

11th Transportation Battalion



*11th Transportation Battalion crest(l) and coat of arms(r)
Mouseover each for a description*

The 396th Quartermaster Battalion (Battalion) was constituted on 1 May 1936 and was activated at Ft. Hamilton, New York on 1 October 1941. The battalion was initially deployed to England's staging area, but was diverted to North Africa. The battalion was converted and redesignated on 17 September 1942 as the 396th Port Battalion, Transportation Corps. The battalion took part in the spearhead assault on Sicily in 1943. On 23 March 1944 the battalion was broken up and elements reorganized as the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) as HHD, 396th Port Battalion (Companies A, B, C, D as the 692nd, 693rd, 694th, 695th Port Companies, respectively—each with their own separate lineages). The battalion received campaign credit for Sicily (with Arrowhead), Rome-Arno, Southern France, and the Rhineland campaigns. The battalion was inactivated on 13 March 1946 in Marseille, France.

The 11th Battalion was redesignated 29 September 1948 as HHD, 11th Transportation Port Battalion. The battalion was reactivated on 4 October 1948 at Ft. Eustis, Virginia. On 27 December 1950 the unit was redesignated as the Headquarters and Headquarters Service Company, 11th Port Battalion. On 1 November 1952, the battalion was redesignated Headquarters, 11th Transportation Port Battalion, to be redesignated back again to Headquarters and Headquarters Service Company, 11th Transportation Port Battalion on 1 December 1953. On 2 October 1954 the battalion was redesignated as HHD, 11th Transportation Port Battalion.

The Soviet Union tested their first nuclear device in 1949, which heightened the fear of a war. The shortest distance for Soviet long-range bombers to attack the United States with nuclear bombs was across the Arctic Circle. The US Air Force established a line of Distant Early Warning (DEW) stations from Thule, Greenland to the tip of Alaska in 1952. In spring of 1951, landing craft were attached to the 373rd Transportation Major Port (TMP) to Thule, Greenland as part of Operation BLUEJAY. In February 1952, the 373rd TMP conducted Operation Support of North Atlantic Construction (SUNAC) 52. LCMs and LCUs discharged cargo and equipment for the construction of the radar stations along the DEW Line. In 1958 and 1961, the 11th Battalion carried out the North Resupply Mission. In the 1958 mission, parts of the unit deployed to Argentina, New Foundland, and Thule, Greenland.

As of 5 April 1963 the battalion, whose unit motto was “Preparedness-Dependability,” was comprised of the following companies:

- 105th Transportation Company (Terminal Service)
- 117th Transportation Company (Terminal Service)
- 123rd Transportation Company (Terminal Service)
- 124th Transportation Company (Terminal Service)
- 264th Transportation Company (Terminal Service)
- 155th Control Supervisory Detachment
- 158th Cargo Supervisory Detachments
- 783rd Cargo Supervisory Detachments.

The 105th deployed in support of the Cuban Crisis in 1962.

The battalion arrived in Vietnam in August 1965. The 11th Battalion was known as the “Beavers.” The unit initially performed port clearance in the commercial port of Saigon. The battalion received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period from August 1965 to May 1966. On 31 March 1967, the unit moved to Long Binh and later to Cat Lai. During these years, the battalion’s missions included cargo discharge and clearance at various sites and conducted the discharge and movement of virtually all ammunition in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. Its last mission was the operation of the Cat Lai Ammunition Terminal and cargo line haul operations on waterways in the Mekong Delta.

The 402nd Transportation Company (Terminal Transfer) operated under the 11th Battalion and operated barge discharge sites at Buu Long, Binh Trieu, Thanh Tuy Ha, and Dong Nai. The company assumed responsibility for the control and operation of the Ho Nai Railhead. The company moved from TC Hill to Camp Camelot, Long Binh in April 1968. It opened a new general cargo discharge site at Dong Nai on 16 May 1968. The 402nd Company transferred to the 71st Transportation Battalion Terminal on 15 June 1968. In this move, operational control of the Buu Long, Codigo and Dong Nai Barge Discharge Sites, and Ho Nai Railhead also transferred to the 71st Battalion.

The 124th Transportation Company (Terminal Service) was assigned to the 11th Battalion and provided personnel and equipment to operate the US Army Terminal at Cat Lai, provided movement of lighterage to discharge sites at Than Tuy Ha and Ben Trieu, and operated drum POL discharge sites at Nha Be. The 124th operated three deep draft berths and discharged over one million short tons of ammunition during March 1967 and March 1969—the company came to average 50,000 short tons per month. The 124th assumed responsibility of the Than Tuy Ha discharge site on 1 July 1967 and relinquished responsibility on 9 July 1967 for operating the K-12, Area IV at the Saigon Port.

