Coats of Arms and Distinctive Insignia

Adapted from *Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions of the U.S. Army* Volume II
by James A. Sawicki, Wyvern Publications (1991) pp. 928-948.

Heraldry in the United States Army

Through usage over the centuries, International Law provides that a belligerent is authorized to carry arms openly only when he is subject to the command of a responsible superior and equipped with a distinctive uniform, including insignia, which may be recognized at a distance. During the Revolutionary War the American forces used distinctive uniforms and markings (facings) to identify their personnel and units.

The American Congress, after having obtained the views of the New England Governors and of General Washington, resolved on 4 November 1775 that the clothing for the Army be paid for by stoppages of the men's pay, "that it by dyed brown and the distinction of regiments made in the facings." The facings for the infantry were white lapels, cuff linings, and standing capes.

The Quartermaster General was the heraldic authority for the United States Army from 1780 until 1961 and during these more than 180 years was the source of supply, the designer, and the point of reference, although the mission was not assigned to him by formal directive until 1924. Between 1919 and 1924 staff supervision of the heraldic program was the responsibility of the Supply Division, General Staff, and each coat of arms, distinctive insignia and shoulder sleeve insignia required the personal approval of the Chief of Staff. This was changed when The Adjutant General issued a letter (file: AG 424.5 Coats of Arms (11-22-24) [Misc.) D, dated 18 December 1924) to The Quartermaster General advising, "The Quartermaster General is charged with supervision over the design of individual regimental coats of arms, regimental insignia and trimmings and shoulder sleeve insignia and will make suitable recommendation to The Adjutant General in each case, including a statement as to whether or not, in his opinion, the design submitted meets the requirements of regulations and the established policies of the War Department . The Quartermaster General will be furnished with such records, now in the files of the Equipment Branch, General Staff, as may be necessary to enable him to carry out these instructions."

The same directive assigned certain responsibilities to The Adjutant General when it advised that, "The Adjutant General is authorized to approve or disapprove the design of and to take appropriate action upon correspondence relating to individual regimental coats of arms, regimental insignia and trimmings and shoulder sleeve insignia, in accordance with regulations and established War Department policies. All cases not covered by existing regulations or policies and all recommendations for changes in same thought necessary or desirable will be forwarded to the Supply Division, General Staff, for appropriate action." On 8 October 1942 the authority of The Adjutant General to approve the designs of coats and distinctive insignia was delegated to The Quartermaster General (file: 2d endorsement, AG 421.7 Insignia (9-15-42] OP -I, Office of The Adjutant General, 8 October 1942).

In 1949 the Munitions Board, acting for the Army, Navy, and Air Force directed that "the Department of the Army be responsible for meeting the requirements of all three departments for the research, design and development for heraldic items subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department concerned." Thereafter, the Secretary of the Army directed that "The Quartermaster General will assume the above-stated responsibility for the Department of the Army."

In 1957 Public Law 85-263 provided that the Secretary of the Army may design flags, insignia, badges, medals, seals, decorations, guidons, streamers, finial pieces for flagstaffs, buttons, buckles, awards, trophies, marks, emblems, rosettes, scrolls, braids, ribbons, knots, tabs, cords, and similar items for another military department upon the request of and approval by that department. The Army also was authorized to advise other departments and agencies on matters of heraldry. In 1959 Army Regulations 700-14 and Air Force Regulation 900-11 gave the Quartermaster General of the Army the responsibility to furnish heraldic facilities and services in implementation of Public Law 85-263.

In September 1960 The Institute of Heraldry, U.S. Army, was established and located at Cameron Station in Alexandria, Virginia, to which The Quartermaster General delegated the authority for all major operational activities of the heraldic program.

The Institute of Heraldry

- Provides heraldic service to the Department of Defense and other government agencies upon request to include research, design and development; and acts as advisor to non-government agencies, organizations and individuals when appropriate.
- Designs, develops, and recommends heraldic items (as coats of arms, seals, insignia, flags, decorations, medals, markings, etc.) and acts upon matters pertaining to their wear, display, and use; and furnishes advice concerning the development of prototypes of heraldic items.
- Prepares heraldic drawings, paintings, and models for use in displays, illustration of publications, and manufacturing processes.
- In matters pertaining to the manufacture of heraldic items, recommends specifications and purchase descriptions, acts in matters of authorization of manufacturing firms, and monitors quality control of their production for sale through the Army -Air Force Exchange Service and commercial outlets to military units and personnel.
- Performs historical research regarding uniforms, flags, decorations, and other heraldic material, including cataloging, recording and preparing studies of customs and backgrounds pertaining thereto; charts unit histories to determine design and redesign of coats of arms and distinctive insignia.
- Maintains a library of heraldry.

Coats of Arms and Distinctive Insignia

Each regiment and separate battalion (fixed type) of the United States Army is authorized a coat of arms for display on the organizational flag and a distinctive insignia (erroneously referred to as the "unit crest") for wear on the uniform. The coat of arms is a heraldic representation of the organization's history, tradition, ideals, and accomplishments. Each is distinctive to the organization for which approved and serves as an inspiration and an incentive for unity o1 purpose. The elements of the coat of arms are embroidered on the organization color - the central element of which is the American eagle. The shield of the coat of arms is on the eagle's breast; a scroll bearing the motto is held in its beak with the crest placed above its head.

The distinctive insignia of the regiment or separate battalion is generally based on all or some portion of the coat of arms. Most consist of the shield and motto, some consist only of the shield of the coat of arms, and a few consist of the crest only or the crest and motto.

Regimental Colors: 94th Coast Artillery (Left) and the 248th Coast Artillery (Right)

The Language of Heraldry

Heraldry is picture-writing in which every symbol has a meaning. Every element of a coat of arms including the shape of the shield itself has significance attached to it. A complete coat of arms consists of a **shield**, a **crest** and a **motto.**

The **shield,** which is the most important part of the arms, consists of a field upon which are placed the charges or figures that form the coat of arms. The *dexter* side of the shield is on the viewer's left, the *sinister* on the viewer's right. The upper portion of the shield is referred to as the *chief* and the lower part the *base.* The heraldic tinctures comprise two *metals* and eight *colors* as follows:

Metals:
Or – gold; A*rgent*- silver

Colors:
Gules – red; *Azure* – blue; *Sable* – black; *Vert* – green;
Purpure – purple; *Tenne* – orange; *Buff* – buff; *Sanguine* - maroon

Shields of more than one tincture are divided by partition or dividing lines into various forms. When the line is perpendicular it is called *per pale;* horizontal, *per fess;* diagonal lines from dexter chief to sinister base, *per bend;* diagonal dexter and diagonal sinister crossing at the center of the shield, *per saltire;* divided by two lines, one rising from the dexter and one rising from the sinister base and meeting in the center of the shield, *per chevron.*

The **crest** (from the Latin cresta, the tuft or comb which grows upon the heads of many birds) was originally placed upon the top of the helmet of chieftains so that their followers could readily distinguish them in battle. A crest is always placed upon a *wreath* of six skeins or twists composed of the principal *metal* and principal *color* of the shield alternately, in the order named. This *wreath* (torse) represents the piece of cloth which the knight twisted around the top of his helmet and by means of which the actual crest was attached. The crest for each state organization of the Army National Guard

is that approved for all Army National Guard regiments and separate battalions of each state, while the crest for all organizations of the Army Reserves the Lexington Minute Man.

