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Historical Activities The U.S. Army Regimental System

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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Chief of Staff

Official:


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History. This publication is an administrative revision. The portions affected by this administrative revision are listed in the summary of change.

Authorities. This section contains no entries.

Applicability. This regulation applies to the Regular Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve, unless otherwise stated.

Proponent and exception authority. The proponent of this regulation is the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions or waivers to this regulation that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. The proponent may delegate this approval authority, in writing, to a division chief within the proponent agency or its direct reporting unit or field operating agency, in the grade of colonel or the civilian equivalent. Activities may request a waiver to this regulation by providing justification that includes a full analysis of the expected benefits and must include formal review by the activity's senior legal officer. All waiver requests will be endorsed by the commander or senior leader of the requesting activity and forwarded through their higher headquarters to the policy proponent. Refer to AR 25–30 for specific requirements.

Army internal control process. This regulation is not subject to the requirements of AR 11–2. It does not contain internal control provisions.

Suggested improvements. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, 105 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310–0105.

Distribution. This regulation is available in electronic media only for the Regular Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

*This regulation supersedes AR 870–21, dated 13 April 2017.

SUMMARY of CHANGE

AR 870–21
The U.S. Army Regimental System

This administrative revision, dated 25 January 2024—

- Updates Table 4–1 (chap 4).
- Changes the Army corps and special branches cell in Table 4–1 "The Adjutant General" to "Commandant, U.S. Army Adjutant General School" (chap 4).

This major revision, dated 11 December 2023—

- Places the U.S. Army Regimental System in its proper historical context and returns it to its original purpose dating back to the Combat Arms Regimental System in the 1950s (chap 2).
- Assigns general responsibilities for implementing the U.S. Army Regimental System (chap 2).
- Establishes responsibilities and procedures for affiliating with a regiment, corps, or special branch (chaps 3 through 5).
- Explains regimental, corps, and special branch custodian responsibilities as well as the roles and policies for honorary and distinguished positions (chap 6).

Contents (Listed by chapter and page number)

Summary of Change

Chapter 1

Introduction, *page 1*

Chapter 2

Management of the U.S. Army Regimental System, *page 3*

Chapter 3

Regimental Affiliation, *page 4*

Chapter 4

Corps and Special Branch Affiliation, *page 5*

Chapter 5

Affiliation Procedures, *page 6*

Chapter 6

Regimental, Corps, and Special Branch Responsibilities, *page 7*

Appendixes

A. References, *page 12*

Table List

Table 4–1: Army corps and special branches and chiefs of corps, *page 5*

Glossary of Terms

Chapter 1

Introduction

Section I

General

1–1. Purpose

This regulation provides an overview of the U.S. Army Regimental System (USARS) and disseminates Army policy applicable to this system. It includes information on the purpose, affiliation, and management of the USARS.

Note. For the purpose of this regulation, “Soldiers” is defined as current members of the Regular Army, the Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Army retirees, and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Army.

1–2. References, forms, and explanation of abbreviations

See appendix A. The abbreviations, brevity codes, and acronyms (ABCAs) used in this electronic publication are defined when you hover over them. All ABCAs are listed in the ABCA database located at <https://armypubs.army.mil/abca/>.

1–3. Associated publications

This section contains no entries.

1–4. Responsibilities

See section II of this chapter.

1–5. Records management (recordkeeping) requirements

The records management requirement for all record numbers, associated forms, and reports required by this publication are addressed in the Records Retention Schedule–Army (RRS–A). Detailed information for all related record numbers, forms, and reports are located in Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS)/RRS–A at <https://www.arims.army.mil>. If any record numbers, forms, and reports are not current, addressed, and/or published correctly in ARIMS/RRS–A, see DA Pam 25–403 for guidance.

Section II

Responsibilities

1–6. Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller)

The ASA (FM&C) will—

- a. Provide policy guidance for funding USARS initiatives.
- b. Provide support to Headquarters Department of the Army agencies for the development of cost analyses associated with USARS initiatives.

1–7. Chief of Legislative Liaison

The CLL will—

- a. Keep Congress (House and Senate Armed Services Committees) informed on USARS development and implementation, as appropriate.
- b. Evaluate relevant congressional testimony pertaining to congressional views and implications applicable to USARS.
- c. Assist in the development of legislation to support USARS initiatives.

1–8. Chief of Public Affairs

The CPA will—

- a. Develop and disseminate public affairs plans and guidance in support of the USARS.
- b. Coordinate the release of USARS information to internal and external publics, as appropriate.

1–9. Deputy Chief of Staff G–1

The DCS, G–1 will issue instructions on the proper wear of distinctive heraldic items and accouterments on the uniform.

