



Department of the Army
Headquarters, 1st Battalion 15th Infantry
APO New York 09031



AETSBBN-D-CO

SUBJECT: Letter of Welcome

New Members of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry

1. On behalf of the officers and men of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, I want to welcome you to one of the finest fighting units in the United States Army. Your assignment with the "CAN DO" Battalion should be challenging and productive.
2. Our Unit has a proud heritage which dates back to the Civil War. Those who have gone before us worked and fought hard during both peace and war to earn the 15th Infantry a distinguished position among Army units. Many have earned distinction and recognition. This Battalion had more Medal of Honor winners in WW II than any other unit of comparable size. Dwight D. Eisenhower, former president of the United States, George C. Marshall, former Secretary of State and Audie D. Murphy, the most decorated soldier in WW II are just some of the men who have helped to form the "CAN DO" tradition.
3. Today, we of the 15th Infantry, continue to work hard to accomplish all missions in the most commendable manner. In combat oriented training such as weapons qualification, ARTEPS, Reforger, FTXs, CFXs and MTAs, I am sure you will be physically and mentally challenged. However, I am confident that you will meet the challenge and feel the reward of successful mission accomplishment.
4. I ask you to take personal pride in your membership in the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry. Conduct yourself with the utmost of military bearing and to the highest of professional and personal standards both on and off duty. Work with the rest of us in maintaining our distinguished tradition and in striving to build upon our excellent reputation. Remember that in the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, "CAN DO" is more than a motto; it is the standard by which we conduct ourselves at all times.

Charles H. Kinsey Jr.
CHARLES H. KINSEY JR.
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

HISTORY OF THE 15TH INFANTRY

Organized on 4 May 1861, the 15th US Infantry was formed to bolster the strength of the Army of the Potomac. Its participation in the Civil War resulted in the award of eleven battle streamers. The Regiment distinguished itself in particularly outstanding fashion at the battles of Atlanta, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, and Murphreesboro.

Following the Civil War, the Regiment was posted to the southwest as part of the Military Department of Missouri. Fighting Ute Indians and Mescalero Apaches, the 15th Infantry added two more battle streamers to their colors.

In 1900 the First battalion sailed for China to protect US interests during the Boxer Rebellion. Although the unit arrived too late to participate in the actual conflict, the China Relief Expedition steamer was awarded, but without inscription.

The Territory of the Phillippines was where the Regiment was next assigned arriving in 1901 to combat Moro tribesmen.

A 26-year liaison with China was initiated in 1912 when the 15th sailed to Tientsin, China. It was during this time that the Regimental motto, "CAN DO" came into being and the Manchu dragon made its appearance on our unit crest.

Returning to the US in 1938, the Regiment was stationed in FT Lewis, Washington until 1940 at which time it was assigned to the 3d Division (later designated the 3d Infantry Division). In the fall of 1942, the 15th Infantry began its participation in World War II. At the end of this war, the 15th would emerge as one of the most decorated Infantry Regiments in the Army and could lay claim to having counted more Medal of Honor winners than any other unit its size. Audie Murphy, World War II's most decorated soldier, was in Company B of the Regiment.

The UN cause in Korea in 1950 next called out the 15th Infantry. By 1957, the entire 3d Infantry Division was reassigned to Germany. The Regiment's first garrison city was Bamberg; in 1963, the unit moved to Kitzingen where it has been ever since.

The 116 years of our history have been proud and honorable. With 34 battle streamers and 19 CMH winners, the 15th Infantry can truly claim being second to no other unit. Spirit, perseverance, and professionalism have been and will continue to be characteristic trademarks of the 15th Infantry.

15th INFANTRY
CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

Civil War

Shiloh
Mississippi 1862
Alabama 1862
Tennessee 1862
Kentucky 1862
Murfreesborough
Tennessee 1863
Chickamauga
Chattanooga
Georgia 1864
Atlanta

Indian Wars

Utes
New Mexico 1860

China Relief Expedition

Without inscription

Philippine Insurrection

Luzon 1900
Luzon 1901

World War II

Algeria-French Morocco (with arrowhead)
Tunisia
Sicily (with arrowhead)
Naples-Foggia
Anzio (with arrowhead)
Rome-Arno
Southern France (with arrowhead)
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Korean War

CCF intervention
First UN counteroffensive
CCF spring offensive
UN summer-fall offensive
Second Korean winter
Korea, summer-fall 1952
Third Korean winter
Korea, summer-fall 1953

