

THE CACTI



1st BATTALION
35th INFANTRY

CHANGE OF COMMAND/REVIEW CEREMONY

1st Battalion 35th Infantry

IN HONOR OF

LT. COL. RAYMOND F. RUYFFELAERE

OUTGOING BATTALION COMMANDER

12 AUGUST 1963 - 12 SEPTEMBER 1964

AND

LT. COL. JOHN H. LECLAIR

INCOMING BATTALION COMMANDER

12 SEPTEMBER 1964

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SCHOFIELD BARRACKS HAWAII

Today, the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry honors Lt. Col. Raymond F. Ruyffelaere, outgoing Battalion Commander and Lt. Col. John H. LeClair, incoming Battalion Commander.

Commander of Troops for today's ceremony is Major J. R. Meyer Jr., Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Units and Commanders in order of march will be:

Commander of Troops and Staff:

Maj. J. R. Meyer Jr.

Maj. James S. Kirkpatrick

Capt Shelton V. Peters

Capt Anthony E. Bisantz

1st Lt Michael A. Randall

25th Inf Div Band: CWO Erling H. Erlandson

CO, HHC: Capt. Philip S. Andrews

CO, Co A: Capt. Raymond E. Johnson

CO, Co B: 1st Lt Monte T. Sloan

CO, Co C: Capt. Cornelius A. L. Lau

S-E-Q-U-E-N-C-E O-F E-V-E-N-T-S

ADJUTANT'S CALL0930

INSPECTION OF TROOPS . Lt Col Ruyffelaere and Lt Col LeClair
Troop the Line with Commander of Troops.
COMMAND IS PRESENTED

OFFICERS AND COLORS CENTER. . .Commander of Troops and all
Unit Commanders with Battalion Colors and guidons march
forward and salute the reviewing officer.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY:

The change of command takes place with leader tabs
and the Battalion Colors presented to Lt Col LeClair.

REMARKS BY Lt Colonel R. F. Ruyffelaere

PASS IN REVIEW

HISTORY OF "THE CACTI"

The 1st Battalion 35th Infantry (The Cacti) was organized on 8 July 1916, at Douglas, Arizona during the Mexican Border Crisis. Incorporated into this new regiment were elements of the 11th, 18th and 22nd Infantry Regiments, each bearing its own proud history and traditions dating back to the Civil War.

"The Cacti" received its baptism of fire in 1917 at Nogles, Arizona during one of the numerable outbreaks of hostilities along the border.

In September 1920 "The Cacti" sailed from Ft Lewis Washington to Oahu, Hawaii where they were assigned to the Hawaiian Division. For almost two decades The Cacti was the mainstay of military activities in the Islands before being designated as part of the 25th Infantry Division on 26 August 1941.

In November 1942 "The Cacti" sailed for Guadalcanal as as part of the 25th Division. The unit landed on 17 December and culminated 40 days of continuous fighting by securing Mt. Austin, the last stronghold of Japanese resistance. Technician 5th Grade Lewis Hall and Sgt William Fournier were posthously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. "The Cacti" received its first Distinguished Unit Citation as a result of this action.

On 15 August 1943 "The Cacti" made an amphibious landing at Vella Le Vella, in the first employment of the island hopping technique that was to pave the way to victory in the Pacific.

On 11 January 1945 "The Cacti" landed at Lingayen Gulf on the Island of Luzon in the Philippines. Through the next six months "The Cacti" spearheaded two major campaigns that culminated with the surrender of the Japanese in July 1945.

"The Cacti" was awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and M/Sgt Charles McGaha was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

From 1946 to 1950 "The Cacti" was stationed in Japan. When the Korean Conflict broke out "The Cacti" was again among the first elements of the 25th Division to take the enemy under fire. In the bitter struggle to maintain the vital Pusan Defense Perimeter "The Cacti" was inspired by action of Sgt William R. Jecelin who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. For its action at the Nam River, "The Cacti" was again awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. From the beginning to the end, July 1950 to July 1953, "The Cacti" fought in the heat of the battle throughout the length and breadth of Korea. Two more members of "The Cacti", SFC Donald R. Moyer and PFC Billie G. Kanell were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. In the waning days of the struggle, "The Cacti" was awarded a second Korean Presidential Unit Citation for action at Munsan-Ni.

In September 1953 "The Cacti" returned to Schofield Barracks, after an absence of twenty one years. The unit strived in its training mission to live up to the 25th Division motto of "Ready to Strike Anywhere, Anytime".

This readiness was recognized in August 1962 when "The Cacti" was airlifted to Thailand during a period of increased international tension. Since its return in December 1962 "The Cacti" has ever strived to uphold its own motto of "Take Arms". In the face of the continually changing international situation, "The Cacti" will be ready to answer the call should the need arise.

"THE 'CACTI' CREST

The basic symbol on "The Cacti" Crest is a cactus representing the organization of "The Cacti" in the State of Arizona on 8 July 1916. The other symbols in the upper left hand corner denote the three units from which "The Cacti" was founded. The red acorn is taken from the 18th Infantry Regiment. The white cross of MALTA comes from the 11th Infantry Regiment. The Blue Redoubt is the symbol of the 22nd Infantry Regiment. Unit Motto: "TAKE ARMS"

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

World War II

- *Central Pacific
- *Guadalcanal
- *Northern Solomons
- *Luzon

Korean War

- *UN Defensive
- *UN Offensive
- *CCF Intervention
- *First US Counter-offensive
- *CCF Spring Offensive
- *UN Summer-Fall Offensive
- *Second Korean Winter
- *Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
- *Third Korean Winter
- *Korea, Summer-Fall 1953

UNIT DECORATIONS

- *Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered GUADALCANAL
- *Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered NAN RIVER
- *Philippine Presidential Unit Citation embroidered 17 October 1944 to 4 July 1945.
- *Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, embroidered MASAN-CHINSU
- *Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, embroidered MUNSAN-NI
- *Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, embroidered KOREA

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Technician 5th Grade Lewis Hall - Guadalcanal
Sergeant William Fournier - Guadalcanal
Master Sergeant Charles Mc Gaha - Luzon
Sergeant William R. Jecelin - Korea
Sergeant First Class Donald R. Moyer - Korea
Private First Class Billie G. Kanell - Korea