The following unit histories are from official statements of services with narrative about these units during their tenure in Thailand, while assigned to the United States Army Support Command, Thailand (USARSUPTHAI). Documents and photo’s have been collected and placed online with The 519th Transportation Association, Thailand’s website by Joseph J. Wilson, Jr. Sergeant First Class, US Army (Retired).

The 519th Transportation Battalion adopted a tiger as its symbol, based on the dominant figure on its distinctive crest. Personnel from the battalion participated in the design of the distinctive crest which was approved by the Institute of Heraldry on 31 August 1966.

The insignia is a gold medal and enamel device, one and one eighth inches in height. It consists of a brick-red disk edged in gold with three battlements at the top. In the center is a - gold, black striped tiger's head in profile with jagged extremities.

The latter surmount a green wreath in base composed of laurel leaves on one side and palm in the other. On the base and sides of the gold rim is a tri-parted gold scroll inscribed "QUID," "QUANDO," "QUO." in black letters. The motto refers to the battalion’s only query when assigned a mission: **What is the job? When must the job be done? Where is the job?**
**World War II**

The 519th Transportation Battalion was constituted on 1 April 1943, and re-organized as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, and 305th Port Companies. It was activated on 25 June 1943 at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania as the 519th Port Battalion then embarked from Camp Miles Standish in Boston, Massachusetts aboard the E.P. Alexander to England. After a brief training period, the 519th Port Battalion participated in the invasion of Normandy, going ashore on 7 June 1944. It later moved from Normandy to Antwerp, Belgium on 14 November 1944, where it remained until being inactivated on 3 October 1946.

Campaign Participation Credit: World War II (embroidered Normandy) Streamers: Normandy (with arrowhead); Northern France; Rhineland. Decorations: Meritorious Unit Commendation (embroidered European Theatre); French Croix de Guerra with Silver Palm; Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action at Antwerp.

**Project 572-W**

On 1 February 1956 the unit was reactivated as the 519th Transportation Battalion (Terminal Service) at Fort Eustis, Virginia. It was assigned the mission of preparing various boat companies and terminal service companies for participation in Project 572-W (the supply of material for the construction of the DEW line in the Arctic). Its mission completed, the unit was inactivated on 15 December 1957 at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

**Vietnam War**

On 20 May 1966 the unit was again activated, this time at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland as the 519th Transportation Battalion (Motor Transport). Filler personnel were assigned and began arriving in late May. The majority of officers and NCOs were returnees from Europe. The enlisted personnel, for the most part, were fresh out of basic training. By early June, there was sufficient personnel on-hand to begin POR/POM (Preparation for Overseas Movement) training in preparation for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam. During its own training phase, the battalion was assigned the responsibility of supervising the training of various Engineer, Quartermaster, Signal, and Transportation units for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam. When orders arrived the unit had been diverted to the Kingdom of Thailand.

In 1966, the 519th Transportation Battalion contained the following companies:

- Headquarters and Headquarters, 519th Transportation Battalion (20 May 1966)
- 313th Transportation Company (Refrigerated) (20 May 1966)
- *572nd* Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) (8 July 1966)
- 291st Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) (1 October 1966)

*After loading equipment at the port in Baltimore, Maryland personnel from the 572nd Transportation Company arrived at the port of San Francisco, California where they boarded the USNS General Alexander M. Patch for the 24-day cruise to the Republic of Vietnam on 6 October 1966.*
Southeast Asia - Thailand

On 10 December 1966 advance party elements (personnel and equipment) departed from Andrews Air Force Base aboard C130s headed for the Kingdom of Thailand. The remainder of the battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Harry Frederick Middleton and Sergeant Major James John Milele (both WWII and Korean War veterans) completed its move and closed in Thailand on 17 December 1966.

