

HISTORY  
1ST BATTALION 14TH INFANTRY

THE BIRTH OF THE 14TH INFANTRY REGIMENT DATES FROM THE CIVIL WAR DAYS, WHEN IT WAS ORGANIZED ON THE 5TH OF AUGUST 1861 AT FORT TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT. THE REGIMENT BECAME PART OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AND SAW ACTION IN SOME OF THE BLOODIEST CAMPAIGNS OF THE CIVIL WAR.

WHEN THE UNION ARMIES PASSED IN REVIEW IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR, GENERAL MEADE ATTESTED TO THE WORTH OF THE 14TH INFANTRY WHEN HE WAS ASKED WHERE THE REGIMENT SHOULD MARCH IN THE REVIEW. "TAKE THE RIGHT OF THE LINE," HE SAID. "THE 14TH HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO THE FRONT IN BATTLE AND DESERVES THE HONOR."

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS CENTURY THE MEN OF THE 14TH TOOK TO THE FIELD OF BATTLE IN THE PHILIPPINES, CHINA, GERMANY, AND KOREA, ADDING NUMEROUS CAMPAIGN STREAMERS TO ITS REGIMENTAL COLOR. WHILE FIGHTING THE BOXERS, IN CHINA, THE REGIMENT EARNED ITS NICKNAME, "GOLDEN DRAGONS."

ON 3 JANUARY 1966 THE 1ST BATTALION 14TH INFANTRY DEPLOYED TO VIETNAM WITH THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S THIRD BRIGADE. ~~DEPLOYED TO VIETNAM.~~ IT BEGAN ITS FIRST TACTICAL OPERATION ON FEBRUARY 5, 1966 IN OPERATION TAYLOR.

FOR THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF, THE BATTALION CONTINUED OPERATIONS WITH THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION. IN AUGUST OF 1967 THE GOLDEN DRAGONS REPORTED TO THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

SINCE THAT TIME THE GOLDEN DRAGONS HAVE FOUGHT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DIVISION AREA OF OPERATIONS. SUCH PLACES AS DAK TO, CHU PA, KONTUM AND LZ'S ST. GEORGE AND ARMAGEDDON BEAR TESTIMONY TO THE PRESENCE OF THE 1/14TH.

FIGHTING IN OPERATIONS PAUL REVERE IV, FRANCIS MARION, GREELEY, SAM HOUSTON,  
MACARTHUR AND HINES, THE 1/14TH HAS DISTINGUISHED ITSELF STILL EARNING ITS  
POSITION "ON THE RIGHT OF THE LINE."

THE US ARMY INFANTRY WAS FOUNDED ON 14 JUNE 1775.

REMARKS  
1-14 INFANTRY

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 14TH INFANTRY--THE UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY WAS FOUNDED IN JUNE OF 1775. FOR 195 YEARS THE INFANTRY HAS BEEN UPHOLDING A RECORD OF COURAGE AND DEDICATION UNSURPASSED IN THE ANNALS OF WARFARE. DURING THE MOBILIZATION FOR THE CIVIL WAR IN 1861, A NEW REGIMENT--THE 14TH INFANTRY--WAS FORMED TO JOIN THE ROLLS OF THE GREAT INFANTRY UNITS. YOU MEN OF THE 1ST OF THE 14TH ARE THE SUCCESSORS TO THE PROUD HERITAGE WHICH BEGAN ON THAT DAY SO LONG AGO.

FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS THE SOLDIERS OF THE 1ST OF THE 14TH HAVE FOUGHT HEROICALLY WITH TWO FINE INFANTRY DIVISIONS--THE 25TH AND THE 4TH. I HAVE OFTEN HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE GOLDEN DRAGONS IN THE FIELD, AND I WAS IMPRESSED EACH TIME WITH THE SPIRIT, DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM SHOWN BY EACH MAN. BUT REALLY, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYTHING DIFFERENT, SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU ARE INFANTRYMEN. IT MAY BE A CLICHE THAT THE INFANTRYMAN IS THE ULTIMATE WEAPON; BUT NEVERTHELESS, IT'S TRUE. YOU ARE THE "FOOT SOLDIER," THE "GRUNT," THE MAN WHO ACTUALLY GOES OUT ON THE GROUND AND SEEKS OUT, FACES, AND DEFEATS THE ENEMY. YOU ARE WHAT THIS DIVISION IS ALL ABOUT, AND EVERYONE ELSE, WHETHER THEY LIKE TO ADMIT IT OR NOT, KNOWS THIS BECAUSE THEIR SOLE REASON FOR BEING IS TO SUPPORT YOU, THE INFANTRYMAN.

I KNOW THAT YOUR JOB HERE HAS NOT BEEN EASY. HERE IN VIETNAM YOU HAVE BEEN COLD, WET, TIRED, LONESOME--AND EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY HESITATE TO ADMIT IT--AFRAID; MORE SO THAN YOU HAVE EVER BEEN BEFORE IN YOUR LIFE. BUT MEN, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER THESE FEELINGS, YOU CAN BE DOUBLY PROUD. BECAUSE OF YOUR STAMINA, BECAUSE OF YOUR SKILL, BECAUSE OF YOUR BRAVERY--THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION IS NOW LEAVING THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS.

MANY OF YOU WILL BE REASSIGNED TO OTHER UNITS IN-COUNTRY; TO YOU I SAY, WEAR THE IVY PATCH PROUDLY ON YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER AND SERVE YOUR NEXT UNIT AS WELL AS YOU HAVE SERVED US. THE REMAINDER OF YOU WILL BE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES; I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF YOUR TOUR, AND I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS. TO ALL OF YOU, I SAY THANKS AND GOOD LUCK; IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR FOR ME TO HAVE SERVED WITH YOU.