



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Lineage and Honors

21st ENGINEER BATTALION

Organized 31 December 1861 in the Regular Army at Washington, D.C., from new and existing companies of engineers as a provisional engineer battalion (constituted 28 July 1866 as the Battalion of Engineers)

Expanded 14 March-7 June 1901 to form the 1st and 2d Battalions of Engineers (1st Battalion of Engineers--hereafter separate lineage)

2d Battalion of Engineers expanded, reorganized, and redesignated 1 July-1 August 1916 as the 2d Regiment of Engineers

2d Regiment of Engineer expanded 21 May-20 June 1917 to form the 2d, 4th, and 5th Regiments of Engineers (2d and 4th Regiments of Engineers--hereafter separate lineages)

5th Regiment of Engineers redesignated 29 August 1917 as the 5th Engineers

Assigned 6 December 1917 to the 7th Division

Inactivated 27 September 1921 at Camp A. A. Humphreys, Virginia

Relieved 11 January 1936 from assignment to the 7th Division and assigned to the 8th Division

Activated 1 February 1936 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Relieved 16 September 1939 from assignment to the 8th Division

Redesignated 1 August 1942 as the 5th Engineer Combat Regiment

21st ENGINEER BATTALION

Regiment broken up 27 December 1943 and its elements reorganized and redesignated as follows:

1st Battalion as the 1277th Engineer Combat Battalion

(Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1128th Engineer Combat Group; 2d Battalion as the 1278th Engineer Combat Battalion--hereafter separate lineages)

1277th Engineer Combat Battalion (less Company C) inactivated 11 February 1946 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey (Company C inactivated 18 February 1946 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey)

Redesignated 29 April 1947 as the 21st Engineer Combat Battalion

Activated 1 October 1948 at Camp Carson, Colorado

Redesignated 8 June 1953 as the 21st Engineer Battalion

Inactivated 20 December 1957 at Fort Carson, Colorado

Activated 24 June 1958 in Italy

Inactivated 25 June 1959 in Italy

Activated 1 May 1966 at West Point, New York

Inactivated 16 October 2007 at West Point, New York

Assigned 16 April 2014 to the 3d Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and activated at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

21st ENGINEER BATTALION

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Civil War
Peninsula
Antietam
Fredericksburg
Chancellorsville
Wilderness
Spotsylvania
Cold Harbor
Petersburg
Appomattox
Virginia 1863

War with Spain
Santiago

Philippine Insurrection
Streamer without inscription

Mexican Expedition
Mexico 1916-1917

World War I
Lorraine 1918

World War II
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

War on Terrorism
Afghanistan:
Transition II

DECORATIONS

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered AFGHANISTAN
2016-2017

Company A additionally entitled to:

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered AFGHANISTAN
FEB-OCT 2015

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:


CHARLES R. BOWERY, JR.
Chief of Military History

16 NOV 2025