The 519th Transportation Battalion soon moved north from Sattahip, to Camp Charn Sinthope near Phnom Sarakham, southeast of Bangkok. Although the unit relocated to Camp Friendship in 1968, it soon returned to Camp Charn Sinthope where it remained until 1970 and was deactivated at Camp Samae San on 20 February 1971.

In Thailand the 519th Transportation Battalion contained the following companies:

- Headquarters and Headquarters, 519th Transportation Battalion
  (10 December 1966 Ft Meade, MD – 20 February 1971) – Camps Charn Sinthope, Friendship & Samae San
- 260th Transportation Company (Petroleum)
  (1 June 1966 Ft Riley, KS – 31 October 1975) – Camps Charn Sinthope & Samae San
- 291st Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo)
  (1 October 1966 Ft Meade, MD – 30 June 1971) – Camps Friendship & Khon Kaen
- 505th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo)
- 313th Transportation Company (Reefer)
  (10 December 1966 Ft Meade, MD – 31 March 1972) – Bangkok and Camp Friendship
- 53rd Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo)
  (10 April 1967 Okinawa – 30 December 1970) – Camp Vayama
- 569th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo)
  (1 May 1967 Ft Meade, MD – 1 April 1970) – Camp Khon Kaen
- 33rd Transportation Platoon (Reefer)
  (25 August 1967 Fort Lewis, WA – 1 April 1970) – Camp Friendship
- 254th Transportation Detachment (Trailer Transfer Point Operating)
  (30 November 1967 Fort Lewis, WA – 30 June 1971) – Camps Charn Sinthope, Friendship & Khon Kaen

The 260th Transportation Company (Petroleum) initially was issued M51 5-ton dump trucks and attached to the 44th Engineer Group where they assisted with highway and road construction until such time as M52 5-ton truck tractors and M131 5,000 gallon fuel trailers were available for issue. The unit was based at Camp Samae San in Sattahip.

The 260th Transportation Company (Petro) – Constituted in July 1923 in the Organized Reserves as the 935th Motor Transport Company. Re-designated as Company K, 513th Quartermaster Truck Regiment on 1 July 1936 then activated as D, 513th Quartermaster Truck Regiment on 1 April 1943 at Fort Custer, Michigan. Reorganized and re-designated as the 3890th Quartermaster Truck Company on 15 December 1943 and inactivated in France on 25 June 1946. On 1 August 1946, converted and re-designated as the 3890th Transportation Corps Truck Company. On 13 February 1948, re-designated as the 260th
The 291st Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) was based at Camp Friendship in Nakorn Ratchasima (Korat) where they transported cargo to northerly US bases. The unit also transported cargo from Camp Friendship to Ubon RTAFB.

The 505th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) was based at Camp Vayama in Sattahip and was the initial line haul operational unit from Sattahip to Takhli RTAFB, and Camp Friendship/Korat RTAFB. One platoon operated from a rail-head at Udorn RTAFB, transporting construction and airfield supplies in the buildup of the Nakon Phanom RTAFB (NKP) near the Laotian border in early 1967.

DECORATIONS: Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer (embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER); Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer (embroidered KOREA); Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer (embroidered SOUTHEAST ASIA).

It’s interesting to note that in 1990, during Operation Desert Shield, the 505th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) was once again activated on 20 September 1990 and inactivated in Korea on 17 March 1991.

The 313th Transportation Company (Refrigerated) was based in Bangkok where they transported all refrigerated products throughout US military units in Thailand.


Campaign Participation Credit: World War II-AP, Bismarck Archipelago, Luzon, Southern Philippines.

DECORATIONS: Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer embroidered SOUTHEAST ASIA.

The 53rd Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) was based at Camp Vayama in Sattahip and operated port clearance operations at Camp Samae San and the deep water port at Camp Vayama.

