

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY

Public Relations Office

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL 144th FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP

The 144th Field Artillery Group, commanded by Colonel Clifford B. Cole of Pacific Grove, California, has its origin in the 144th Field Artillery Regiment, known as the California Grizzlies in World War I. The last fully volunteer regiment in the United States Army the Grizzlies were mustered in at the old Tanforan race track and began their training at Camp Kearny. After service on the Mexican border the regiment moved to France where they went into action near Metz and moved on to the Rhine with the Army of Occupation. Over 1,000 officers were graduated out of the regiment and when it was mustered out of service at the Presidio of San Francisco former members organized the 144th Field Artillery Association. The latter organization is still active and numbers among its members Frank Jordan, Secretary of State of California; Fletcher Bowron, Mayor of Los Angeles, and many other notables.

When the War Department accorded to the 144th Field Artillery Regiment (155mm Gun) of the California National Guard the colors and honors of the World War I organization the Grizzlies were again a part of the Army of the United States. An outgrowth of Battery E, 143rd Field Artillery, which was organized about 1932 at Santa Barbara, California, the 144th Regiment was activated in August 1940 with Headquarters at Santa Barbara and subordinate units at Santa Maria, Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Monica, Riverside and Bakersfield. The 144th was inducted into Federal Service on February 3, 1941 and moved to Fort Lewis, Washington for training.

With the outbreak of hostilities on December 7, 1941, the First Battalion of the regiment was placed on coast defense in the Gray's Harbor Sector of Washington, and the Second Battalion was rushed to defend vital points along the coast of Southern California. The regiment remained split in this manner until October of 1942 when the Second Battalion was relieved of coast defense duty in California and joined the regimental headquarters and the First Battalion, also relieved of coast

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defense duty, at the Field Artillery Firing Center at Yakima, Washington.

On February 17, 1943 the regiment was reorganized as the 144th Field Artillery Group with its two battalions becoming the 980th Field Artillery Battalion and the 981st Field Artillery Battalion attached to the Group. On April 16, 1943 the Group Headquarters and its two attached battalions along with other units of the 76th Field Artillery Brigade moved to the California-Arizona maneuver area. After an intensive training period of four months on the desert the group and its battalions moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where it was stationed and trained for about three months.

On November 20, 1943 the group moved to a staging area in preparation for overseas movement, and sailed from the Port of Boston for the United Kingdom on December 29, 1943, arriving in Liverpool, England in January. Leaving the 980th and 981st Field Artillery Battalions in England the Group Headquarters moved to North Ireland on January 11, 1944. After four months of training among the peat bogs and at the firing range of the Sperrin Mountains in North Ireland, the 144th moved to Wigpool Common, near Ross-on-Wye, England. Several trips were made to the Sennybridge Firing Range in Wales and on July 16, 1945 the group landed on the coast of Normandy, France.

Upon its arrival in the United Kingdom, the 144th was assigned to XV Corps and because of its long experience with heavy artillery became the long-range group of the XV Corps Artillery. It landed in France as part of the XV Corps and the Third Army at Utah Beach on July 16, 1945. The Group with the 208th, 731st, and 989th Field Artillery Battalions, and the 999th Field Artillery Battalion as attached battalions went into a bivouac with other corps artillery units in the vicinity of Sortosville, France.

The Corps became operational on July 29th, and on August 4th, the Group with the 208th, 989th, and 999th Field Artillery Battalions attached moved out the Coutances - Avranches break-through with the XV Corps and the Third Army. The 270th Field

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Artillery Battalion was attached on August 5, 1944. The corps artillery marched with the 79th Division on the entire "end run" through Fougères, Laval, Le Mans, and thence north to close the so-called "Falaise Gap." The 999th Field Artillery Battalion was detached from the group on August 9, 1944.

The first fires against the enemy were placed in the Forêt de Forseigne on August 12, 1944. Up until this time the fires of the heavy artillery had not been needed. The 989th Field Artillery Battalion was detached on August 13, 1944 and the 208th Field Artillery Battalion on August 17, 1944.

On August 15, 1944 the group with the 270th Field Artillery Battalion attached, again following the 79th Division, pulled out of the "Falaise Gap Sector" and on August 19, 1944 reached the area in the vicinity of Mantos-Gassicourt and positions were occupied to harass the enemy crossings of the Seine, and interrupt traffic on the other side. The 208th Field Artillery Battalion was again attached on August 24, 1944.

Commencing August 27, 1944 the XV Corps was relieved by XIX Corps, and corps troops moved to a bivouac area to the south. On September 1 the 270th Field Artillery was detached from the group and on September 8th, the group headquarters and the 208th Field Artillery Battalion moved south and east of Paris to Brienne le Chateau and thence to Fays, where the 267th Field Artillery Battalion was attached to group. From there the group and its battalions moved to positions near Diarville to support the Moselle River bridgehead at Charmes.

On September 19 the group moved to positions to support the attack of Lunerville and later the Forêt de Parroy.

The group has had under its control a total of over twenty battalions and has operated under assignment to the First, Third and Seventh Armies. - It has been attached to the XV Corps Artillery most of the time since arriving in the European Theater, except for a short period of assignment to XXI Corps Artillery in January, 1945.

