

8TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION UNIT HISTORY, 1976

1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION:

- a. Commander: LTC Joseph P. Goncz 20 August 75 - Present
- b. Key Personnel:
- (1) Commander, HHD, 8th Maint Bn:
 CPT Dale W. Stewart 1 January 75 - 1 April 76
 CPT Gregory F. Potts 1 April 76 - Present
- (2) Commander, 19th Maint Co:
 MAJ George L. Tannehill 1 January 75 - 17 February 76
 CPT Jerome A. Barbour 17 February 76 - Present
- (3) Commander, 71st Ord Co:
 MAJ John G. Zierdt 5 September 75 - Present
- (4) Commander, 81st Maint Co:
 CPT Robert P. Nesmith 15 January 75 - 20 July 76
 CPT George A. Griveas 20 July 76 - Present
- (5) Commander, 88th Maint Co:
 CPT Theodore J. Majer 6 June 75 - Present
- (6) Commander, 881st Maint Co:
 CPT Robert W. Allen 25 September 75 - Present
- (7) Executive Officer:
 MAJ William R. Crawford 1 January 75 - 20 July 76
 MAJ Uwe A. Grube 20 July 76 - Present
- (8) S-1
 CPT David E. Shaver 15 January 75 - 29 April 76
 CPT Gregory F. Potts 29 April 76 - Present
- (9) S-2/3:
 CPT Dale W. Stewart 1 January 75 - 20 June 76
 CPT Edgar A. Hollingsworth 20 June 76 - Present
- (10) S-4:
 CPT Jerome A. Barbour 5 March 75 - 17 February 76
 MAJ George L. Tannehill 17 January 76 - 1 June 76
 CPT Thomas E. Doran 1 June 76 - Present

(11) DIC:

MAJ Uwe A. Grube
SFC Thomas E. Hind II

10 January 75 - 20 July 76
20 July 76 - Present

(12) Materiel Officer:

MAJ John R. Wakelin Jr.
MAJ George L. Tannehill

1 January 76 - 20 June 76
21 June 76 - Present

(13) SSO:

MAJ James J. Gibson

21 June 76 - Present

(14) Chaplain:

CPT Walter R. Case
MAJ Ronald W. Benzing

1 January 75 - 7 July 76
21 July 76 - Present

(15) CSM:

CSM Ernest H. Kight

15 August 75 - Present

c. OPERATIONAL STRENGTHS AS OF 31 Dec 76

Off	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Off	41	36
WO	36	26
Enl	1388	1371

d. Legal:

Company Article 15's	237
Field Grade Article 15's	15
Summary Court - Martials	2
Special Court - Martials	6
General Court - Martials	9
Chapter 10's	6
Chapter 13's	9
Chapter 16's	22
EDP's	21
Reenlistments	115
Bars	20
SIR's	25

e. CDAAC:

CDAAC Referrals
Active in CDAAC
(as of 31 Dec 76)

178
42

f. Awards:

MSM	8
ARCOM	47
3d SUPCOM Certificate	50

g. Athletics:

The battalion actively supported the military community's sports program. Battalion companies fielded teams in every community sport to include flag football, basketball, boxing, softball, and bowling. This enthusiastic participation by the members of the battalion significantly reduced the number of serious incidents reported during 1976.

h. Safety and Accident Prevention:

Safety received heavy command emphasis in the battalion due to the unfortunate automotive death of a battalion member, a special stress was placed upon automotive safety. Members of the battalion were actively urged to exercise safety in all aspects of operations.

i. Drug Control:

The emphasis was on Drug incidents this past year. Increased reports USAREUR-wide of alcohol abuse sparked classes, talks, and lectures on the effects of heavy alcohol use. To aid the speedy release of chronic alcohol/drug abusers, the chapter 16 discharge was implemented within the battalion.

j. Morale and Welfare:

(1) The year 1976 ended with a substantial increase in unit, group, and individual activities. Companies regularly sponsored sight-seeing excursions to such places as Rothenberg, Nurnberg, Paris, and Berlin.

