

The 22nd Infantry Regiment a short history.

Originally authorized on June 26, 1812, the 22nd Infantry Regiment was one of a number of additional Regiments of Infantry authorized by Congress on that date, in an attempt to quickly rebuild the United States Army for the war with Great Britain. Recruitment was done in Pennsylvania. The Regiment fought in eight battles during the War of 1812 including two of the most significant battles of the war, the Battle of Chippewa and the Battle of Lundy's Lane.

The 22nd Infantry Regiment was part of General Winfield Scott's Brigade. Because of a shortage of blue cloth, the Brigade went into battle against the British and Canadians at Chippewa on July 5, 1814, wearing jackets made of the only cloth available, in a "buff" or gray color which was the color of most American militia uniforms. Because of their gray jackets, the British commander, Major General Phineas Riall, mistakenly supposed them to be local militia which up to this point in the war had always been easily defeated by the British forces. However, as the 22nd and other units of the Brigade advanced through artillery and musket fire with unwavering military precision, General Riall corrected his mistake with the cry "Those are regulars, by God".

The Regiment embraced the enemy General's description, and "Regulars, by God" became the 22nd's unofficial motto.

The final engagement of the war for the 22nd Infantry was the siege and assault of Fort Erie in August and September 1814. Inactivation of the Regiment was done after the War of 1812, by an Act of Congress approved March 3, 1815, when the assets of the 22nd Infantry and other Regiments were incorporated into the 2nd Infantry Regiment.

The 22nd Infantry was technically re-constituted on 3 May 1861 in the Regular Army as Companies A and I, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry. Under the Act of Congress of July 28, 1866 it reorganized and was officially re-designated on 21 September 1866 as Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry. This Act and reorganization is considered by the Army to be the birth of the modern 22nd Infantry Regiment. All lineage and honors of the Regiment therefore are traced only back to 1866 when the 22nd Infantry was reorganized.

Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1869 the 22nd Infantry was consolidated with the 31st Infantry. The consolidation was officially re-designated as the 22nd Infantry on May 15, 1869.

For most of the years 1866 - 1898 the 22nd Infantry was stationed at Forts on the western frontier and served in five major campaigns of the Indian Wars. Two of the Regiment's soldiers, Corporal Julius Schou and Private Bernard McCann were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during those campaigns.

During the War with Spain in 1898 the 22nd Infantry was the first United States Army unit to set foot on Cuban soil, landing at Daiquiri on June 22, 1898 and captured the first Spanish Colors taken in the war at Siboney on June 23. The Regiment fought at the Battle of El Caney

and then was in the trenches before Santiago. The Regimental Commander Colonel Charles A. Wikoff was killed in action while temporarily leading a Brigade in battle on July 1, 1898.

In March 1899 the 22nd Infantry deployed to the Philippine Islands where it immediately went into battle against Filipino forces in the Philippine Insurrection. That same month the 22nd Infantry lost its second Regimental Commander in less than a year when Colonel Harry C. Egbert was killed in action at Malinta on the Island of Luzon. Over the years 1899 – 1905 the Regiment served in the Philippine Islands in six campaigns during the Philippine Insurrection and Moro Wars. Two soldiers from the 22nd Infantry were awarded the Medal of Honor in the Philippines, Sergeant Charles W. Ray and Private Charles H. Pierce.

The 22nd Infantry returned to the United States in January 1906 and was stationed at posts in and around San Francisco, California when the great earthquake of 1906 struck the city. The Regiment provided security, helped to fight the raging fires and rendered humanitarian aid during the disaster. In the winter of 1907/1908 the entire Regiment was sent to Goldfield, Nevada due to fears of violence from a possible mining strike. From 1908 – 1910 the 22nd Infantry was stationed at various forts in Alaska.

From 1910 – 1917 the Regiment was at various posts along the southern border in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona during difficulties with Mexico. In early 1917 the 22nd Infantry moved to New York City. On April 6, 1917 about one hour after the declaration of war against Germany the 22nd Infantry seized all of the German ships then in harbor at New York City and Hoboken. This was the first act of war committed by the United States against Germany in World War One.

