

Campaign Streamers of the United States Army

by

John B. Wilson



The Institute of Land Warfare
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY



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CONTENTS

Foreword	v
Campaign Streamers of the United States Army	1
Units Display Battle Credits	2
Silver Rings for Battle Credit	7
Campaign Rather than Battle Credits	9
The Army Flag and Campaign Credits	12
Appendix: Streamers on the Army Flag	15
Endnotes	21

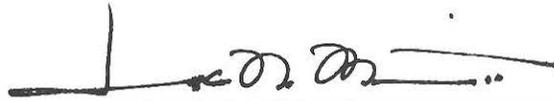
FOREWORD

A military unit is defined as a legal entity established by competent authority to assemble a group of individuals for a specific military purpose. But a military organization is much more than that staid definition can reflect. A military unit has a soul, which is manifested through its personnel, colors, traditions and battle honors.

The story of military campaign participation credits and how regiments and other units display them is the theme of this paper. Along with that story, the paper relates how and why the Army adopted campaign participation credits for the Army flag as a way to tell and symbolize its service to the nation.

Each streamer represents the brave sacrifice of the soldiers who served; that bit of ribbon encapsulates a whole array of human events in battle.

It is for this reason that this paper is dedicated, on the occasion of the Army's 220th birthday, to the men and women of the United States Army.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack N. Merritt', written over a horizontal line.

JACK N. MERRITT
General, U.S. Army Retired
President

14 June 1995

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

On 6 January 1992 Secretary of the Army Michael P. W. Stone approved a new campaign streamer for the Army flag. It recognized actions in the Dominican Republic between April 1965 and September 1966.¹

Shortly before this decision, streamers had been authorized for more recent operations, Just Cause (Panama 1989-1990) and Desert Shield/Storm (Southwest Asia 1990-1991).² These additions

brought the number of streamers on the Army flag to 172.

Flags, colors and guidons³ have been used by military organizations for centuries to position, signal and rally the troops. But what is a campaign streamer and why are there 172 of them? Their history is a complicated story, with many decisions and reversals of those decisions, and has involved many of the Army's prominent leaders for more than 130 years.



Army Center of Military History

THE ARMY FLAG 1994

Units Display Battle Credits

On 25 August 1861 Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, commanding the Western Department, commended troops from Iowa, Kansas and Missouri for their extraordinary service at the battle of Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, Missouri,⁴ ten days earlier. Some 4,300 Union soldiers had fought to a draw a Confederate force five times as large. The battle ended in a moral victory for the Union Army. Fremont ordered the word *Springfield* to be emblazoned on the colors of the units involved in the fighting. He also forwarded the names of the soldiers and officers who participated in the battle to the War Department for any further action by the government to honor these brave men.⁵



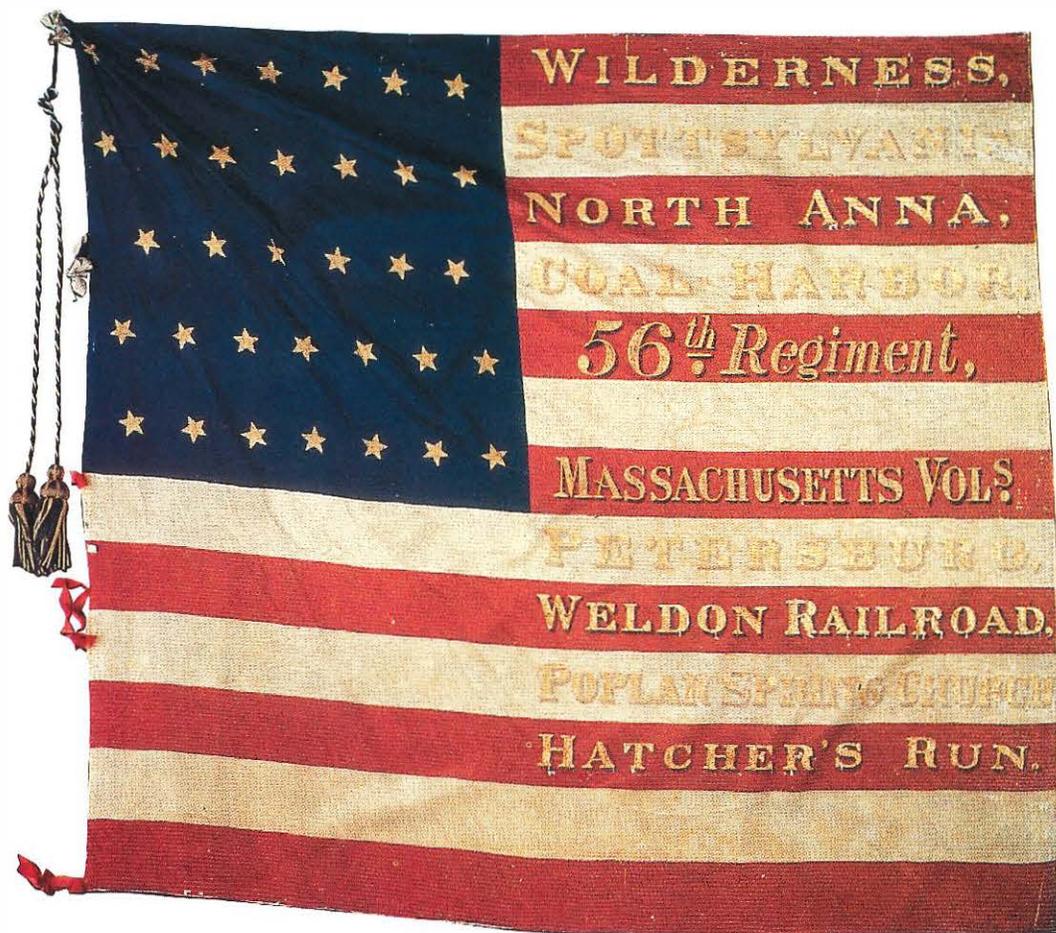
MAJ. GEN. JOHN C. FREMONT

In a joint resolution on Christmas Eve 1861, Congress expressed its appreciation for the gallant and patriotic service of Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, who lost his life during the battle, and the officers and soldiers under his command. To commemorate

the battle, Congress confirmed Fremont's order for each regiment engaged to embroider the word *Springfield* on its colors. Responding to a request by Congress, the President directed that the resolution be read before every regiment in the Union Army.⁶