1–10. Deputy Chief of Staff G–3/5/7

The DCS, G–3/5/7 will—

- a. Serve as the proponent agency for all force structure requirements related to the USARS.
- b. Approve all USARS structure changes.
- c. Approve all USARS implementations schedules and any changes thereto.

1–11. Deputy Chief of Staff G–4

The DCS, G–4 will—

- a. Develop policy guidance for and coordinate the supply and distribution of regimental insignia for affiliated Soldiers.
- b. Develop logistical policy guidance for regimental implementation and monitor compliance.

1–12. The Director, Army National Guard and Chief, Army Reserve

The DARNG and CAR will ensure that commanders of the National Guard and Army Reserve use the USARS to enhance the esprit of their commands and to emphasize the history of regiments, corps, or special branches.

1–13. The Judge Advocate General

TJAG will, upon request, examine legal ramifications of USARS changes.

1–14. The Center of Military History

The Executive Director, CMH will—

- a. Determine the lineage and honors of all Army units, organizations, and commands encompassed under the USARS in accordance with AR 870–5.
- b. Provide advice and assistance to the proponent in all matters pertaining to the USARS and organizational history.
- c. Approve all USARS unit designations and redesignations in accordance with AR 220–5.

1–15. The Institute of Heraldry

TIOH will—

- a. Develop and approve, in coordination with CMH on unit lineage, the design of heraldic items for regiments, corps, and special branches.
- b. Coordinate the organizational colors, streamers, and guidons for USARS units.

1–16. The Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

The CG, TRADOC will—

- a. Maintain, plan, and coordinate the inclusion and sustainment of the training base units within the USARS.
- b. Ensure that corps and special branch proponents within the Centers of Excellence comply with the provisions of this regulation.

1–17. All unit commanders

All unit commanders will—

- a. Comply with the provisions of this regulation.
- b. Use the USARS to enhance the esprit of their commands and to emphasize the history of regiments, corps, or special branches.
- c. Ensure all Soldiers and eligible Department of the Army Civilians are afforded the opportunity to affiliate with regiments, corps, or special branches consistent with the guidance contained herein.
- d. Plan, budget, and program necessary support of the USARS.
- e. Develop and implement a public affairs information plan to provide USARS information to their Soldiers.

1–18. Senior commanders

These commanders will review requests for invitational travel order for honorary positions and, when appropriate, issue them in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations.

1–19. Branch chief or chief of the corps

The branch chief or the chief of the corps will (see also para 3–3)—

- a. Provide oversight of the branch or corps on all matters related to the USARS.
- b. Select and appoint individuals to serve in honorary positions within respective branches or corps.
- c. Review, approve, and issue certificates for honorary or distinguished personnel.

1–20. Application of the Army Records Information Management System

Maintenance and disposition of all information concerning the USARS will be according to the procedures in DA Pam 25–403.

Chapter 2

Management of the U.S. Army Regimental System

2–1. Background

a. For much of the Army's history, the regiment was a tactical as well as an administrative and ceremonial organization, but in the late 1950s the Army reorganized its regiments to meet the requirements demanded by highly mobile warfare with greatly increased firepower and high casualty rates. Between 1957 and 1959, the Army eliminated the regimental headquarters as a tactical and administrative organization from most of its combat arms regiments (except some cavalry regiments). However, the Army was determined to retain the history, traditions, and ceremonial function of the regiment in the new structure. The result was the Combat Arms Regimental System designed to allow perpetuation of combat arms regimental history, ceremony, and traditions in the new tactical organizations without restricting the organizational innovations of the future. In 1984, the Combat Arms Regimental System was expanded to include the non-combat arms branches with the advent of USARS. Under USARS, non-combat arms branches were incorporated under the "whole-branch" concept in which the entire branch corps provided a regimental-model historical bond. USARS provides Soldiers with a sense of tradition and a connection to the past, while continuing to enable the Army to evolve and adapt to current and future requirements. In short, the USARS bridges the traditional role of the regiment with the tactical mission of the modern Army.

b. The USARS serves as the basis for unit history and lineage and for the consistent naming of battalions, squadrons, groups, separate companies, batteries, and troops of combat arms regiments (see para 3–1 for definition), while perpetuating the regimental history of the Army. Through USARS, unit and organizational histories, lineage, and honors are perpetuated. In addition, USARS provides each current and former Soldier continuous identification with a regiment, a corps, or a special branch. The USARS mission is to enhance Army esprit de corps and pride, as well as impart a keen understanding of its past, through a framework that provides the opportunity for affiliation, develops loyalty and commitment, fosters an extended sense of belonging, improves unit cohesion, and institutionalizes an Army ethos.