Mottoes are perhaps more ancient than coats of arms. Many of the older ones were originally war-cries and selected with deep sincerity in the expression of their thought. Some mottoes are of an idealistic or exalted nature. While many mottoes are expressed in Latin, the use of English is the accepted practice today. A handful of mottoes are in the more unusual languages such as French, German, Greek, Italian, Hawaiian and American Indian. One organization which served in Siberia during World War I has its motto in Russian.

The Coat of Arms

Widespread use of coats of arms by the regiments and separate battalions of the United States Army is a relatively modem practice. A few regiments are known to have adopted unofficial coats of arms during the nineteenth century but not until 1902 did the War Department first encourage the regiments of the Army to design coats of arms for use on stationery and wear as regimental insignia on distinctive organizational mess jackets. Although this practice was no longer sanctioned after 1911, organizations continued to adopt for unofficial use such devices up to and throughout World War I. On 18 August 1919 the first major step was taken by the War Department to officially recognize a coat of arms for each regiment of the United States Army when it authorized the placing in the comers of the regiment's color an appropriate device to represent the wars, or other incidents connected with the organization's history. Additionally, a device distinctive of the organization was authorized to be placed on the eagle on the color and regimental commanders were invited to submit suggested devices for approval by the War Department. Some suggestions for devices to designate wars included a cactus for the Mexican War, a palm tree for the Philippine Insurrection, a conventional castle for the War with Spain and a laurel wreath for World War I.

Coat of Arms of the 3rd Coast Artillery Regiment

The order was universally misunderstood by the Army and the War Department attempted to clarify the matter in November 1919 when it published Circular No. 527 which stated:

> "It is the desire of the War Department to cultivate in every possible way a healthy esprit de corps in every organization. Heretofore there has been comparatively little attention paid to the history of organizations by the members as a whole, and there has been nothing to bring any previous feat of arms to the attention of any officer or man except by those who deliberately made it their business to read and investigate. In order that the deeds of the regiment can be made familiar to all they must be continually set before them and this can be done in many ways; but as one means toward this end the design of organization colors has been recently changed to give each a color essentially its own, differing in design from every other color by perpetuating thereon historical events of the organization. The wars in which the regiment engaged will be shown by symbols in the comers. These will be standard for the Army. Suggestions as to their design are desired. The names of battles will be embroidered on the color itself where they can be easily read, instead of on silver bands which required a close inspection, and finally a device peculiar to that organization will be placed over the coat of arms of the United States."

As a flag is a symbol of the country, so should any device placed thereon represent events by symbolism; or to put it another way a flag is a heraldic emblem, and everything placed on it must be heraldic in character. This points to either a regular coat of arms or a badge as the form to be taken by these distinctive organization devices. Regiments which already had satisfactory coats of arms would submit them for approval; others whould design either a coat of arms or a badge. Whatever is used must conform to the rules of heraldry.

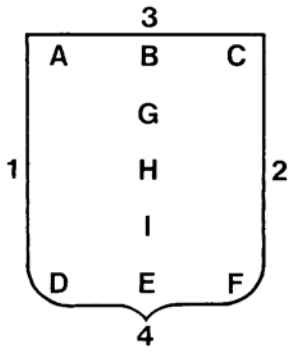
Another advantage in this is the fact that these same devices will be suitable in other ways to bring the regimental history home to every member, for example, on stationery, on pins, watch charms, etc., for civilian clothes, on tablets for headquarters, mess rooms, etc., possibly on the white mess jacket, all of which should promote esprit de corps."

In designing a coat of arms or badge, the following points govern:

- If possible, some symbol should be used to commemorate the birth or initial service of the organization; if organized from some one state or section of the country an identification of the unit therewith should have good results. The organization of a regiment, like the birth of an individual, is an important event in its history.
- The first war in which the regiment took part should be commemorated. This also can be likened to the individual whose "baptism of fire" is always his most important engagement, his bearing on that occasion having an ineradicable effect on his future service.
- A particularly brilliant feat of arms should be the subject of the main part of the device or coat of arms and the more ancient that feat the better; in other word s, the oldest services should be chosen to symbolize rather than the most recent, other things being equal. The tendency will be to enlarge on recent events because of personal participation therein. This should be carefully avoided.
- For new organizations plenty of room should be left on the coat of arms for symbols to be placed in the future. They should not be overloaded and in all cases the arms should be as simple as possible."

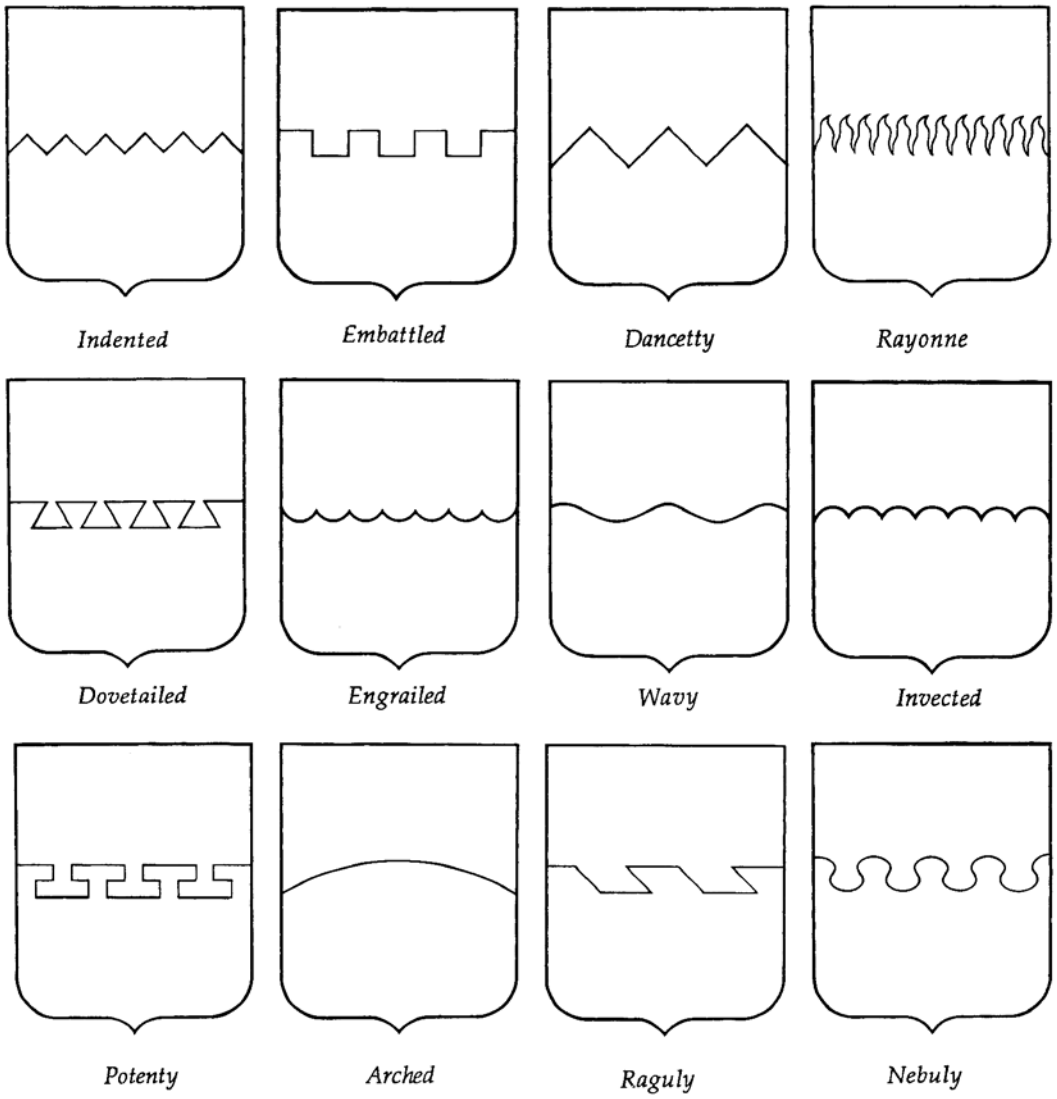
Points on the Shield and Lines of Partition