Two months later the War Department instructed all regiments and batteries to inscribe on their colors or guidons the names of battles in which they had performed meritoriously. The expectation was that the units so distinguished would regard their colors as representing their honor and would guard them to the death. To underline the importance of unit colors, the department awarded Medals of Honor to men who protected the colors. Sgt. Freeman Davis, 80th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, won his medal by recovering the regiment's flags and saving them from capture after the regimental color bearers were shot down at Missionary Ridge, Tennessee. Pvt. Charles Day, Company K, 210th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, saved from capture the regimental colors of a sister regiment in his brigade at Hatchers Run, Virginia, in February 1865 and was awarded the medal. Besides inscribing the names of the battles on regimental colors, *Army Regulations* published in 1863 directed The Adjutant General to record the names of the battles in the *Army Register*. They were to appear before the list of regimental officers.⁷

The orders for inscribing the names of battles on flags pertained to the *national color*, the Stars and Stripes, not to the regimental color. Infantry and artillery regiments carried both the national color and their organizational color. The national color had the name of the regiment embroidered on the center stripe, and the stars were gold although the regulations prescribed them to be white. Each artillery regiment carried a yellow color with two crossed cannon in the center, the letters *U.S.* above the cannon, and the designation of the regiment on a scroll below. Each infantry regiment flew a blue standard with the seal of the United States (sometimes embroidered but more often painted) in the center; under the eagle, on a scroll, was the designation of the regiment.⁸



Courtesy of the State House Flag Project, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

THE NATIONAL COLOR 56TH MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS

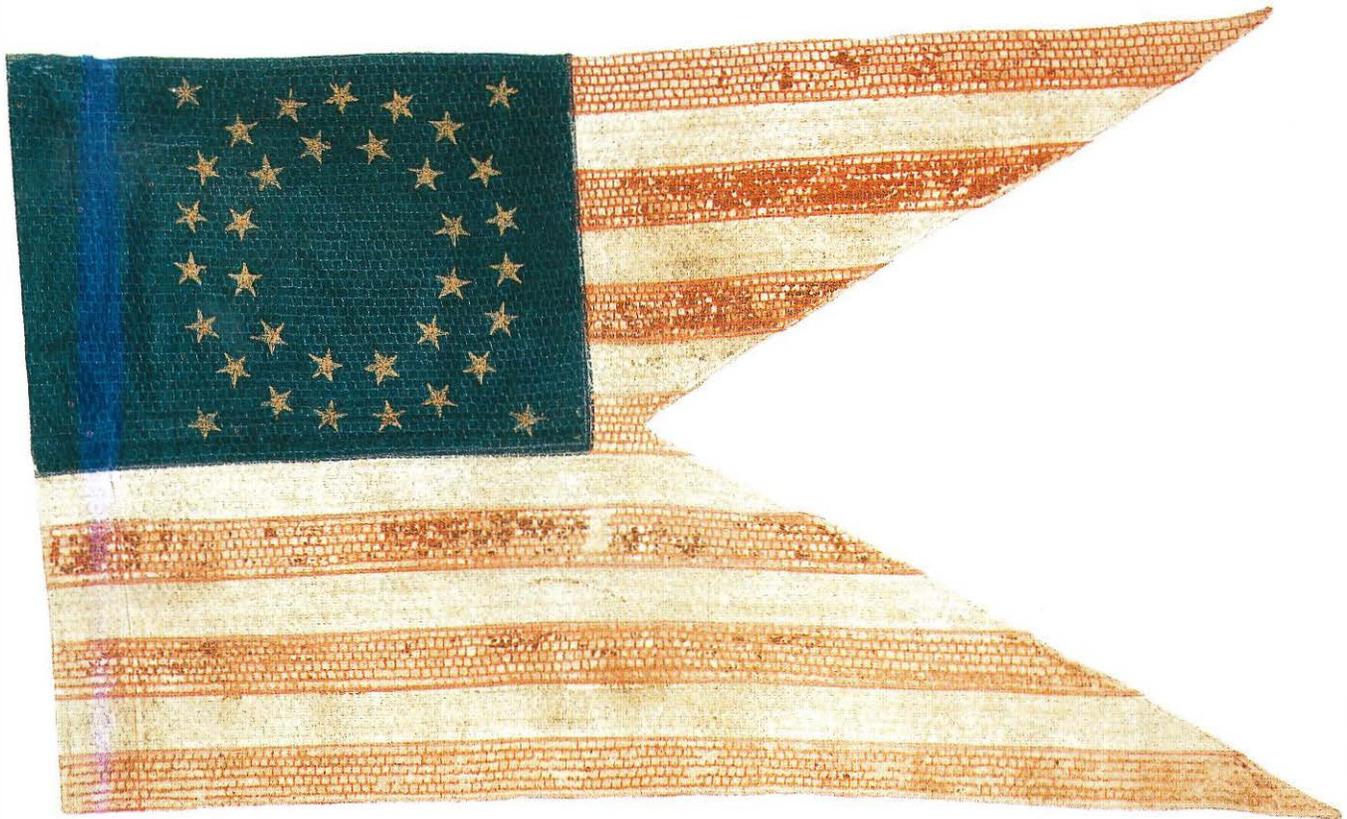
Cavalry regiments used a different arrangement. To accommodate mounted troops, the organizational color was smaller, consisting of the seal of the United States on a blue background and the regimental designation on a scroll under it. Cavalry regiments did not carry national colors. Since 1834 each cavalry troop had carried a guidon, which was half red and half white, divided at the fork of the swallow-tail, with the red above. On the red appeared the letters *U.S.* in white; on the white was the letter of the company in red. On 18 January 1862 Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan directed guidons for cavalry and light artillery to be similar to the national color, with thirteen stripes but no set pattern for the stars. Usually, each corner of the blue field held a star, and the remaining stars were arranged in two concentric circles. Existing cavalry troops, however, were permitted to use their red and white guidons as long as they were serviceable.⁹



Army Center of Military History

ARTILLERY COLOR

The Office of The Adjutant General first published the names of battles in which units performed meritoriously in the 1866 *Army Register*.



