

HISTORY

704TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION

THE 704TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION TRACES ITS HISTORY BACK TO 30 JULY 1943 WHEN IT WAS ORGANIZED AT FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY AS THE 704TH ORDNANCE LIGHT MAINTENANCE COMPANY. IN EARLY 1944, THE 704TH DEPARTED WITH THE 4TH DIVISION FOR THE EUROPEAN THEATRE. TOGETHER THEY WENT ASHORE AT THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, WITH THE 704TH RENDERING THE NEEDED SUPPORT THROUGH NORTHERN FRANCE, THE RHINELAND, ARDENNES-ALSACE, AND CENTRAL EUROPE. IT WAS AWARDED TWO MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATIONS FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF THE DIVISION.

FOLLOWING THE WAR, THE 704TH WAS INACTIVATED UNTIL 1948 AND THEN SPENT THREE YEARS AS A TRAINING UNIT AT FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA. IN 1951 THE DIVISION-- AND THE 704TH--DEPLOYED TO GERMANY AS PART OF THE NATO FORCES IN EUROPE. IN 1953 THE 704TH ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMPANY WAS REORGANIZED AS THE 704TH ORDNANCE BATTALION. THE 704TH RETURNED TO FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON WITH THE DIVISION IN 1957.

ON 1 OCTOBER 1963 THE BATTALION WAS AGAIN REORGANIZED, AND BECAME THE 704TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION, CONSISTING OF A HEADQUARTERS, THREE FORWARD SUPPORT COMPANIES, A REAR SUPPORT COMPANY, AND AN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE COMPANY. IN SEPTEMBER 1966, THE 704TH DEPLOYED WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH DIVISION TO VIETNAM AND THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. SINCE THAT TIME THE MEN OF THE BATTALION HAVE PROVIDED MAINTENANCE SUPPORT TO THE DIVISION IN OPERATIONS PAUL REVERE IV, FRANCIS MARION, SAM HOUSTON, MACARTHUR, AND HINES. FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN VIETNAM, THE BATTALION HAS BEEN AWARDED TWO MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATIONS. WHEREVER THE MANEUVER ELEMENTS OPERATED--DAK TO, KONTUM,

TUY HOA, PLEIKU, NEW PLEI DJERENG, ARMAGEDDON, OASIS, HARDTIMES--THE MEN
OF THE 704TH HAVE RENDERED SKILLED AND STEADFAST SUPPORT, KEEPING THE
DIVISION'S EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND WEAPONS FUNCTIONING.

*THE US ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS WAS FOUNDED ON 14 MAY 1812.

REMARKS

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OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 704TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION--ON THE EVE OF YOUR DEPARTURE FROM CAMP RADCLIFF, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL GRATITUDE TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE OUTSTANDING MANNER IN WHICH YOU HAVE PERFORMED DURING YOUR TENURE IN THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION. ALL TOO OFTEN IT IS MEN LIKE YOURSELVES--HARD WORKING, DEDICATED AND PROFESSIONAL--WHO BECOME THE UNSUNG HEROES OF AN INFANTRY DIVISION. HOWEVER, SUCH IS NOT THE CASE TODAY. THIS CEREMONY IS SPECIFICALLY IN YOUR HONOR, AND I INTEND TO MAKE IT CLEAR HOW MUCH I AM AWARE OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

IT IS NO SECRET THAT IN THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION, MAINTENANCE IS AN ITEM OF COMMAND EMPHASIS. I SUBSCRIBE TO THE AXIOM THAT AN ARMY WHICH ALLOWS ITS WEAPONS AND VEHICLES TO DEGENERATE IS ITSELF DEGENERATING. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION IN THE FIELD, EACH ITEM MUST BE OPERATIONAL AND DEPENDABLE. UNQUESTIONABLY, WITHOUT YOUR FINE MAINTENANCE, SUPPLY SUPPORT, AND AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION WOULD HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ITS VARIOUS MISSIONS OVER THE YEARS. IN BAN ME THUOT, KONTUM, PLEIKU, PLEI DJERENG, AN KHE, LZ ENGLISH, AND LZ UPLIFT--WHEREVER YOU WENT--THE DIVISION PROFITED BY YOUR PROFESSIONALLY EXECUTED MAINTENANCE OPERATION IN ACTION. THE 704TH CAN NOW DEPART WITH THE SATISFYING KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY CAME HERE TO DO A JOB, AND THAT THE JOB WAS DONE IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER.

MANY OF YOU ARE GOING ON TO NEW ASSIGNMENTS IN VIETNAM. TO YOU I SAY,
DO THE BEST JOB POSSIBLE FOR THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE. WHEREVER YOU
GO, SERVE AS WELL AS YOU HAVE SERVED THIS DIVISION. TO THOSE OF YOU WHO
WILL BE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES, I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE COMPLETION
OF SUCCESSFUL TOURS. TO ALL OF YOU, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MEN OF THE FOURTH
INFANTRY DIVISION, I SAY THANKS, GOOD LUCK, AND GODSPEED.