

LINEAGE AND HONORS

201st

Nation's Oldest - West Virginia's Finest

Parent unit organized 17 February 1735 as Captain Morgan Morgan's Company of Volunteer Militia of Orange County, Virginia.

Redesignated November 1738 as Morgan's Company, Frederick County Militia.

Expanded 24 February 1742 to Morgan's Battalion.

Captain Robert Rutherford's Company of Rangers raised from volunteers of the Battalion in early 1758; served through 1759.

Minutemen companies organized 1776 and subsequently, for frontier defense and drafts furnished 1776-1782 for Virginia Regiments of the Continental Line.

Captain Hugh Stephenson's Company of Virginia Riflemen organized 14 June 1775 from volunteers of the region.

Expanded to four companies and consolidated 27 June 1776 with two Maryland rifle companies to form the Maryland and Virginia Rifle Regiment, Colonel Hugh Stephenson commanding.

Maryland and Virginia Rifle Regiment captured in part 16 November 1776 at Fort Washington and regimental organization broken up.

Reorganized 22 December 1792 as Volunteer companies of the 10th and 16th Brigades, Virginia Militia (embracing counties in what is now northern portion of state), 18 and 20th Brigades added later.

Captain Cornelius Bogard's company of Volunteer Rangers of Monongalia County in state service in 1794.

Volunteer elements of 10th and 16th Brigades, 3rd Division, mustered into active service September-December 1794 for the Whiskey Rebellion.

Berkeley Artillery, Captain James Faulkner, formed in 1808 at Martinsburg.

Volunteer companies, as follows:

- Captain Nathan Ashby's Infantry Company (Monongalia)
- Captain William Booth's Infantry Company (Randolph)
- Captain Leonard Cupp's Rifle Company (Monongalia)
- Captain Ephraim Dunn's Infantry Company (Hampshire)
- Captain James Morgan's Infantry Company (Monongalia)
- Captain John Patton's Infantry Company (Harrison)
- Captain Samuel Wilson's Rifle Company (Monongalia)

Combined September 1812 with five Companies from what is now southern West Virginia to form 2nd Regiment, Virginia Volunteer Militia, Lieutenant Colonel Dudley Evans, for service in the Northwestern Army; mustered out in April 1813.

Berkeley Blues, Captain Ephraim G. Alburty, volunteered for Mexican War service reorganized and mustered into Federal service 21 January 1847 at Richmond, Virginia, as Company H, 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment; mustered out 31 July 1848 at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Berkeley Blues ordered on duty in 1859 at Charles Town in John Brown uprising.

Elements with Union sympathy organized May 1861 as 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Wheeling; reorganized 30 October 1861 for three years service and 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment consolidated with 4th Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment (organized June-August 1861 at Grafton and Point Pleasant), and redesignated 10 December 1864 as 2nd West Virginia Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment; mustered out 16 July 1865.

Elements with Confederate sympathy joined various Virginia regiments, C. S. Among these were the Berkeley Blues, Captain Alburtis, which enlisted in the Confederate service for one year on 19 April 1861; reorganized as Company B (Alburtis-Wise Artillery), 1st Virginia Light Artillery Regiment; reorganized 26 April 1862 as James S. Brown's Independent Battery (Wise Artillery); disbanded 4 October 1862.

State forces reorganized 21 November 1863 as Volunteer Companies, 1st Division, West Virginia Militia (covering counties in northern portion of State).

Reorganized in 1878 as 1st Regiment, West Virginia Volunteer Militia to contain the following companies:

Berkeley Light Infantry (Martinsburg)
Martinsburg Light Artillery (Martinsburg)
Matthews Light Infantry (Wheeling)
Ritchie Light Guards (Harrisville)
Davis Light Guards (Fairmont)
Monongalia Guards (Morgantown)

Consolidated 29 April 1898 with 2nd Regiment to form 1st West Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Mustered into Federal service 7-14 May 1898 at Charleston; mustered out 4 February 1899 at Columbus, Georgia.

Continued in State service as 1st Infantry Regiment and reorganized as such in 1899.

Drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917 and assigned to 38th Division.