c. The USARS is intended to—

- (1) Ensure that the lineage and history of designated units and commands accurately portrays Army history.
- (2) Offer the opportunity for long-term identification with a numbered regiment, or a corps or special branch regiment.
- (3) Provide the opportunity to further emphasize the history, customs, and traditions of the regiment, corps, or branch.
- (4) Provide for corps and special branches to operate on a "whole-branch" concept, thus carrying on the activities and traditions of a regiment (see chap 4).
- (5) Offer regimental affiliation to provide Soldiers with the opportunity for continuous identification with a regiment, a corps, or special branch during and after their period of active service.
- (6) Enable Soldiers to affiliate with their currently assigned regiment, or with any regiment in which they previously served honorably.
- (7) Enable Soldiers not affiliated with a specific regiment to affiliate with a corps or special branch.

d. Combat arms regimental affiliation is intended for uniformed members of the Regular Army and Reserve Components of the Army. By contrast, honorary membership may include civilians, members of other Services, and other persons at the discretion of the regimental custodian as outlined in chapter 6.

e. Soldiers will be affiliated with a regiment, corps, or special branch in accordance with the policies shown in chapter 3.

(1) Combat arms Soldiers, as listed in paragraph 3–1, affiliate with the regiment they are currently assigned to or with any regiment in which they previously honorably served for a period of at least 6 months.

(2) Soldiers not affiliated with a regiment will automatically be affiliated with their corps or special branch.

(3) Department of the Army Civilians with no uniformed service may be affiliated with a corps or special branch by direction of the Chief of the Corps.

f. Nothing in this regulation implies additional authorized funding for USARS.

2–2. Implementation

a. The USARS applies to all units and commands of the Army, as follows:

(1) Battalions, squadrons, and Special Forces groups of the operating force and Reserve Component regiments organized in accordance with a table of organization and equipment or modified table of organization and equipment.

(2) Separate companies, batteries, and troops of the operating force and Reserve Component regiments organized in accordance with a table of organization and equipment or a modified table of organization and equipment.

(3) Corps and special branches under the “whole-branch” regimental concept.

(4) Specially designated generating force and Reserve Component units and commands.

b. Units not placed under USARS by CMH are not covered by this regulation.

2–3. Regimental and unit history and lineage

a. CMH is solely responsible for determining and recording the lineage of all units of the Army, past and present, in accordance with AR 870–5, and for ensuring the lineages of regiments are historically accurate.

b. Commanders are not authorized to change unit designations, alter unit lineages, or designate commanders of brigades, brigade combat teams, groups, troop commands, and other nonregimental units to be custodians of regiments, even if units representing regiments are subordinate to those commands.

c. Historical responsibilities of regimental, corps, and special branch custodians are delineated in paragraph 6–2.

Chapter 3

Regimental Affiliation

3–1. Concept

a. For the purposes of this regulation, combat arms branches are defined as Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Cavalry, Field Artillery, Infantry, and Special Forces. Regiments serve as the basis for branch traditions and heritage. Within the combat arms branches, units consist of numbered regiments with subordinately numbered battalions or squadrons and lettered companies, troops, batteries, or numbered Special Forces groups.

b. Soldiers may affiliate with a numbered regiment after 6 months of continuously honorable service with that regiment, or less than 6 months if classified as a casualty during combat operations with that regiment.

3–2. Combat arms affiliation policy

a. Soldiers assigned a military occupational specialty (MOS) or to a branch normally associated with the combat arms may affiliate with a numbered regiment (see para 3–1a). The choice of regiment is left up to the individual, based on current or previous regiments of assignment. Regimental affiliation may be changed at any time. However, the regimental selection must be in accordance with paragraph 3–1b.

(1) During their initial assignment, all combat arms Soldiers will affiliate with the regiment of their first unit of assignment. Soldiers whose initial Army assignment is not to a regimental unit may defer affiliation until they are so assigned.

(2) Soldiers may elect to affiliate with any numbered regiment they served honorably in as set forth in paragraph 3–1*b* regardless of their primary MOS (PMOS).

b. Soldiers will not affiliate with a regiment they have not served in.

c. Any Soldier separated from the Army for reasons of conduct or other than honorable service will have his or her name stricken from the rolls of the regiment and will no longer be considered to be affiliated.

d. No civilian personnel may affiliate with a combat arms regiment except as provided in paragraph 2–1*e*.

e. Soldiers attached to or temporarily assigned to a USARS unit may not affiliate with that unit's regiment.

f. Specific procedures for affiliation are set forth in chapter 5. These procedures permit affiliation and change of affiliation to be administered at the local level and approved by the custodian of the regiment.

