



25th Infantry Division



Tropic Lightning: Ready to Strike!
Anywhere, Anytime...

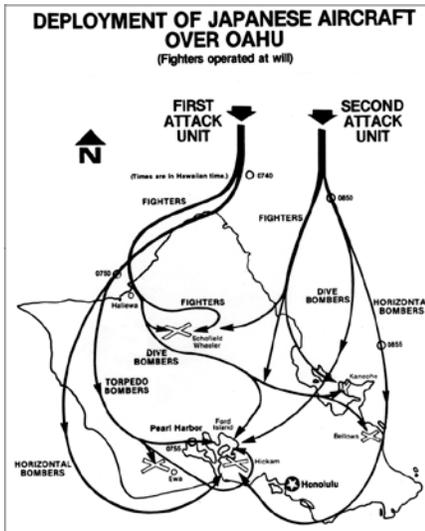


Activation

The 25th Infantry Division was activated at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii, October 1, 1941. Born out of the famous Hawaiian Division, the 25th Infantry Division was composed of the 27th and 35th Infantry Regiments, and the 298th Infantry Hawaii National Guard regiment. Other combat and support elements were added from the Hawaiian Division and newly created or transferred units.

World War II

DAY OF INFAMY- The new division operated for only 10 weeks in peace before Japanese planes attacked Oahu on the morning of December 7, 1941. The first attack wave flew down from the north, splitting into two groups. One circled around the Leeward shore heading for the battleships at Pearl Harbor and the bombers at Hickam Army Air Field. The other came down between the Ko'olau and Waianae mountain ranges over the central plain. The target was the fighter planes at Wheeler Army Airfield.



The Japanese never flew through Kolekole Pass; although, we have many eye witness accounts that say they did. At the sound of the explosions, men came pouring out of their houses and barracks. Looking up, they saw the Japanese coming from the west, flying low. To those on the ground, it would appear that the Japanese came through Kolekole Pass.

Immediately following the attack, the 25th Infantry Division was dispatched to their defensive positions on the beaches on the South and Windward sides of the Island of Oahu, including Honolulu and Waikiki. Under the threat of another Japanese attack, the following year was spent in these defensive positions, while units focused on intensive jungle training.

GUADALCANAL – Finally receiving the call to arms, the 25th Infantry Division began its deployment November 25, 1942. Troop ships delivered them to the South Pacific, landing on Guadalcanal between December 17, 1942 and January 4, 1943. The Division received orders almost immediately upon arrival to launch an attack against the strong Japanese forces that other Army and Marine Corps contingents had been fighting doggedly for nearly five months. The Division jumped off on the morning of January 10, 1943. After a month of bitter combat, it succeeded in defeating the enemy forces, completing its first wartime mission with speed and aggression.

Visit us!

Bldg. 361, Waianae Ave.
Schofield Barracks
On the corner of
Waianae and Flagler,
At the end of Macomb Rd.
Ph: 808 655-0438
Open:
Tues.-Sat. 10:00am-4:00pm



ADOPTION OF NICKNAME & PATCH

During late 1943, the Division's shoulder patch, a lightning bolt superimposed on a taro leaf, was formally adopted. The taro leaf shape of the shoulder patch reflects the birth of the 25th from elements of the famous Hawaiian Division and is suggestive of the Pacific region where the Division was established, and where it had fought. The bolt of lightning symbolizes speed and aggressive spirit – a trait the Division proved in its battles for the Pacific.

The colors of red and gold were those of the late Hawaiian monarchy.

The 25th Division had used "lightning" as the telephone call-sign for Division Headquarters' arrival on Guadalcanal in December 1942. The Marines furthered the use of the nickname by calling the unit the Lightning Division. Lightning was subsequently changed to Tropic Lightning because the Division had spent the year in the tropics.

In a break from tradition, the Department of the Army officially approved the use of the nickname Tropic Lightning August 3, 1953. Authorization for the Division to use the nickname, in addition to its regular numerical designation, marked the first time that a divisional unit had been given this kind of permission by the Army.

OTHER SOLOMON ISLANDS - The next combat action for the Division took place in the Solomons by clearing the Arundel and Kolombangera Islands held by the enemy and participating in the capture of Vella LaVella and New Georgia in the late summer of 1943.

Following the Solomon campaigns, the Division headed for New Zealand, and subsequently New Caledonia, for a period of rest as well as intensive training.

PHILIPPINES - The 25th Infantry Division landed at Luzon on January 11, 1945. 25th soldiers quickly pushed from the Lingayen Gulf to the main highway through Balete Pass where they joined forces with the 32nd Infantry Division. The 25th established a record of 165 consecutive days in active combat - a record awarded with the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, as well as six other unit citations.

