



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 19TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION (DS)
APO 09169

AETWSC-MB-CO

1 July 1976

SUBJECT: Historical Summary, CY 75, 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS)

Chief of Military History
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C., 20315

1. Personnel and Administration:

a. The 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) is commanded by LTC Leon E. Salomon who assumed command 17 December 1974. The previous commander being COL Frederick W. Fox.

(1) Headquarter's and Headquarter's Detachment is commanded by CPT Allan E. Braun, Jr., who assumed command 16 January 1975. The pervious commander being CPT William J. Cummings.

(2) The 14th Maintenance Company ceased to be a part of the 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) on 30 June 1975 and was integrated into the 85th Maintenance Battalion.

(3) The 15th Maintenance Company is commanded by CPT Donald L. Porter who assumed command 4 March 1975. The previous commander being CPT Bernard E. Roberson.

(4) The 24th Supply and Service Company is commanded by CPT William J. Cummings who assumed command 1 August 1975. The previous commander being MAJ Arnold G. Blair, Jr.

(5) The 557th Maintenance Company is commanded by CPT Donald T. Gill who assumed command 1 July 1975. The previous commander being CPT R. F. Vlasic. The 557th Maintenance Company became a part of the 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) on 30 June 1975.

(6) The 588th Maintenance Company is commanded by CPT Eddie Cain, who assumed command 14 July 1975. The previous commander being CPT Robert G. Frederico.

b. The following personnel comprised the primary staff of the 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS):

| | | |
|--------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| A.G. BLAIR | MAJ | Executive Officer |
| C.E. RUFFIN | 2LT | Adjutant |
| A.E. BRAUN | CPT | Operations Officer |
| T.J. Herold | CPT | Deputy Installations Coordinator |
| H. HOPKINS | CPT | Supply Staff Officer |
| O.C. PACE | CPT | Supply & Service Operations Off |
| J.P. DeLOACH | CSM | Battalion CSM |

1 July 1976

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c. Strength:

| | AUTHORIZED | | | ACTUAL | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | OFF | WO | EM | OFF | WO | EM |
| HHD, 19th Maint Bn (DS) | 15 | 0 | 48 | 12 | 0 | 57 |
| 15th Maint Co | 4 | 3 | 175 | 2 | 3 | 171 |
| 24th Sup & Svc Co | 5 | 0 | 164 | 5 | 0 | 141 |
| 557th Maint Co | 4 | 3 | 175 | 4 | 1 | 149 |
| 588th Maint Co | 7 | 7 | 221 | 4 | 7 | 225 |
| | <u>45</u> | <u>13</u> | <u>783</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>713</u> |

d. Discipline, Law and Order: There were 195 article 15 punishments and 10 courts-martials administered to individuals of the 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) during 1975. A great preponderance of these actions were initiated during the winter months when frustration and boredom among the enlisted personnel build. The poorer weather and generally colder climate of winter inhibits most outdoor activities in Giessen. There are few winter sports activities available to Giessen soldiers in Giessen Proper, and few soldiers have the mobility to get to Wildflecken for skiing or Bad Nauheim for skating. Since January 1975, 32 personnel have been separated from this Battalion as a result of their inability to meet the minimum standards of duty performance and appearance. This is twice the number separated in 1974. Supervisors are convinced that the loss of these personnel has increased rather than decreased mission effectiveness in the units. Their time is better spent now on mission activities. The implementation of the EDP Program on 3 October 1973 has been one of the mainstays of this Battalion in eliminating those personnel who have demonstrated their consistent inability to meet even the most basic standards of duty performance and appearance for continued active duty. The single most important feature of an EDP is the simplicity of the paperwork. The administrative nightmare of the Chapter 13 (AR 635-200) was by-passed, but only in those cases where the individual met the elimination criteria. Most of the drug abusers of the Battalion were eliminated UP Chapter 13 for unfitness, but this is a slow process. The Qualitative Management Program was ineffective as a tool for discharging short-term problem personnel due to the time frames for its use. Several personnel opted for a Chapter 10 (AR 635-206) discharge in lieu of courts-martials. There were no lost or stolen weapons in the 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) during 1975. Encouragement of the Check-to-Bank option met with limited success, but the entire program to increase the security of valuables in barracks buildings dramatically reduced cash thefts. The Pendleton Barracks Unit Police Force was an effective tool established in Giessen which controlled access into the Pendleton Facility, and has been effective in the decrease of thefts and fights in the Installation. CQ's were more thorough and more conversant with the guidelines for security outlined in updated unit SOPs.

