



**SENIOR LEADER
BIRTHDAY MESSAGE**

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**RAYFIELD TAKES
COMMAND-USACE KC**

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**RAT 6
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**ROUTE MICHIGAN
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ALWAYS FIRST!



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Army

Happy
246th
Birthday
U.S. Army!

The U.S. Army was established
June 14, 1775





For 246 years, the United States Army has stood strong in the defense of this Nation.

This year, our Army faced unprecedented challenges that swept our Nation and the world. We are incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience, and hard work of our Soldiers from the Active Duty, National Guard, and Army Reserves, and all of our Families, Civilians and Soldiers for Life. It is because of you that we remain a symbol of strength and hope around the world.

Join us for the Army Birthday Showcase, *Honoring the Courage of the American Soldier*, on June 14th at 1000 EST, along with other events taking place online at <https://www.army.mil/article/245293>.

We are honored to serve with the world's finest men and women. We will never forget the sacrifices of those who gave the last full measure. We serve to honor the legacies and sacrifices of our past heroes.

Happy 246th Birthday, United States Army!

People First! Winning Matters! Army Strong!

Michael A. Grinston
Sergeant Major of the Army

James C. McConville
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Christine E. Wormuth
Secretary of the Army

Congratulations COL Travis Rayfield

Commander-USACE-Kansas City (June 2021)



Fellow Diehard Veteran (OIF)....Rayfield is a native of Sedro-Woolley, Washington. In 1999, he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy in 1999, a Master of Science in Engineering Management in 2003 from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, and a Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Engineer Captain's Career Course, and the National Defense University's Eisenhower School. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri, and he holds a Project Management Professional Certification.

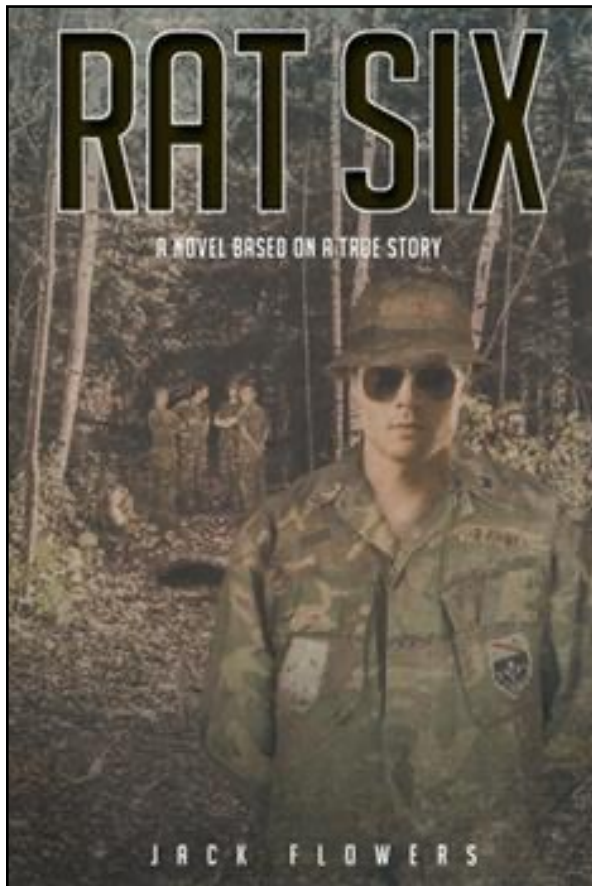
The Kansas City District was established in 1907. Its missions include Civil Works, Military Construction, the cleanup of Hazardous, Toxic and Radiation waste. Its Civil Works boundaries take in parts of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Colorado. Its Military Construction boundaries encompass the states of Missouri and Kansas. It is the primary design district in 7 states and the secondary design district in 8 states for the Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste cleanup program, and facilitates the disposal of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (non-fissionable materials) for the entire United States.



Diehard alum supporting Rayfield on June 11, 2021 while attending the USACE-KC change of command. Ernie Longoria, Col Travis Rayfield, Kate Guttormsen

"Although "Rat 6" is a novelization of my year in Vietnam, it is based on actual events, how I felt about the conflict on the ground and under the ground in the tunnels, as well as the conflict in my mind"

- Jack Flowers



Flowers lowering Gonzalez down a vertical shaft- Photo taken from firstengineerbattalionveterans.org.



Flowers at a book signing. Photo provided by the 11D museum.

