

## FACT SHEET

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment** **...Brave Rifles**



On 19 May 1996, the Regiment celebrated its 150th anniversary and completed its re-stationing to Fort Carson, Colorado.

The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen was organized by Congress in 1846 and brought into existence a new organization in the American Army: a regiment of riflemen, mounted and equipped with hunting rifles to provide longer range and more firepower than the smoothbore muskets of the infantry and cavalry.

The Regiment was organized "for establishing military stations on route to Oregon", and it was under orders to proceed on its mission at the earliest practical date. However, the Mexican War intervened and the troopers found themselves diverted to participate in the invasion of Mexico. As soon as horses and equipment were obtained, the Regiment began moving to New Orleans in detachments of one or two companies. The Mounted Rifles lost most of their horses in a terrible storm during the voyage across the Gulf of Mexico, causing them to fight as infantry during most of the Mexican War.

This kept the Regiment from being left behind to escort wagon trains and chase guerrillas, allowing it to distinguish itself in six campaigns. Its participation there was climaxed by the bloody battle of Chapultepec. At the end of the Mexican War, The Regiment returned to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and began the grueling 2,000 mile march to the Oregon Territory to accomplish the mission for which it had originally been organized, the establishment of military outposts on the route to Oregon.

In December of 1851, the regiment was ordered to Texas, and for the next four years, it operated against the Indian tribes living in that area. In 1856, Indian troubles in the New Mexico Territory required additional troops, and the Regiment moved further west, marching through and also garrisoning in Fort Bliss, Texas.

In August of 1861, after the outbreak of the War Between the States, the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen was re-designated the 3d United States Cavalry Regiment. The Confederate troops started this campaign at Fort Bliss, Texas to seize the territories of New Mexico and Colorado. At Glorieta Pass, near Sante Fe, the Union force defeated the Confederates, causing them to return to Texas. In December 1862, the Regiment moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where it remained until October 1863. In December 1862, the Regiment moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where it remained until October 1863.

During the period October to December 1863, the Regiment participated in operations on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and fought in skirmishes at various locations such as Barton Station, Cane Creek, and Dickinson's Station, Alabama. Between October 1863 and March 1864, the Regiment fought in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and North Carolina, participating in the Chattanooga Campaign as part of the advance guard of Sherman's Army. The 3d U.S. Cavalry Regiment's losses during the Civil war were two officers and thirty enlisted men who were either killed in action or died of wounds and three officers and 105 enlisted men who died of disease or other non-combat causes.

In April 1866, the 3d Cavalry was once again ordered to New Mexico to campaign against the Indians. In April 1866, the Regiment was again moved to the Southwest, this time to subdue an uprising of the Chiricahua Apaches led by Geronimo. In April 1870, the Regiment was ordered to Arizona for operations against the Apaches and, in late 1871, was transferred north to the department of the Platte, which included what are now the states of Wyoming, Montana, the

Dakotas and Nebraska. During the summer of 1876, the Regiment participated in the Little Big Horn Campaign against the Sioux and Cheyenne. On 17 June 1876, ten companies of the 3d Cavalry fought in the battle of Rosebud Creek. This was the largest battle between the Army and the Indians in the history of the American West, with 1,400 friendly Indians and soldiers opposing more than 1,500 hostile Indians. The final surrender of Geronimo to elements of the 3d Cavalry signified the end of the Regiment's participation in the Indian Wars.

In 1885, the 3d U.S. Cavalry was ordered back to Texas, where it remained until 1893. Between 1893 and 1897, the Regiment was engaged in garrison, training and ceremonial activities throughout the East and Mid-West. By July 1897, the Regimental Headquarters and four troops were stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, while the remainder of the Regiment returned to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

In April 1898, the Regiment was assembled at Camp Thomas, Georgia in Chickamauga National Park, and assigned to a brigade in a provisional cavalry division. On 13 May 1898, the Regiment arrived in Tampa, Florida. On 8 June, the Regiment, minus four troops, embarked for Cuba with the rest of the invasion force. During the Spanish-American War, the 3d Cavalry Regiment participated in the attacks on San Juan and Kettle Hills, placing the first American flag at the points of victory.