The 1099th Transportation Company (Medium Boat) was stationed at Cat Lai and operating LCM-8 landing craft. The 1099th disembarked and staged division size combat forces, transported refugees from the war-torn Iron Triangle to refugee centers, conducted Logistics-Over-The-Shore (LOTS) operations, provided direct combat support of combat forces in the Mekong Delta, and experimented with barge mounted artillery. For some of these missions, elements of the 1099th were attached to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade

in July 1968. The company began operations with the 1st Infantry Division on riverine operations in operational areas south of Saigon in November 1968. The 1099th supported the 82nd Airborne Division in riverine operations in the Capital Military District of Saigon beginning December 1968. The 1099th repeatedly came under hostile fire and was one of the most decorated transportation units in Vietnam.

Detachment #3, TD Augmentation Unit, US Army Harborcraft Company (Provisional) combined 33 floating craft and detachments. The company provided watercraft services for the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones and Y Tanker support for the Saigon support POL system from Nha Be and Vung Tau to various Mekong Delta fixed and floating sites. Det #3 delivered almost all of POL shipments in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. The 11th Battalion lost eight ammunition barges near VC Island to an enemy rocket attack on 22 February 1968. On 16 May 1968 the company gained nine transportation detachments, six liquid barges, and three J-boats. An enemy rocket near VC Island hit a #3 Detachment tugboat on 16 November 1968 while towing ammunition from Cat Lai to Codigo; WO2 Patterson and SP4 Hodge were killed in action. Tugboats were often under hostile fire during these missions.

The battalion was inactivated 12 February 1970 in Vietnam. The battalion was redesignated and activated as HHD, 11th Transportation Battalion on 3 April 1972 at Fort Eustis, Virginia. The battalion participated in Operation URGENT FURY in 1983. On 16 October 1990, the battalion was reassigned from the 7th Transportation Group at Ft. Eustis, Virginia to the 8th Transportation Brigade and Headquarters at Ft. Story, Virginia for administration during the 7th Groups deployment to Southwest Asia. The 11th Battalion remained at Ft. Story during the Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM and worked the Hampton Roads port. As of 15 June 1994, the battalion was comprised of:

- 8th Transportation Company (Air Cushion Vehicle)
- 309th Transportation Company (Heavy Amphibian)
- 331st Transportation Company (Air Cushion Vehicle)
- 368th Transportation Company (Terminal Service)
- 549th Transportation Company (Petroleum Operating)
- 119th Transportation Company (Terminal Service)
- 159th Heavy Crane Detachment
- 276th Cargo Documentation Detachment

The 11th Battalion deployed soldiers to Haiti for Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY and returned days before deploying troops the battalion on 12 October 1994 to Southwest Asia in support of Operation VIGILANT WARRIOR.

As of December 2002, the 11th Transportation Battalion (Terminal) was comprised of the following:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Company
- 19th Quartermaster Company (Petroleum Operating)
- 119th Transportation Company (Cargo Transfer Companies)

159th Transportation Detachment (Port Operating Crane Detachment)
276th Transportation Detachment (Automated Cargo Documentation)
309th Transportation Detachment (Heavy Amphibian)
368th Transportation Company (Cargo Transfer Companies)
82nd Quartermaster Detachment (Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit)
396th Transportation Detachment (HMOD)

The battalion was responsible for conducting amphibious marine operations in fixed ports and logistics-over-the-shore (LOTS) environments. Although the no watercraft was assigned to the unit, the 11th Battalion, through the 309th Detachment operated the 7th Groups only Lighter, Amphibious Resupply Cargo (LARC-LX) wheeled amphibian.

The battalion deployed soldiers to the Persian Gulf in January 2003 in preparation of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Campaign Participation Credit

World War II: Sicily (with arrowhead); Rome-Arno; Southern France; Rhineland
Vietnam: Defense; Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase II; Counteroffensive, Phase III; Tet Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase IV; Counteroffensive, Phase V; Counteroffensive, Phase VI; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer-Fall 1969; Winter-Spring 1970

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for VIETNAM 1965-1966
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for VIETNAM 1966-1967
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for VIETNAM 1968
Army Superior Unit Award for 1994