



Welcome to 2nd Squadron 6th Cavalry Regiment

Aloha! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate you on your assignment to 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment also known as Lightning Horse. You will find that during your assignment here within 2-6 CAV, you will undergo many demanding, yet rewarding experiences. The Squadron recently redeployed from its fourth combat tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and we are currently training to be the PACOM Aviation Contingency Response Force HQs. We are a team that is “Led by love of Country”, disciplined and focused on success.

As an integral part of the 25th Infantry Division, 2-6 CAV remains the force of choice—versatile and able to operate in all environments. Furthermore, with six Troops, 2-6 CAV employs Officers, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted Soldiers from numerous branches in the Army and is fully capable of self-sustained rapid deployment operations.

Strong Soldiers and their families are our foundation and ultimate responsibility. Ensuring you and your family experience a smooth transition and integration into the Squadron is part of that preparation. Due to its geographic location, Hawaii presents the possibility of new and unique encounters in terms of recreation, networking, and memorable experiences.

4. A sponsor has been identified for you from the unit/section to which you have been assigned. I hope that you will use this sponsor as a resource to make your move as pleasant and trouble free as possible. We truly embody the spirit of the **CAV-Team** and know you soon will too.

HISTORY OF THE 2ND SQUADRON, 6TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

The 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry was constituted 4 May 1861 and organized at Camp Scott, Pennsylvania as Company B, 6th Cavalry. The Squadron participated in the Civil War as part of the Union's first action in the Peninsular Campaign, 4 May 1862. For its participation in the Civil War as part of the Union Army of the Potomac, the unit earned 16 battle streamers. It is during the Civil War at Williamsburg Pennsylvania, 1863 (Gettysburg Campaign) that the Regiment received its Coat of Arms distinction. By withstanding repeated attacks from superior numbers of Confederate Cavalry, the 6th Cavalry Regiment was able to disrupt a large contingent of "Crack" Troopers from General Stuart's force. During this fighting, the 6th was cut to pieces and suffered very heavy losses. Because of their fighting spirit and willingness to carry on, the Unicorn in a rampant position was given to the Regiments Coat of Arms to distinguish their knightly virtues.

Following the war, the 6th Cavalry left Maryland for Austin, Texas in 1865 to be a part of the 5th Military District, which encompassed Texas and Louisiana. During the majority of the 1870s and 1880s, the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry was based in the Southwest and served in the thick of the Apache Campaigns. The 6th Cavalry participated in 10 Indian Campaigns and was responsible for the surrender of the famous Apache chief Geronimo. Captain Whiteside and two Troops were also responsible for founding Fort Huachuca in March 1877. In the fall of 1890 it was dispatched to South Dakota, where it took part in the Wounded Knee campaign against the Sioux Indians. The Squadron later saw action in the 1892 Johnson County War in Wyoming.

The 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry fought in the Spanish-American War in 1898 storming alongside Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" during the capture of Santiago in Cuba.

In July 1900, the 6th Cavalry sailed from California to the Philippines and China. In China, they took part in the Boxer Rebellion and marched into the Forbidden City. By December, the entire regiment was reunited in Manila and spent the next two years in guerilla warfare against insurgent Filipinos. After the surrender of General Malvar, the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry returned to the United States to Fort Meade and Fort Keogh. By 1907, the regiment left once again for the Philippines to engage in the fight on Patian Island. The Moro outlaw Jakiri and his entire band was exterminated. Four members of the squadron received Congressional Medals of Honor in this campaign. For their gallantry and service during the Chinese expedition and due to being the first U.S. unit to enter the sacred Forbidden City, a Chinese Dragon was added to the top of the Regimental Coat of Arms. In the claws of the Dragon, Arrows were placed to represent the Regiments participation in the Indian Wars.

When they returned to the United States in 1910, the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry bounced between Fort Des Moines, Iowa and Arizona, where they guarded the Mexican border during the Madero Revolution. In 1913, the regiment proceeded to Texas City and two troops assisted the occupation of Vera Cruz. Between 1916 and 1917, the 6th U.S. Cavalry joined General Pershing's punitive expedition to end Pancho Villa's raids on American soil. They marched as far as Casa Grandes and then back to San Antonio. After the Mexican campaign, the regiment spent a short time in France as Foreign Service from 1918 to 1919.

From WWI to WWII, the "Fighting Sixth" Cavalry was stationed at The Post at Fort Oglethorpe, Tennessee. From 1919 to 1942, this was the longest stay in a single place within 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry history. In 1939, the 6th was chosen to add mechanized forces to its horse units to test the best and worst points of each. Two years later, the Army decided that horses were no longer a match for the mechanized forces being used in the European and Pacific theatres.

On 21 July 1942, the unit was reorganized as Troop E, 6th Cavalry, Mechanized and moved to Camp Blanding, Florida. The Squadron continued vehicular and ground combat training at Fort Jackson until mobilization to Europe. On 20 October 1943, the Squadron was re-designated the 28th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron under the 6th Cavalry Group as part of Patton's "Household Cavalry" and landed on Utah Beach in France on 09 July 1944. The 6th Cavalry Group saw fierce fighting in the five campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. The unit earned the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions at the HARLANGE POCKET. When hostilities ceased, the 6th remained on the Czechoslovakian – German border for occupation duty. On 20 December 1948, the unit was re-designated as 6th Armored Cavalry and participated in large scale field training exercises. The unit finally returned from Europe in 1957, and was stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland and Fort Knox, Kentucky until 1986.

