The regiment was constituted in 1916 and organized with personnel from 3rd, 6th and 14th Cavalry. Green was the color of the facings of the Mounted Rifles, now 3rd Cavalry. The embattled partition line commemorates the first engagement of 6th Cavalry when it assaulted artillery in earthworks at Williamsburg in 1862. The shield is yellow, the Cavalry color; the blue chevron is for the old blue uniform; the 16 mullets (spur rowels) indicate both the numerical designation as well as mounted service. The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for 16th Cavalry Oct. 28, 1958. It was amended to correct the symbolism June 23, 1960. It was redesignated for 16th Armor Aug. 22, 1968. The insignia was redesignated for 16th Cavalry May 12, 1970. It was amended to update the description and symbolism April 3, 2012.