Occupation of Japan

In the wake of the successful Philippine campaign, the 25th Infantry Division began preparing for the invasion of Japan. World War II had officially ended before an invasion was actually launched and the Tropic Lightning Division was instead sent to Osaka, Japan, to become part of the Army of Occupation.

Korean War

On June 25, 1950, the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel in an unprovoked attack on the Republic of South Korea. On United Nations orders, the 25th deployed to Korea July 5-18, 1950.

PUSAN - The Division under the command of MG William B. Kean completed its first mission: to block approaches to the port city of Pusan. For this action, the Tropic Lightning received its first Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

DRIVE INTO NORTH KOREA - A break-out of the Pusan perimeter was followed by a successful drive into North Korea in October 1950. The Division joined Task Force Dolvin on November 24 and successfully drove the enemy to the Yalu River.

In a sudden and unexpected reversal an overwhelming number of Chinese Communist troops crossed the Yalu and pushed back United Nations forces all along the front. The Division was grudgingly forced to withdraw and took up defensive positions on the south bank of the Chongchon River. Even these lines failed, but after short withdrawals, a permanent battle line was established south of Osan.

INCHON/KIMPO AIR BASE - A new offensive was launched January 15, 1951, and was successfully completed by February 10 with the capture of Inchon and Kimpo Air Base. This was to be the first of several successful assaults on the Chinese/North Korean enemy force that helped turn the tide in the United Nation's favor.

IRON TRIANGLE - The Division next participated in Operation Ripper, where it drove the enemy across the Han River. Continued success came with Operations Dauntless, Detonate and Piledriver in the spring of 1951. These offensives secured the famous "Iron Triangle," strengthening the United Nations' bargaining platform. With the leaders of four nations at the negotiation tables in the summer of 1951, Division activity slowed to patrol and defensive actions to maintain the main line of resistance. This action continued into the winter of 1952.

SEOUL - When negotiations began to fail, the Division assumed the responsibility of guarding the approaches of Seoul May 5, 1953. Within a few days a heavy assault was hurled at it, but repulsed. Once more, negotiators moved toward peace and, in July, the Division again moved to reserve status at Camp Casey where it remained for the signing of the armistice July 27, 1953. For these two months of combat operations and the successful defense of the Seoul area, the Division received its second Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. Fourteen Tropic Lightning soldiers were awarded Medals of Honor.

The Division remained in Korea until 1954 and returned to Hawaii from September through October of that year. After a 12-year absence, the 25th Infantry Tropic Lightning Division had come home.

Vietnam

After its return to Hawaii in 1954, the Division established and conducted intensive training programs in jungle warfare techniques and the study of Asian languages, thus becoming the only trained counter-guerrilla unit in the U.S. Army. At a request from the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Vietnam (MACV), the Division sent 100 helicopter door-gunners to the Republic of South Vietnam in early 1963. By the time this first phase was completed in the latter part of 1965, 2,200 men of the 25th Infantry Tropic Lightning Division were involved.

In August 1965, further Division participation came when Company C, 65th Engineer Battalion, was deployed to South Vietnam to assist in the construction of port facilities at Cam Ranh Bay.

OPERATION BLUE LIGHT - In response to a MACV request for additional combat support, the Division sent 4,000 3rd Brigade soldiers to the jungles of Vietnam. Operation Blue Light was the largest and longest airlift of personnel and cargo into a combat zone in military history until recently. The Brigade arrived in Vietnam December 24, 1965. By mid-January the deployment operation was complete, giving combat planners in Vietnam a favorable balance of power. The Division was heavily engaged from April 1966 until 1969 throughout the area of operations in Southeast Asia.

TET OFFENSIVE/Vietnamization - During the Tet offensives of 1968 and 1969, Tropic Lightning was instrumental in defending the besieged city of Saigon. Due to its success in fending off that attack, from May 1969 through April 1970, the 25th Infantry Division was mostly involved in the Vietnamization Program—helping the people of Vietnam rebuild their war-torn country, rather than in actual combat. The Division continued to see limited fighting and cleared the Ho Bo and Bo Loi Woods of remaining Viet Cong and assisting in other surrounding areas.

CAMBODIA - In April through June of 1970, Tropic Lightning soldiers participated in Allied thrusts deep into enemy sanctuaries located in Cambodia. In these operations, the men confiscated thousands of tons of supplies and hundreds of weapons. The operation nearly crippled the Cambodian efforts against American units. Following its return from Cambodia to South Vietnam, the Division resumed its place in the Vietnamization Program.