(2) During 1976, the battalion's enlisted women who had been quartered in a consolidated women's billet, were assimilated into the men's billets. Visitation privileges were established based upon the belief that members of the battalion are responsible adults.

(3) In December of 1976, the 881st Maintenance Company relocated to the billet space formerly occupied by the military community's women. The move was made for the purpose of preparing the old billets for renovation to be started in 1977. An added impetus for the move was provided by the lack of recreational/entertainment facilities on Grossaueim Kaserne - a major problem in the past. Company personnel now have ready access to all facilities on Pioneer Kaserne.

k. Community Relations:

(1) Vital concern for the quality of life within the community was demonstrated by the battalion during 1976. Many community projects were initiated and completed by the battalion. Extensive repairs to a building to be used as a day care center; fabrication of commissary shelves to increase commodity availability; and improvement of the medical dispensary were a few of the many projects undertaken by companies within the battalion.

(2) During the summer of 1976, Europe experienced a severe drought. The 8th Maintenance Battalion quickly responded to the potentially catastrophic situation by supplying numerous tractors, trailers, and people to aid local farmers by trucking hay from various points within Europe. Livestock remained healthy as did the local German economy.

(3) Participation in and support of the 1976 PTSA Halloween Carnival provided a large measure of enjoyment for the battalion members. Many battalion families were actively engaged in Boy Scouts, high school teen dances, and other community services.

1. Religion Activities:

(1) The Coffee house grew in spirit and number during 1976. This nonsectarian activity provided a place for quiet meditation, conversation, and fellowship for members of the battalion as well as the military community.

(2) Visiting groups of gospel singers provided inspirational and thought-provoking songs to individuals in shops and classrooms. These special programs were significant morale boosters for both young and old members of the battalion.

(3) The battalion enjoyed success in its unique enlisted briefing program. Newly arrived enlisted personnel (primarily E5 and below) were weekly treated to a special dinner in the dining facility followed by discussion on areas of intense concern such as billets life, boredom, attitudes, and sponsorship.

2. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING:

a. Exercises:

Although participation in major exercises was not widespread, the battalion did provide crucial support to field units in Central Germany. Contact teams, umpires, and equipment were heavily committed to support of Reforger 76. The 71st Ordnance Company provided TOW, Dragon, Shillelagh, Rédeye, and Lance support to field firings in Grafenwohr, Wildflecken, and Crete.

b. Force Development:

(1) Adjustment to the 1975 MTOE change continued. Proposed changes to the MTOE were submitted, but by the end of the year had produced no results. On 1 October 1976, the 71st Ordnance Company reorganized under MTOE O955GE102 which increased the size of the company by adding critical administrative personnel.

(2) A new concept in personnel administration won enthusiastic acceptance from the battalion members. The Consolidation of Administration at Battalion Level (CABL) is designed to relieve the Company Commanders and First Sergeants of routine administration detail and allow them greater freedom of action within the unit.

c. Training:

(1) Commander's notes 2,3, and 4 written by LTG Starry completely reorganized V Corps' concept of training. Training planning was centralized at battalion level while training responsibility was decentralized down to squad/section level. The battalion initiated plans for institution of the ARTEP's and SQT programs.

(2) During the period 7 through 16 April 1976, the battalion underwent annual training at Wildflecken. Intense training was accomplished in tactics, land navigation, and weapons. More than 660 personnel were trained during this period.

3. LOGISTICS:

a. Property:

Command emphasis on the identification and turn-in of DIPEC and TOE excess resulted in a significant reduction of superfluous property.

b. Dining Facilities:

(1) The 71st Ordnance Company assumed the crucial task of managing the Hanau Military Community's Consolidated Dining Facility.

(2) The 881st Maintenance Company's Dining Facility continued to provide exceptionally good meals to battalion members.

c. Motor Pools:

The battalion consolidated Motor Pool disbanded on 1 October 1976. Each Company Commander assumed direct responsibility for his vehicles and his unit's readiness. An additional benefit to the deconsolidation was increased security of the motor pools which are now located inside Grossauheim Kaserne.