3-Chief
1-Dexter side 2-Sinister side
4-Base

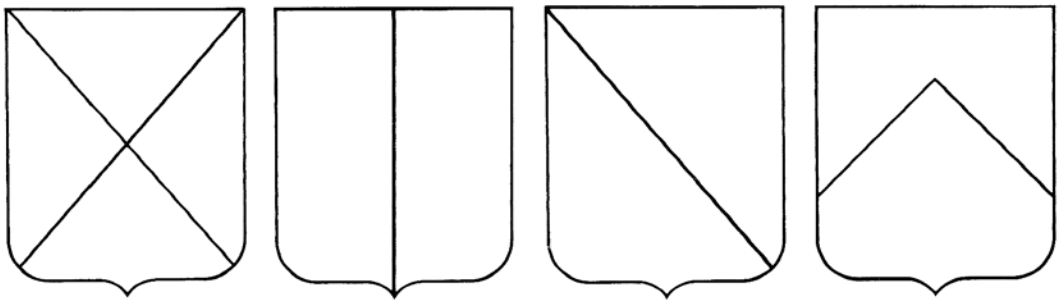


A-Dexter chief B-Middle chief C-Sinister chief
G-Honor point
H-Fess point
I-Nombril point
D-Dexter base E-Middle base F-Sinister base

Lines of Partition (Shown divided Per Fess)

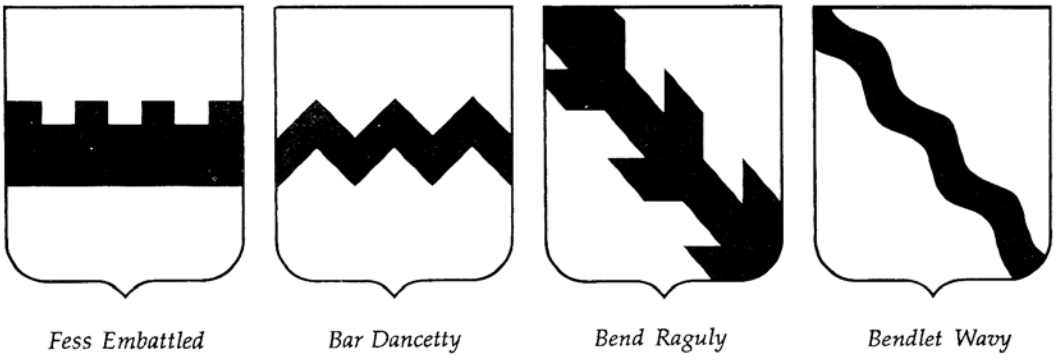


Four Methods of Partition (Dividing the Shield)



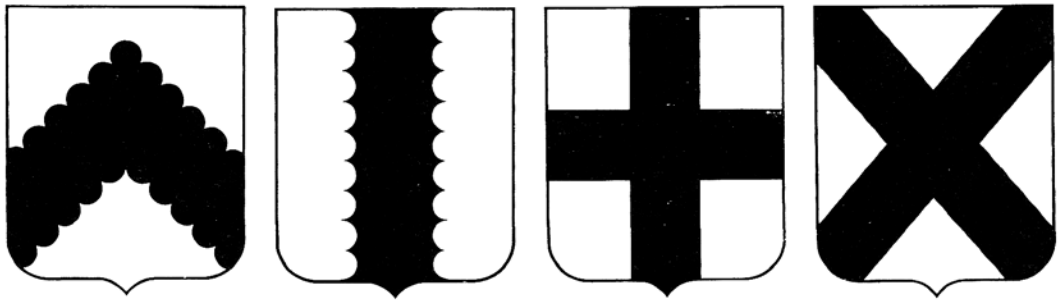
Per Saltire *Per Pale* *Per Bend* *Per Chevron*

Twelve Ordinaries (Shown using various Lines of Partition Styles)



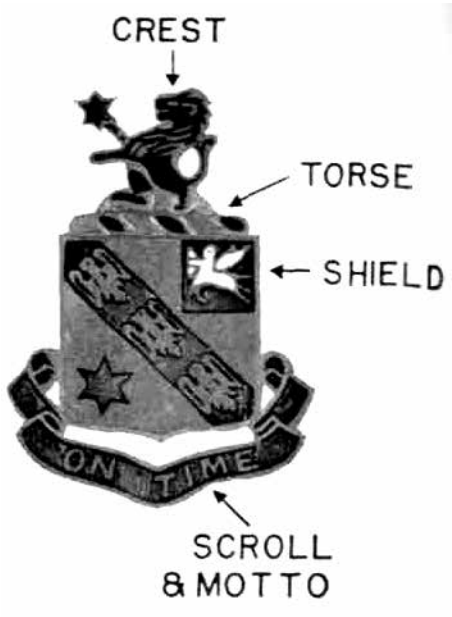
Fess Embattled *Bar Dancetty* *Bend Raguly* *Bendlet Wavy*

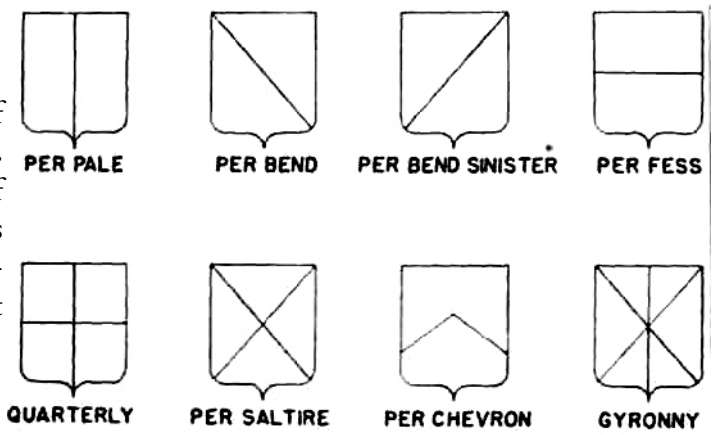
Pile Indented *Pallets* *Flaunches* *Chief Rayonne*