The 53rd Transportation Company – The parent unit organized March 1943 as 2638th Quartermaster Truck Battalion (Provisional) in North Africa. The 54th Quartermaster Truck Battalion constituted on 28 May 1943 in the Army of the United States. On 7 July 1943 was re-designated as 54th Quartermaster Truck Battalion. Company C reorganized and re-designated on 3 November 1943 as 3355th Quartermaster Truck Company. Concurrently, the remainder of the battalion reorganized and re-designated as follows: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 54th Quartermaster Battalion (Mobile). Companies A, B, & D as 3353rd, 3354th, & 3356th Quartermaster Truck Companies, respectively with separate lineages. On 12 April 1946 the 3355th Quartermaster Truck Company inactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. On 1 August 1946 converted and re-designated as the 3355th Transportation Corps Truck Company. Re-designated as the 103rd Transportation Truck Company and allotted to the Regular Army on 1 September 1948. First activated on 10 September 1948, then inactivated on 15 December 1948 at Fort Lewis, Washington. On 1 June 1949 activated at Fort McKinley in the Philippine Islands, then inactivated on 22 July 1949 at Fort Stotensburg in the Philippine Islands. Re-

Campaign Participation Credit: World War II-EAME, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium, Antwerp "St Albans Victory". 
DECORATIONS: Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer embroidered SOUTHEAST ASIA.

The 569th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) was based at Camp Khon Kaen where they replaced the platoon of the 291st Transportation Company in the delivery of cargo to Udorn RTAFB, Ubon RTAFB, NKP RTAFB, and Camp Rum Chit Chi in Sakon Nakon. It was the only class B unit in the 519th Transportation Battalion, with all US military drivers.


DECORATIONS: Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer (embroidered SOUTHEAST ASIA).

The 33rd Transportation Platoon (Reefer) was based at Camp Friendship in Nakorn Ratchasima (Korat) where they augmented with the 313th Transportation Company in the delivery of refrigerated cargo to all US military units throughout Thailand.

The 33rd Transportation Platoon (Reefer) – Constituted 10 May 1967 and activated on 25 August 1967 at Fort Lewis, Washington. Serving as a valuable element of the 519th Transportation Battalion operating from the Bangkok cold storage facility until the unit was inactivated on 1 April 1970.

DECORATED: Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer (embroidered SOUTHEAST ASIA).

The 254th Transportation Detachment (Trailer Transfer Point Operating) was split into three teams based at Camp Charn Sinthope near Phanom Sarakham where they were attached to the 519th Transportation Battalion, Camp Friendship in Korat where they were attached to the 291st Transportation Company, and Camp Khon Kaen where they were attached to the 569th Transportation Company. The 254th
Transportation Detachment was responsible for operating the Trailer Transfer Points along the 519th Transportation Battalions line haul operating area.

Units of the 519th Transportation Battalion had the unique mission of transporting cargo classified as 972 from December 1966 until December 1969 in support of US air operations in Laos and Vietnam. Operation 972 was sensitive explosives and listening devices commonly called Igloo White or known as the "McNamara Line of Defense" and was instrumental in detecting enemy troop movement along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and especially around the troops besieged at Khe Sanh.

Another unique mission of the 519th Transportation Battalion was the timely distribution of dairy products to US forces throughout Thailand. Employing a tactic of General Patton during the Second World War, the 313th Transportation Company dubbed it “Red Ball Revived” thereby ensuring that sensitive dairy products were expedited and delivered fresh each day.

Although these companies came together under the 519th Transportation Battalion in Thailand, each of them has a distinctive and honored background, in some cases dating back prior to the Second World War. Many of these units served with honor in Europe or in Asia, under combat conditions. A special survey disclosed that the "Tiger Battalion" has the longest line of communication and largest mission of any battalion of its type in the world.

For service in Thailand, 519th Transportation Battalion and its subordinate units were awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) 16 December 1966 – 31 December 1969 - GO 308 dated 14 July 1970, and although the documentation became lost over time, Department of the Army issued GO 29 on 30 December 2001 officially recognizing the accomplishments of this great transportation unit and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.