3–3. Branch chiefs

For purposes of USARS, the commandants or commanders of the combat arms branch schools as enumerated in paragraph 3–1*a*, will be the branch chiefs, unless otherwise determined. A branch chief will provide oversight of the USARS regiments and approve honorary appointments within the regiments. Branch chiefs are responsible for incorporating the intent and spirit of the USARS within their branch, see paragraph 1–19.

Chapter 4

Corps and Special Branch Affiliation

4–1. Concept

For purposes of this regulation, the following conventions apply to corps and special branches:

a. Corps and special branch traditions are based on the history and heritage of each branch.

b. While the corps and special branches do not currently include numbered regiments, they provide a source of pride and cohesion to Soldiers and Department of Army Civilians not otherwise affiliated with a regiment, and thus serve the same purpose as the numbered regiments in the combat arms branches.

c. Corps and special branches, and their chiefs of corps, are listed in table 4–1; custodial responsibilities are enumerated in paragraph 6–2.

d. For the purposes of this regulation corps, special branches, and whole branch regiments are one in the same.

Table 4–1

Army corps and special branches and chiefs of corps

| Army corps and special branches | Chiefs of corps and special branches |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Adjutant General's Corps | Commandant, U.S. Army Adjutant General School |
| Army Medical Department Regiment | The Surgeon General |
| Chaplain Corps | The Chief of Chaplains |
| Chemical Corps | Commandant, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School |
| Civil Affairs Corps | Commanding General, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School |
| Corps of Engineers | The Chief of Engineers |
| Cyber Branch | The Chief of Cyber |
| Finance Corps | Commandant, U.S. Army Financial Management School |
| The Judge Advocate General's Corps | The Judge Advocate General |
| Military Intelligence Corps | Commanding General, U.S. Army Military Intelligence Center of Excellence |
| Military Police Corps | Commandant, U.S. Army Military Police School |

Table 4–1**Army corps and special branches and chiefs of corps**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Psychological Operations Regiment | Commanding General, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School |
| Ordnance Corps | Commandant, U.S. Army Ordnance School |
| Quartermaster Corps | Commandant, U.S. Army Quartermaster School |
| Signal Corps | The Chief of Signal |
| Transportation Corps | Commandant, U.S. Army Transportation School |

4–2. Corps and special branch affiliation policy

a. Affiliation in a corps or special branch is based on a Soldier's branch as determined by PMOS or specialty. All corps and special branch Soldiers automatically affiliate with their corps or special branch upon graduation from the branch or MOS-producing schools, or upon award of a PMOS in one of the corps or branches listed in table 4–1.

b. Corps and special branch Soldiers may only change their affiliation in accordance with the procedures in paragraph 5–2.

c. Soldiers separated from the Army for reasons of conduct or other than honorable service will have his or her name stricken from the rolls of the corps or special branch and will no longer be considered to be affiliated.

d. A Department of the Army Civilian, with no uniformed experience, may be appointed to honorary membership in that corps or special branch at the discretion of the chief of the corps or special branch.

Chapter 5**Affiliation Procedures****5–1. Initial affiliation**

a. Affiliation with a regiment, corps, or special branch will be automatically awarded during a Soldier's initial enlistment or service.

b. Soldiers serving in subordinate units of combat arms regiments as listed in paragraph 3–1, affiliate with a regiment upon completing at least 6 months of honorable service. Affiliation should be conferred on a Soldier at an appropriate ceremony or event.

c. Affiliation with a corps or special branch occurs upon completion of advanced individual training or the appropriate basic officer's course and awarding of a PMOS represented by that corps. The chief of the corps or presiding officers should note such affiliation during graduation ceremonies.

5–2. Requests to change affiliation

a. Soldiers may request to change affiliation with a regiment or corps at any time after initial affiliation. All requests to change regimental or corps affiliation must be submitted from the Soldier's current command to the custodian of the regiment or chief of the corps (as applicable) using DA Form 4187 (Personnel Action) submitted to the custodian of the regiment or chief of the corps to which affiliation is being requested.

b. Soldiers must have served honorably in a subordinate unit of the regiment to which affiliation is requested for a period of no less than 6 months and have the current commanding officer's endorsement and approval of the custodian of the new regiment.

c. Once the custodian of the regiment or chief of the corps has approved a change, the custodian or chief will return the approved DA Form 4187 to the requesting Soldier and retain a copy in the history files.

Chapter 6

Regimental, Corps, and Special Branch Responsibilities

6-1. Concept

Each regiment, corps, or special branch is responsible for managing the USARS program as well as the training and education of Soldiers through the use of organizational and unit history files and exhibition of appropriate artifacts and heraldic items.