4. INSTALLATION COORDINATION:

a. Beautification of the Kaserne:

An enormous amount of previously unuseable ground was made available for service by the removal of over 3,000 meters of old pre-WWII railroad tracks. The destruction and removal of several ancient structures not only increased land useability, but added to the physical well being of battalion members by removing potential sources of injury.

b. Facilities:

(1) Building 601 received special attention when plans were approved to "renovate" the 881st Dining Facility located along the southeast wall under the modernization of US Facilities (MOUSF) program. An urgent MCA construction project was submitted for building 601 to set up a new Engine and Power Train repair line. This project also includes a desperately needed exhaust system and a paint spray booth.

(2) Building 617 was also approved for renovation under the MOUSF program.

(3) Possibly the most spectacular renovation to occur on the kaserne was the complete rebuild of the fire-damaged portion of building 653. When completed in early January of 1977, the facility will be one of the most modern Maintenance Shops in USAREUR.

5. MATERIEL:

a. During 1976, the balance on hand of items in the Class VII Account (Major Items) was dramatically reduced. Funds were made available to upgrade tactical vehicle repair standards from ESC green criteria to complete automotive reconditioning (Code B). V Corps units expressed deep satisfaction for the new battalion products produced by the 88th Maintenance Company.

b. The US Army introduced the new M880 Dodge Commercial truck during 1976. This vehicle was designed to replace the old 5/4 ton M715 truck. More evidence of battalion ability was given by the assignment of the 81st Maintenance Company to be sole deprocessor for the new truck. Several companies in the battalion were designated to conduct programmed repair on the M880 components.

c. The 19th Maintenance Company successfully completed the LASER Rangefinder modification project for all V Corps M551 Sheridan Reconnaissance Vehicles.

d. During 1976, significant revision occurred in the battalions Operation General Support (OPGS) and theater Army Repair Part (TARP) procedures. Changes to these two programs dramatically increased the battalions programmed production of components. The result was a noticeable improvement in the readiness posture of V Corps.

e. The 881st Maintenance Company was designated as the major repair facility for the TPX 46 Air Defense Radar System. V Corps field units during 1976 experienced difficulties with the VSS-3 series searchlight. An 881st team, blending both civilian and military expertise, attacked the problems. After many hours of work, the team isolated the offending part - a converter assembly - and quickly devised corrective action.

6. SUPPLY AND SERVICES:

a. In June of 1976, the battalion realized a valuable asset in the person of MAJ James Gibson. MAJ Gibson assumed the duties of the Supply and Service Officer. Under the guidance of this dynamic officer, this battalion's technical supply facilities almost immediately began an upward spiral towards greater efficiency.

b. In April 1976, the first step towards the General Support Supply Company concept was taken by the implementation of Project Capture. This unique V Corps facility "captures" various classes of supply items and allows those items to be readily accessible to Army Corps Technical Supply Facility.

c. Possibly the most measurable impact on Corps readiness was apparent in the dramatic reduction of the zero balance count at the Central Exchange Point (CEP). This remarkably low figure toward the end of 1976 indicated that very few critical pieces of Corps equipment were deadlined due to lack of components.

7. PROJECT PARTNERSHIP:

a. Seven soldiers from the 310th Technical Battalion (Bundeswehr) participated in the battalion's annual Wildflecken training. During this period, these soldiers received American weapons familiarization and land combat training. About five months later, the partnership unit reciprocated and welcomed two of the 8th Maintenance Battalion's officers to their Command FTX. 1LT William Monahan and SFC John Raleigh returned with impressive reports of the Bundeswehr's training.

b. In May 1976, Major Uwe Grube, the battalion Executive Officer, enjoyed the distinction of participating in the German Army Missile Firings at Crete. Major Grube observed, firsthand, the extremely high level of training associated with the Bundeswehr forces. As the battalion representative, Major Grube had the pleasure of a European's tour of Europe when the partnership personnel ushered him to various sightseeing areas in Greece.