1 July 1976

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e. Reenlistment and Bars to Reenlistment:

The 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) had a reenlistment total of individuals during 1975. The increased emphasis on initiation of bars to reenlistment and the many programs designed to enhance the environment in Battalion units has greatly aided the Reenlistment NCO in meeting his goals. Personnel seem to feel more inclined to stay in a unit which has shown a genuine, sincere interest in making the units a better place in which to live. The commanders of this Battalion are firmly convinced of the merit of the bars to reenlistment as a positive incentive to selected soldiers. In all, personnel were bared from reenlistment in this Battalion in the past year; a sharp decline in the number of bars initiated during 1974. The success this invaluable tool has had has been from its simplicity. It is the organization's way of pronouncing an individual undesirable for future active duty. It is not punitive, it is administrative. Personnel who haven't the slightest inclination to reenlist have been motivated into super soldiers by the initiation of a bar. To them it was a matter of pride.

f. Safety and Accident Prevention; accident/injury rates and trends safety activities:

There were 43 accidents involving soldiers from this Battalion. Ten of these accidents involved a military vehicle. Numerous POV accidents were the result of drinking and driving. The safety program and the command information program of this Battalion increased the awareness of the individual soldier as to the risk involved in drinking and driving. Traffic point assessment and revocation of licenses are automatic and continuous for violators.

g. Morale and Welfare:

The health, welfare and morale of the soldiers of this Battalion was significantly enhanced by extensive participation in the USAFEUR Rest and Recreation Program in Garmisch. Over 100 individuals journeyed to Garmisch for the week long administrative leave offered as an integral part of the program. The enthusiasm and enjoyment exhibited by the individuals returning from Garmisch sold the program for the other personnel. The Battalion commander strongly encouraged maximum voluntary participation in sports in all communities also stressed the need for A&R activities at unit level on training schedules. This type of support insured participation by all individuals, regardless of their proficiency, the goal was participation. In addition to programs listed, the submission of the impact awards for meritorious achievement and exceptional duty performance was pushed. This increased the morale of the hardest working, most often forgotten men of the Battalion - the Grafenwoehr contact teams of the maintenance companies and the laundry and bath sections of the 24th Supply and Service Company. Commanders administered swift and consistent military justice to violators and equally swift elimination procedures

1 July 1976

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against personnel who demonstrated substandard performance. The elimination of these disruptive influences did much toward increasing unit morale and the swift punishment made it clear in everyone's mind what the penalties were for breaking the organization's rules. The Battalion Human Relation Council met regularly to discuss problems relevant to each unit at each separate location. Commanders either explained the reasons for subjects discussed or changed them if appropriate. Unit Fund balances have been carefully monitored to insure that funds are being spent rather than saved. The Battalion is equipped with a 9-passenger van and a 20-passenger bus, both of which were used as transportation to musical concerts and recreational activities in Giessen and Frankfurt. The Battalion Chaplain, in addition to providing counseling and guidance to the soldiers, arranged for prayer hours, prayer breakfasts and transportation to religious retreats. All of these measures combined have produced the high state of morale for the soldiers of this Battalion and in turn, the high morale increased our mission effectiveness.

2. a. Authority:

(1) Headquarter's and Headquarter's Detachment, 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) was organized under MTO&E 29-136HE101 per USAREUR General Order 3635, dated 14 July 1975.

(2) The 15th Maintenance Company was organized under MTO&E 29-208HE102 per USAREUR General Order 3589, dated 10 July 1975.

(3) The 24th Supply and Service Company was organized under MTO&E 29-147GE105 per USAREUR Letter dated 9 June 1974.

(4) The 557th Maintenance Company was organized under MTO&E 29-208HE103 per USAREUR Letter dated 20 August 1975.

(5) The 588th Maintenance Company was organized under MTO&E 29-208HE104 per USAREUR General Order 4537 dated 14 August 1975.