6-2. Regimental, corps, and special branch custodians

a. The chief of the corps as listed in table 4-1 will serve as the custodian for corps and special branches. For combat arms regiments, the commander of the lowest numbered active element will serve as the regimental custodian. In the case of the 1st Special Forces Regiment, the Commanding General, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School will serve as the custodian. For the 75th Ranger Regiment, 160th Aviation Regiment, and separate cavalry regiments, the current regimental commander will serve as the custodian. The custodians will—

(1) Maintain custody of the regiment, corps, and special branches heraldic items including the regimental colors, and any historical objects belonging to the regiment, corps, or special branch. All heraldic items, historical objects and artifacts, or other historic unit property not associated with a specific subordinate unit are considered regimental, corps, or special branch property and will reside with the custodian.

(2) Receive and approve requests for affiliation.

(3) Maintain liaison with subordinate regimental, corps, or special branch units.

(4) Assist in special actions related to the regiment, corps, or special branch.

(5) Approve nominations for Honorary Colonel, Warrant Officer, and Sergeant Major of the corps or special branch. Forward such nominations for combat arms regiments to the branch chief for approval.

(6) Recommend and provide support to the Honorary Colonel, Honorary Warrant Officer, Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment (HSGMOR), Distinguished Members, and Honorary Members consistent with guidance provided in paragraph 6-3.

(7) Maintain historical files for the regiment, corps, or special branch in accordance with the guidance contained in AR 870-5.

(8) Determine the disposition of unit historical items belonging to inactivating elements of the regiment, corps, or special branch when the disposition of which are not otherwise set forth in AR 870-5 or AR 870-20.

(9) Maintain regimental, corps, or special branch rolls.

b. The chief of the corps or special branch may appoint individuals or units within a corps or special branch to carry out the duties of the custodian.

6-3. Honorary and distinguished titles

These honorary and distinguished titles do not constitute an actual position, are entirely honorific in nature, and the individuals given these titles perform entirely voluntary services.

a. *Special appointees.* The Honorary Colonels, Honorary Warrant Officers, Honorary Sergeants Major, and Distinguished Members of the regiment or corps provide a link with history for today's Soldiers. The primary mission of these special appointees is to perpetuate the history and traditions of the regiment or corps, thereby enhancing unit morale and esprit. The Honorary Member of the Regiment title is designed to recognize non-members for their service to the regiment or corps or as special recognition for battlefield heroism or exemplary service to the Army.

(1) *Honorary Colonel of the Regiment or Corps.*

(a) The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment (HCOR) or Honorary Colonel of the Corps (HCOC) is a distinguished retired commissioned officer in the rank of colonel or above, with former service in a unit of the regiment or corps. The appointment will be for 3 years. The appointing authority may grant a second 3-year tour. Either the appointing authority, which is the chief of corps (corps/special branch) or branch chief (regiment), or the incumbent may terminate the appointment after 30 days advance notice.

(b) Each regiment or corps will have an HCOR or HCOC, but only one HCOR or HCOC will be appointed in the regiment or corps at any given time. Additionally, no one officer can simultaneously serve as HCOR or HCOC for more than one regiment or corps. The HCOR or HCOC oversees other honorary title programs and their maintenance. The HCOR or HCOC may also act as a liaison between his or her regiment or corps and a regimental or corps association (private organization) if one exists.

(c) The duties of an HCOR or HCOC are ceremonial and do not conflict with the chain of command. Attendance at regimental or corps functions is by invitation and participation is encouraged.

(d) The appointment offers to the regiment or corps the prestige, stature, and experience of the officer appointed as HCOR or HCOC. The HCOR or HCOC assists in fostering regimental or corps esprit, traditions, and perpetuation of the history of the regiment or corps.

(e) If they have not already been appointed as Distinguished Members of the Regiment or Corps (DMORs or DMOCs), HCOR or HCOC appointees will be appointed as DMOR or DMOC simultaneously with their appointment as HCOR or HCOC.

(2) *Honorary Warrant Officer of the Regiment or Corps.*

(a) The Honorary Warrant Officer of the Regiment (HWOOR) or Honorary Warrant Officer of the Corps (HWOOC) is a distinguished retired warrant officer with prior service in a unit of the regiment or corps. The appointment will be for 3 years. The appointing authority may grant a second 3-year tour. Either the appointing authority or incumbent may terminate the appointment after 30 days advance notice.

(b) Where applicable, each regiment or corps will have an HWOOR or HWOOC, but only one HWOOR or HWOOC can serve in the regiment or corps at any given time. Additionally, no one warrant officer can simultaneously serve for more than one regiment or corps.

