



## 25th Infantry Division

**Arrived Vietnam:** 28 March 1966  
from Hawaii  
**Departed Vietnam:** 8 December 1970  
to Hawaii

## Commanders

Major General Frederick C. Weyand	Jan. 66
Major General John C. F. Tillson III	March 67
Major General Fillmore K. Mearns	Aug. 67
Major General Ellis W. Williamson	Aug. 68
Major General Harris W. Hollis	Sept. 69
Major General Edward Bautz, Jr.	April 70

The 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") was formed on Hawaii 10 October 1941 and was machinegunned at Schofield Barracks during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941. The division moved onto Guadalcanal 17 December 1942 and entered combat, relieving the U.S. Marines there. It continued fighting in the Solomon Islands on New Georgia, Vella Lavella, Arundel Island and Kolombangara, moving back to New Zealand in December 1944 for rest and training. On 11 January 1945 the division landed on Luzon in the Philippines to help liberate the country. It saw intense combat in the Caraballo Mountains. After five years of occupation duty in Japan, the division was transferred into combat in Korea 18 July 1950. At first forced onto the defensive, the division later drove north with the U.N. counteroffensive.

fensive. When the Communist Chinese Army entered the war, the 25th Infantry Division was hard-hit, but by March 1951, was counterattacking to retake Seoul. After 1953 the division was posted back to Hawaii. In January 1963 the division was providing soldiers for combat duty in Vietnam, and its 3d Brigade was sent there in December 1965, being posted to the Highlands at Pleiku. Later the brigade elements were transferred to the 4th Infantry Division, also operating in the same II Corps Tactical Zone area in exchange for the elements of the 4th Infantry Division's brigade fighting in the III Corps Tactical Zone. When the remainder of the 25th Infantry Division arrived in early 1966, it was sent into the III Corps area in action against the enemy near the Cambodian border and in the Saigon vicinity. In January 1967 the division pushed into the Viet Cong Military Region 4 headquarters in the fortified "Iron Triangle." Next it was sent into War Zone C, Tay Ninh Province, along with several other major U.S. Army units during Operation JUNCTION CITY, 22 February - 14 May 1967. The rest of the year was spent largely in trying to clear Hau Nghia Province. The division again drove into War Zone C on 8 December 1967, continuing operations there until 24 February 1968. It was also involved in operations in the southern half of III Corps west of Saigon, and along the Cambodian border region. During the Tet counteroffensive of 1968 the division saw combat in the immediate Saigon area. The division then continued its primary operations around Cu Chi, and in the spring of 1970 sent elements into Cambodia seeking the North Vietnamese Army sanctuaries. In December 1970 the bulk of the division was withdrawn from Vietnam as part of Increment V of the U.S. withdrawal, but a separate brigade was left behind. The 25th Infantry Division served some 1,716 days in Vietnam.

## 25th Infantry Division

## Elements

Division Headquarters and HQ Company  
1st Brigade Headquarters and HQ Company  
2d Brigade Headquarters and HQ Company\*  
3d Brigade Headquarters and HQ Company  
Division Artillery Headquarters and HQ Battery  
Division Support Command Headquarters and HQ Co

### Authorized Strength

Vietnam Service	1968	1970
28 March 66 - 8 Dec. 70	152	170
29 April 66 - 8 Dec. 70	125	128
20 Jan. 66 - 30 April 71	125	128
28 Dec. 65 - 8 Dec. 70	125	128
4 April 66 - 8 Dec. 70	217	213
4 April 66 - 8 Dec. 70	97	103

#### Division Headquarters Location in Vietnam

**Cu Chi**      **March 68 – Dec. 70**

Also considered as a separate command in this work. Entire Vietnam service listed above.