After the war, the Regiment was ordered to the Philippines, this time for garrison duty. At the outbreak of World War I, the Regiment was transferred to Europe. Arriving in France in November 1917, the Regiment was scattered, and its squadrons operated remount depots for the duration of the war. In 1919, the Regiment returned from Europe and was stationed throughout the Eastern United States.

On 17 March 1917, the entire Regiment was transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In April, the United States entered the Great War and in August the Regiment became one of the first units deployed overseas. Arriving in France in November, the Regiment operated three major remount depots until the war's end. The only unit of the 3rd Cavalry that saw actual combat was Troop K, which was detached from the 3d Squadron and participated in the last three engagements prior to the Armistice on 11 November 1918. Troop K also was part of the Army of Occupation, remaining in Germany until it was shipped home with the rest of the Regiment in 1919.

During the 1920's and 1930's the Regiment underwent a series of organizational changes. 2nd Squadron, plus troops C and D of 1st Squadron, were inactivated. 3d Squadron was re-designated as 2nd Squadron which was stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia, becoming known as the "President's Own". Because of its proximity to Washington and Arlington National Cemetery, the 2d Squadron was frequently called upon to furnish honor guards and escorts for distinguished visitors and funeral escorts for distinguished civilian officials and military personnel. On 11 November 1921, the Regiment furnished the cavalry escort for the burial of the Unknown Soldier from WWI in Arlington National Cemetery. Until 1941, the Regiment provided the guard detail at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

During the Second World War, the Regiment was re-designated the 3D Cavalry Group Mechanized. The cavalry Group landed in France in August 1944 and became the spearhead of the XX Corps. The Regiment was the first unit of the 3D Army to reach the Meuse and Moselle Rivers. Troopers of the 3D Cavalry were also the first elements of the 3D Army to enter Germany. The 3d Cavalry Group was the first military unit to cross the Alps since Hannibal, in 215 BC. The 3d Cavalry also accounted for over 43,000 enemy troops killed, wounded or captured. Upon returning to the United States at the end of the war, the Cavalry Group was re-designated the 3D Armored Cavalry Regiment, the name which it bears today.

In order to return the Regiment to a three-squadron configuration, the 35th Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, an all-Black unit, was reassigned to the Regiment on January 15, 1948. It was re-designated as the 3d Battalion. Its incorporation into the 3d Armored Cavalry marked the first time that African-American Troopers were assigned to the Regiment.

In 1961, the 3D Armored Cavalry Regiment deployed to Germany in response to the Soviet threat during the Berlin Crisis. During 1962 and 1963, the 1st and 2nd Squadrons relieved elements of the 14th ACR for two one-month periods along the East German border. From November 1962 through November 1964, the 3d ACR had a troop attached to the 14th ACR for border surveillance operations on a monthly rotational basis. In February 1964, the Regiment came under the direct control of the Seventh Army. On 10 June 1964, the 2nd Squadron was re-designated as the 1st Squadron, 11th ACR, and returned to the United States with that Regiment. The Regiment remained in Germany until July 1968, when the Regiment redeployed to Fort Lewis, Washington.

In 1972, the Regiment relocated to Fort Bliss, Texas, where it trained and prepared for its REFORGER mission in the defense of Western Europe. The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment became a major REFORGER unit, capable of rapidly deploying to Germany in case of an international crisis. After returning to Fort Bliss, the 3d ACR participated in a number of major exercises. In late 1973, the Regiment took part in BRAVE SHIELD VI, followed by BRAVE RIFLES VII in February 1974, GOBI EXPRESS V in September 1974, BRAVE RIFLES IX in January 1975, and JTX GALLANT SHIELD in the spring of 1975.

On 7 August 1990, the Regiment was alerted to move overseas in defense of one of our countries allies, Saudi Arabia. In September 1990, the Regiment arrived in country as part of the XVIII Airborne Corps, and moved into defensive positions south of the Kuwaiti border. On 22 January 1991, elements of I Troop led by the 63rd Colonel, Colonel Starr, engaged in the first ground combat of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

On 22 February, F Troop led the Regiment across the berm into Iraq. In 100 hours, the Regiment moved over 300 kilometers, and left remnants of three Iraqi Republican Guard Divisions in its wake. As quickly as they deployed, the Regiment deployed back to the U.S. arriving 5 April 1991. In April of 1996, the Regiment completed its move to its new home at Fort Carson, Colorado.

