

EVERETTE F. COPPOCK III

CSM, US ARMY, RETIRED

TRANSPORTATION CORPS REGIMENT, 1977-2007

51ST COMPOSIT TRUCK COMPANY (HEAVY), TURLEY BARRACKS, MANNHEIM AND SMITH BARRACKS, BAUMHOLDER, GERMANY, (Enhanced - HET) (AC), "STEEL KNIGHTS":

Constituted January 12, 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 4153rd Quartermaster Truck Company.

Activated January 24, 1944 at Fort (COL) William D. Davis, Canal Zone, Gatun Lake, Panama (Atlantic river side)

Converted and re-designated on August 1, 1946 as the 4153rd Transportation Corps Truck Company.

Re-designated May 7, 1947 as the 51st Transportation Corps Truck Company.

Re-designated on July 10, 1947 as the 51st Transportation Truck Company.

Inactivated March 27, 1950 at Fort (COL) William D. Davis, Gatun Lake, Panama. (Atlantic river side)

Allotted on May 8, 1951 into the Regular Army.

Activated on June 7, 1951 in Hanau, State of Hessen, Germany.

Reorganized and re-designated on June 8, 1953 as the 51st Transportation Company, 38th Transportation Battalion, Munich, assigned to V Corps, General Abrams Building, Frankfurt, Germany COM Z, HQs USAREUR and 7th Army, Keyes Building at Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg, Germany.

Campaign Participation Credit, World War Two, American Theater, Silver Band

Decorations: Army Superior Unit Award for 1995 through 1996. Task Force Eagle, October 15, 1995 until December 10, 1996, the unit received the Army Superior Unit Award for support during IFOR mission in Former Republic of Yugoslavia. AUSA, Army General Order Number 2001-25/2005-09.

In April 1954, the 51st Transportation Company (Light Truck) was stationed at General, Oskar Von Hutier Kaserne, Hanau, 38th Transportation Truck Battalion was activated in Munich, Germany on 1 June 1951 assigned to V Corps, General Abrams Building, Frankfurt, Germany COM Z, HQs USAREUR and 7th Army, Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg, Germany.

The unit was reassigned to Turley Barracks, Mannheim, APO Army Europe (AE) 09166.

In 1978 SSG, Howard Rathmann (CSM Retired) transferred from the 41st Transportation Company and then lead his platoon with 35 assigned Soldiers, operating and conducting operator level maintenance on 20 M818 5-Ton Tractors and 30 M127 12-Ton Trailers. Soldiers were dispatched on extended long-haul missions and 181st Transportation Battalion convoy support requirements.

51st Transportation Company (Palletized Load System (PLS) at Turley Barracks, Mannheim, Germany.

In November 1995, The 51st PLS Company, minus one platoon, to the 16th Corps Support Group based at Zupanja, Croatia, labeled Tactical Assembly Area HARMON, to move containerized cargo to the engineers and rebuilt the destroyed bridge across the Sava River that formed a natural border between Croatia and Bosnia.

The final force structure for the deploying US unit, Task Force Eagle, consisted of: Headquarters, 1st Armored Division, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 5th Bn (Battalion), 3d Air Defense (Bradley-Avenger), 501st Military Intelligence Battalion.

141st Signal Battalion 1st Brigade 3d Bn, 5th Cavalry (Mechanized Infantry) 4th Bn, 67th Armor 2d Brigade 4th Bn, 12th Infantry (Mechanized) 2d Bn, 68th Armor 4th (Aviation) Brigade 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry 2d Bn, 227th Aviation (Attack) 3d Bn, 227th Aviation (Attack) 7th Bn, 227th Aviation (Assault Helicopter) Engineer Brigade 23d Engineer Battalion 40th Engineer Battalion Division Artillery 2d Bn, 3d Field Artillery (155-mm, SP) (self-propelled) 4th Bn, 29th Field Artillery (155-mm, SP) Battery C, 333d Field Artillery (Target Acquisition Battery) Division Support Command 501st Forward Support Battalion 47th Support Battalion 123rd Support Battalion 127th Support Battalion Attached elements of: 30th Medical Brigade (V Corps) 22d Signal Brigade (V Corps) 16th Corps Support Group (3d Corps Support Command) 205th Military Intelligence Brigade (V Corps) 18th Military Police Brigade (V Corps).

In March 1995, USAREUR directed its strategic reserve, the airborne task force [tailored around 3d Battalion, 325th Infantry] of the SETAF (Southern European Task Force), Vicenza, Italy, to

