

# Lineage and Honors

## 68th Chemical Smoke Generator Company

**Activated:** 1 June 1942 at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland  
**Campaign during World War II:** Ryukyu Islands, Japan  
**Decoration:** Combat Streamer  
**Deactivated:** 25 January 1946

**Activated:** 14 April 1949 at the U.S. Army Chemical Center, Maryland  
**Campaign during Korea:** Pusan Perimeter  
**Decoration:** Nine campaign streamers, Meritorious Unit Citation, and two Korean Presidential Unit Citations  
**Redesignated:** 68th Chemical Company, 4 March 1954  
**Deactivated:** 15 June 1959

**Activated:** 25 March 1963 at Fort Hood, Texas  
**Campaigns during Vietnam:** No overseas assignments  
**Deactivated:** 24 June 1966

**Activated:** 1 July 1977 and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas  
**Campaign during Operation Desert Storm:** Engaged in deceptive maneuvers along the Saudi Arabia/Iraqi border  
**Campaign during Operation Iraqi Freedom:** Provided concealment for the 3d Infantry Division operations while crossing the Iraqi border  
**Deactivated:** 15 September 2005

Following World War I, the Chemical Warfare Service (CWS) studied what part chemicals would play in future conflicts. However, when war broke out in Europe a second time, the United States was reluctant to unleash agents. The prospect of a chemical attack was on the horizon, and the CWS (now renamed the Chemical Corps) was tasked with ensuring that U.S. forces were obscured from attacks. One of the units formed to perform this mission was the 68th Chemical Smoke Generator Company. Following training and construction missions, the 68th was reassigned to Camp Sibert, Alabama, for training on the M2 mechanical smoke generator in preparation for deployment to the Pacific Theater. In June 1945, the 68th arrived in Okinawa to provide cover and concealment operations for combat units under the threat of Japanese air attacks.

During a period of increased hostilities with Korea, the 68th Chemical Smoke Generator Company was again called to service. The unit trained on smoke operations and domestic training maneuvers until the outbreak of war. In October 1950, the 68th was attached to the 4th Chemical Smoke Generator Battalion, where it performed traditional smoke operations in conjunction with units from X Corps. In July 1951, the 68th was transferred to the Pusan area, where it provided cover and surveillance for combat units. The Pusan Perimeter was a major site of contention during the Korean War due to its significance as a strategic launching point and symbol of U.S. presence. In May 1952, the 68th was assigned responsibility of an area known as “Artillery Valley,” a vital supply route and avenue of troop movement subject to enemy surveillance and artillery attacks.

During the Vietnam era, the 68th participated in training exercises, ensuring that the force was trained and ready for chemical threats; however, the unit was not deployed overseas.

In August 1990, the 68th (then a company in the 1st Cavalry Division) was deployed to Saudi Arabia.

The mission of the 1st: Deter Iraqi incursion into Saudi Arabia. With a history of chemical weapon use, the threat of an enemy chemical attack was high as the division engaged in deceptive maneuvers—designed to resemble a main invasion route—along the Iraqi border. The 68th played a major role in protecting the division from a chemical attack.

In January 2003, the 68th Chemical Company deployed to the Middle East. Elements of the company were attached to the 3d Infantry Division and served among the first units to cross the Iraqi border. On 2 April, the 68th executed the longest concealment operation in a combat zone since 1942 as two battalions entered Baghdad. In subsequent maneuvers, the 68th was among the units to seize Baghdad International Airport—a hotly contested objective subject to heavy fire and mortar attacks.

Throughout history, the 68th continued its heritage of completing missions without fail. ●●●

### References:

- Museum of the 1st Cavalry Division, <[http://www.first-team.us/journals/div\\_artry/68\\_ndx01.html](http://www.first-team.us/journals/div_artry/68_ndx01.html)>, accessed on 25 January 2007.
- Lineage and honors information, <<http://www.army.mil/cmh/lineage/branches/chem/068cmco.htm>>, accessed on 25 January 2007.
- Major Charles E. Heller, “Chemical Warfare in World War I: The American Experience, 1917–1918,” Combat Studies Institute, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, September 1984.

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Archive information for Chemical units is maintained at the U.S. Army Chemical School History Office. Veterans are encouraged to send oral interviews, photographs, and documents to help us preserve the rich history of the Corps. For additional information or to submit information, contact the History Office by telephone at (573) 563-7339; by e-mail at <[david.chuber@us.army.mil](mailto:david.chuber@us.army.mil)>; or by mail at 401 MANSCEN Loop, Suite 44, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473-8926.