In August 1998, the Regiment was notified that it would participate in the Bosnian peace-keeping mission as part of Stabilization Force 7 (SFOR 7). This would be a unique deployment because the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment (less 1st Squadron), would be under the operational control of the Texas National Guard's 49th Armored Division. SFOR 7 was the first time that a National Guard organization would have command authority over active component units as well as a multinational force, known as Task Force Eagle. When the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment deployed, beginning in February of 2000, it represented 75 percent of the American contribution to the Multinational Division North (MND-N) and constituted the bulk of the American maneuver element.

The Troopers of Saber Squadron helped facilitate the elections that began a new era of democracy for the Bosnian state. There were no major incidents or violent demonstrations in their area of responsibility during the six month deployment. Before the troopers of Task Force Eagle could return to Fort Carson, they had to train their replacements to assume the peacekeeping mission. Once this was accomplished, the various units began returning to Fort Carson and the last unit closed on 7 October 2000.

Beginning in September 2001, Tiger Squadron with elements of the Regimental Headquarters and Long Knife and Mule Skinner Squadrons, deployed to Egypt to participate in the Bright Star 01/02 exercise, as part of a Combined Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) coalition. The coalition included Elements from the U.S. Marine Corps, Egypt, France, Kuwait, Greece, Italy, and the British Army. The soldiers took part in field training and live fire exercises while in Egypt.

They also conducted training on nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare, mine warfare, and the use of smoke on the battlefield. In addition, members of Tiger Squadron and the Regimental Staff were tasked to conduct affiliation training with their Egyptian counterparts to teach them to function as Observer/ Controllers (OC) for the forces involved in ground tactical

operations, as well as establishing and maintaining communications and command and control between the various multinational OC forces.

As the U.S. invasion of Iraq began in March 2002, the Troopers of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment readied themselves for deployment in support of the campaign to remove the despotic Saddam Hussein regime. Beginning in August 2002, the Regiment began to prepare for operations in the Central Command Area of Operations (CENTCOM AOR). The preparations included a National Training Center rotation, Warfighter exercises with both III Corps and V Corps, intensive individual and collective training, weapons qualification, and lane training at Fort Carson.

In addition to the intense training, the Regiment fielded many pieces of new equipment, and reactivated its second AH-64A Apache attack helicopter troop. The 3d ACR received a deployment order for movement to the CENTCOM AOR on 14 February 2003. Equipment was prepared and moved by rail from Fort Carson to the port of Beaumont, Texas. The first Troopers arrived in Kuwait on 2 April and the remainder of the Regiment was in theater by the middle of the month.

The Regiment missed the high profile assault into Iraq, but upon its arrival, it was immediately tasked to perform an economy of force mission to secure and stabilize the western part of the country. This area had been by-passed during the advance to Baghdad, and the Regiment had little intelligence on what would be found there. They found that they had been given responsibility for Al Anbar Province, the largest province in Iraq, which covered fully one third of the country, or about 140,000 square kilometers.

This was the largest single operational area of any unit, including divisions, in the theater and it included the "Sunni Triangle", the part of Iraq that Saddam Hussein, his family, and the senior leaders of the Ba'ath Party called home. Al Anbar was home to 48 primary and 14 sub-tribes and it shared a 900 kilometer western border with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria. The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment became the nucleus of a Regimental Combat Team named Task Force Rifles with the attachment of numerous units.

While the Regiment's strength grew to include five squadrons, four battalions, and eight separate companies totaling more than 8,300 troops, Task Force Rifles, was the smallest major subordinate command in Combined Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF-7). The various elements of Task Force Rifles successfully performed many missions across the entire spectrum of military operations from offensive actions to civil affairs operations. Offensive operations mounted by Task Force Rifles included RIFLES SCORPION, RIFLES GO WEST, RIFLES BLITZ, AND RIFLES FURY. Task Force Rifles initiated operations by conducting reconnaissance missions in the Euphrates River Crescent to identify targets, remove hostile Ba'ath Party members from power, and eliminate anti-coalition media sources.