Army Center of Military History

GUIDON FOR MOUNTED TROOPS

Regimental commanders provided the lists, and they included not only Civil War battles but engagements since 1791 in which their regiments took part. Some regiments claimed over sixty battles, although by today's standards some were obscure actions. For example, the 4th Infantry listed the little-known skirmish at Withlacoochie, Florida, in 1835 and another forgotten action on the fork of Puyallup River, Texas, in 1855. In 1867 the War Department again asked regimental officers to supply lists of battles in which their regiments participated. The department planned to use the lists to compile an authentic catalog of battles; however, no changes were made in regimental battles listed in the register.¹⁰

In 1866, along with publishing the names of the battles in which units performed meritoriously, the War Department authorized the Battalion of Engineers to carry its own colors: the national color with *U.S. Engineers* embroidered on the center stripe; and a battalion color of scarlet, with a castle and the letters *U.S.* above and the word *Engineers*

below. Both colors were the same size as those of infantry and artillery regiments.¹¹

In 1877 Lt. Gen. William T. Sherman questioned the accuracy of the regimental lists published in the *Army Register* because reliable data were not readily available, and he recommended to Secretary of War George W. McCrary that the names of the battles be omitted from the register. The secretary approved the recommendation but did not order the removal of the names of the battles from the colors and guidons.¹² However, a board was convened under Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, a Civil War hero,¹³ to examine three issues:

- What was a battle within the spirit of the regulations?
- What portion of a regiment had to be engaged to have the name of a battle inscribed on its color and placed in the *Army Register*?
- How were the honors of a regiment created from several units through consolidation, as in 1815 and 1869, to be handled?¹⁴



Flags of the Army of the United States Carried during the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865. Burk and McFentigle, 1888

NATIONAL AND BATTALION COLORS OF THE BATTALION OF ENGINEERS

The War Department published the board's findings on 13 February 1878. It defined a battle as being an important engagement between two opposing independent armies that determined a question of policy or strategy. An action involving only part of the two opposing armies that tended toward either one of those ends was also granted the dignity of being termed a battle. When an engagement involved only a small portion of two opposing forces, it was to be classified, according to its nature, "an affair," "combat," or "a skirmish."¹⁵

It was determined that two or more companies of a regiment had to be engaged to have the name of a battle inscribed on the national color. The board based that number on tactics and regulations, which entitled a regimental battalion to carry the regiment's colors. (In 1878 a regimental battalion had no set structure.) As for regiments formed through consolidation as in 1815 and 1869, the board declared that the new unit inherited the honors of all previous organizations that now comprised it.¹⁶

The board also explored the question of how detached artillery batteries should display their battles. It determined that artillery batteries (as well as cavalry) were entitled to bear on their guidons the names of battles in which they served independently. Furthermore, The Adjutant General was to place the names of those battles in the *Army Register* next to the letter of the battery. Battery honors were not to include those to which its parent artillery regiment was entitled, but only the battles in which the battery had served independently on detached service. Since all artillery batteries were entitled to carry guidons, the board thought it was appropriate to determine whether detached batteries having served as infantry should inscribe the names of their battles on the guidon. Although such a determination seemed fitting, the board side-stepped the issue.¹⁷

In early 1881 revised *Army Regulations* incorporated the findings of the Hancock Board and reaffirmed the practice of units inscribing the names of the battles on their national color. The Office of



INFANTRY COLOR WITH PAINTED COAT OF ARMS

The Adjutant General, however, was not authorized to resume publishing the list of battles for each regiment, battalion, battery or cavalry company in the *Army Register*.¹⁸

Since 1862 cavalry troops had used two types of guidons: the red and white, as of 1834, and stars and stripes, as of 1862. In 1885, Lt. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, Commanding General of the Army, restored the silken, two-stripe, red and white guidon for all cavalry troops. Two years later he replaced the blue field with yellow on the organizational flag, making the field the same color as the facing on the cavalry uniform. The size of the flag was also increased to four feet on the fly and three feet on the lance. In 1895 cavalry regiments were finally authorized national colors, which were the same size as the organizational color.¹⁹

In 1886 the War Department changed the background of the color for the artillery regiment and the pattern of the artillery battery guidon. Scarlet replaced the yellow on the regimental flag. The new guidon for light artillery was scarlet with two crossed cannon in the center, the regimental number above them and the battery letter below. On both the color and guidon the crossed cannon were yellow, as were the regimental number and battery letter.²⁰

Silver Rings for Battle Credit

The first proposed change in display of regimental battle honors occurred in 1890. The War Department directed that the names of battles be engraved on silver rings and placed on the staffs of *regimental colors*. By that time, some regiments claimed so many battles that it was impossible to find room on the flags to inscribe all the names. Moreover, the paint used in gilding the names on the colors cracked, chipped and flaked, creating a tawdry impression. The rings would remedy that and were to be furnished at the department's expense. For almost 30 years regimental officers had paid for embroidering or gilding the names of the campaigns on their flags.

Each silver ring was to represent a battle in which one or more troops, batteries, or companies of a regiment, or the Battalion of Engineers, had served meritoriously. In cases where fewer than half the number of troops, batteries or companies of a regiment or battalion participated in an engagement, the letter of each engaged guidon-bearing unit followed the name of the battle on the ring. Those artillery batteries and cavalry troops which had been detached from their regiments and engaged separately were authorized to inscribe the names of their battles on silver rings and fasten them to the staffs of their guidons. If an action constituted a battle, The Adjutant General was to announce the inscription for the silver ring. The latter provision meant that for the first time the War Department was to participate actively in naming a battle.²¹

In 1891, Acting Secretary of War Lewis A. Grant renewed the idea of preparing a complete inventory of battles and skirmishes. This time the list was to be published in general orders rather than in the *Army Register*. (While the inventory was being prepared, the secretary instructed The Quartermaster General to issue colors and guidons without silver rings until the battle inventory was completed.) The list was submitted to the Secretary of War for publication in 1893, but he did not approve the compilation. Questions such as what should be considered a "battle" and what part of a regiment, battery or troop must have been engaged in order to be entitled to credit were unsettled. In 1900 and 1902 the 2d and 27th Infantry were informed that the list of battles had not been completed; the following year the Office of The Adjutant General informed the 25th Infantry that the list had not been compiled and it was impracticable to make such a compilation at that time. In 1903 Francis B. Heitman, a former employee in the War Department, published the *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*. This unofficial work devoted over 80 pages to listing the battles of the Army from 1775 to 1902.²¹

In 1903 the Acting Quartermaster General proposed changing the organizational colors for engineer battalions, infantry and cavalry regiments,

and the Artillery Corps (artillery regiments having been broken up in 1901 to form the Artillery Corps) to incorporate the official coat of arms of the United States for purposes of uniformity. The use of the castle and crossed cannon as well as the seal of the United States, which had not followed the approved design, was discontinued. The regulations made no change in the cavalry and field artillery guidons, and for the first time mounted engineer companies were authorized scarlet guidons with a castle in the center. Rather than being swallow-tailed, the engineer guidon was triangular, four feet from the lance to the apex and two feet seven inches on the lance. The Acting Quartermaster General also recommended removing all lettering from the national colors. These changes were approved on 8 October but were not published because of a pending revision of *Army Regulations*. The 1904 edition authorized the use of the new official U.S. coat of arms on regimental colors and required that the official designation of the unit be engraved on a silver band placed on the lance of the national color but omitted any reference about the display of silver rings for battle honors.²³