The Regiment did not serve overseas as a unit during World War One but did furnish from its ranks over 400 officers and men as cadre to form other units which did go overseas. Among those men was Sergeant Major Patrick J. Regan who received the Medal of Honor while serving with the 29th Division. The 22nd Infantry guarded the port of embarkation and the city of New York during the war and its First Battalion for a time was the Capitol Guard in Washington, D.C.

In 1922 the 22nd Infantry moved to Fort McPherson, Georgia. With the drastic reduction of the Army after World War One the 22nd Infantry became a skeleton of its former size and was split between Fort McPherson and Fort McClellan, Alabama. In 1921 the Coat Of Arms was approved for the Regiment by the Department of the Army and in 1923 the Distinctive Unit insignia was approved. The official motto of the 22nd Infantry Regiment is “Deeds Not Words”. In 1940 the Regiment was a component of the re-mobilized 4th Infantry Division and its ranks were rebuilt. The Division became the 4th Motorized Division and conducted extensive training at Fort Benning, Georgia, in the Louisiana and Carolina Maneuvers and at Camp Gordon, Georgia and Fort Dix, New Jersey.

In 1943 the Division again became the 4th Infantry Division and moved to Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida where its units underwent amphibious landing training. The 22nd Infantry sailed to England in January 1944 where it trained extensively for the upcoming invasion of Europe. On D-Day June 6, 1944 the 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry landed on Utah Beach in the first assault wave with the 1st and 2nd Battalions following in the second wave. A Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to 3rd Battalion for its assault upon the coastal defenses along the shoreline at Utah Beach.

The 22nd Infantry fought in the drive to take Cherbourg and then in the hedgerow battles in Normandy. Attached to the 2nd Armored Division it spearheaded the breakout from Normandy in Operation Cobra at the end of July 1944. The entire Regiment was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for its part in the breakout. Rushing northward through France during the month of August and liberating Paris the Regiment reached the German border in early September. A patrol from the 22nd Infantry became the first American unit to set foot on German soil on September 11, 1944.

From November 16 through December 3, 1944 the Regiment took part in the Battle of the Hürtgen Forest in Germany, the longest and bloodiest battle for the U.S. Army in Europe. The 22nd Infantry sustained the highest number of casualties of any single Regiment involved in the Hürtgen battle. Estimated figures for the 22nd Infantry were put at 2,678 casualties of all types incurred during their eighteen day participation. For its actions in the Hürtgen the entire Regiment was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation and Staff Sergeant Macario Garcia from 1st Battalion was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Though the Regiment was sent to Luxembourg with the 4th Infantry Division for rest and refit it soon found itself as the southern defensive flank in the Battle of the Bulge. In the first week of February 1945 the 22nd Infantry again attacked into Germany and seized the city of Prüm. It crossed the Rhine River and eliminated the resistance around Bad Mergentheim and by V-E Day of May 8, 1945 it occupied the city of Nuremberg.

After serving on occupation duty in Germany the 22nd Infantry returned to the United States in July 1945 for preparation to become part of the planned invasion of Japan. The war ended in September 1945 and the 22nd Infantry was deactivated along with the 4th Infantry Division in early 1946. The Regiment was reactivated in 1947 and in 1951 sailed for Germany where it was stationed as part of the 4th Infantry Division and the United States commitment to NATO. In 1956 the 4th Division Colors were transferred to Fort Lewis, Washington. The 5th Infantry stationed at Fort Lewis was reflagged as the 22nd Infantry thus ending the Regiment's service in Germany.

On April 1, 1957 the 22nd Infantry Regiment became the 1st Battle Group 22nd Infantry and as part of the 4th Infantry Division was a component of STRAC (Strategic Army Corps). Under the Reorganization Objective Army Divisions (ROAD) plan of 1962-1964 the Army's Divisions were reorganized using independent Battalion command instead of Regimental command. The Battle Groups were eliminated and on October 1, 1963 the 22nd Infantry was assigned as separate Battalions to the 4th Infantry Division with no Regimental Command. The history of the 22nd Infantry from that point on becomes one of relating the history of each independent Battalion.