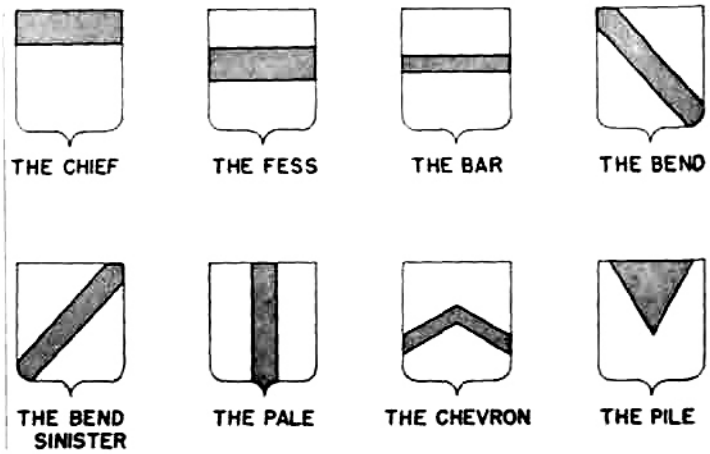
Chevron Invected *Pale Engrailed* *Cross* *Saltire*

A complete **coat of arms** consists of a **shield,** a **crest** and **torse,** and a **motto.** The shield is the most important part of the arms and on it are placed the charges and various lines of partition and ordinaries. The illustrations show the different designs, crosses, parts and points.

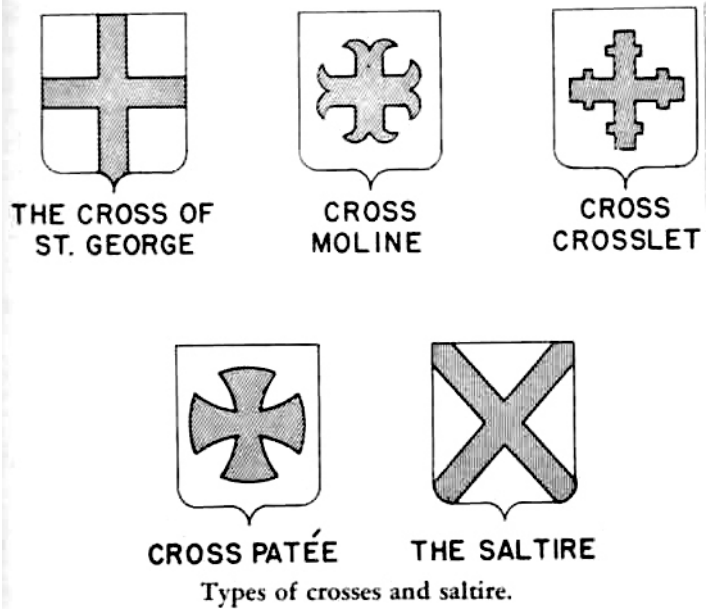




Heraldic division of the shield.



Ordinaries commonly used in military shields.



Types of crosses and saltire.

Illustrations from Capt. Russell P. Mahon "Distinctive Unit Insignia"
Antiaircraft Journal March April 1953 pp. 23-25 & May-June 1943 pp. 27-28

The directives of 1919 were the beginning of the program which provided coats of arms for the regiments and separate battalions of the Army and, except for a short period during and after World War II, has been in continuous effect for more than half a century. The use of devices in the corners of the regimental colors to represent the wars of the organization was never implemented, the suggested devices were instead incorporated into the organizational coats of arms (and later into unit color streamers).

Throughout the twenties and thirties, War Department policy dictated that the organizational color would not be issued until the coat of arms had been approved. The mobilization at the beginning of World War II forced the War Department to issue flags to organizations which had no approved coat of arms. The overwhelming requirement for new coats of arms and the lack of history for the newly activated organizations caused the War Department to suspend the approval of new coats of arms after 1943. The only approvals between then and 1951 were for organizations that had served overseas during World War I.

Distinctive Insignia

Pride in organization and the desire to be recognized have been important to members of the United States Army since its very beginning. The general practice of distinguishing between the various regiments of the Army began during the Revolutionary War when each regiment identified itself by the colors of its facings (uniform collars, lapels, and cuffs). One regiment carried the matter of personal identification one step further. At the defense of Charleston (South Carolina) in 1776 the 1st South Carolina Regiment arrived wearing small silver metal crescents, inscribed ultima ratio on their hats. This is the earliest known use of a distinctive badge by any organization of the United States Army.

The use of regimental facings gave way to the practice of wearing the insignia of the branch of service and the regimental number early in the nineteenth century, a practice still in use today. While this was adequate for organizational identification, it did not provide the individual touch which so many regiments apparently desired. During the Mexican War the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen (now the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment) wore a small gold trumpet on their cuffs, and at the beginning of the Civil War, one regiment (the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves, officially known to the rest of the Union Army as the Bucktails) reported to its rendezvous point at Harrisburg wearing strips of fur on their forage caps. Another regiment, the 5th Maryland (now the 175th Infantry) wore small silver bottony crosses on their uniforms.

The Civil War added a new dimension to the field of unit identification. Here-to-fore it had been restricted to the small unit level; now such identification was extended to include the Corps and its organic divisions. While such badges may be considered the forerunner to the shoulder sleeve insignia of World War I, the fact that they were made of metal and worn as a distinctive insignia is reason enough to document the reasons for their adoption.

The origin of the Corps badge is credited to General Philip Kearny, who early in the Civil War mistakenly reprimanded several officers whom he thought were under his command. When advised of his error, he apologized and said he would do something about it. He then directed his officers to wear a red patch on their caps. The practice became very popular not only with his officers but with the men who also used it unofficially for identification with their command. By the end of the war, almost every Corps in the Union Army had adopted a distinctive badge which followed a similar pattern; red for its first division, white for the second and blue for the third.

Shortly after the beginning of the War with Spain, reports reached the War Department from organizations then being formed that devices to facilitate identification of major formations were desired. Although Corps badges were not suggested, the adoption of a flag with a suitable device for each brig ad e or higher unit was recommended, as well as an ornament for the campaign hat to identify the regiment and company of the wearer. On 9 June 1898 the Secretary of War authorized designating flags and Corps badges for the Army Corps in existence but, at the insistence of Civil War Veterans, said that the designs would not duplicate any devices used during the Civil War. The War Department issued General Order 99 on 15 July 1898 which prescribed the patterns, but the scope was greater than those used during the Civil War. For instance, the Seventh Army Corps of Jacksonville, Florida, defined the magnitude when it issued its General Order 19 on 26 July 1898 which read:

> "In order that there may be a badge to distinguish the different Divisions, Brigades and other organizations to which the Commissioned Officers and enlisted men belong, a seven pointed star is hereby authorized to be worn on the front of the hat by all members of the Seventh Army Corps. For Infantry this star to be: Red for the First Division, White for the Second Division, and Blue for the Third Division; the number of the Brigade to be placed in the center and made of white metal. For Cavalry: A yellow star with number of Regiment in the center, number to be made of white metal. The Corps Commander and Staff to wear a star with red center, white circle and blue points. The Division Commanders and Staff, a plain star of their Division color. The Brigade Commanders and Staff a star of the same color as their Division but with the number of the Brigade in center in white metal. For Line Officers, the same as Brigade. For Engineer Officers and enlisted men, the color of star to be scarlet, edged with white. For Ordnance, magenta. For Medical and Hospital Corps, green. For Signal Corps, orange. The star herein mentioned shall be one and one quarter inches in diameter. A sample of this star can, upon application, be seen at the office of the Chief Quartermaster of the Corps."