In 1909 the 8th Infantry requested silver rings for its regimental color. The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Fred C. Ainsworth, informed the regiment that the Army no longer required placing rings with the engraved names of battles on the staffs of regimental colors. Three years later the 7th Infantry applied for permission to use regimental funds to purchase silver rings for its color. After the General Staff reviewed the request, on 5 June 1912 Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson reinstated the use of silver bands (formerly rings) as the means to display battle honors, and the change was incorporated into the revised regulations in 1913. He directed the 7th Infantry to submit its list of battles for review by the War Department because he wanted uniformity in the actions that were to be classified as battles. Shortly thereafter the 7th Infantry submitted its list of battles, but it was returned to the regiment because of questions concerning claims to campaigns in 1814 and 1815. (The silver bands, including those for the disputed battles, were not issued to the regiment until February 1918.) The Quartermaster General Department meanwhile

began issuing silver bands, and the 2d and 8th Infantry, the 3d Cavalry, and the 3d Battalion Philippine Scouts all received them before the 7th Infantry.²⁴

On 13 April 1914 the 4th Infantry submitted a request for 115 silver bands, which included battles from 1794 to 1901; this reopened the question of defining a battle within the spirit of the regulations.²⁵ The Army Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. William W. Wotherspoon, requested in July 1914 that the Office of The Adjutant General furnish an inventory of battles in which all existing units may have participated. He also asked The Quartermaster General to specify all regiments and battalions, if any, that may have been authorized silver bands. He wanted the War College Division to evaluate the policy for regiments to display battle honors on their colors. The Quartermaster General, Maj. Gen. James B. Aleshire, provided the list of units and silver bands authorized for each, but The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Henry P. McCain, reported that he had no comprehensive list of validated battles.²⁶

In 1916 the 21st Infantry requested that its list of battles be authenticated, but the Office of The Adjutant General filed the request without action. It reported that no official list existed against which to compare the regiment's request for authentication. The office handled subsequent requests in the same manner (except the request from the 7th Infantry, which was honored in 1918).²⁷

Although the requisitioning of silver bands was held in abeyance, *Army Regulations* in 1915 authorized the Office of The Adjutant General to furnish each company, troop and battery with a suitably embossed certificate with the names and dates of all battles in which the unit had participated. The certificate was also to include the names of the enemy units engaged. A similar certificate was to be prepared for minor "affairs" of each company, troop and battery. When Troop K, 3d Cavalry and the 38th Company, Coast Artillery Corps requested the certificates, the Office of The Adjutant General returned the applications to the units and requested information about the battles and minor

engagements and their dates. Evidently, the units never responded to the request, for no record has been found that any certificates were prepared.²⁸

After World War I several commanders assigned to the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) asked the War Department's permission to place engraved bands on their regimental colors for their recent service. General John J. Pershing, commander of the AEF, also requested authority from the department to establish and publish a catalog of World War I battles, to include the names, dates and organizations that participated. The War Department approved Pershing's request on 22 January 1919.²⁹

On 4 March 1919 the AEF announced in general orders the names and dates of battles in the world war with Germany and Austria-Hungary. The orders provided for silver bands to be engraved and placed upon the staffs of regimental colors. The AEF identified twelve battles: Somme Defensive, Lys, Aisne, Montdidier-Noyon, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Mame, Somme Offensive, Oise-Aisne, Ypres-Lys, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and Vittoria-Veneto. This was the same list, with the exception of Vittoria-Veneto, that the AEF used to annotate the service records of individuals. Bands were also authorized for any separate and distinct action in a special battle or sector. The orders noted that the Operations Section, General Headquarters, was compiling lists of battle credits for divisions and separate organizations and that drafts would be sent to commanders of those units for comment. Pershing therefore enjoined all his unit commanders to use the utmost care in checking the honors of units and, if errors were found, to report them immediately to the command's adjutant general.³⁰

With units departing for the United States, time was too short to acquire appropriate silver bands in France. Pershing therefore directed that in lieu of the silver band, each organization entitled to battle credit or credits receive a ribbon with the appropriate name of the battle or battles printed thereon. His idea was to present the silver bands to the organization at a later date.³¹

Campaign Rather than Battle Credits

On 18 August 1919 the War Department again changed the method of displaying battle honors, this time because of a shortage of silver. All the names of a unit's *campaigns* were to be embroidered on the regimental colors themselves. On 30 October the department announced the first official list of campaigns of the United States Army. The list included 76 campaigns: 13 for World War I (Cambrai was the thirteenth), six for the Philippine Insurrection, two for the China Relief Expedition, three for the War with Spain, 18 for the Indian Wars, 23 for the Civil War, eight for the Mexican War, and three for the War of 1812. The inscription for the Indian Wars included only the words *Indian War* with the year or years when the battle or campaign took place. For units that took part in the Revolutionary War, an additional single streamer bore the inscription *Revolution*. The list was designed to avoid overloading the colors with inscriptions, a problem posed by the 4th Infantry's earlier request. Thus within most campaigns, battles and engagements were grouped and given a broad descriptive name when they determined a question of policy or strategy. For the China Relief Expedition and the Mexican War, only battles were used.³²

The new plan for displaying campaign credits cluttered the regimental flags, and in June 1920 the War Department changed the regulations again. This time the department directed each regimental color to bear streamers in the colors of the campaign medal ribbon for each war in which the regiment had fought. (Since no campaign medals existed for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, the Secretary of War was to prescribe the colors of the streamers.) The names of the campaigns were to be embroidered on streamers. If a unit participated in more than one campaign during a war, each streamer was to be inscribed with as many campaigns as possible. Under the revised regulations, a regiment displayed an honor if at least one regimental battalion earned it, and a separate battalion if two or more companies took part in the campaign. A company was not to receive credit

unless at least one-half of its actual strength was engaged in the fighting. Once again, the names of battles and engagements embroidered on streamers were to be recorded in the *Army Register* above the list of officers of the organization.³³

With the new system to display battle honors, the Historical Section, Army War College, expanded the list of battles and campaigns in April 1921. There were now 94 campaigns: 13 for World War I, 10 for the Philippine Insurrection, three for the China Relief Expedition, three for the War with Spain, 13 for the Indian Wars, 25 for the Civil War, 10 for the War with Mexico, six for the War of 1812, and 11 for the Revolutionary War. The inscriptions for the Indian Wars consisted of the names of the tribes involved but without the dates. Six months later two additional campaigns, one for the Indian Wars and one for the Philippine Insurrection, appeared on the list. At last the War Department had a comprehensive list of the Army's campaigns, a list that remained unchanged until World War II.³⁴