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The Group participated in the XV Corps drive which liberated Strasbourg in November 1944. Following that drive it took up positions near Enchenberg where its battalions played a prominent part in the reduction of the forts surrounding Bitche. When the XV Corps was moved westerly following the German counter-attack of December the 144 Group moved to Puttelingen. In March 1945 the group left Leyviller and shortly thereafter was marching with the rest of the XV Corps Artillery in the drive through Saarbrücken to the Rhine.

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WITH THE 1st CAVALRY DIVISION, U.S. ARMY, IN KOREA--(Delayed)---  
A Naches, Wash., soldier, who made a one-man grenade assault  
against enemy positions and then saved his platoon leader's life,  
has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor.

The decoration was conferred upon private First Class Otto  
Zimmerman, son of Mrs. Noma D. Turnbull of Naches, for heroism  
in action against the enemy on March 13, 1951, near Yongdu-ri.

Company K of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, of which he was a  
member, was attacking Hill 651. The enemy was firing from well  
entrenched positions.

A citation accompanying the Naches soldier's decoration tells  
how he disregarded his own safety and crawled 50 yards to flank  
the hostile positions. He knocked out the most threatening  
emplacement with hand grenades.

Rejoining his platoon, Pfc. Zimmerman saw an enemy sniper about  
to fire at the platoon leader. He knocked the platoon leader to  
the ground and pointed out the sniper to a nearby rifleman,  
who shot him.

The citation credits Zimmerman with making it possible for  
his platoon to seize its objective and with saving his platoon  
leader's life.

It concludes by noting, "His heroic deeds reflect great  
credit upon himself and the military service."

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*History  
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WITH THE 144th FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP OF THE SEVENTH ARMY, GERMANY : "We do not know when this meeting will take place but we feel confident that the California Grizzly and the Russian Bear will meet soon somewhere in Germany." This was the sentiment expressed by more than one member of Headquarters Battery, 144th Field Artillery Group, a former California National Guard organization, as they crossed the Rhine recently.

A reconnaissance party led by the Group Commander Colonel Clifford B. Cole, 53, of Pacific Grove, California, and including the Commanding Officer of Headquarters Battery, Captain Merlin M. Anderson, 28, of Midland, Michigan, had received a little "88" fire and some airplane strafing while waiting to cross about an hour earlier but the main convoy made the crossing without enemy interference. The heavy pontoon bridge and probably half a mile or so of the river was well screened by artificial fog from smoke generators on the near shore so that the Grizzlies could see very little of the river. They didn't need to see much, however, to feel that this was a momentous occasion for each one of them and one vehicle displayed, fluttering from its radio antenna, the flag of the California Republic, the so-called "Bear Flag."

Twenty-seven years ago the Bear Flag was carried to the Rhine by the California Grizzlies of World War I but this time it is going farther, much farther. As they push into the heart of Germany the vehicles of Headquarters Battery bear the insignia of the organization, a golden bear on a background of artillery red, while the flag which was flown during the Rhine crossing is held "in reserve" to be flown again in Berlin.

## RESERVE REORGANIZATION

A basic premise of all Army plans and programs stems from the concept that the Active Army, the Army National Guard of the United States, and the Army Reserve are a composite entity. They are not three separate segments which become a whole only when joined together by some emergency. They must plan as one. They must organize and train as one, and in the event of aggression, they will fight as one.

The term "Reserve Components" is used to denote that part of the Army, not on continuous active service, which includes the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. The law requires that the Army, including its reserve components, be organized, trained and equipped for prompt and sustained combat, and that it support national policies and implement national objectives.

Plans for the mobilization and deployment of the Army's forces are based upon the Army requirements established by joint war plans -- that is, joint war plans developed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. National policy limits the size of the military services to those forces which are required during the early months of an emergency and which cannot be created from Selective Service sources in sufficient time to meet the mobilization and deployment schedules.

It can be said that the mission of the Reserve Components is to bridge the gap, in an emergency, with trained units and men between the Active Army and the point in time when new units can be formed from untrained men.

The rapid evolution of the tools of war has wrought revolutionary changes in the concepts of ground warfare. Atomic weapons in quantity, potential improvements in target acquisition, missiles of vastly increased range, and greatly improved means for battlefield and strategic mobility, as well as communications, contribute to these dynamic changes. In its adjustment to these improved weapons and methods, the Army must combine the lessons and experience of the past with a clear view of the future which requires the utmost in vision, wisdom, and flexibility of mind.

In this era the threats to the security of the United States can erupt into conflict in a wide variety of forms. The military force of this Nation must support in full measure the national policy and must be so

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composed and deployed that it not only deters aggression in all its forms but also can cope with the entire range of possible military actions. The infantry division is designed as the basic combat instrument of the combined arms which can be stationed worldwide or moved on short notice wherever needed to apply, selectively, the degree of force required by situations ranging from a show of force to total atomic war. This infantry division is a powerful and versatile fighting force which under inspired and trained leadership, including proper psychological motivation, can be constantly ready to move fast and fight hard, day or night, under every condition of ground combat.

