

lineage and honors

The 63d Chemical NBC Defense Company was activated 1 June 1941 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as the 3d Chemical Depot Company. The company consisted of five officers and 17 enlisted personnel. On 7 June, another officer and 145 enlisted men were assigned.

During June and July the company trained in depot operations and on 28 July deployed to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to operate a Chemical Warfare Services (CWS) depot for the 3d Army. The company also operated depots at Mansfield and Crowley, Louisiana, before returning to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. On 21 December, the company deployed to Fort Lewis, Washington, to operate a depot. While there, two detachments were formed—one dispatched to San Bernardino, California, and the other to Sacramento, California. Shortly afterward, the company moved to Pasco, Washington, to operate the main CWS depot.

On 12 March 1942, the 3d Chemical Depot Company was redesignated the 63d Chemical Depot Company. Shortly after, one officer and 50 enlisted men left the company to form the 66th Chemical Depot Company. The 63d Chemical Depot Company continued normal depot operations until 25 June 1942, when a cadre was formed and reassigned to Camp Rucker, Alabama, to form the 9th Chemical Depot Company.

On 19 July, the 63d departed Fort Lewis for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, to begin preparations for overseas deployment.

Training focused on depot issues and receipts of CWS Class II and IV material. The company received orders for movement to Fort Dix, New Jersey—a first step in overseas processing.

On 28 February, the 63d departed for Casablanca, French Morocco, Northwest Africa, arriving there 9 March 1943. On 10 March, chemical depot operations were started under the supervision of the chemical officer, Atlantic Base Section.

For the next 15 months, personnel of the 63d were involved in depot operations at Oran, Algeria, and Bizerta, Tunisia, in Africa; Licata, Agrigento, St. Olivia, Gela, Caltanissetta, Palermo, and Cerda, Sicily; Naples, Cassandrino, Succiva, Santa Maria, Nettuno, and Civitavecchia, Italy.

On 31 June 1944, the company received orders to prepare for a new assignment off the Peninsular Base Section.

No historical records exist for 1 July 1944 through 13 October 1945, when the company was inactivated at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts.

On 19 February 1947, the company was redesignated the 63d Chemical Base Depot and Maintenance Company

and activated 15 March 1947 at the Wolfgang Kaserne, Hanau, Germany. The company operated the Hanau Chemical Depot where all Chemical Corps items of supply within the European Command were stored, maintained, received, and issued.

No more historical records exist until 1 January 1950.

In January, the company was still supporting the Hanau Chemical Corps Depot in its mission of supply and maintenance of all chemical equipment in the European Command. The company operated administratively and operationally under the Hanau Chemical Corps Depot, Chemical Division, EUCOM.

The company spent the rest of year operating the depot, conducting schools on Chemical Corps subjects for various European commands, and providing personnel to conduct inspections. The entire unit participated in Exercise Rainbow in the fall of 1950.

The 63d Chemical Base Depot and Maintenance Company was reorganized and redesignated on 27 April 1951 as the 63d Chemical Service Company. It was inactivated 1 November 1954 in France.

On 1 March 1980, the 63d was redesignated and activated as the 63d Chemical NBC Defense Company and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Finally, on 17 March 1986 the unit was reorganized and redesignated under the Army of Excellence as the 63d Chemical Company (Smoke/Decon). It is currently attached to the 426th Supply and Transportation Battalion at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Designed to provide NBC decontamination, smoke, flame field expedients, and riot control agents support to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 63d Chemical Company (Smoke/Decon) has participated in a number of exercises since its assignment to that division. In addition to Gold Cycle FTX support, the unit participated in Gallant Eagle 86 and Golden Eagle 87. It supported the 169th Field Artillery Brigade, COARNG, at Camp Blanding, Florida, and the Corps of Cadets, USMA, at West Point, New York.

During World War II, the 63d participated in numerous campaigns and received campaign participation credit for Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France (with arrowhead), Rhineland, and Central Europe. The 63d also earned the meritorious unit commendation streamer embroidered Europe Theater.

Supporting the only air assault division in the world, the 63d Chemical Company (Smoke/Decon) continues to be rapidly deployable to meet any contingency mission of the Rapid Deployment Force.