The Regimental Combat Team continued combat operations focusing on finding and destroying regime loyalist camps and weapons caches between Lake Tar Tar and the Euphrates River. This operation resulted in the apprehension of several individuals from the Defense Intelligence Agency's Top 55 Black List of High Value Targets (HVTs). The Task Force found an Iranian terrorist organization called the Mujahideen e-Khalq (MEK) occupying a compound in Fallujah. While the MEK appeared to have taken no action against Coalition forces, it was forced to turn over its weapons and evacuate the compound. Hand in hand with combat operations, Task Force Rifles spent an enormous amount time and energy performing civil-military operations (CMO).

In an effort to re-energize local government agencies and get people back to work, the GST was able to channel over 60 million U.S. dollars to some 40,000 civil servants in Fallujah, Habbaniyah, Ramadi, Hit, Hadithah, Al Qaim, and Ar Rutbah and about 30,000 former soldiers living in the province who had been sent home during CJTF-7's consolidation prior to Task Force Rifles' arrival in the province. Various units of the Task Force found themselves managing a large number of projects, many aimed at rebuilding the infrastructure and restoring basic services. The United Nations World Food Program facility, operating from Ar

Ramadi, was initially secured by elements of the Task Force. This facility received and distributed over 1,400 truck loads of food to the local citizens. Task Force Rifles also distributed over 49,000 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs) to various hospitals, clinics, and other facilities in the area.

Another security mission performed by Task Force Rifles was taking control of the border crossing points of Husayba (Syria), Tenaf (Syria), and Trebil (Jordan). In addition, a crossing control point was established at Ar Ar (Saudi Arabia) where only an open border had existed before. Another Task Force project to increase security was the establishment of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) training facility north of the city of Hit. More than 3000 troops were trained allowing two ICDC battalions to be raised.

The various Forward Operation Bases (FOBs) established by the Task Force became nodes in a massive logistical network. The various support organizations in the Task Force ran more than 800 convoys, driving over 3.8 million miles to keep Task Force units supplied with everything needed to continue operations. On 18 January initial contact was made with the U.S. Marine Corps' 7th Regimental Combat Team when representatives of that unit arrived at Rifles Base for briefings in order to begin the planning necessary to accomplish the Marines' relief of Task Force Rifles.

The Marines began arriving in numbers by the middle of February, and beginning on 4 March, joint missions were conducted with Marine units. Task Force Rifles continued to conduct combat operations until 14 March 2004 when authority for the Al Anbar Province Area of Operations was officially transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps. The Regimental Combat Team's last flight from Al Asad occurred on 18 March. The last flight from Kuwait departed on 31 March 2004. 31 3d Armored Cavalry Troopers died during OIF-1. 18 attached Troopers of the Task Force also died. Over 200 Task Force Rifles Troopers were wounded.

The Regimental Coat of Arms for the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment was originally approved for the 3d Cavalry Regiment on 7 May 1921. The Coat of Arms was re-designated for the 3d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized on 28 February 1945. On 18 December 1951, the Coat of Arms was once again re-designated, this time for the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Coat of Arms was amended to revise its symbolism on 27 June 1960. On 21 February 1974 the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment was issued a formal Grant of Arms by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (3rd ACR) is the newest unit to join the Fort Carson family. It is a combined arms unit composed of three cavalry squadrons, an aviation squadron, and a support squadron.

The regiment operates independently over wide areas and is a highly mobile force that can conduct reconnaissance, security, offensive, and defensive operations. It has over 320 armored vehicles (M1A1 Abrams tanks and M3A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles) and over 80 aircraft (including the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter). The regiment has a total strength of over 4,700 soldiers. The 3rd ACR is part of the U.S. Army's contingency force and can rapidly deploy in emergency situations. Major subordinate elements of the regiment include:

- Tiger squadron (1/3)
- Saber squadron (2/3)
- Thunder squadron (3/3)
- Longknife squadron (4/3)
- Mueskinner squadron (SPT/3)

The 3D ACR is the largest tactical unit assigned to Fort Carson.

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