



History of the 209th Aviation Support Battalion

The 209th support battalion was first constituted in the regular army as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), 1st Battalion, 54th Quartermaster Regiment (Heavy Maintenance) on May 1st, 1936.

It was activated at Fort Devens, Massachusetts on June 1st, 1941. On August 1st, 1942, the battalion was converted and redesignated as HHD, 1st Battalion, 54th Ordnance Regiment (Heavy Maintenance). On October 7th, 1942 it was redesignated as HHD, 185th Ordnance Battalion (heavy maintenance). On May 26th, 1943, the battalion was redesignated as HHD, 185th Ordnance battalion. In WWII, the 185th participated in five major European campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. The battalion was deactivated in France on October 16th, 1946. On May 28th, 1954 the battalion was reactivated at the Red River Arsenal, in Texas. The 185th was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas when it was ordered to deploy to Vietnam. Arriving in Vietnam on August 2nd, 1965, the battalion was assigned to the 29th General Support Group, based at Long Binh, outside of Saigon, HHD, 185th Ordnance Battalion was reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Main Support Company, 185th Maintenance Battalion (direct support) on July 20th, 1966. The battalion remained at Long Binh where it performed maintenance and provided logistical support

for non-divisional units throughout military region III, both at Long Binh and through mobile contact teams. The 185th Maintenance Battalion is one of only a very few U.S. Army units to hold the distinction of having participated in 16 of the 17 campaigns of the Vietnam conflict, from Vietnam defense to the cease-fire. For this, the battalion received a Meritorious Unit Commendation. The 185th departed Vietnam on October 21st, 1972 and was deactivated on November 10th, 1972 at the Oakland Army Base, in California. On May 4th, 2004 Headquarters and Main Support Company, 185th Maintenance Battalion was redesignated and reorganized as Headquarters and Support Company (HSC), 209th Support Battalion (organic elements concurrently constituted). The 209th Aviation Support Battalion was activated at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii on November 16th, 2005 as the Aviation Support Battalion for the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. In addition to HSC, the battalion consists of a Distribution Company, Aviation Maintenance Company, and Signal Company.