was allotted to the regular Army. The battalion arrived in Europe late in 1944. During World War II, the battalion received campaign credits in Rheinland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe.

On June 19, 1945, the battalion was deactivated and later activated on Mar. 27, 1954 in Korea, serving there until deactivation on June 24, 1960. The 565th Eng. Bn. was reactivated on June 24, 1960, in Karlsruhe, Germany, as part of the 7th Eng. Bde., supporting the training of NATO defense forces. The battalion units consisted of the 502nd Eng. Co. (Float Bridge), the 809th Eng. Co. (Panel Bridge) and the 8594th Civilian Labor Group (Float Bridge). In July 1975, the 535th Eng. Co. (Light Equipment) was assigned to the battalion with its permanent station in Grafenwoehr, Germany. On Jun 30, 1976, the battalion was altered by deactivation of the 809th Eng. Co. and the transfer of the 535th Eng. Co. to the 563rd Eng. Bn.

The assignment of the 93rd Eng. Co. (Mobile Assault Bridge) to the 565th Eng. Bn. changed the mission support to the VII Corps to focus only on bridging. On Feb. 21, 1977, the 502nd Eng. Co. received the Ribbon Bridge, and was re designated as the 502nd Eng. Co. (Assault Float Bridge) effective Dec. 16, 1978. These two re-designations made the battalion the first pure engineer battalion (Assault Float Bridge) in the United States Army.

On June 17, 1985, the 563rd Eng. Bn. was inactivated and the 38th Eng. Co. (Medium Girder Bridge) and the 503rd Eng. Co. (Combat Support Equipment) were assigned to the 565th Eng. Bn. This made the 565th Eng. Bn. the largest battalion in the 7th Eng. Bde.

On May 15, 1986, the 565th Eng. Bn. was deactivated and Task Force 565 was formed. On Aug. 16, 1986, by authority of a VII Corps general order, the 565th Eng. Bn. (Provisional) was formed.

On Dec. 1, 1987 the 38th Eng. Co. (MGB) and the 503rd Eng. Co. (CSE) were transferred to the 237th Eng. Bn., thus leaving the 565th Eng. Bn. a pure engineer assault float bridge battalion again.

In Jan. 1988, the 93rd Eng. Co. received the ribbon bridge and was redesignated as the 93rd Eng. Co. (Assault Float Bridge). On Oct. 16, 1990, the 565th Eng. Bn. (Provisional) was activated and became the 565th Eng. Bn. supporting 7th Eng. Bde. and VII Corps.

With the deactivation of the 7th Eng. Bde. on June 22, 1991, the 565th Eng. Bn. was assigned to the 130th Eng. Bde. and V Corps. On July 1, 1991, the 38th Eng. Co. again joined the 565th Eng. Bn. (Assault Float Bridge), making it the 565th Eng. Bn. (Corps) (Bridge). On Sep 30, 1991, the 8594 Civilian Support Group was deactivated after 31 years of service.

In May 1992, the 516th Eng. Co. (Medium Girder Bridge) joined the battalion. The 565th Eng. Bn. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment were inactivated on 15 December 1993.

V Corps reactivated the 565th Eng. Bn. on April 14, 1998 with the 502nd Eng. Co. (Assault Float Bridge), the 38th Eng. Co. (Assault Float Bridge), the 320th Eng. Co. (Topographic) and the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 565th Eng. Bn.

The unit participated in nine bridging missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom including construction of the longest floating river bridge assembled in a combat theater since World War II. The troops spent the majority of the deployment in Tikrit, Iraq, but moved to Camp Virginia, Kuwait, in August to deactivate the 38th Eng. Co. and begin reorganization of the 502nd Eng. Co. to become a multi-role bridge company. About 180 Soldiers returned home to complete the reorganization and train on the Army's new bridge equipment.

The 565th Eng. Bn. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment was inactivated on 15 June 2005. The current activation is the fifth activation in its long and distinguished history.



Lt. Col. John Dupeire of Thibodaux, La., and Sgt. Maj. David Morgan of Wagoner, Okla., the 565th Engineer Battalion command team, unfurl the battalion colors during the battalion's activation ceremony at Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany, recently. (Photo by Spc. Aislinn M. Amig, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)



Spc. Michael Wilson, an 18th Engineer Brigade bridge crewmember from Pocatello, Idaho, presents Kelley Dupeire from Austin, Texas, wife of Lt. Col. John Dupeire, the 565th Engineer Battalion commander, with a dozen yellow roses during the 565th Eng. Bn.'s activation ceremony at Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany, recently. (Photo by Spc. Aislinn M. Amig, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)