Regiment broken up 15 September 1917 and elements redesignated as follows:

1st Battalion and Machine Gun Company as 137th Machine Gun Battalion.
Headquarters Company, Companies E and F as elements of 113th Engineer Regiment.
Companies G and H as elements of 113th Ammunition Train.
3rd Battalion as 5th-8th Companies, Training Battalion, 150th Infantry Regiment.
Band as 63rd Depot Brigade Band.
Supply Company as 113th Engineer Train.

Elements demobilized separately in 1918 and 1919.

Reconstituted 1 November 1923 as 1st Infantry Regiment, West Virginia National Guard; organized 1924-1926.

Redesignated 11 May 1926 as 201st Infantry Regiment a nondivisional unit.

Inducted into Federal service 6 January 1941 at Morgantown.

Inactivated 26 September 1945 at Camp Rucker, Alabama.

201st Infantry (less 2nd and 3rd Battalions) converted and redesignated 10 July 1946 as 201st Field Artillery Battalion (Concurrently, 2nd and 3rd Battalions redesignated 197th Tank Battalion 'separate lineage').

Federally recognized 19 August 1947.

Redesignated 1 September 1949 as 201st Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

Reorganized and redesignated 1 March 1959 as 201st Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of 1st Howitzer Battalion (155 mm) (SP).

Reorganized and redesignated 1 March 1968 as 1st Battalion, 201st Artillery, (SRF II).

The 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, was mustered into Federal service 9-12 December 1990 for Operation Desert Shield at Fort Campbell, KY with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery from Fairmont, A Battery from Elkins, B Battery from Morgantown, C Battery from Keyser, and Service Battery from Kingwood.

The Battalion, under the command of LTC Dennis R. Christian, deployed to Saudi Arabia on the 1st of February 1991 with advance elements arriving on the 17th of January, 1991 to participate in Operation Desert Storm to defend Saudi Arabia from Iraqi forces and liberate Kuwait from the Iraqis.

The Battalion participated in combat operations beginning 18th February through the remainder of the ground offensive ending 1 March 1991.

The Battalion redeployed to Ft Campbell, KY with the advance units arriving on 5 May 1991. The Battalion mustered out from Ft Campbell, KY 10 June 1991.

Reorganized to a 3 X 8 Battalion on 1 September 1993 and redesignated C Battery at Keyser as B Battery Detachment 1, Redesignated Howitzer Battery, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor, Hinton and Ronceverte, as C Battery, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, and C Battery Detachment 1, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, respectively. Reorganized and redesignated 193rd Engineer Company (Dump Truck), Oak Hill as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Detachment 1, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery.

Reorganized to a 3X6 Battalion on 19 September 1995 and redesignated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Detachment 1 as Service Battery, Detachment 1, Oak Hill.

The 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, was activated and mobilized on November 18, 2003 and mustered into Federal service December 18, 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The Battalion reported to Fort Drum, NY on 8 January 2004 with the advance party reporting on 6 January 2004. The Battalion mobilized with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery from Fairmont under the command of CPT Allan Moran, Alpha Battery from Elkins under the command of CPT Timothy Vance, Bravo Battery From Morgantown and Keyser under the command of CPT James Martin, Charlie Battery from Hinton and Ronceverte under the command of CPT Jeffrey Setser, and Service Battery from Kingwood under the command of CPT Todd Longanacre.

The Battalion, under the command of MAJ Mark Hennigan, deployed to Kuwait on 25 February 2003 with advance elements arriving in Kuwait on 15 February 2004 to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom II to conduct support and stabilization operations in Iraq. The Battalion reorganized from a 3X6 Paladin Battalion to perform a convoy escort security mission.

The Battalion began their new combat operations beginning on 25th of March when the Battalion conducted the official transfer of authority ceremony with the 17th Field Artillery Brigade through the remainder of the operation designated OIF2 ending February 18, 2005.

The Battalion redeployed to Ft Drum, NY on 18 February 2005 with the advance units arriving on 4 February 2005. The Battalion mustered out from Ft Drum, NY 20 February 2005.

Army Institute of Heraldry recognizes the 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery as the oldest unit in the U.S. Army with continuous active service since the 17th of February 1735. While other units were formed well before that time (1635), they did not join the Continental Army in 1775. Moreover, the Institute of Heraldry also recognizes the Regiment as the only surviving unit of the original seven companies that formed the U.S. Army in 1775.