Campaign credit originally addressed only the service of regiments, battalions, companies, batteries and troops. General Pershing had opposed granting honors to brigades and higher headquarters because they were command and control, not fighting or line, units. However, in 1928 the War Department granted brigades and higher headquarters the right to display campaign credit as a way to enhance morale, and eventually the privilege was extended to all Table of Organization units authorized a flag, color or guidon. Organic elements of a regiment or a battalion were not to display campaign credit unless they earned it independently when detached from their parent unit.³⁵

During World War II 46 campaigns were added to the inventory. They included 24 for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, 19 for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, and three for the American Theater. The Army's participation in the Korean War added another 10 campaigns to the list. The theater of operations included all of the Korea peninsula, and any unit serving there received campaign credit for one or more of the 10 campaigns.³⁶

In the summer of 1954 the Chief of Military History, Maj. Gen. Albert C. Smith, questioned why campaign credit had not been granted to units that served in the Mexican Punitive Expedition between 14 March 1916 and 7 February 1917. He pointed out that the War Department had authorized a Mexican Service Medal for individuals, but no campaign streamer had been authorized. Furthermore, the operation included a force larger than many of the approved campaigns, and it had been important as a training ground for the AEF. On 15 August 1955 General Maxwell D. Taylor, the Chief of Staff, approved the addition of Mexico 1916-1917 to the Army's campaign list.³⁷



MEXICAN SERVICE MEDAL

Army Center of Military History



Courtesy of Army

THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

The Army Flag and Campaign Credits

One enduring purpose of a unit's color, flag or guidon is to represent the organization's service to the nation. Yet no flag represented the Army's overall service to the nation. As the nature of warfare changed, close cooperation among the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force made some symbol or device necessary to identify conveniently and unmistakably the Army's contribution. The other services had flags that represented their entire service to the nation. In May 1955 Maj. Gen. Donald P. Booth, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, requested that the Heraldic Branch, Office of The Quartermaster General, submit a design for a flag that would exemplify the United States Army's service to the nation. The flag was to be symbolic of the Army's history, traditions and prestige; to represent all elements of the Army; and to be suitable for display at all functions and ceremonies attended by the various components of the Army. Eventually, the Heraldic Branch developed a flag with a white field on which appeared the Department of the Army seal (without Roman numerals) in ultramarine blue in the center. Under the seal was a red scroll with the words *United States Army* in white letters, and under the scroll was the year 1775. The Vice Chief of Staff tentatively approved the design on 16 November 1955.³⁸

The following month Booth, now the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, asked the Army staff to consider three proposals for adding campaign streamers to the flag. One proposal was for the flag to display 13 streamers, one for each war, without any inscription; the second proposal was a streamer for each campaign without an inscription naming the campaigns fought by Army units; and the third proposal was to have the names of multiple campaigns embroidered on streamers, similar to those used by units. The Quartermaster Depot in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, erred in manufacturing streamers for the third proposal and made an embroidered streamer for each campaign. Since a briefing was scheduled for the Chief of Staff on the proposal to add streamers to the new flag, there was

no time to rectify the error. As it turned out, General Taylor selected the "modified" third option, an inscribed streamer for each campaign.

With Taylor's endorsement, Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker approved the proposal on 3 April 1956. His sole caveat was that only selected Army flags would display the streamers. President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued an Executive Order establishing the Army flag, which was unveiled on 14 June 1956 (the Army's birthday) in Philadelphia (the Army's birthplace). Because the flag had one streamer per campaign, the same system was adopted for units.³⁹

The Office of the U.S. Army Chief of Military History identified 145 streamers for the new flag, although the War Department and Department of the Army had recognized more than that number since adopting the streamer system in 1920. That office omitted the following streamers: American Theater-Ground Combat and Air Combat; Asiatic-Pacific Theater-Antisubmarine, Ground Combat and Air Combat; and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater-Antisubmarine, Ground Combat and Air Combat because they were "war service" streamers, which recognized combat participation that did not occur within a defined campaign area. To distinguish streamers for the Army flag from streamers authorized for units, the flag's streamers were 12 inches longer and the year or years of each campaign were added to each.⁴⁰

With the involvement of the United States in Vietnam, the number of campaigns again increased. Operations covered an 11-year period and resulted in 17 additional campaigns. Similar to the Korean War, the theater of operations encompassed all of Vietnam.⁴¹

Since the War Department first published the official list of campaigns in 1919, the American Revolution campaigns had presented a problem. Initially, a unit was to carry a streamer inscribed with the word *Revolution*. When the revised campaign list was published in 1921, named

campaigns for the Revolutionary War were listed but were geographically and chronologically unbalanced. Northern operations predominated, only Yorktown being located south of the Mason-Dixon Line. No named campaign from 28 June 1778 until 28 September 1781 was recognized. In the early 1930s the Historical Section, Army War College, had reviewed the campaigns of the Revolutionary War and had recommended modifications to correct these inequities. For reasons that remain unclear, no action was taken.

The issue was resurfaced in the 1960s by a student at the Army War College. This time the Chief of Military History recommended no change be made because there was little tangible benefit to the Army. Few currently active units perpetuated Revolutionary War organizations. Only the 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery, a Regular Army unit, and a handful of Army National Guard units dated to the 1770s or earlier. The Office of the Chief of Military History replowed the ground and recommended adding five additional campaigns and expanding the dates of three others. Lexington was to be added for actions on 19 April 1775, and Charleston, Savannah, Cowpens, and Guilford Court House were to recognize actions in the South. The dates for Quebec, Long Island and Saratoga were extended. Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr. approved the recommendations on 7 April 1975; this increased the number of streamers on the Army flag to 167.⁴²

The Army continues to be called upon to serve in various areas of the world. It saw action in Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989-90), and those operations resulted in a new type of campaign streamer. These streamers were based on the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM), which was awarded to individuals. The medal had been created in 1961, but was retroactively bestowed for actions after 1 July 1958, for U.S. military operations, for U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or for U.S. operations of assistance to friendly foreign nations. Although the services had awarded the medal to individuals, the Navy had also used the AFEM ribbon for campaign participation credit.⁴³ In 1984 the Army adopted the ribbon for streamers;



ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

they were inscribed in the same manner as the other campaign streamers based on specific campaign medals.

In 1990 the Army was part of the force deployed to Southwest Asia to halt Iraqi aggression in Kuwait. Active operations in both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait resulted in two more campaigns, the Defense of Saudi Arabia and the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait. The colors of these campaign streamers were based on a new campaign medal.