On 17 July 1902 the Staff Corps and Departments, the Corps of Artillery and the Regiments of Cavalry and Infantry of the Army were authorized to wear mess jackets. To personalize these jackets, the Secretary of War authorized the adoption of some distinctive ornamentation such as a coat of arms or device on 31 December 1902 for wear on the cuffs or lapels. Many regiments adopted such devices, but when the mess jacket was standardized in 1911 the authority for wear of regimental insignia was withdrawn. The regimental insignia remained popular and continued to be used until the end of World War I.

The first organization of the Army to wear an insignia in an overseas theater allegedly was the Tank Corps of the American Expeditionary Forces. In June 1918, while attached to the British Tank Center in France, each man of the Corps wore on his left shoulder strap a ribbon one and one-half inches wide, consisting of three equal stripes of yellow, red and blue. This ultimately evolved into a triangular sleeve insignia worn during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in September 1918, long before shoulder sleeve insignia were officially permitted to be worn in the AEF.

Although the trend was toward the use of shoulder sleeve insignia customized for regimental identification, some organizations, generally Aero Squadrons in England and France wore a small metal replica of their squadron insignia. The 94th Aero Squadron is known to have had its insignia made overseas and the famous "hat-in-the-ring" insignia was proudly worn by its top ace, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker.

Views on the adoption and wear of distinctive insignia surfaced periodically during 1919 and 1920. On 25 November 1919 in Circular 527 the War Department pointed out the possible use of regimental coats of arms as distinctive insignia, and in a Memorandum prepared in 1920 by Colonel Robert E. Wyllie, Chief of the Equipment Branch, Operations Division, General Staff, G-4, he indicated that coats of arms must be capable of being reproduced as collar insignia.

Distinctive Insigina
3rd Coast Artillery Regiment

Regimental coats of arms and badges were reinstated on 29 April 1920 when War Department Circular No. 161 authorized their wear on the collar of the white uniform and on the lapels of the mess jacket. This Circular also permitted enlisted men for the first time to wear items on the uniform which were not furnished by the Quartermaster Corps, provided such articles had been approved by the Quartermaster General. While it did not provide for the wear of distinctive insignia by enlisted men, at least it removed the restriction against their wear.

In a conversation with members of the General Staff on 15 July 1921, the Secretary of War stated that he agreed in principle with the theory that regiments of the Army should be permitted to wear some distinctive badge or trimming on the uniform to identify them with their past achievements and traditions. He cited the case of the 3d Cavalry which, during the war with Mexico, wore green trimmings as the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen and trimmed its mess jackets in green, which some years before the War Department had ordered removed. Another organization cited was the 1st Cavalry, which had a regimental custom of wearing a small gilt dragoon button referring to its organization in 1833 as the First Dragoons. The Secretary concluded by stating that the War Department should consider the use of devices that would symbolize the history of the organizations and promote esprit de corps in the Army comparable to that of some of the more famous British regiments, such as the Black Watch, the Gordon Highlanders, and the Coldstream Guards.

The conversation ultimately led to the publication of War Department Circular No. 244 in September 1921. It formally announced to the Army that regiments of the Regular Army and National Guard were entitled to wear distinctive insignia or trimmings on their uniforms as a means of promoting esprit de corps. The first approval took place on 18 March 1922 when the 51st Artillery was issue a formal letter of authorization by the War Department.

Originally the regimental insignia worn on the mess jacket and the service uniform were not of the same finish. The insignia for the mess jacket was brightly polished and enameled, while that worn on the service uniform, like the uniform buttons and branch of service insignia, was bronze without enamel. In a study made by the War Department early in 1923 it was found that 18 organizations wore only the highly polished and enameled insignia, two organizations only the bronze insignia, and eight organizations, both types. Two other organizations wore no metal insignia; the 3d Infantry wore a buff and black strap, and the 14th Cavalry a yellow and blue ribbon. In this study it was pointed out that the bronze insignia was mistaken at a short distance for the usual uniform insignia and added no color to the uniform. Further, the bronze insignia were not as attractive as the enameled insignia for promoting esprit de corps and pride in the organization. The study concluded by recommending no additional approvals of bronze insignia. War Department Circular No. 24, published on 27 March 1923, stated, “the wearing of regimental insignia of the metal badge type in bronze metal will not be authorized for any additional organizations and those organizations heretofore authorized to wear the devices in bronze will effect a gradual change to the bright metal and enamel type as the supply of insignia of bronze metal on hand becomes exhausted.”

The intent of the War Department was to limit the authorization of distinctive insignia to the regiments of the Army, out almost immediately after the new regulation went into effect an insignia was approved for the U.S. Military Academy Detachment of Troops as an exception to policy. In his letter of transmittal, The Adjutant General pointed out that although the small separate detachments at the Military Academy were not authorized distinctive insignia, the device was authorized in view of the nature of the duty at the Military Academy, and that the detachments as a whole were considered to be equivalent to a regiment. It was the first approval for an organization which, in fact, was neither color-bearing nor a regiment, and that approval set in motion certain forces which have plagued the Army ever since. While an exception to policy may occur once without ill effects, the second time it becomes policy. In time new categories of organizations were authorized distinctive insignia, until by the beginning of World War II every organization in the Army was authorized to adopt one if it so desired.

Independent battalions or their equivalent were authorized distinctive insignia on 31 December 1926 and on 28 March 1928, company-size organizations were included for the first time when Army Regulations were revised to substitute organizations for regiments and independent battalions. The first approval under the new regulations occurred on 4 January 1928, almost two months prior to the date of the change, and the approval was for a badge instead of a distinctive insignia. Although many company-size organizations of the Regular Army failed to adopt distinctive badges, the change was well received in other circles, as evidenced by the many approvals made for Special Troop companies of the National Guard divisions during 1928 and 1929.

On 28 August 1941 the last remaining barriers were removed, and regulations were revised to permit installations and War Department overhead units to adopt distinctive badges. Needless to say, the War Department was overwhelmed with requests from units wishing to adopt distinctive insignia or badges. Manufacturers could not keep abreast of the demand for insignia and sometimes took as long as six months to deliver the items. The new policy caused some misgivings at the War Department and commanders were subsequently directed to disapprove all requests for insignia unless:

- The circumstances were so unusual that the individuals of the organization affected could not properly perform their military duties without the insignia in question.
- The insignia would be useful to the organization even if it was not received for more than six months from the date of approval.
- The insignia could be worn by the organization if ordered overseas.