begin planning for a possible mission to extract UN peacekeepers from various besieged cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.¹⁹ In April, USAREUR directed V Corps to conduct an exercise to assist SETAF to prepare for their possible extraction operation under OPLAN DARING LION. The SETAF led joint task force [which included V Corps aviation assets and a Corps support group] had been dubbed "Task Force Lion." SETAF held several planning conferences, staff exercises, and training and rehearsal exercises to develop a plan which was facilitated by Exercise Mountain Shield, held at Grafenwoehr Training Area from 10 to 25 June 1995. Phases of the exercise, which was designed "to facilitate the development and validation of SETAF's OPLAN Daring Lion," included a two day CPX (Command Post Exercise) during which V Corps served as the ARRC, with an extensive after action review, a fire coordination exercise, and a mission rehearsal exercise.²⁰ Even though a second Exercise Mountain Shield was held between 7 and 19 September 1995 at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels to test the advanced plans, military operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina over the summer of 1995 relieved the pressure on some of the besieged cities, rendering an extraction mission unnecessary. Fighting intensified in the former Republic of Yugoslavia during the spring and summer of 1995 as shown by the Serb attacks at Srebrenica and other enclaves, Croatian military offensives in Western Slavonia and central Croatia, and other military operations. As it was becoming obvious that a much larger peacekeeping force would need to deploy to Bosnia-Herzegovina to separate the warring factions, in July of 1995, USAREUR directed V Corps to develop a campaign plan for the deployment of a US Army ground force. V Corps planning for this new operation was conducted at the same time peace negotiations were being conducted and as a result, "there was no specific mission, it was not known if the mission would be peacekeeping or peace enforcement, it was difficult to know if the force should be heavy or light, the AOR (Area of Responsibility) of the US forces was not known, and political sensitivities prevented on-the ground reconnaissance."²¹ As V Corps planning was being conducted ahead of policy decisions being made, the guidance from higher headquarters was limited, causing V Corps planners to use their own initiative and experience. They conducted the troops-to-task analysis and mission analysis. It was known however, that unlike proposed operations in the past, this new Balkan mission would have a higher force level, would be of at least six months' duration, would need to be sustained for an extended period, and would involve peace making or peace enforcement instead of peacekeeping.²² A small V Corps planning cell began meeting daily in August 1995. Three courses of action were developed based upon force levels considered appropriate for the impending mission, with a force cap of 25,000 being imposed shortly thereafter on the planners. This decision meant that 1st AD would have to be augmented by additional forces and the 1st AD staff would have to be increased to effectively exercise command and control over the additional forces. After analyzing the force structure and determining which US elements could be replaced by allied forces, V Corps G3 planners concluded the total force would consist of 31,191 soldiers, with the United States providing 19,900 soldiers and allied armies

contributing 11,291 troops. The final force structure for the deploying US unit, Task Force Eagle, consisted of: Headquarters, 1st Armored Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company 5th Bn (Battalion), 3d Air Defense (Bradley-Avenger) 501st Military Intelligence Battalion 8 141st Signal Battalion 1st Brigade 3d Bn, 5th Cavalry (Mechanized Infantry) 4th Bn, 67th Armor 2d Brigade 4th Bn, 12th Infantry (Mechanized) 2d Bn, 68th Armor 4th (Aviation) Brigade 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry 2d Bn, 227th Aviation (Attack) 3d Bn, 227th Aviation (Attack) 7th Bn, 227th Aviation (Assault Helicopter) Engineer Brigade 23d Engineer Battalion 40th Engineer Battalion Division Artillery 2d Bn, 3d Field Artillery (155-mm, SP) (self-propelled) 4th Bn, 29th Field Artillery (155-mm, SP) Battery C, 333d Field Artillery (Target Acquisition Battery) Division Support Command 501st Forward Support Battalion 47th Support Battalion 123rd Support Battalion 127th Support Battalion Attached elements of: 30th Medical Brigade (V Corps) 22d Signal Brigade (V Corps) 16th Corps Support Group (3d Corps Support Command) 205th Military Intelligence Brigade (V Corps) 18th Military Police Brigade (V Corps) 23 On 1 August 1995, 1st AD ceased routine operations and began to develop OPLAN Task Force Eagle 95-426 for possible deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina. At the same time, to avoid duplication of effort, V Corps began developing a decision support template that would enumerate the sequence of decisions that would confront the commanding general. Further operational and logistical planning continued. On 12 October 1995, the Contact Group negotiated a ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which resulted in USAREUR beginning formal planning for the deployment of a peace implementation mission in that divided country. To facilitate plan development, USAREUR conducted a series of planning and training exercises called Exercise Mountain Eagle at Grafenwoehr Training Area. Exercise Mountain Eagle I [9 September to 15 November 1995] helped prepare the 1st AD's two brigades for the initial occupation of Task Force Eagle's area of responsibility in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. Exercise Mountain Eagle II [3 to 20 December 1995], held at Schweinfurt, Germany, was largely a CPX (Command Post Exercise)/FCX (Fire Coordination Exercise) to prepare a unit for a contingency deployment to Bosnia Herzegovina. On 30 November 1995, the V Corps plan was published as USAREUR 40105 Campaign Plan. Key points of this plan were:

- TFE (Task Force Eagle) will be built around 1st Armor Division
- USAREUR will establish a Forward Headquarters near the area of operations for national support with Commander, V Corps, designated DCG, USAREUR (FWD)
- USAREUR retains control of non-deploying forces remaining in Central European Region and continues currently assigned operational and life support missions
- V Corps establishes TFV (Task Force Victory) in Wiesbaden under the command of DCG, V Corps, to provide command and control for 1st AD and V Corps separate brigade rear detachments and non-deploying forces

- TFV is from elements of VCA (V Corps Artillery) Staff augmented by 3d COSCOM (Corps Support Command)
- V Corps (Main) remains in Heidelberg to provide planning and mission support for deployed Corps forces
- CG, 1st ID (Infantry Division) retains command of non-deploying division forces reportedly directly to CG, V Corps. REF A: ARMYUPress.army.mil

In 2007, the 181st Transportation Battalion inactivated at Turley Barracks after 64 years of service.