The war was winding down. By late December 1970, elements of the 25th Infantry Division were able to begin redeployment operations to Schofield Barracks. 2nd Brigade was the last element of the Tropic Lightning

25th Infantry Division

At Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Headquarters, 25th ID (UEx)

HHC DIV
Special Troops Bn, 25th ID
HHC
Support Company
Signal Company
Band

2nd Bde Combat Team (Stryker)

HHC
1-14th Infantry
1-21st Infantry
1-27th Infantry
Co B (AT), 52nd Infantry
5-14th Cavalry
2-11th Field Artillery
225th Support Bn
66th Engineer Co
185th MI Co
556th Signal Co

3rd Bde Combat Team (Light)

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Headquarters
2-27th Infantry
2-35th Infantry
3-4th Cavalry
3-7th Field Artillery
325th Support Bn
Special Troops Bn, 3rd Brigade

Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th ID

HHC
2-6th Cavalry (Atk)
2-25th Aviation Bn (Asslt)
3-25th Aviation Bn (GS)
209th Avn Spt Bn

Division to depart Vietnam and arrived at Schofield Barracks in the early days of May 1971. During the war in Vietnam, 22 Medals of Honor were awarded to Tropic Lightning soldiers: the most number of Medals of Honor received by any other single unit in the war.

Post Vietnam Reorganization

After its return to Schofield Barracks, the 25th Infantry Division remained the only Army Division never to have been on the mainland. In a time of overall military downsizing, it was reduced to a single brigade, numbering about 4,000 men. The Division was reactivated in March 1972, when it was reorganized to include the 29th Brigade of the Hawaii National Guard, which included the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry of the Army Reserves. The 29th Brigade was designated as the 25th Infantry Division's round out-brigade - to be ready in the event of a national emergency.

LIGHT INFANTRY - In 1985 the Division began its reorganization from a conventional infantry division to a light infantry division. The four primary characteristics of this new light infantry division were mission flexibility, rapid deployment capabilities, combat readiness at 100% strength and a Pacific Basin orientation. Major configurative changes included the addition of a third brigade, one additional direct-support artillery battalion and the expansion of the combat aviation battalion to a brigade-sized unit. With the transfer out of large quantities of heavy equipment, the 25th Infantry Division earned the designation "light." The reorganization was completed by October 1, 1986. With the addition of the Stryker Brigade the Division lost its "Light" designation in 1 January 2006.

Desert Shield/Storm

One platoon each from Companies A, B, and C, 4th Battalion, 27th Infantry, deployed to Saudi Arabia January 30, 1991. These Tropic Lightning soldiers were scheduled to be replacement squads (as needed) in the ground campaign; however, after observing their thoroughly outstanding performance in desert warfare training, the Assistant Commander of Third U.S. Army asked for them to become the security force for Army (Forward) Headquarters. That assignment did not keep them out of battle. They were alerted to attack with Third Army (Forward) into Kuwait City February 26, they secured the headquarters area and conducted mop-up operations in the city and adjacent mine fields. Company A's platoon was separated from the other Wolfhounds following that battle to accompany General H. Norman Schwarzkopf into Iraq on March 1, providing security at the truce signing. The three platoons returned to Schofield Barracks, without casualties March 20, 1991.

Uphold Democracy

More than 3,700 soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) deployed to Haiti in January 1995 to participate in the peacekeeping mission Operation Uphold Democracy. The Division's mission was two-

fold: the Division staff assumed the role of the Multinational Force Headquarters while soldiers of the 2nd and 3rd Brigades became members of the United States Forces contingent. As the Multinational Force Commander, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Commanding General assumed responsibility for soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen from 27 nations, including the Caribbean community, Nepal, Bangladesh and Guam.

MG George A. Fisher and other members of the multinational staff worked with President Jean Bertrand Aristide and members of the various ministries to help Haiti re-establish itself as a democratic republic. Many of the missions required military acumen and a great deal of diplomacy and managerial expertise. Members of the Division staff and subordinate commands worked extensively with the Haitian government in laying the foundation for a successful democracy.

While the staff was busy building a budding democracy, Division peacekeeping units were deployed to two separate areas of the tiny island nation. In the South, 2nd Brigade provided security for President Aristide, the National Palace and other locations in Port-au-Prince critical to Haiti's developing democratic government. In the north, members of the 3rd Brigade were stationed at Cap Haitien. There the unit assisted the government in establishing law and order, developing infrastructure and setting the conditions for promoting democracy. Throughout Haiti, the 25th Military Police Battalion was critical in upgrading the national prison system and training of the Haitian interim security force.