The action served to reduce the number of requests for new insignia arriving at the War Department but the use of brass, a critical war material, in the manufacture of distinctive insignia was another matter of major concern. A study made by the War Department indicated that it required approximately 55-1/2 tons of brass annually to meet the requirements for existing insignia. Consequently, on 2 January 1943, the War Department announced that no further distinctive insignia would be approved or manufactured for the duration of the war. The duration lasted until 2 August 1947 when the ban was lifted and the organizations having approved insignia were authorized to have them manufactured. The prohibition on insignia for units not having one authorized was not lifted until 1951.

Prior to the ban being lifted the matter of organizational priorities was carefully studied and it was decided that company-size organizations would no longer be allowed to adopt distinctive badges because there were too many company-size organizations and too few personnel in the heraldic program to process them. The new policy, approved 14 February 1951, stated that distinctive insignia would be limited to color-bearing units and service schools, but those organizations having an insignia by virtue of a previous authority would be allowed to retain them.

Prior to World War II the Army consisted generally of regiments and fixed type battalions, all classified as color-bearing and entitled to a distinctive insignia. The demands of war forced the reorganization of all regiments, except infantry, into groups and battalions. Many of these battalions were further reorganized as flexible or non-co1or-bearing organizations. Especially affected were the support organizations such as Quartermaster, Ordinance, Transportation, Medical, Signal and, in some instances, Engineer battalions. The post-World War II policy dictated that these organizations were not entitled to coats of arms and distinctive insignia, a policy not understood and resented when such personnel saw sister color-bearing battalions wearing their distinctive insignia. Although the denial of coats of arms continued, the problem was partially resolved by authorization for wear of inherited insignia, if one existed.

Although non-color-bearing organizations at all echelons persisted in efforts to obtain distinctive insignia through the fifties and early sixties, their requests were consistently denied. When the Vietnam War was at its zenith in the mid-sixties, a new spirit seemed to prevail. On 25 March 1965 a distinctive badge was authorized for wear by the non-color bearing units of the 1st Armored Division and authorization for a distinctive badge was quickly extended to other divisions. This was followed on 22 November 1965 by the authorization of a distinctive badge for the non-color-bearing units of each separate brigade and finally, on 5 January 1966, each flexible battalion was authorized its own distinctive badge.

In 1967 a new look was taken of the categories of organizations authorized distinctive insignia which resulted in further expansion to include such organizations as Major Commands, Armies, Corps, Logistical Commands, Groups and Hospitals. The separate company unit still failed to win approval, perhaps because there were still “too many of them and too few of us.”

Campaign and Decoration Streamers

Adapted from *Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions of the U.S. Army* Volume II by James A. Sawicki Wyvern Publications (1991) pp. 928-948.

Each artillery regiment (or independant battalion) which consisted of a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery or Detachment and three or more lettered batteries were classified as color bearing units. The regiment/battalion carried two flags: a Regimental color and a National color. The term "color" when used alone implies the National color, or Stars and Stripes, while the term "colors" implies the National color and the organizational or regimental color collectively. The field of the organizational color was red for Artillery upon which was display a spread American eagle in shades of brown. On its breast was the coat of arms of the battalion and in its beak a ribbon inscribed with the organizational motto. Below the eagle was another ribbon bearing the designation of the regiment. The organizational color not only identified the unit but also represented the spirit and tradition of the organization. It also served as the carrier for the various decoration and campaign streamers awarded the battalion for achievement and war service.

Another flag long associated with artillery was the red guidon. This was a red swallow-tailed flag carried by each battery as a unit marker and displayed in yellow the branch of service insignia between the battery letter above and the regimental/battalion number below.

While the first artillery units were serving in France during World War I, the practice was to inscribe campaign participation on flagstaff silver bands. But silver bands were in short supply during 1918 and the AEF was authorized local procurement and use of ribbon or streamers as a substitute. In four-foot lengths these ribbons were inscribed with the names of special battles and major operations of recipient organizations. These ribbons were in effect the forerunner of the modern day campaign streamers.

On 3 June 1920 hand embroidered silk streamers were adopted to replace all previous methods of displaying honors and decorations. The original War Department directive prescribed a silk streamer for each war in which the organization had served in a theater of operations, in the colors of the campaign ribbon for the different wars. Each streamer (at that time 2-3/ 4 inches wide and 3 feet long for standards and the same width but 4 feet long for colors) was inscribed with the name or the battle or campaign in which the organization had participated. Inscriptions for streamers were announced in orders published by the War Department. Shortly thereafter a streamer was adopted to show "Mention in Orders" for meritorious service in action. This was a blue silk streamer with the name of the action embroidered in white. This streamer was never utilized and in 1942 became the streamer for the Distinguished Unit.

Citation (The Presidential Unit Citation [Army])

Specific criteria for battle honors (now called campaign participation credit) has been refined and was contained in Army Regulations for many years. These honors were included in the Army Registers of 1866 through 1877, usually at the head of the list of officers of each regiment. These listings were eventually dropped from the Army Register owing to the difficulty in gathering full and reliable data. After 1877 such credits were confirmed, when possible, by The Adjutant General. In recent years this activity has been the responsibility of The Chief of Military History, U.S. Army and since 1920 a definite and fixed policy has been applied. The criteria have been changed a number of times over the years and are currently set forth in Army Regulations 870-5.

Just as the experienced soldier is known by the decorations and service ribbons he wears on his uniform, so is the well-tried military unit known by the decorations and campaign streamers it carries on its colors. Many of the honors which the fighting man can earn have a counterpart that can be given the unit for a like degree of service or achievement. For example, a campaign streamer with inscription is comparable to a theater service ribbon with battle star whi1e many unit decorations are comparable to individual decorations. The Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) is awarded for the same degree of heroism required for the award of a Distinguished Service Cross to an individual; the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC), Navy Unit Commendation (NUC) (when awarded for merit), and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) are awarded for the same degree of achievement warranting the award of the Legion of Merit; the Valorous Unit Award (VUA) and the Navy Unit Commendation (for bravery) are awarded for the same degree of bravery as that required for the award of a Silver Star.

Grateful foreign governments have awarded decorations to numerous Army units for outstanding action in combat. Probably the best known of these is the French Croix de Guerre which was earned by Army units in both World Wars. All foreign decorations carry with them the right to display a symbol on the decorated unit's color. Numerous AAA battalions were cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Arm y for their outstanding efforts in battle.

Although a single citation did not carry with it the right to display a streamer, it did count as an award and if the organization was cited a second time for distinguished service, it normally was awarded the Belgian Fourrageres.

The only foreign decorations that authorized members of a decorated unit to wear an emblem symbolic of the award on their uniforms were the French and Belgian Fourrageres, the Netherlands Orange Lanyard, the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross and Civil Actions Honor Medal. Of these, only the French Fourrageres was authorized for temporary wear. In other words, members of a unit awarded the French Fourrageres could wear the Fourrageres on their uniforms as long as they were members of the decorated unit. Upon leaving the unit they could no longer wear the Fourragere unless they were assigned to the unit during the period for which it was decorated. No temporary wear of emblems representing other foreign awards was authorized; they could only be worn by individuals who were with the unit during the period for which it was cited.