With the authorization of Armed Forces Expedition streamers for Grenada and Panama, General Bruce Palmer, U.S. Army, Ret., the commander who had led the U.S. forces in the Dominican Republic intervention in 1965 and 1966, requested that the latter operation be designated a campaign. As early as 1966 the Army Staff denied campaign credit for operations in the Dominican Republic because they did not "constitute military

actions against an armed enemy.” Twenty years later a similar request by the Sergeant Major of the Army, Glen E. Morrell, was also denied on the same grounds. With Armed Forces Expedition streamers authorized for both Grenada and Panama, the Army Staff changed its position, and Secretary Stone approved a streamer for the Dominican Republic in January 1992.⁴⁴

The Dominican Republic streamer was the 172nd for the Army flag. That streamer and all the

other streamers earned by the Army are listed in the appendix. They symbolize the Army’s service to the nation for more than 220 years. The story of the streamers is complex, filled with many decisions and much indecision and some practical and impractical ideas. Nevertheless, the streamers serve as a source of pride and inspiration for the young men and women of the Army. The streamers reflect not only the proud history of the Army but also the courage and sacrifice of America’s soldiers from 1775 to today.

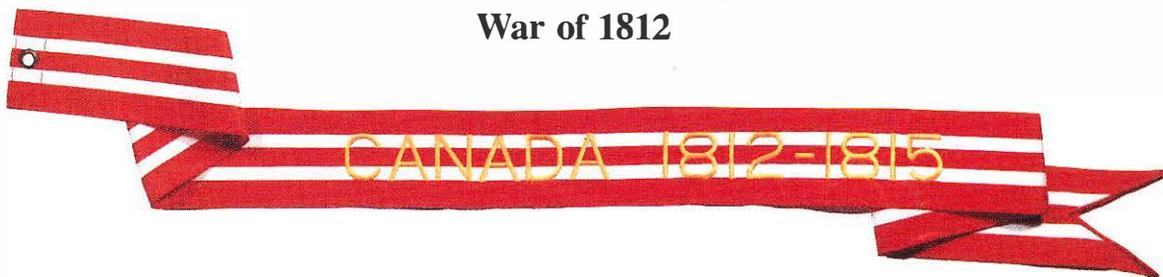
APPENDIX
Streamers on the Army Flag

Revolutionary War



Lexington 1775 • Ticonderoga 1775 • Boston 1775-1776 • Quebec 1775, 1776
Charleston 1776, 1780 • Long Island 1776 • Trenton 1776 • Princeton 1777 • Saratoga 1777
Brandywine 1777 • Germantown 1777 • Monmouth 1778 • Savannah 1778, 1779
Cowpens 1781 • Guilford Court House 1781 • Yorktown 1781

War of 1812



Canada 1812-1815 • Chippewa 1814 • Lundy's Lane 1814 • Bladensburg 1814
McHenry 1814 • New Orleans 1814-1815

Mexican War



Palo Alto 1846 • Resaca de la Palma 1846 • Monterey 1846 • Buena Vista 1847
Vera Cruz 1847 • Cerro Gordo 1847 • Contreras 1847 • Churubusco 1847
Molino del Ray 1847 • Chapultepec 1847

Civil War



Sumter 1861 • Bull Run 1861 • Henry and Donelson 1862 • Mississippi River 1862-1863
Peninsula 1862 • Shiloh 1862 • Valley 1862 • Manassas 1862 • Antietam 1862
Fredericksburg 1862 • Murfreesborough 1862-1863 • Chancellorsville 1863 • Gettysburg 1863
Vicksburg 1863 • Chickamauga 1863 • Chattanooga 1863 • Wilderness 1864 • Atlanta 1864
Spotsylvania 1864 • Cold Harbor 1864 • Petersburg 1864-1865 • Shenandoah 1864
Franklin 1864 • Nashville 1864 • Appomattox 1865

Indian Wars



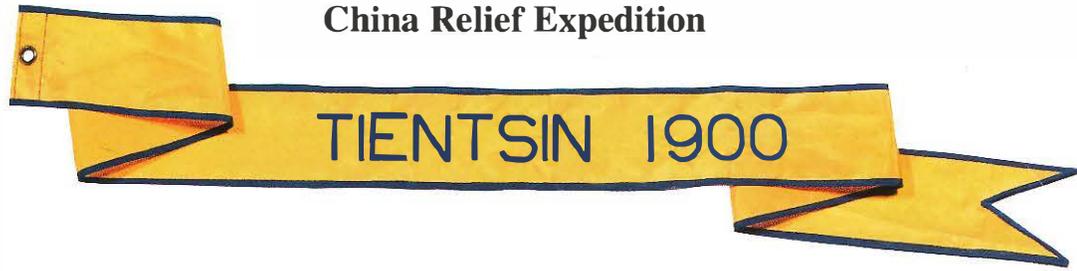
Miami 1790-1795 • Tippecanoe 1811 • Creeks 1813-1814, 1836-1837
Seminoles 1817-1818, 1835-1842, 1855-1858 • Black Hawk 1832 • Comanches 1867-1875
Modocs 1872-1873 • Apaches 1873, 1885-1886 • Little Big Horn 1876-1877 • Nez Percés 1877
Bannocks 1878 • Cheyennes 1878-1879 • Utes 1879-1880 • Pine Ridge 1890-1891

War with Spain



Santiago 1898 • Puerto Rico 1898 • Manila 1898

China Relief Expedition



Tientsin 1900 • Yang-tsun 1900 • Peking 1900

Philippine Insurrection



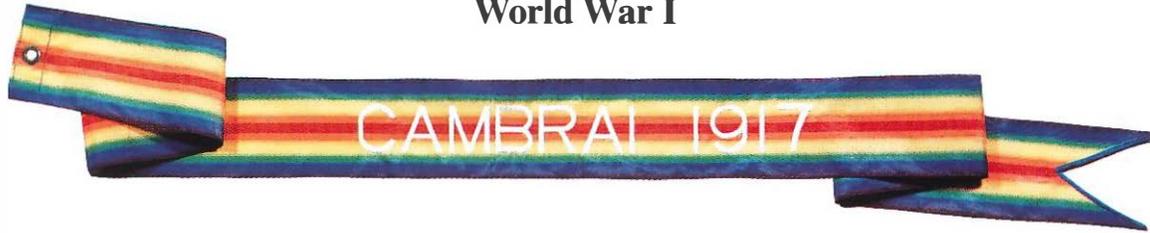
Manila 1899 • Iloilo 1899 • Malolos 1899 • Laguna de Bay 1899 • San Isidro 1899
Zapote River 1899 • Cavite 1899-1900 • Tarlac 1899 • San Fabian 1899
Mindanao 1902-1905 • Jolo 1905, 1906, 1913