15TH INFANTRY DECORATIONS

Streamer, Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered COLMAR
Streamer, Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered MONTELMAR
Streamer, Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered SAN FRATELLO
Streamer, Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered KOWANG NI
Streamer, Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), embroidered HWACHON RESERVOIR
Streamer, Navy Unit Commendation, embroidered KOREA
Streamer, French Croix de Guerre with Palm (World War II) embroidered COLMAR
Fourragere in the colors of the French Croix de Guerre (World War II)
Streamer, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, embroidered
UIJONGBU CORRIDOR
Streamer, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, embroidered
IRON TRIANGLE
Streamer, Chryssoun Aristion Andrias (Bravery Gold Medal of Greece)
embroidered KOREA

Kampfband, Hervorragende Einheit Auszeichnung, COLMAR
Kampfband, Hervorragende Einheit Auszeichnung, MONTELMAR
Kampfband, Hervorragende Einheit Auszeichnung, SAN FRATELLO
Kampfband, Hervorragende Einheit Auszeichnung, KOWANG NI
Kampfband, Einheit Auszeichnung des Praesidenten der USA (Marine),
HWOCHON RESERVOIR
Kampfband, Einheit Auszeichnung der Marine, KOREA
Kampfband, Franzoesisches Croix de Guerre mit Palme (2, Weltkrieg) COLMAR
Fourragere in den Farben des Franzoesischen Croix de Guerre (2, Weltkrieg)
Kampfband, Einheit Auszeichnung des Praesidenten der Republik Korea,
UIJONGBU CORRIDOR
Kampfband, Einheit Auszeichnung des Praesidenten der Republik Korea,
EISERNES DREIECK
Kampfband, Chryssoun Aristion Andrias (Gold Medaille fuer Tapferkeit
von Griechenland), KOREA

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

/S/

R. V. LEE
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

FAMOUS FORMER "CAN DO" MEN

George Catlett Marshall - Former commander, 1/15th Infantry, General of the Armies, and Secretary of State, author of "The Marshall Plan."

"Vinegar" Joe Stilwell - Former S3, 15th Infantry Regiment and Commander of US Forces in China during World War II.

Audie D. Murphy - Commander, Company B, 15th Infantry, Medal of Honor winner and World War II's most decorated soldier.

Dwight D. Eisenhower - Once the XO in Company A, he later was Supreme Commander, Allied Forces Europe, during World War II and later President of the United States (1952-58).

General Walton Walker - Formerly a major in the 15th Infantry, he rose to the rank of four star general and commanded US Forces in Korea in the early 1960's.

Richard Stilwell - (not related to "Vinegar Joe") - A regimental commander in the early 50's and later commander of US Forces in Korea in the early 70's. He is now retired.

General Earl C. Wheeler - Assigned as a company grade officer to the 15th Infantry in the early part of his career, Earl Wheeler later became famous as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the senior military man in the country. He retired in the early 70's and died several years ago.

THE FIFTEENTH INFANTRY ("OLD CHINA HANDS") CREST

The white and blue colors on the shield itself represent the old and new colors of the infantry. The four red acorns across the top stand for the four principal campaigns of the Civil War in which the 15th Infantry fought so valiantly: Chattanooga, Atlanta, Murphreesboro, and Chickamauga. (During the Civil War, the Regiment was assigned to the 11th Corps, whose shoulder patch was a red acorn). Chickamauga, where the 15th fought particularly well, is further emblematic in the rock between the four acorns. From this battle, the 15th Infantry acquired the name "The Rock of Chickamauga".

The Manchu Dragon symbolizes service in China as does the pidgin English motto "CAN DO".

COMMAND AND STAFF STRUCTURE
4 December 1979

COMMAND

COMMANDER
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

LTC CHARLES H. KINSEY JR.
CSM JOHN J. SLOANE

COMMANDER HHC
FIRST SERGEANT

CPT JOHN W. HAM III
1SG BILLY CHESTER

COMMANDER A CO
FIRST SERGEANT

CPT WILLIAM H. BRYAN
SFC ROBERT BERRY

COMMANDER B CO
FIRST SERGEANT

CPT RICKI F. BOWER
1SG JERRY PEELER

COMMANDER C CO
FIRST SERGEANT

CPT JERRY A. MCVEY
1SG ELI NOBLE

COMMANDER CSC
FIRST SERGEANT

CPT RICHARD M. RIESS
1SG ARTHUR HARVEY

STAFF

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MAJ JAMES B. WAMBLE

S1
PERSONNEL STAFF NCO

1LT MICHAEL J. HORN
SFC HUBERT FENDLEY

S2
INTELLIGENCE NCO

1LT GARRY D. LEVIN
MSG RONALD MACAULEY

S3
OPERATIONS NCO

MAJ RICHARD M. EPTING
SFC JOSEPH CONDREY

S4
SUPPLY NCO

CPT RICHARD R. STILES
SSG DAVID WALTHERS

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
COMMUNICATIONS NCO

1LT RONALD W. BUSH
SSG MELVIN MURREY

MOTOR OFFICER
MOTOR NCO

CPT FRIEDRICH T. POWELL
SFC DOYLE SLOAN