(6) The 172nd Ordnance Platoon was deactivated 21 December 1975 per USAREUR General Order 2926.

b. Mission:

(1) Headquarter's, 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS): To provide command, administrative and technical supervision to assigned units; to provide direct support maintenance, laundry and bath service for designated customers, limited evacuation and maintenance supply support to non-divisional units located in Support Area "A"; to provide Class I, II, III, IV, VII and IX supply support; to supply technical assistance to supported units; to improve the Army image.

(2) Headquarter's and Headquarter's Detachment: To provide personnel, equipment and administrative services to the 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) Headquarter's.

(3) The 15th Maintenance Company: To provide direct maintenance limited evacuation and maintenance support to equipment of non-divisional units assigned within our support area and to provide other maintenance support and assistance as directed by higher headquarters.

(4) The 24th Supply and Service Company: To provide the following direct support supplies and services to units in assigned areas: Class I, II, III, IV, VII and IX; laundry and bath support; central issue facility and fire extinguisher direct exchange.

(5) The 557th Maintenance Company: To provide direct support maintenance, limited evacuation and maintenance supply to equipment of non-divisional units in assigned areas and to provide other maintenance support and assistance as directed by higher headquarters.

(6) The 588th Maintenance Company: To provide direct support maintenance limited evacuation and maintenance supply to equipment of non-divisional units in assigned areas and to provide other maintenance support and assistance as directed by higher headquarters.

c. On-The-Job-Training: The 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) has operated a very successful OJT training program to meet current personnel requirements in critical mission areas. Key supervisors worked up POIs for their respective areas of interest and conducted a formal OJT program. Individuals who met the requirements for being awarded an MOS through the OJT program were assigned to work for the same superior who conducted their training. In this way, a supervisor molded the soldier into someone capable of assuring mission accomplishment. If the individual did not progress sufficiently to be awarded the MOS, he was dropped from the program. During CY 74, 70 soldiers from this Battalion were trained through the use of internal teaching resources.

d. Schools: The following schools were the most frequently requested by individuals of this Battalion:

- (1) Company Commanders Course
- (2) First Sergeant Course
- (3) Wheeled Vehicle Organizational Maintenance Course
- (4) NCO - 1
- (5) Officer Logistics Readiness Course
- (6) Organization of Field Radio Equipment Course
- (7) Transistor Equipment Maintenance Course
- (8) Laser Range Finder Maintenance Training Course
- (9) Tactical Communications Officer/Chief
- (10) M551 Sheridan Organizational Turret Maintenance Course

3. Fostering German-American Relations:

The 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) has perhaps one of the most successful Project Partnership Programs in USAREUR with 420th Instandsetzungsbattalion in Giessen. A monthly schedule of events is prepared, distributed and coordinated by SFC Coffman, HHD, 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS). The events scheduled between Battalions include seasonal sports activities and weekly gatherings of officers and NCOs at alternating facilities. The Germans regularly win at soccer and table tennis competition, the Americans at Volleyball, softball and bowling. The spirit of competition between units and the

AETVSC-MB-CO

SUBJECT: Historical Summary CY 75, 19th Maint Bn (DS)

1 July 1976

(cont'd)

events involved vigorous exercise that is of benefit to everyone. Soldiers of both Battalions familiarize and qualify with each others weapons at the Bundeswehr outdoor firing range in Wetzlar and at Annual Training at Wildflecken. The result of firing is the exchange of markmanship awards for proficiency. American soldiers with the determination and physical stamina have earned numerous Abzeichen fuer Leistung in Truppendienst in Bronze, Silber und Galt. These badges which show individual prowess have been approved for wear by DA. German soldiers and American soldiers are invited to accompany their allies on ORTs and alerts. There has been a perceptible change in the attitudes of the personnel of both countries toward each other. This intangible reward is the objective of the Project Partnership Program.

4. Summary:

The 19th Maintenance Battalion (DS) has enjoyed a year of success in all areas of accomplishment. The officers and personnel of this Battalion are looking forward to another year with enthusiasm and a determination to continue to demonstrate professionalism in every detail. The goals of this battalion will continue to be; increase mission effectiveness, enhance the environment and lifestyles of the soldiers of the Battalion and to improve the Army image through professionalism.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


CHARLOTTE E. RUFFIN
2LT, OrdC
Adjutant