Mexican Expedition



Mexico 1916-1917

World War I



Cambrai 1917 • Somme Defensive 1918 • Lys 1918 • Aisne 1918 • Montdidier-Noyon 1918
Champagne-Marne 1918 • Aisne-Marne 1918 • Somme Offensive 1918 • Oise-Aisne 1918
Ypres-Lys 1918 • St. Mihiel 1918 • Meuse-Argonne 1918 • Vittoria Veneto 1918

World War II

American Theater



Antisubmarine 1941-1945

Asiatic-Pacific Theater



Philippine Islands 1941-1942 • Burma 1941-1942
Central Pacific 1941-1943 • East Indies 1942 • India-Burma 1942-1945
Air Offensive, Japan 1942-1945 • Aleutian Islands 1942-1943 • China Defensive 1942-1945
Papua 1942-1943 • Guadalcanal 1942-1943 • New Guinea 1943-1944
Northern Solomons 1943-1944 • Eastern Mandates 1944 • Bismarck Archipelago 1943-1944
Western Pacific 1943-1944 • Leyte 1944-1945 • Luzon 1944-1945 • Central Burma 1945
Southern Philippines 1945 • Ryukyus 1945 • China Offensive 1945

European-African-Middle Eastern Theater



Egypt-Libya 1942-1943

Air Offensive, Europe 1942-1944 • Algeria-French Morocco 1942 • Tunisia 1942-1943
Sicily 1943 • Naples-Foggia 1943-1944 • Anzio 1944 • Rome-Arno 1944 • Normandy 1944
Northern France 1944 • Southern France 1944 • North Apennines 1944-1945
Rhineland 1944-1945 • Ardennes-Alsace 1944-1945 • Central Europe 1945 • Po Valley 1945

Korean War



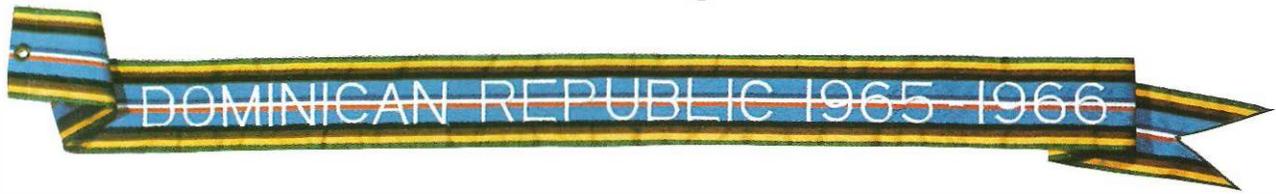
UN Defensive 1950 • UN Offensive 1950 • CCF Intervention 1950-1951
First UN Counteroffensive 1951 • CCF Spring Offensive 1951 • UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951
Second Korean Winter 1951-1952 • Korea Summer-Fall 1952 • Third Korean Winter 1952-1953
Korea Summer 1953

Vietnam



Vietnam Advisory 1962-1965 • Vietnam Defense 1965 • Vietnam Counteroffensive 1965-1966
Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase II 1966-1967 • Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase III 1967-1968
Tet Counteroffensive 1968 • Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase IV 1968
Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase V 1968 • Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase VI 1968-1969
Tet 69/Counteroffensive 1969 • Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969 • Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive 1970 • Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase VII 1970-1971
Consolidation I 1971 • Consolidation II 1971-1972 • Vietnam Cease-Fire 1972-1973

Armed Forces Expeditions



Dominican Republic 1965-1966 • Grenada 1983 • Panama 1989-1990

Southwest Asia



Defense of Saudi Arabia 1990-1991 • Liberation and Defense of Kuwait 1991

ENDNOTES

1. Memo for the Chief of Military History from the Secretary of the Army, subj: Approval of a Campaign Streamer for the April 1965-September 1966 Dominican Republic Intervention, 6 Jan 92, in DAMH-HSO.
2. Memo from TAPC for the SA, subj: Approval of Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) Streamers, Operation JUST CAUSE, 8 Feb 90; memo from JCS for the Assistant Secretary of Defense, subj: Designation of Southwest Asia Service Medal Campaigns, 3 Jun 91, copies in DAMH-HSO.
3. Today regiments and battalions are authorized colors, which are patterned after the Coat of Arms of the United States; companies, batteries, troops, detachments and platoons are authorized guidons with distinctive devices, such as crossed cannon or a castle; and flags are used by armies, corps, divisions, brigades and other commands. See Army Regulation (AR) 840-10, *Flags, Guidons, Streamers, Tabards, and Automobile and Aircraft Plates*, 29 Oct 1990.
4. The Confederate Army named battles for the nearest river or stream, while the Union Army named them for the nearest town.
5. General Order 4, Western Department, 25 Aug 1861, printed in *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Record of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vols. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1861), 3:92-93.
6. Hqs of the Army GO (AGO) 111, 1861. Congress did not specify either the regimental or national colors.
7. AGO 19, 1862; *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-1973* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1973), pp. 70, 72; AR 1863, para. 11, Appendix B, p. 511.
8. AR 1863, Article L, pp. 461-62, and Appendix B, para. 8, p. 511; S.B. Holabird, *Flag of the Army of the United States Carried During the War of the Rebellion* (Philadelphia: Burk and McFetridge Lithographers and Publishers, 1887), no pagination; Gherardi Davis, *The Colors of the United States Army 1789-1912* (New York: Gillis Press, 1912), p. 46. The only permanent units of the Army in 1863 were artillery, cavalry and infantry regiments. The Arms of the United States, which was also the device for the Seal of the United States, was adopted on 20 June 1782 by the Continental Congress. Since that time the State Department has been responsible for determining the execution of the device; see *The History of the Seal of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1909), pp.7, 41-43.
9. AGO 4, 1862; AR 1863, pp. 461-62, and Appendix B, para. 8, p. 511; DF OCMH, to CINFO, subj: Request for Information, 9 May 1958, in DAMH-HSO; Memo for Col. Sightler and Mr. Romanus, subj: Guidons for Cavalry Units, from Mary W. Stubbs, 17 Mar 1958, in DAMH-HSO.
10. *Official Army Register*, 1866, pp. 18-72 and 1867, pp. 22-85; WB Memo for CS, subj: Placing of rings or bands with names of battles engraved thereon, on the pikes or lances of colors or standards of organizations, from Chief, Mobile Army Division, 7 May 1912, in TAPC-PDH; WD Circ., 1 Mar 1867.