Their part of the job done, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) officially left Haiti March 31, 1995 when the United Nations Mission in Haiti assumed command. Approximately 500 2nd Brigade soldiers, though, remained as part of the United Nations Force through early June 1995.

Peacekeeping Missions

MFO- The 25th ID (L) played a part in the Multi-National Forces and Observers peacekeeping mission to the Sinai, Egypt. Their mission was to observe and report any violations of the 1979 Treaty of Peace. 4/87th Infantry was sent in 1991, the Wolfhound, 2/27th Infantry in 1996, and the Gimlets, 1/14th Infantry in 2001.

TASK FORCE EAGLE - From April to September 2002, the 25th ID (L), was in command of the peacekeeping duties in Multi-National Division (North) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. More than 1,000 Soldiers deployed as part of Stabilization Force 11 (SFOR 11) to the war-torn country, marking the Division's first-ever deployment to Europe.

STABILIZATION FORCE- During those six months, SFOR 11 soldiers made significant contributions in maintaining a safe and secure environment in Bosnia-Herzegovina. More than 2,400 displaced families returned to their pre-war homes. An additional 300,000 square meters of land was cleared of mines.

25th Infantry Division

1st Bde Combat Team (Stryker)

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

HHC

1-5th Infantry

3-21st Infantry

1-24th Infantry

Co D (AT), 52nd Infantry

2-14th Cavalry

2-8th Field Artillery

25th Support Bn

73rd Engineer Co

184th MI Co

176th Signal Co

4th Bde Combat Team (Airborne)

Fort Richardson, Alaska

Headquarters

1-501st Infantry

3-509th Infantry

1-40th Cavalry

2-377th Field Artillery

167th Support Bn

Special Troops Bn, 4th Brigade

Separate Battalions

25th Replacement Detachment

Mission

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) prepares for deployment to a theater of operations to perform combat operations as part of a corps counterattack. On order, conducts theater-wide deployment within 54hours of notification to perform combat operations in support of USCINCPAC theater strategy.

Operation Active Harvest, a periodic weapons collection program, recovered 849 rifles, 182 machine guns, 41 handguns, 187 rocket launchers, nearly 389,000 rounds of ammunition, 473 land mines, nearly 7,470 grenades, and 100,606 grams of TNT. By Division staff estimates, enough to arm an entire division.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM- In the initial phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom approximately one hundred Tropic Lightning soldiers augmented various participating Army organizations. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team and the 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment deployed to Iraq in February 2004 for a one year tour of duty under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division. With the arrival in October 2004 of the 1st Brigade (Stryker) all subordinate units of the 25th Infantry Division have been committed to combat in either Afghanistan or Iraq. In August 2006, 25th Infantry Division Headquarters led the fight in northern Iraq as Headquarters, Multi-National Division North/Task Force Lightning. The task force consisted of 23,000 soldiers from five U.S. army divisions including 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division is currently deployed to Iraq.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM- The 25th Infantry Division Headquarters, Division Artillery Headquarters, the Aviation Brigade, Support Brigade, and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in April 2004 for a one year tour of duty. The Division Headquarters was stationed at Bagram Air Base and served as the headquarters for the Combined Joint Task Force, composed of all Coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Today

TRANSFORMATION- As the Army undergoes transformation to the lighter, more deployable Brigade Combat Team (BCT), the 25th continues to be the cutting edge of modernization. Two of the Division's four BCTs will be Stryker Brigades, 1st BCT to be stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and 2nd BCT at Schofield Barracks. 3rd BCT will remain at Schofield Barracks along with the Aviation Brigade, a sustainment brigade, and Division Headquarters. 4th BCT (Airborne) has been activated at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

By basing all units in Alaska and Hawaii, the 25th Infantry Division retains its Pacific focus. While each BCT can easily be deployed to any part of the world where it is needed, the 25th still remains the guardian of the Pacific.

TROPIC LIGHTING- All this leads to the Division's motto - earned more than 60 years ago but very much applicable today -

Ready to Strike! Anytime. Anywhere.

WWII Participation

Central Pacific
Guadalcanal
Northern Solomons
Luzon

Korean War Participation

U.N. Defensive
U.N. Offensive
CCF Intervention
1st U.N. Counteroffensive
DDF Spring offensive
U.N. Summer-Fall offensive
2nd Korean Winter
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
3rd Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Vietnam War Participation

Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive- Phase II
Counteroffensive- Phase II1
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive- Phase IV
Counteroffensive- Phase V
Counteroffensive- Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive- Phase VII

Global War on Terror Participation

Afghanistan