The composition of the division is the result of intensive study of many types of organizations over a period of several years. Extensive field tests followed with elements of the Active Army. When the Army arrived at the most desirable formation, which had been thoroughly tested short of war, it was adopted and given the name pentomic division because of the five battle groups which replaced the three regiments of the former triangular division.

The pentomic division is designed to conduct operations in active atomic warfare or in situations not involving the use of nuclear weapons but conducted under the threat of their use. Some of the general requirements for infantry operations under atomic conditions are:

Dispersion --- probably the cheapest form of protection from enemy atomic action.

Concentration -- units on an atomic battlefield must mass combat power to accomplish certain missions but this concentration must not be permitted to exist longer than is essential to perform the task at hand.

Mobility -- to concentrate, accomplish a mission and then rapidly disperse, units must have good mobility.

Control -- dispersion, swift reaction to capitalize on atomic strikes and the need for rapid implementation of orders places a heavy demand on control facilities; therefore communications must be rapid, reliable and capable of unfailing operations over extended distances.

Independence of action -- basic combat units must be capable of independent action.

Posture on the battlefield -- due to the circular area effects of the atomic weapons, it follows that battle group formations which are

linear in nature will, under most conditions, offer the best protection from enemy nuclear attacks.

As a result of the review of the Reserve Components directed by the Secretary of the Army, it became apparent that a reorganization was mandatory if the Reserve Components were to continue to fill their role and mission as an integral part of the Army.

The first requirement was the necessity to reorganize the Reserve Components under the Pentomic concept which already has been adopted in the Active Army. Federal law requires that the Army be organized, equipped and trained for prompt and sustained combat. This meant the adoption of a uniform organization to permit the integration of new weapons, weapons systems and training under new tactical concepts resulting from the new weapons.

The second requirement was the necessity to reduce the size of the structure to conform to national policy. National policy requires that all available resources be applied to those forces actually required during the early months of an emergency, pending the creation of new forces from untrained personnel after the onset of the emergency. By applying all our resources to the forces actually required, these units can be brought to a level of combat readiness to permit their deployment on an accelerated schedule.

In planning the new troop structure for the Army, it is recognized that active army units which have the capability of reacting promptly must be rounded out and balanced by the Reserve Components.

It follows logically that the Reserve structure must contain the units necessary to satisfy such a requirement, and that they must be adequately trained, readily available and capable of undertaking their assigned mission immediately after M-day.

Any unit which the mobilization schedule permits to be organized and trained entirely after the start of hostilities, cannot be properly justified within the premobilization Reserve structure. The Army budget does not permit the inclusion of Reserve units which are not functionally suitable to our immediate mobilization requirement.

It does not necessarily follow, nor is it intended to imply in any way that lower priority units are less capable than the other units. They

are given a smaller slice of men and materials because there will be more time after M-day to meet their mobilization schedule.

The limited number of paid spaces available to the Reserve Components requires that each space be filled by an individual who is properly trained in the specific skill his position requires, and that he be a member of an organization modeled to fit the new weapons doctrines and tactics designed for possible nuclear warfare.

Not directly affected by the change are the USAR Schools, Mobilization Designee Training Detachments, Maneuver Area Commands, Nonpay Training Units, and certain support units whose present organization fits into the new concept.

Seven divisions will be retained in the Sixth US Army Reserve Component Structure. Four (two National Guard and two USAR) will be reorganized as combat Infantry Divisions and the fifth as an Armored Division (National Guard) under the pentomic concept.

The remaining two divisions will be reorganized and officially designated as USAR Divisions (Training). These training divisions will contain five regiments, each to include training battalions. Each division will contain three regiments charged with the responsibility of conducting basic combat training, one regiment that will conduct common specialist training, and one that will conduct advanced individual training. The designation of these regiments, as well as the regimental designation of battle groups, will be announced at a later date. The structure of these two divisions is patterned after proven Active Army organization standards for Replacement Training Centers.

In addition to the seven divisions, the Reserve Component Troop Structure of Sixth Army will contain numerous types of the combat, technical and administrative services encompassing all branches and tailored to round out and support active Army forces.

If units of the Reserve Components are to replace, reinforce, or relieve active Army units it follows quite logically that their organization must be identical. The Reserve must be prepared for the most modern strategic and tactical mobility. The organization of its combat and support units, the training of its individuals and of its units, and even its deployment within the continental United States must be made

to conform to its new essential role.

The reorganization affects everyone in the Reserve Components. Not all units, of course, are scheduled for drastic shakeups, but as missions, weapons, and tactics change, every member of the Reserve will find himself taking on new duties, preparing to assume new responsibilities, becoming proficient in new military occupational specialties, or filling new assignments.

Reorganization of the Reserve Components will result in an Army that is wholly responsive to basic national security policy and joint defense plans. Forces established in the new structure will be those required to meet Army missions in case of a national emergency. To retain the pre-existing organization of the Reserve Components would be for the Army to reject the incontrovertible facts of progress and evaluation in the conduct of military operations. The advantages resulting from these organizational changes will be threefold: a strengthening of the Army; a strengthening of the Reserve Components; and a strengthening of national security.

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