While at Fort Knox in 1975, the assets of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division were used to create the 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat) which served as a test bed for new concepts involving the employment of attack helicopters on the modern battlefield. Members of the 2nd Squadron were involved in testing for both the M-1 Abrams and M-2 Bradley in the 1980s. However, the 2nd Squadron was inactivated in 1986 at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

On 16 July 1986, the 2nd Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry was activated to become part of the 6th Cavalry Brigade, and was the third unit to receive the AH-64 Apache. In January 1988, the Squadron moved from Fort Hood, Texas to Illesheim, Germany as part of the 11th Aviation Brigade of VII Corps and was formally assigned to U.S. Army Europe.

As tensions increased in the Middle East, following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Squadron deployed to Saudi Arabia, as part of Task Force 11 in support of OPERATION DESERT SHIELD. During combat operations as part of OPERATION DESERT STORM, the

unit flew three combat missions, destroying over 200 armored vehicles of the Tawakalna and Medenah Republican Guards Division, and earning the Valorous Unit Citation.

In October 1996, 2nd Squadron deployed to Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of peacekeeping operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD.

The call to duty came again in April 1999, when the unit deployed to Albania and prepared to conduct combat operations as part of OPERATION ALLIED FORCE. Upon capitulation of Serbian forces 2nd Squadron redeployed in July 1999 to continue serving as V Corps "tip of the spear."

The 2nd Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry deployed to Kuwait in September 2002 as part of the build-up in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, participating in direct combat under V Corps until 26 June 2003, when 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry inactivated in Germany.

The 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry reactivated under 21st Cavalry Brigade for the Unit Fielding and Training Program on 12 September 2003 and conducted over nine months of training at Fort Hood Texas. The unit was certified combat ready in the AH-64D Longbow Apache in June of 2004 and prepared to return to Illesheim, Germany upon completion of training. After redeployment to Germany, 2-6 CAV conducted training operations ensuring readiness prior to their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom VI. 2nd Squadron absorbed elements from other units for deployment, which included Chinooks, Black Hawks, and Apaches.

In mid-March 2005 the 2nd Squadron 6th US Cavalry was deployed to Afghanistan to support OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM VI. The unit was divided between Bagram, Kandahar, Salerno, and Jalalabad falling under Task Force Sabre and Task Force Storm. In June 2006 the Squadron deactivated in Germany and reactivated in Hawaii.

On 06 June 2006 the 2nd Squadron 6th US Cavalry reflagged from the 1st Battalion (Attack), 25th Aviation Regiment to the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Light; in conjunction with this move, the unit traded in the AH-64 Apache for the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior and was re-designated as an Armed Reconnaissance Battalion.

2nd Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry quickly deployed to Iraq in June 2006 for a second tour in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, performing combat operations in support of 3/25 IBCT until redeployment in October 2007.

In September 2009 the 2nd Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry was deployed a third time in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. The unit served under 3rd ID for the final tour of combat operations in Iraq until redeployment in August 2010.

December 2012, 2nd Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry deployed to RC South in Afghanistan under the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade to perform combat operations in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. They redeployed to Hawaii January 2013.

2nd Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry now serves at Wheeler Army Airfield under the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. The unit remains vigilant and committed to conducting combat operations, the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry is "*LED BY LOVE OF COUNTRY.*"

2ND SQUADRON, 6TH CAVALRY HONORS

Campaigns

Civil War: *Peninsula; *Antietam; *Fredericksburg; *Chancellorsville; *Gettysburg; *Wilderness; *Spotsylvania; *Cold Harbor; *Petersburg; *Shenandoah; *Appomattox; *Virginia 1862; *Virginia 1863; *Virginia 1864; *Virginia 1865; *Maryland 1863

Indian Wars: Comanches; Apaches; Pine Ridge; Oklahoma 1874; Texas 1874; Arizona 1876; *Arizona 1881; *Arizona 1882; New Mexico 1882; *Colorado 1884

War with Spain: *Santiago

China Relief Expedition: Streamer without inscription

Philippine Insurrection: Streamer without inscription

Mexican Expedition: *Mexico 1916-1917

World War I: *Streamer without inscription

World War II: *Normandy; *Northern France; *Rhineland; *Ardennes-Alsace; *Central Europe

Southwest Asia: *Defense of Saudi Arabia; *Liberation and Defense of Kuwait; *Cease-Fire, Iraq, Afghanistan

Decorations

*Presidential Unit Citation (Army) for HARLANGE POCKET

*Valorous Unit Award for KUWAIT

*Valorous Unit Award 1991 Iraq, OPERATION DESERT STORM

*Army Superior Unit Award for 1996-1997

*Meritorious Unit Commendation for Afghanistan, (15 Mar 2005- 15 Mar 2006)

*Meritorious Unit Commendation for Iraq, (25 Jul 2006- 5 Oct 2007)

*Meritorious Unit Commendation for Iraq, (7 Sep 2009- 10 Aug 2010)