Behind the campaign streamers is immortalized the history of the Army. Here in strips of rayon is epitomized the courage, endurance, loyalty, patience, determination, and dedication of an Army now more than 200 years old and whose service to the nation cannot be measured in dollars. In the service of the Republic, these regiments have been annihilated by sword and disease, yet the only recognition for this heroism may be but a name on a strip of rayon. Five months of the most difficult, agonizing and tragic period of the Army is symbolized in the words "Philippine Islands" on the Asiatic-Pacific campaign streamer for the 59th, 60th, 200th and 515th Coast Artillery (Antiaircraft) Regiments.

Colonel William Travis, commanding the American forces at the Alamo, in February 1836, wrote in a message to "the People of Texas and All Americans in the World:"

> " ... I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna ... I have answered the demand (to surrender) with a cannon shot, and our flag waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender nor retreat ... "

Symbols of unit achievement or bravery help to maintain and stimulate the spirit of "never surrender nor retreat." U.S. Army units at the Meuse-Argonne, Myitkyina, Remagen Bridge, Bastogne and Inchon, and elsewhere throughout the world have shown the enemy that this spirit lives on in the modern American fighting man.

Glossary of Linage Terms

Adapted from *Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions of the U.S. Army* Volume II
Wyvern Publications (1991) pp. 928-948.

ACTIVATE. To bring into being or establish a unit that has been constituted. Usually, personnel and equipment are assigned at this time; however, a unit may be active at zero strength, that is, without personnel or equipment. This term was not used before 192I. It is never used when referring to Army National Guard units, and only since World War II has it been used in connection with Army Reserve units, (See also ORGANIZE.)

ALLOT. To assign a unit to one of the components of the United States Army. The present components are the Regular Army, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve (formerly the Organized Reserves and the Organized Reserve Corps). During World War I, units were allotted to the National Army and during World War II to the Army of the United States. Army National Guard units were generally allotted to a particular state or group of states. Except for Army National Guard units, units may be withdrawn from one component and allotted to another. Such changes in allotment do not change the history, lineage, and honors of the units.

ARMY COMPOSITION OR COMPONENTS. The Regular Army, Army National Guard of the United States, Army National Guard while in the service of the United States, and the Army Reserve.

Until 1898 the land forces of the United States consisted of the Regular Army and such temporary forces as were organized by call of the President or by special statutes for specific purposes.

1898: the organized and active land forces of the United States consisted of the Regular Army and the militia of the several States when called into the service of the United States. In time of war the two branches were designated the Regular Army and the Volunteer Army.

1914: the land forces consisted of the Regular Army, the organized militia while in the service of the United States, and such volunteer forces as Congress authorized.

1916: the Regular Army, the Volunteer Army, the Officers' Reserve Corps, the National Guard while in the service of the United States, and such other land forces as authorized by law.

1920: the Regular Army, the National Guard while in the service of the United States, and the Organized Reserves including the Officers' Reserve Corps and the Enlisted Reserve Corps.

1933: the Regular Army, the National Guard of the United States, the National Guard while in the service of the United States, the Officers' Reserve Corps, the Organized Reserves, and the Enlisted Reserve Corps.

1941: the Regular Army, the National Guard of the United States, the National Guard while in the service of the United States, the Officers' Reserve Corps, Organized Reserves, the Enlisted Reserve Corps, and persons inducted into the land forces of the United States under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD. Units allotted to the several states. Before about 1954 the title did not include the word Army, which was added to distinguish the organizations from Air National Guard counterparts.

ARMY RESERVE. A component of the Army from 1952 to present (originally designated Organized Reserves under the National Defense Act of 1916 as amended in 1920, redesignated Organized Reserve Corps in 1948).

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES. In all early acts, AUS had reference only to the Regular Army. In 1920 the term was extended to include the Regular Army, the National Guard while in the service of the United States, and the Organized Reserves. Beginning in 1941, AUS took on an additional meaning when many new units not included in the Mobilization Plans were constituted and activated in the AUS rather than in the Regular Army, National Guard, or Organized Reserves (which were provided for in the various Troop Programs). The Army Reorganization Act of 1950 declared the term AUS synonymous with the term Army, again giving it the same meaning it had in the 1920-1941 period. Consequently, a unit designated in the AUS in the 1941-1950 period and active after 1950 was normally placed in an Army component by DA directive.

ASSIGN. To make a unit part of a larger organization and place it under that organization's command and control until relieved from assignment. As a general rule, only divisional and separate brigade assignments exist in unit lineages.

CONSOLIDATE. To merge or combine two or more units into one new unit. The new unit may retain the designation of one of the original units or may have a new designation, but it inherits the history, lineage, and honors of all the units affected by the merger. In the Army National Guard, personnel of the units are generally combined in the new unit. In the Regular Army and Army Reserve, units are usually consolidated when they are inactive or when only one of the units is active; therefore, personnel and equipment are seldom involved. In the Army National Guard, on the other hand, active units are often consolidated, and their personnel are combined in the new unit.

CONSTITUTE. To place the designation of a new unit on the official rolls of the Army. Such action is authorized only by the Secretary of the Army after provisions have been made for the inclusion of the unit in a DA Troop Program.

CONVERT. To transfer a unit from one branch of the Army to another; for example, from Infantry to Engineers. Such a move always requires a redesignation with the unit adopting the name of its new branch; however, there is no break in the historical continuity of the unit. If the unit is active, it must also be reorganized under a new table of organization and equipment (TOE).

DEMOBILIZE. To remove the designation of a unit from the official rolls of the Army. If the unit is active, it must also be inactivated. This term is used in unit lineages only when referring to the period immediately after World War I. (For other periods, see DISBAND.)

DESIGNATION. The official title of a unit, consisting usually of a number and a name (generally a branch of the Army, for example the 7th Cavalry).

DISBAND. To remove the designation of a unit from the official rolls of the Army. If the unit is active, it must also be inactivated. In the Army National Guard, this term generally is used when referring to the period before World War I.

ELEMENT. A unit that is assigned to or is part of a larger organization. (See also ORGANIC ELEMENT).

FEDERAL RECOGNITION. Acceptance of an Army National Guard unit by the Federal government after the unit has been inspected by a Federal representative and found to be properly housed, equipped, and organized according to Army requirements. Federal recognition may be withdrawn when the unit no longer meets these requirements or when the need no longer exists.

FEDERAL SERVICE. Active duty of an Army National Guard unit while under the control of the United States government, rather than under the control of its home state. Units enter Federal service by order of the President of the United States, as authorized by Congress. The phrase, "called into Federal service", was used for most wars through World War I. Units called into Federal service could not be sent into a foreign country without specific Congressional authorization; this was circumvented in some instances when units were "mustered into Federal service." The World War I draft had the effect of discharging National Guard personnel from the Guard and making them subject to the laws and regulations of the Army of the United States as selective service personnel. The phrase, "inducted into Federal service", was used during World War II. Since World War II the phrase "ordered into active Federal service", has been used. A unit remains in Federal service until released by the Federal government at which time it reverts to the control of its home state.