11. AGO 93, 1866; *Tabular Statements Showing the Names of Commanders of Army Corps, Divisions and Brigades United States Army During the War of 1861 to 1865* (Philadelphia: Burk and McFetridge, Printers and Lithographers, 1887), frontispiece.
12. WD Memo for CS, subj: Placing of rings, etc., 7 May 1912; AGO 102, 1877.
13. George B. Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy*, 3rd ed. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1981), 2:201-05.
14. AGO 111, 1877.
15. AGO 5, 1878.
16. *Ibid.*
17. *Ibid.*
18. AR 1881, pp. 282-83.
19. AR 1889, pp. 211-13; AR 1895, pp. 31-2; AGO 10, 1885; AGO 31, 1887.
20. AGO 34, 1886.
21. AGO 11, 65, 89, and 113, 1890; WB memo for CS, Placing of rings, etc., 7 May 1912; Dennis Steele, "Streamers of Courage," *Soldiers* 41 (Jun 1986):21-22; "Streamers," *Dimensions* (Jan 1989), pp.14-16.
22. Ltr 2553 A.C.P. 1891 to TQMG from the AGO, no subj., 27 Mar 1891, in TAPC-PDH; Memo Rpt 504077 AGO, no subj., 30 Sep 1903, in TAPC-PDH; AGO Memo 322.1, subj: The engraving of Names of Battles on Silver Bands to be placed on the Pike of Colors of Regiment, 6 Jun 1919, in DAMH-HSO; Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*, 2 vols., (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903) 2:388-74.
23. Memo Rept AGO 504077, 30 Sep 1903; Davis, *The Colors of the United States Army 1789-1912*, p. 60; AR 1904, pp. 40-41. The coat of arms of the United States had been redesigned in 1903 (see *The History of the Seal of the United States*, p. 63).
24. AGO Memo 322.1, subj: The Engraving of Names of Battles on Silver Bands to be placed on the Pike of Colors of Regiment, 6 Jun 1919; Change to Army Regulations (CAR) No. 5, WD, 5 Jun 1912; para. 244, AR 1913, p. 59; Ltr to Col. T. M. Anderson from Maj. Gen. E. F. McGlachlin, Jr., no subject, 3 Apr 1923; Ltr from 7th Infantry to TAG, subj: Silver Bands for pike of colors, 12 Nov 1917; ltr to CG, Phila. QM Dept, Philadelphia, Pa, from OQMG, subj: Issue of silver bands for colors of the 7th Infantry, 3 Apr 1912; AGO Memo 2107884, subj. Engraved ring for colors, 3d Battalion, Philippine Scouts, 27 Dec 13 (all ltrs and memos in DAMH-HSO).
25. The current 4th Infantry was organized in 1812.

26. Ltr to TAG from Cdr, 4th Infantry, subj: Battles and Engagements 4th Infantry, 13 Apr 1914, in DAMH-HSO; Memo, Engraving of Names, 6 Jun 1919.
27. Memo, Engraving of Names, 6 Jun 1919; Ltr to TAG from 21st Infantry, subj: Request that silver bands be supplied to be placed on pike of regimental colors denoting battles in which the 21st Infantry participated, 21 Jan 1916, in DAMH-HSO; see also endnote 23.
28. CAR No. 31, 10 Aug 1915; Memo, Engraving of Names, 6 Jun 1919.
29. Memo, Engraving of Names, 6 Jun 1919.
30. AEF GO 4 and 41, 1919.
31. AEF GO 41, 1919.
32. CAR 92, 18 Aug 1919; WD GO 83 and 122, 1919; Memo for the Chief, Historical Branch, War Plans Division, subj: Inscription on Battle Streamers, undated, in DAMH-HSO. It should be noted that some single battles were granted campaign status.
33. CAR 105, 1919; CAR 124, 1922; Memo, subj: Inscription on Battle Streamers, undated, in DAMH-HSO. Streamers for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Mexican War were based on the colors of the foe.
34. WD GO 16 and 45, 1921. Hereafter the battles and campaigns are referred to as campaigns.
35. Ltr John J. Pershing to Clarence R. Edwards, 27 May 20, Pershing Papers, LC; WD Circ. 59, 1928.
36. AR 220-315, 1952, and AR 220-105, 1957.
37. SS HIS 314.7, subj: Campaign Streamers for Units in the Mexican Punitive Expedition, 3 Jun 1954; DF CMH to ACoFS, G-1 and TAGO, subj: Streamer for Mexican Punitive Expedition, 19 Aug 1955, in DAMH-HSO.
38. Draft Army Flag Pamphlet: Part I, CMH, in DAMH-HSO.
39. *Ibid.*; DF DAAG-HD to ODCSLOG, ODCSPER, OCMH, and USASPTAP, 25 Oct 1985, subj: Proposed Changes to the Army Flag Display Policies, Enclosure 1, in DAMH-HSO; DA Bul 7, 1956.
40. DF OCMH to DCSPER et al, 9 Jan 1956, Subj: STREAMERS for Proposed Army Flag, in DAMH-HSO.
41. AR 672-5-1, 1984.
42. Ltr Howard H. Calloway to John O. Marsh, Jr, 7 Apr 1975; memo for the Sec. Historical Section, AWC, subj: Study on Battle Honors: Part I—War of the Revolution, 12 Jan 33; Ltr AWCST, subj: Recognition of the Southern Campaign in the American Revolution, 25 Oct 1965; Ltr OCMH to LTC Jones N. Epps, 12 Jan 1967, DAMH-ZD, subj: Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Revolutionary War Campaigns, undated; DAMH-HSO memo, 21 Mar 1975, subj: Army Campaign Streamers; all in DAMH-HSO files.

43. DA GO 33, 1984; DA GO 7, 1991; AR 672-5-1, para. 4-28; Naval History Division, Department of the Navy, "Battle Streamers of the United States Navy" (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1972), p. 22.
44. Department of the Army General Orders 7, 1993.
45. DF OCMH to DCSPER, 4 Jan 66, subj: Campaign Streamer for DomRep; memo DACS-SM to SA, 11 Aug 86, subj: Battle Streamer for Dominican Republic; DF DAMH-HSO to DAPE, 22 Aug 86, subj: Battle Streamer for the Dominican Republic; Memo DAMH-HS, 9 Jan 91; subj: Dominican Intervention Campaign Streamer, with enclosures; Memo 6 Jan 92, subj: Approval of a Campaign Streamer for the April 1965-September 1966 Dominican Republic Intervention; all in CMH.



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