Then and Then

Vietnam Iraq



Left: Tunnel Rat P. E. Richardson examines tunnel entrance.



Right: 1EN BN Soldier inspecting a tunnel in the vicinity of Ar Ramadi, Iraq '03-'04.



Left: Captain Crowther C CO '66-'67.



Right: Private Christopher Bedwell from A Co 1st Engineer Battalion, takes a break in a field while on patrol May 26, 2004 in Ramadi, Iraq.



Left: Ed Hart on TD-24 1966 Bear Cat.



Right: A Co M113A3 armored personnel carrier passes a donkey while on patrol May 25, 2004.



Left: A Co Vietnam '65-'66.



Right: 1LT Rich Bendelewski from A Co looks on as a Soldier uses a metal detector to search for buried weapons May 25, 2004 in Ramadi, Iraq.



Left: The team at a Fire Support Base in Michelin Plantation L to R Schultz, Sabol, Hien, Tiep, Gonzalez and Lt Flowers squatting.



Right: Soldiers from DECON Platoon. DECON was attached to HHC during OIF 2003-2004 and conducted missions such as escort, route patrols, and QRF.

AO Topeka IED History



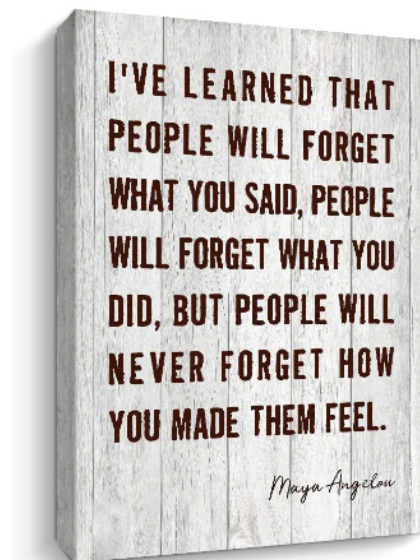
Route Michigan was normally an IED- and car bomb-infested gauntlet that the BN ran daily



Chaplain's Corner

Perseverance

You never know how close you are to a breakthrough unless you keep going



Please notify Chaplain Larry Blair if any member of the Veterans of the First Engineer Battalion passes away. Provide details, obituary, name and address of next of kin if possible. blairylar@hotmail.com

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(September 9, 2020)

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REUNION NEWS

DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS

THE ARMY MUSEUM REOPENED ON

JUNE 14TH!

The 38th Annual Reunion is ON!

When: Friday, September 17- Monday, September 20, 2021

Where: Herndon, VA (Washington DC/Fort Belvoir Area)

(See the attached schedule and registration form)

2021 REUNION VENUE

Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, Herndon, VA





Museum of the US Army



1st Division Memorial

Our reunion will be held at the Hilton Washington Dulles International Hotel just minutes from Dulles International Airport and close to both the Army Museum at Ft Belvoir and Washington, DC.

- Rooms for two with breakfast are \$109 (\$122, including all fees and taxes).
- Parking is complementary for cars and motor homes.
- Complimentary local area shuttle is also available including stops at Washington Dulles Airport and the National Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport.
- For those wishing to spend more time in Washington the hotel will offer the Reunion rate from the nights of September 15 to September 21.
- Hotel reservations may be cancelled without penalty up to 24 hours prior to your scheduled arrival.
- The Hilton has opened a dedicated reservation website for our group:

(<https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized//IADAHHF-V1EB-20210915/index.jhtml?WT.mc.id=POG>).

If requested use group code V1EB. You may also reserve by phone at (703) 478-2900. If you reserve by phone be sure to say you're registering for the First Engineer Battalion reunion- group code V1EB-and verify the rate.

The Reunion starts on Friday with registration, an afternoon at leisure and a casual evening in the hospitality room. Saturday we have our membership meeting in the morning. Saturday afternoon is at the new ARMY MUSEUM. We depart early afternoon for a tour of the Museum with time to explore the galleries at leisure and walk the grounds to see the Battalion memorial plaque and brick. Bus transportation to the Museum is planned. The evening will include a buffet dinner followed by casual time in the Hospitality room. Sunday morning is at leisure. We will depart the hotel at noon to visit the First Division, WW2 and Vietnam memorials. Bus transportation to the Memorials is planned since auto parking is not available. On Sunday evening we will have our banquet at the hotel. The full schedule is on the next page.