(c) The duties of an HWOOR or HWOOC within the regiment or corps are ceremonial and do not conflict with the chain of command. Attendance at regimental or corps functions is by invitation and participation is encouraged.

(d) The appointment offers to the regiment or corps the prestige, stature, and experience of the officer appointed as HWOOR or HWOOC. The HWOOR or HWOOC assists the HCOR or HCOC in perpetuating the history of the regiment or corps.

(e) HWOOR or HWOOC appointees will be appointed as DMOR or DMOC simultaneously with their appointment as HWOOR or HWOOC.

(3) *Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment or Corps.*

(a) The HSGMOR or Honorary Sergeant Major of the Corps (HSGMOC) is a distinguished retired non-commissioned officer in the rank of sergeant first class or above with prior service in a unit of the regiment or corps. The appointment will be for 3 years. The appointing authority may grant a second 3-year appointment. Either the appointing authority or incumbent may terminate the appointment following 30 days advance notice.

(b) Where applicable, each regiment or corps will have an HSGMOR or HSGMOC, but only one will serve in the regiment or corps at any given time. No one HSGMOR or HSGMOC can simultaneously serve for more than one regiment or corps.

(c) The duties of the HSGMOR or HSGMOC within the regiment or corps are ceremonial and do not conflict with the chain of command. Attendance at regimental or corps functions is by invitation, and participation is encouraged.

(d) The appointment offers to the regiment or corps the prestige, stature, and experience of the non-commissioned officer appointed as HSGMOR or HSGMOC. The HSGMOR or HSGMOC will assist the HCOR or HCOC in perpetuating the history of the regiment or corps.

(e) HSGMOR or HSGMOC appointees will be appointed as DMOR or DMOC simultaneously with their appointment as HSGMOR or HSGMOC.

(4) *Distinguished Members of the Regiment or Corps.*

(a) DMOR or DMOC are individuals of the same distinguished stature as the HCOR or HCOC, HWOOR or HWOOC, and HSGMOR or HSGMOC, but may include Regular Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, retired officers, warrant officers, enlisted Soldiers, and civilians with previous Service in the regiment or corps.

(b) An example of a DMOR or DMOC would be a prior enlisted Soldier of the regiment or corps recognized for his or her accomplishments, or a distinguished member of the civilian community with former service in the regiment or corps. All DMOR or DMOC must have served in the regiment or corps.

(c) DMOR or DMOC are appointed to supplement and assist the efforts of the HCOR or HCOC, HWOOR or HWOOC, and HSGMOR or HSGMOC. Their tenure is indefinite. Unlike the solitary appointment of other honorary positions, the number of personnel who may be appointed as DMOR or DMOC is not limited.

(d) The duties of DMOR or DMOC are ceremonial and do not conflict with those of the chain of command. Attendance at regimental or corps functions is by invitation and participation is encouraged.

(e) The appointment offers to the regiment or corps the prestige, stature, and experience of the individual appointed as DMOR or DMOC.

(f) Posthumous awards of the DMOR or DMOC are permissible and are at the discretion of the regiment or corps custodian.

(5) *Honorary Members of the Regiment or Corps.*

(a) HMORs or Honorary Members of the Corps (HMOCs) are Soldiers, their spouses, and individuals who have made a contribution or provided a service to a regiment or corps, but who are not members of the regiment or corps making the presentation. Recognition of Regular Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, or retired Soldiers, and civilians is appropriate. Civilians appointed as HMOR or HMOC do not need to be otherwise affiliated with the Army.

(b) HMOR or HMOC are appointed for an indefinite period of time in recognition of their contributions and service to the regiment or corps. The number of personnel who may be appointed as HMOR or HMOC is not limited.

(c) There are no duties associated with the HMOR or HMOC appointments. Their attendance at regimental or corps functions is by invitation and participation is encouraged.

b. Nomination, selection, and appointment to honorary or distinguished positions.

(1) Nominations of individuals for regimental, corps, or special branch honorary appointments will be forwarded to the regimental, corps, or special branch custodian for approval.

(2) Nominations for honorary appointments may be solicited from several sources (regimental associations, Regular Army commanders, incumbent Honorary Colonels or Sergeants Major, Distinguished Members, and others). An individual nominated for an honorary appointment should have served in the regiment or corps and performed distinguished service to the Army. Exceptions may be made for individuals whose contributions to the Army or Nation are such that they deserve special recognition.

(3) The regimental, corps, or special branch custodian will provide signed certificates to those appointed to honorary positions. Custodians should maintain accurate rosters of current and past honorary appointments in the unit history files.

