

Adjutant General's Corps Regiment

The Adjutant General's Corps Regiment was activated under the U.S. Army Regimental System as a "whole branch" regiment on 17 June, 1987, with its home base at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind. Designated an administrative service of the Army during World War II, Adjutant General's Department Troops and Organizations were created by War Department circulars of 1944-45 and became a basic branch of the service as the Adjutant General's Corps under the Army Reorganization Act of 1950.

The office and functions of the adjutant general of the Army, however, were first authorized by resolution of the Second Continental Congress on 16 June, 1775. That resolution also created the forerunners of the Finance and Quartermaster Corps, but the Adjutant General's Corps is considered the senior of the Army's combat service support branches by virtue of the election the following day of then-Brig. Gen. Horatio Gates as the first adjutant general of the Army. From that time forward, the history of the Adjutant General's Corps is that of the Army itself.

Although personnel and general administration have always been at the heart of adjutant general functions, during the nineteenth century the corps developed many of the staff functions that are now separate branches, staff agencies or commands, including general inspection, intelligence, recruiting, provost marshal, military history and mobilization policy. Until the creation of the General Staff Corps in 1903, in fact, assistant adjutants general in the field performed most of the functions in aid of commanders that now belong to the general staff system, and the Adjutant General's Department was the single most powerful policy-making agency in the War Department.

From the virtual disbandment of the Army in November 1783 until 1792, there was no legally constituted office of the adjutant general, although the functions were carried out by officers on detail. The act of 5 March, 1792, provided for an adjutant who should also do duty as inspector, and this dual function continued until the reorganization of the Army in 1821. The office continued to be filled on an acting basis until July 1798, when Congress called a provisional Army of 10,000 men into service during the quasi-war with revolutionary France. Brig. Gen. William North became adjutant general, and assistant adjutants general positions were filled by officers of the line.

The Adjutant General's Department as such was created by an act of 3 March, 1813, providing for as many as 25 officers and authorizing their assignment to field commands, where they were the only officers invested with the authority to speak for their commanders.

The 1821 reorganization separated the inspector general functions from the Adjutant General's Department and reduced the establishment of the latter to a single officer. It would not be until an act of 5 July, 1838, that the department was placed on a more regular foundation.

The adjutant general became responsible for regular Army recruiting in 1847, and department officers commanded the recruit depots, organized recruits into companies and regiments and moved these units to their new commands. Adjutant general officers performed a myriad of administrative and field functions during the Civil War; following the conflict, the department discharged more than 800,000 enlisted soldiers from federal service and compiled and published the massive records of the war, both Union and Confederate.

In 1872, the Adjutant General's Department took over the unfinished business of the federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, providing food, clothing, housing and schooling for refugees and freed slaves during Reconstruction in the former Confederate states. As an outgrowth of this activity, the department was ordered in 1881 to establish and supervise a post school system for the Army.

The Division of Military Information was created within the Adjutant General's Department in 1886 and continued until the 1903 reorganization as a precursor of the military intelligence function. During this period, the department also acquired and developed more formal responsibilities for the supervision and training of the state militia forces, as well as mobilization planning.

From 1838 to the turn of the century, adjutant general's officers were exclusively regulars, most of them West Point graduates, but this began to change in 1901 with legislation that substituted four-year staff details for permanent appointments and permitted the assignment of some volunteer officers.

With the 1903 legislation creating the Army Staff, the functions of the department were considerably reduced and defined by orders of 14 August as general administration (including the issuance, certification and recording of general and special orders), personnel administration, the

recruiting service and the supervision of the militia. The department became the Military Secretary's Department by congressional act of 23 April, 1904, but was redesignated on 2 March, 1907, as The Adjutant General's Department (introducing the capitalized "The" into the name for the first time).

In 1914, the Army essayed a system of regimental recruiting, but the results were so indifferent that the centralized recruiting service under the adjutant general was restored before the year was out. In the following year, Congress transferred control and administration of the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks to the department. The adjutant general's personnel management functions were refined and codified by the National Defense Act of 1916 as covering



officer and enlisted procurement, assignment, promotion, transfer, discharge and retirement.

During World War I, the department handled the rapid expansion of the Army and staffed the adjutant general's section of the American Expeditionary Forces headquarters in France, where several new functions were developed, including postal operations, casualty reporting, printing and military prisons.

The new general staff system reached a peak of influence under the exigencies of war, but the National Defense Act of 1920 restored the primacy of the War Department bureaus—including The Adjutant General's Department—in the day-to-day running of the Army, reducing the General Staff to a planning and coordinating agency specifically forbidden to engage in administrative work.

Anticipating the need for trained administrative specialists for a rapidly expanding Army about to be engaged in a global war, the Adjutant General's School was founded on 14 June, 1941, at Arlington Cantonment, Va. After several changes of location, the school was moved to its present home at Ft. Benjamin Harrison in 1951.