1st Battalion

1st Battalion deployed to Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division in July 1966 and operated in the Central Highlands near the Cambodian border. Awarded a Valorous Unit Award during the Battle of Kontum in 1968. Continued to operate in the Central Highlands based out of Pleiku and later An Khe. In late 1970 when the 4th Infantry Division departed Vietnam 1st Battalion remained behind and was transferred to 1st Field Force (IFFV). It then became based out of Tuy Hoa on the coast of the South China Sea. It departed Vietnam in January 1972 making it the longest serving unit of the 22nd Infantry in Vietnam.

1st Battalion rejoined the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado in 1972 and remained with the Division until 1984 when it was deactivated. It was officially reactivated in November 1985 as part of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York with a formal activation ceremony taking place in June 1986. The Battalion earned the Humanitarian Medal for its role in recovery and assistance in Florida following Hurricane Andrew in 1992. In 1993 1st Battalion deployed to Somalia where it conducted offensive combat operations against the warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid. The Battalion deployed to Haiti in a peace keeping mission in 1994-1995 where it earned another Humanitarian Medal.

Relieved in February 1996 from the assignment to the 10th Mountain Division 1st Battalion was reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Hood, TX. 1-22 Infantry became part of the Army's Test Division, and was known as Force XXI, experimenting with advanced technology and tactics, evaluating and adapting them to change the Army into a twenty-first century military organization.

1-22 Infantry became the Army's first all-digital Battalion, and took that technology with it to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003-2004. 1st Battalion returned to Iraq for its second tour of duty there in 2005-2006. In 2008-2009 1st Battalion served its third tour in Iraq. The Battalion received two Valorous Unit Awards during its service in Iraq while elements of the Battalion were awarded four more Valorous Unit Awards during deployments to Iraq. In the summer of 2009 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry moved to their new duty station at Fort Carson, Colorado, with 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

From August 2010 to June 2011 the Battalion served in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, adding another combat theater to their long history of overseas deployments. The Battalion returned to Fort Carson, where they served and continued to train, maintaining a state of readiness should the nation require their service anywhere in the world. From February to October 2013 1st Battalion deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. On March 17, 2014, 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry was de-activated.

2nd Battalion

2nd Battalion deployed to Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division in July 1966 and operated in the Central Highlands near the Cambodian border. The Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Soui Tre in March 1967. Relieved of its assignment to the 4th Infantry Division in August 1967 it was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division and operated in II Corps and III Corps Tactical Zones in Vietnam until departing Vietnam in December 1970. One of 2nd Battalion's soldiers 1st Lieutenant John E. Warren Jr. was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam. The Battalion was de-activated upon leaving Vietnam.

2nd Battalion was re-activated in 1976 at Fort Carson, Colorado and was assigned to Wiesbaden, Germany as part of the 4th Infantry Division (Forward). It inactivated in July 1984 in Wiesbaden Germany and was relieved from assignment to the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

2nd Battalion was reactivated in 1986 and assigned to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. In 1993 2nd Battalion deployed to Somalia where it conducted offensive combat operations against the warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid. The Battalion deployed to Haiti in 1994-1995 where it led the 10th Mountain Division in an air assault off the aircraft

carrier USS Eisenhower. 2nd Battalion earned the Humanitarian Medal for its peace keeping mission to Haiti. The Battalion deployed two separate companies to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of the NATO effort to rebuild that war-torn region.

In 2003-2004 2-22nd Infantry deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Battalion deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005-2006. It served a second deployment to Iraq in 2007-2008. It returned to Afghanistan for two more deployments in 2010 and 2013. *It is currently the only component of the 22nd Infantry still on active duty.*

3rd Battalion

3rd Battalion deployed to Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division in July 1966 and operated in the Central Highlands near the Cambodian border. The Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Soui Tre in March 1967. Relieved of its assignment to the 4th Infantry Division in August 1967 it was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division. The Battalion then operated in II Corps and III Corps Tactical Zones until departing Vietnam. It was awarded a Valorous Unit Award in 1968. 3rd Battalion rejoined the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado in 1971 but was de-activated not long afterward. It was re-activated in the 1980's and was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. The Battalion deployed to Haiti in a peace keeping mission in 1994-1995 where it earned the Humanitarian Medal. It was de-activated in 1995.