INACTIVATE. To place a unit not currently needed in an inoperative status without assigned personnel or equipment. The unit's designation, however, is retained on the rolls of the Army, and it can be reactivated whenever needed. Its personnel and equipment are reassigned to one or more active units, but its organizational properties and trophies are put in storage. When the unit is activated again, it is assigned new personnel and equipment, but it keeps its old history, honors, and organizational properties and trophies. This term has been used only since 1921. Before that time, units either remained active or were removed from the rolls of the Army. When referring to the Army National Guard, this term was used only during and immediately after World War II for units in Federal service. Such units were retained on the rolls of the Army and most were reorganized in their home states.

NATIONAL ARMY. Composed of organizations from the additional military force authorized by the President by Act of 18 May 1917 and normally manned by drafted personnel.

NATIONAL GUARD. See ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES (NGUS). A NGUS unit was a temporary organization within a state which took the place of a unit in Federal service during the Korean War. It had the same designation and was usually organized in the same general areas as the replaced unit.

ORDER INTO ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE. To place an Army Reserve unit on fulltime active duty usually during a war or a major crisis, such as the Berlin crisis of 1961-62. Alter completing its active duty, the unit may be inactivated, or it may be released from active military service, reverting to reserve status. This phrase does not apply to Army Reserve units on annual active duty training.

ORGANIC ELEMENT. A unit that is an integral part of a larger organization; for example, a lettered company of a battalion.

ORGANIZE. To assign personnel and equipment to a unit and make it operative; i.e., capable of performing its mission. For Army National Guard units this term is used instead of activate.

ORGANIZED RESERVES. See ARMY RESERVE

RECONSTITUTE. To restore to the official rolls of the Army a unit that has been disbanded or demobilized. This can be done only by authority of the Secretary of the Army and the unit must again be allotted to an Army component. The reconstituted unit may have a new designation, but it retains its former history, lineage, and honors.

REDESIGNATE. To change a unit's official name or number, or both. Redesignation is a change of title only; the unit's history, lineage, and honors remain the same. Active as well as inactive units can be redesignated, but personnel and equipment of an active unit are not changed unless it is reorganized at the same time.

REORGANIZE. To change the structure of a unit in accordance with a new table of organization and equipment (TOE), or to change from one type of unit to another within the same branch of the Army; for example, from Infantry to Airborne Infantry. (For reorganizations involving a different branch, see CONVERT.) When referring to the Army National Guard, the term also means to organize an inactive unit again.

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT (TOE). A table that prescribed the normal mission, organizational structure, personnel, and equipment authorized to a military unit. (See example on next page).

TRANSFER LESS PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. To move a unit from one place to another without its personnel and equipment. The transfer is therefore merely a move on paper. The unit is usually reorganized at its new location with newly assigned personnel and equipment, but retains its own lineage, honors, and organizational properties and trophies. The original personnel and equipment are reassigned to one or more other units.

COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT, HARBOR DEFENSE, TYPE C

Designation: †_____ Coast Artillery (HD)

1	Unit	2 Regimental headquarters and band [a]	3 Headquarters battery (T/O 4-62)	4 Searchlight battery (T/O 4-68)	5 4 battalions (each) (T/O 4-65)	6 Total	7 Attached medical (for details see p. 4)	8 Attached chaplain	9 Aggregate	10 Enlisted cadre [b]
2	Colonel	1	-----	-----	1	5	-----	-----	5	-----
3	Lieutenant colonel	1	-----	-----	1	5	1	-----	6	-----
4	Major	1	-----	-----	1	5	-----	-----	6	-----
5	Captain	2	2	1	4	21	([d] 1) 6	2	29	-----
6	First lieutenant	-----	2	2	4	20	[d] 1	-----	21	-----
7	Second lieutenant	-----	1	1	7	30	-----	-----	30	-----
8	Total commissioned	5	5	4	17	82	8	2	92	-----
9	Warrant officer	1	4	-----	2	13	-----	-----	13	-----
10	Master sergeant	-----	6	-----	-----	6	-----	-----	6	5
11	First sergeant	-----	1	1	4	18	-----	-----	18	18
12	Technical sergeant	1	3	2	1	10	1	-----	11	3
13	Staff sergeant	1	8	3	8	44	4	-----	48	29
14	Sergeant	-----	11	9	37	168	-----	-----	168	75
15	Corporal	-----	9	17	57	254	4	-----	258	69
16	Technician, grade 3	-----	-----	2	-----	2	-----	-----	2	-----
17	Technician, grade 4	7	10	12	13	81	1	-----	82	20
18	Technician, grade 5	8	26	26	32	188	4	-----	192	36
19	Private, first class	11	27	25	160	703	22	-----	725	} 42
20	Private, including	-----	38	37	196	859	28	-----	887	
21	Basic	-----	(12)	(12)	(39)	(180)	(6)	-----	(186)	-----
22	Total enlisted	28	139	134	508	2,333	64	-----	2,397	297
23	Aggregate	34	148	138	527	2,428	72	2	2,502	297
24	O Pistol, automatic, cal. .45	34	32	16	47	270	-----	-----	270	-----
25	O Rifle, automatic, cal. .30	-----	25	35	76	364	-----	-----	364	-----
26	O Rifle, cal. .30	-----	91	87	404	1,794	-----	-----	1,794	-----
27	O Tractor, heavy, M1	-----	1	-----	-----	1	-----	-----	1	-----

11 Remarks

†Insert number of regiment.

[a] Warrant officer and enlisted men in this column constitute the band. The regimental band is organized only when specifically authorized: when not present, the total and aggregate strengths of the regiment are reduced accordingly. The band is attached to headquarters battery for administration, mess, and supply.

[b] Attached medical cadre included.

[d] Dental.

The motor vehicles required by the regiment will be assigned by the harbor defense commander from the allotment made to his harbor defense in Table of Basic Allowances for the Coast Artillery Corps.

When a mine battery (T/O 4-69) is substituted for 1 gun battery (T/O 4-67) of the regiment, the total strength and equipment in the regiment is as follows:

Unit	Total (column 6)	Aggregate (column 9)
Total commissioned	82	92
Warrant officer	14	14
Master sergeant	7	7
First sergeant	18	18
Technical sergeant	10	11
Staff sergeant	50	54
Sergeant	163	163
Corporal	252	256
Technician, grade 3	4	4
Technician, grade 4	79	80
Technician, grade 5	200	204
Private, first class	699	721
Private	859	887
Basic	(183)	(189)
Total enlisted	2,341	2,405
Aggregate	2,437	2,511
Pistol, automatic, cal. .45	280	280
Rifle, automatic, cal. .30	364	364
Rifle, cal. .30	1,793	1,793
Tractor, heavy, M1	1	1

Where 1 regiment constitutes the harbor defense, the regiment is authorized a harbor entrance control post section as indicated in T/O 4-260-1.

Table of Organization No. 4-81, War Department, Washington, April 1. 1942