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Under the Department of the Army reorganization of March 1942, the Office of The Adjutant General became one of the administrative services under the supervision of the Services of Supply (shortly to become the Army Service Forces—ASF). During World War II, personnel policy and administration tasks multiplied, and some of these were shared with the ASF director of personnel and the G1 section of the General Staff, but the adjutant general remained basically responsible for induction, classification and assignment. During the war, adjutant general's troops served in the field in replacement depots, battalions and companies; fixed and mobile machine records units; postal units, base post offices and postal regulating sections; Army Courier Service units; and Army Ground Forces bands.

In 1946, the adjutant general was restored to the War Department (Department of the Army after 1947) as an administrative staff officer under the assistant chief of staff, G1. In the postwar years, the Adjutant General's Corps became the natural proponent for the nascent technology of electronic data processing. Mechanically aided record-keeping had begun with the adjutant general's machine records section in November 1940, and mobile machine records units became the principal means of personnel accounting during World War II. As electronic automatic data processing (ADP) began to replace mechanical and electromechanical equipment, its development and use was first centralized in the Army Data Processing and Administrative Systems Command, established under the supervision of the adjutant general in 1962.

In the reorganizations of the early 1960s, the Office of The Adjutant General lost some of its personnel management functions, and it lost virtually all of those pertaining to the active Army a decade later with the establishment of the Army Military Personnel Center (MILPERCEN—now the Total Army Personnel Agency) in 1972. The adjutant general retained responsibility for many key reserve components personnel and mobilization functions and assumed control of the Army Institute of Heraldry from the Quartermaster Corps in 1962.

The Adjutant General's Center was established in 1973 to collect and rationalize the remaining functions of the office, which then included general administration, archival services, publications, postal matters and morale, recreation and welfare (MWR). Most of the MWR functions were transferred to the new Army Community

and Family Support Center at the end of 1984.

In 1985, responsibilities for reserve personnel management were transferred to MILPERCEN and the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. In the same year, the new Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Information Management (now the director of information systems in the Army secretariat) took over all publications, records management, office automation and library functions.

Finally, on 1 June, 1986, the adjutant general ceased to be an Army Staff officer, and the title was transferred to the office of the chief of a new MILPERCEN directorate that manages the following functions: soldier education, transition of soldiers into civil life; the Institute of Heraldry; adjudication of security clearances; casualty and memorial affairs; the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center at Ft. Benjamin Harrison; military awards and decorations; installation support; and educational incentives. In addition, the adjutant general serves as commanding general of the Army Physical Disability Agency, executive director of the joint Military Postal Service Agency and director of the joint Armed Forces Courier Service.

1st Air Defense Artillery

Organized on 1 June, 1821, with headquarters at Ft. Independence, Mass., the 1st Regiment of Artillery was formed from existing units, some of which had fought in the War of 1812. The regiment was first stationed in New York Harbor and along the New England coast but moved south in 1827 to posts from Annapolis, Md., to Charleston, S.C.

From 1836 to 1838, elements of the regiment were engaged in various campaigns against the Seminoles and Cherokees. The regiment was then ordered to posts in northern New York and Vermont and later to the border between Maine and New Brunswick where the United States had a boundary dispute with Great Britain.

Moving south in 1845, elements of the regiment served in the Mexican War, participating in the battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Cerro Gordo, Chapultepec and others. Between the Mexican and Civil Wars, the regimental elements were distributed along the coastlines, mostly in the South.

The first shots of the Civil War were fired at Ft. Sumter, S.C., where Companies E and H were stationed under Maj. Robert Anderson. The companies took part in



many ensuing engagements, bringing a total of 24 Civil War battle streamers to the regimental color. After the war, the regiment served primarily along the Atlantic and Gulf coastlines until 1881, when it moved to the Pacific coast for nine years, returning to the East in 1890.

In 1901, the regiment was broken up into separate numbered companies and batteries of field and coast artillery. The coast artillery elements were reorganized as the 1st Coast Artillery in 1924 and assigned to the Harbor Defenses of Cristobal in Panama. In 1944, the regiment was again broken up into the 1st Coast Artillery Group and the 1st Coast Artillery Battalion, which was disbanded in 1946 in the Canal Zone.

In 1945, the 1st Coast Artillery Group was redesignated as the headquarters element of the Harbor Defenses of Cristobal and inactivated two years later. In 1952, it was consolidated with the 1st Antiaircraft Artillery Group, which had participated in four campaigns in Europe during World War II. The group was activated the following year in West Germany, where it was inactivated in 1957.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the former 1st Coast Artillery were reconstituted in 1950. The 1st Battalion served between 1955 and 1958 at Irwin, Pa., as the 1st Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalion. The 2nd Battalion was activated in 1954 in Maryland as the 54th Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalion and armed with Nike missiles. The battalion was inactivated there in 1958.

The 1st Antiaircraft Artillery Group and the 1st and 54th Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalions were consolidated in 1959 with the 1st Field Artillery Battalion to form the 1st Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System. In 1971, the former 1st Field Artillery Battalion was withdrawn and reorganized as the