- 11th Transportation Company, at Turley and some equipment at Spinelli Barracks was then reassigned to the 18th Corps Support Battalion, Grafenwoehr, and relocates as Turley Barracks closes.
- the 41st Transportation Company (PLS), was located Rose Barracks, Vilseck was reassigned to the 18th Corps Support Battalion.
- 51st Transportation Company (PLS), was located at Turley Barracks was reassigned to the 28th Transportation Battalion, Coleman Barracks, Sandhofen.
- 377th Transportation Company (HET) was at Grafenwoehr Training Area with orderly room at Turley and some equipment at Spinelli Barracks was reassigned to the 18th Corps Support Battalion, 7th Corps Support Group, Grafenwoehr moving all assets to Grafenwoehr as Turley and Spinelli Barracks closed.
- 515th Transportation Company (POL) operating out of Turley and equipment at Spinelli Barracks was reassigned to the 28th Transportation Battalion, Coleman Barracks, Sandhofen, Germany moving all assets to Coleman Barracks as Turley and Spinelli Barracks closed.

On June 4, 2010, the 28th Transportation Battalion inactivates. The remaining active units 51st Transportation Company, 70th Transportation Company and 515th Transportation Company are reassigned to the 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), located at Warner Barracks, Bamberg, 16th Sustainment Support Brigade, located at Smith Barracks, Baumholder, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Panzer Kaserne, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

On February 4, 2016, the 51st Transportation Company, 39th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), conducted field training exercise at Smith Barracks, Baumholder, Germany in preparation for deployment to Poland. The 39th Transportation Battalion is located on Kleber Kaserne, Kaiserslautern, Germany and assigned to the 16th Sustainment Brigade, Baumholder, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

On November 9, 2016 Soldiers from the 51st Transportation Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, began fielding new equipment and restructuring the makeup of the light composite truck company Oct. 6 to meet the increasing logistical demands of the European Theater. In order to keep up with the high transportation demand within Europe, 51st Trans. Co. began expanding its truck fleet by adding the United Kingdom's heavy equipment transporter and the mine resistant ambush protected all-terrain vehicle, or M-ATV.

The M-ATV, the new gun truck platform for the Army, is also part of the new Steel Knight fleet. The M-ATV is a significantly larger platform than the current Humvee, providing its crew members enhanced protection from improvised explosive devices and improved tactical operating capabilities. The 51st Trans. Co. acquired 20 M-ATVs and began training operators the last week of October. "The greater security provided by the M-ATV over the previous models directly ties into our readiness as a forward stationed truck company in a very versatile theater, where we could be going anywhere at any time," said 1LT, Kelly Washington, platoon leader, 51st Trans. Co., who spearheaded the training on the new vehicles. "We are happy to have the increased protection afforded by the new gun trucks. These trucks will greatly increase our convoy security abilities."

By mid-November, the unit anticipates the common remotely operated weapons station will also be added to the arsenal. The highly advanced weapons system, which will be mounted on the new gun trucks, will serve to protect the weapons operator and maintain the safety and integrity of the crew as a whole. In addition to fielding new vehicles and weapons stations, leaders divided the company into four-line platoons consisting of one medium tactical vehicle platoon, two palletized loading system platoons, and a HET platoon. "The dynamic theater and diverse logistical requirements in Europe form a need for creative solutions," said CPT, Ashian Izadi, company commander. "While we are a light composite truck company by mission, the unit adds additional versatility and logistical capabilities to its fleet for support of heavy transportation requirements through the new HET fielding."

Restructuring the company into platoons segregated by vehicle sets will allow Soldiers and leaders to become subject matter experts on their equipment, performing services and maintenance more efficiently. "With well trained, motivated Soldiers, 51st Trans. Co. can move

anything, anytime, anywhere," said 51st Trans. Co.'s 1SG, Jason Bologna. REF B: Article by 1LT, Ryan Crosser, 51st Trans Co, 18th CSSB, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

On October 3, 2017 Soldiers with 51st Composite Truck Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC), control the lifting of a beam by a heavy duty vehicle of Department of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux as they build tents in order to host up to 300 Soldiers with 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division who will transit for their deployment to support Operation Atlantic Resolve, on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, Oct. 03, 2017.

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600+ COPPOCK Veterans have a combined 2033 years of service from USA, UK, Australia and Canada

REFERENCES:

REF A: ARMYUPress.army.mil

REF B: Article by 1LT, Ryan Crosser, 51st Trans Co, 18th CSSB, 16th Sustainment Brigade.