(4) The following standard certificates, when available in the future, may be requested through normal publication channels from the U.S. Army Publication Distribution Center, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63114 or at <https://www.amc.army.mil/resources/army-print-and-media-distribution-center/>.

(a) DA Form 5344 (Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment).

(b) DA Form 5345 (Honorary Colonel of the Regiment).

(c) DA Form 5346 (Regimental Adjutant of the Regiment).

(d) DA Form 5347 (Distinguished Member of the Regiment).

(e) DA Form 5348 (Honorary Member of the Regiment).

(f) DA Form 5880 (Honorary Warrant Officer of the Regiment).

c. Honorary or distinguished position activities. The activities of those appointed with honorary titles are designed to promote and enhance the history and traditions of the regiment or corps, promote the war-fighting ethos among Soldiers, and create a bond between current Soldiers and those who served before them as well as among members of the regiment or corps. Examples of activities intended to meet these objectives include—

(1) Attending command ceremonies.

(2) Participating in award ceremonies.

(3) Speaking on regimental or corps history and traditions at dinings-in, or other similar functions.

(4) Maintaining contact between the continental United States and outside the continental United States battalions or elements of the regiment.

(5) Assisting in historical professional development programs for officers and noncommissioned officers.

6–4. Honorary and distinguished position funding and support

a. Travel and attendance to continental United States regimental or corps functions for individuals that hold honorary (and or distinguished) titles are accomplished by invitational travel orders funded by the organization or activity requesting their presence. Commanders will review requests for invitational travel order for honorary positions and, when appropriate, issue them in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations.

b. In the event of overseas travel, funding is provided, in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations, by the command or activity outside the continental United States requesting the presence of the member.

c. Reimbursement of incidental costs such as telephone bills, publication costs, supplies, and other administrative costs associated with the duties of an honorary title is not authorized.

d. Regimental or corps associations may be established to support the honorary titles but will not be funded with appropriated funds. (See AR 210–22 for guidelines.)

6–5. Regimental designations and facilities

a. The Army does not intend to change the tactical organization of Army units as a result of the USARS. Regiments (with certain exceptions that include cavalry, Ranger, and special operations aviation) are non-tactical organizations intended to perpetuate the history and traditions of regiments for Soldiers.

b. Normally battalions and squadrons are designated to indicate subordinate units within a regiment and to retain the lineage and honors of past units, in keeping with the intent of the USARS. Such designations in no way infer that a regimental headquarters exists or will be organized as a higher headquarters for the subordinate units.

c. The lowest numbered battalion or squadron in the regiment retains the symbols of the regiment's heritage and honors, and its commanding officer assumes the responsibilities of the custodian of the regiment as set forth in paragraph 5–2.

(1) If a regiment is represented by a single lettered company, troop, or battery not subordinate to a battalion or squadron associated with the regiment, that lettered element serves as the regimental custodian and assumes regimental responsibilities.

(2) If a regiment is represented by more than one separate lettered company, troop, or battery not subordinate to a battalion or squadron associated with the regiment, the lowest lettered company serves as the regimental custodian and assumes regimental responsibilities.

(3) If a regiment (other than a separate cavalry, Ranger, Special Forces, or special operations aviation regiment), contains a mix of battalions or squadrons and separate lettered companies, troops, or batteries, the lowest numbered battalion or squadron serves as the regimental custodial unit and assumes regimental responsibilities.

d. For the 1st Special Forces Regiment, the Special Forces branch proponent will retain the regimental colors, artifacts, and historical files and assume the responsibilities of the custodian of the regiment.

e. The headquarters element of a combat or other brigade, brigade combat team, composite unit, or division artillery will not be identified with any regiment, even if all subordinate battalions or squadrons share the same regimental designation.

f. The physical creation of regimental headquarters and dining facilities is not authorized. Regimental shoulder sleeve insignia is not authorized unless fully vetted through The Institute of Heraldry and in accordance with AR 670–1.

6–6. Regimental and corps accouterments

a. *Accouterments.* Regimental or corps affiliation is further enhanced by accouterments for permanent wear with the uniform. All Soldiers affiliated with a regiment, corps, or special branch may wear accouterments for that regiment, corps, or special branch in accordance with AR 670–1.

b. *Wear of regimental or corps distinctive unit insignia.*

(1) The wear of the regimental or corps distinctive unit insignia (DUI) on the Army uniform is a visible sign of commitment to a regiment or corps.

(2) The regimental or corps DUI will be worn in accordance with AR 670–1 as a means of further enhancing the regimental system.