There's plenty to do in the Washington area. Each day more venues are opening in the Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia area. This is a great opportunity to see Washington. The Washington Metro is 10 minutes by Uber. Why not add an extra day or two and explore the Capital region. Hertz car rental has set up a convention rate for the reunion. You may use CV# 022Q9486 when reserving.

Anyone who has served with the First Engineer Battalion is cordially invited to attend the reunion. Registration and schedule details are in the attached registration form. Why not form a group and meet at the Reunion?

Point of contact for questions is Tom Jennings at: tomandgeri07@gmail.com.

**VETERANS OF THE FIRST ENGINEER BATTALION
ANNUAL REUNION, 17-20 SEPTEMBER, 2021
US ARMY MUSEUM, FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA**

LODGING: HILTON WASHINGTON DULLES INTERNATIONAL A/P, 13869 Park Center Rd, Herndon VA 20171

Room Block: veterans of the First Engineer Battalion 2021 Reunion – Group Code: V1EB

WEB Page address: (.<https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/I/IADAHHF-V1EB-20210915/index.jhtml?WT.mc.id=POG>).

**Check-in: 17 Sep 2021 (A limited number of rooms at the reunion rate are available on 14/15/16 Sep
Check-out: 20 Sep 2021 and 20/21 Sep for those wishing to extend their stay.)**

ROOM RATE: \$109 PER NIGHT (\$122.06 INCLUSIVE OF TAX)

INCLUDES: Breakfast for two; free Parking; FREE CANCELLATION 24 HRS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

**YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR ROOM WITH THE HOTEL BY AUGUST 17 TO GET THIS RATE!!
IF YOU WANT A SEAT ON THE BUSES TO THE MUSEUM AND MALL WE NEED YOUR REUNION
REGISTRATION (PG 2) NOW!!**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SEP 14/15/16	EARLY ARRIVALS	ON YOUR OWN
FRIDAY SEP 17	1200-1800 1200-1600 1600-1800 1800-1930 1930-????	REGISTRATION HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN HOTEL SHUTTLE TO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM BOARD MEETING DINNER ON YOUR OWN HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
SATURDAY SEP 18	0900-1100 1100-1230 1230-1300 1400-1700 1800-1900 1830-2000 2000-????	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING LUNCH ON YOUR OWN MEET IN LOBBY – BUS TO MUSEUM TOUR US ARMY MUSEUM HOSPITALITY MEETING ROOM OPEN ITALIAN BUFFET (\$25PP) HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
SUNDAY SEP 19	AM 1145-1200 1200-1600 1730-1900 1900-2030 2030-????	OPEN MEET IN LOBBY – BOARD BUS TO MEMORIALS FIRST DIV, VIETNAM, AND WW 2 MEMORIALS. WREATH LAYING AT FIRST DIV MEMORIAL HOSPITALITY ROOM – COCKTAILS & PICTURES BANQUET – 3 COURSE PLATED DINNER HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
MONDAY Sep 20	AM	FAREWELL & DEPARTURE
TUESDAY SEP 21	LATE DEPARTURES	ON YOUR OWN

**VETERANS OF THE FIRST ENGINEER BATTALION
ANNUAL REUNION, 17-20 SEPTEMBER, 2021
US ARMY MUSEUM, FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA**

REUNION REGISTRATION

WE NEED YOUR REUNION REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT NOW!

Mail this form with your check payable to "Veterans of the First Engineer Battalion" to:

**Tom Jennings
27 Hampton Court
Red Bank, NJ 07701**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

MEMBER _____ **EMAIL** _____

GUEST 2 _____

GUEST 3 _____

GUEST 4 _____

<u>COST:</u>	REGISTRATION FEE:	\$20.00PP	MEMBER \$ _____	GUEST(S) \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
	BUS TO MUSEUM	\$33.00PP	MEMBER \$ _____	GUEST(S) \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
	SATURDAY BUFFET	\$25.00PP	MEMBER \$ _____	GUEST(S) \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
	BUS TO MEMORIALS	\$30.00PP	MEMBER \$ _____	GUEST(S) \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
	BANQUET DINNER	\$47.00PP	MEMBER \$ _____	GUEST(S) \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____

Registration fee is per adult (16 years and older) and is required.

Bus trips require a minimum of 36 passengers to cover costs.

You must take the bus to the Memorials. POV parking is unavailable on the Mall.

Point of contact for questions is Tom Jennings at: tomandgeri07@gmail.com.