(3) The regimental or corps DUI may be worn by former members of the regiment or corps on civilian clothing in accordance with AR 670–1.

c. *Regimental collar insignia.* Regimental collar insignia will be worn as prescribed in AR 670–1.

d. *Official photographs.* The regimental or corps DUI and the regimental collar insignia will be worn for official photographs.

e. *Distinctive unit insignia development.*

(1) Upon request of the custodian of the regiment, special branch, or corps, The Institute of Heraldry may design a new or modified DUI that symbolizes the history and heritage of the regiment or corps. CMH will ensure that any proposed DUI accurately represents the history and lineage of the regiment or corps.

(2) No regimental or corps DUI will be authorized for wear without the approval of The Institute of Heraldry and CMH.

(3) Once TIOH has completed the development of a DUI, it will send a drawing of the DUI, list of certified manufacturers, and fact sheet containing complete procurement instructions to the branch chief or chief of the corps for use in procurement of the insignia.

6–7. Regimental and corps colors

Regimental or corps colors will be maintained by the commander of the lowest numbered regimental element (the regimental custodian) for combat arms regiments, by the Commanding General of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School for the 1st Special Forces Regiment, and by the chief of the corps for corps and special branches.

6–8. Wear of the Army uniform by individuals appointed to honorary positions

AR 670–1 contains the regulatory guidance for wear of the Army uniform by retired personnel and former members of the Army. This regulation does not give authority for individuals to wear the Army uniform nor does an appointment as an honorary or distinguished member of a regiment, corps, or special branch give any authority regarding wear of the uniform.

Appendix A

References

Section I

Required Publications

Unless otherwise indicated, all Army publications are available on the Army Publishing Directorate website at <https://armypubs.army.mil/>.

AR 220–5

Designation, Classification, and Change in Status of Units (Cited in para 1–14c.)

AR 670–1

Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia (Cited in para 6–5f.)

AR 870–5

Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures (Cited in para 1–14a.)

AR 870–20

Army Museum Enterprise and Army Artifact Collection (Cited in para 6–2a(8).)

Section II

Prescribed Forms

Unless otherwise indicated, DA forms are available on the Army Publishing Directorate website at <https://armypubs.army.mil/>.

DA Form 5344

Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment (Cited in para 6–3b(4)(a).)

DA Form 5345

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment (Cited in para 6–3b(4)(b).)

DA Form 5346

Regimental Adjutant of the Regiment (Cited in para 6–3b(4)(c).)

DA Form 5347

Distinguished Member of the Regiment (Cited in para 6–3b(4)(d).)

DA Form 5348

Honorary Member of the Regiment (Cited in para 6–3b(4)(e).)

DA Form 5880

Honorary Warrant Officer of the Regiment (Cited in para 6–3b(4)(f).)

Glossary of Terms

Additional regimental assignment

Any assignment outside of the battalions, squadrons, companies, batteries, and troops of a Soldier's affiliated combat arms regiment.

Affiliation

The close and continuous identification of a Soldier with a regiment or corps.

Custodial Unit of the Regiment

The element of the regiment that maintains regimental colors and memorabilia, and assumes USARS responsibilities. For combat arms regiments, it is the lowest numbered active battalion or squadron of the regiment or the lowest lettered company, troop, or battery.

Custodian of the Regiment or Chief of the Corps

The individual responsible for maintaining regimental colors and memorabilia, and other USARS responsibilities. For combat arms regiments, it is the commander of the lowest numbered active battalion or squadron of the regiment or the lowest lettered company, troop, or battery. For corps and special branches, it is normally the senior officer of the corps or the commander of the branch school.

Distinguished Members of the Regiment or Corps

Distinguished Members of the Regiment or Corps who are appointed to supplement the ceremonial duties of the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment or Corps. Persons appointed may be active duty or retired officers, warrant officers, enlisted personnel, and civilians who served on active duty in the regiment.

Ethos

The distinguishing character, sentiment, moral nature, or guiding belief of a Soldier, his or her unit, and/or the Army.

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment or Corps

A distinguished retired officer in the rank of colonel or above who has been appointed for a 3-year term to perpetuate the history and traditions of the regiment or corps.

Honorary Member of the Regiment or Corps

Individuals who have made a contribution or provided a service to a regiment or corps, but who are not members of the regiment or corps making the presentation.

Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment or Corps

A distinguished retired noncommissioned officer in the rank of sergeant first class or above, with prior service in a unit of the regiment, who is appointed for a 3-year term.

Honorary Warrant Officer of the Regiment or Corps

A distinguished retired warrant officer who has been appointed for a 3-year term to perpetuate the history and traditions of the regiment or corps.

Regiment

A single or group of like-type combat arms or training units authorized a regimental color.

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