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## **Annual Unit History**

*Due NLT 01 February each year for the previous calendar year.  
Refer to 28ID Military History Program SOP, dtd. 15 August 2008, for specific guidance.*

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**For Calendar Year:** 2008

**Unit:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 110<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

**Unit Address:** 2239 School Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666

**Unit POC:** SFC Snyder, Unit Readiness NCO

**Unit POC Phone Number:** 724-542-0306

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### **I. Introduction or Forward** *(A brief account on the unit's origin and its accomplishments over the years and a statement about the current period covered)*

Few military organizations have enjoyed the distinguished record of the 110th Infantry. A military organization that is a combination and a continuation of several organization whose exploits fill many honored pages of American Military History.

The regiment was first organized as the tenth regiment of Infantry on 28 November 1873. Their original companies were located in Monongahela, Mount Pleasant, Greensburg, Livermore, North Washington, McLaughlinsville, Washington and Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The first commander was Colonel John A. Black of Greensburg, A veteran Civil War Commander.

The 10th was mustered into Federal Service for the Spanish-American War on 17 April 1898. Training was conducted at Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania and Chichamauga Park, Georgia. The regiment landed in Manila, Philippine Islands on 21 July 1898. Ten days later the 10th Regiment became the first American troops to encounter enemy fire in the Spanish-American War. The regiment distinguished itself so well it was given the nickname "The Fighting Tenth". Spanish-American War and Philippine insurrection service is commemorated on the organizational crest by the block house, palm tree and two stars. Colonel Alexander L. Hawkins commanded the Regiment during this period of active federal service. Colonel Hawkins died of illness aboard ship during the Regiments' return trip to the United States. A monument to Colonel Hawkins stands in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The tenth was again mobilized on 23 June 1916 and served five months along the Mexican border. The unit was mustered out in October 1916.

On 15 July 1917 the Tenth was mobilized as the United States was preparing for World War I. It was at this time the Regiment was redesignated the 110th Infantry and assigned to the 28th Division. Following training at Camp Hancock, Georgia, the 110th sailed for Europe as part of the Division. In Europe the Regiment was assigned to the British Northumberland Fusiliers for additional training. Campaigns in World War I were Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, Champagne 1918, Lorraine 1918. The cost of these six campaigns were 4,183 casualties including 760 dead. The Six-Fleur-de-lis on the Regimental insignia commemorates World War I service.

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On February 1941 the 110th was mobilized for one year of training but due to World War II stayed on to the conclusion of the war. After two and one half years of stateside service and nine months in Great Britain the Regiment landed in Normandy and struck into the forest of St. Sever. Advancing as much as 18 miles in one day the Regiment proudly participated in the liberation of Paris. The Regiment continued fighting across France into Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. In December of 1944 the Regiment was holding an extended portion of the 28th Division line when the Germans started their offensive that resulted in the "Battle of the Bulge". Battered by six German Divisions, the 28th fought on. Units of the 110th completely encircled, hacked their way in the dark of night, and reassembled to IGMR again. More than 2,700 men were lost in three days of fighting but the Regiment implicated a fearful toll upon the Germans. A month later the Regiment was back in action to liberate Colmar. The end of World War II found five more campaign streamers added to the Regimental colors. These were Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. When V-J day was proclaimed the 110th was training in the states for the final battle against Japan.

The fifth tour of active duty for the Regiment in a 52 year period began in September 1950 when the Regiment was called to active duty during the Korean emergency. After a year of intensive training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana and on the Southern Pines Maneuver the Regiment sailed for Germany, landing in Bremer Haven in November 1951. Taken its station in Ulm and New Ulm, the 110th became part of the NATO force which trained intensively to ensure security of Western Europe and the World.

In June 1953 the 110th was being reorganized in Western Pennsylvania, while the colors were still in German soil. In 1954, the first annual training camp since reorganizing after the Korean emergency, the Regimental colors were returned to Pennsylvania.

In April 1968 the 110th Infantry, now a Battalion was reorganized and placed in the 56th Brigade, made up of Pennsylvania units and assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division, New York National Guard.

In December of 1971 the unit was reorganized and redesignated the 1-110th Infantry with Headquarters in Scottdale, Pennsylvania and assigned to the 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard.

In September of 1995 the 1-110th was reorganized and redesignated the 1-110th Mechanized Infantry Battalion in the 28th Infantry Division Mechanized).

In January of 2005, the 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry Regiment was mobilized and conducted combat operations in Habbaniyah Iraq for 12 months, and earned a distinguished streamer for their battalion colors. The 110th Infantry conducted full spectrum operations in a 102 square mile area of operations in the Al Anbar province. The AO was bisected from east to west by the Euphrates River and Main Supply Route Michigan. The 110th assumed the mission from its predecessor, the 1-506th IN, with fewer troops and less equipment. In total Task Force Panther completed 450 Platoon level missions, 225 Company Level Operations, and 10 TF level operations in addition to the enduring task of securing FOB Habbaniyah, various observation posts, and patrolling MSR Michigan.

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In September of 2006, the unit was reorganized into a Heavy Mechanized Battalion.

In April of 2008, the unit was again reorganized into a Light Infantry Battalion.

## **II. Organization and Administration**

### **A. Organization** *(Select the type of organization from the pull-down menu)*

Infantry

### **B. Mission** *(A brief mission statement and the Mission Essential Task List)*

### **C. Personnel**

#### **1. Commander and Staff** *(Brief biographical sketches)*

LTC Ros L. Gammon. LTC Gammon enlisted into the Army Reserve in January 1985. After completing basic training and advanced individual training he was assigned 1075th Ordnance Company in Morgantown WV as a RATT RIG operator. In 1987 MAJ Gammon transferred to Company B 1-110th Infantry and was assigned as an ROTC Cadet.

Prior to this assignment LTC Gammon was the S3 Operations Officer for 2IBCT. He has held the positions of XO, S1, S2, S4, S3 Air, Company Commander, Rifle Platoon Leader and Mortar Platoon Leader in the 1st Battalion 1-110th Infantry. At the 2nd Brigade he has served as the S1, Signal Officer, and served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade S-3 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

LTC Gammon's Military Education includes, the Infantry Officers Basic Course, Infantry Officers Advanced Course, Mortar Platoon Leaders Course, Air Ground Operations Course, Combined Arms Senior Service School and Intermediate Level Education

LTC Gammon received his commission from West Virginia University ROTC and completed his Bachelors Degree at California University of Pennsylvania. His awards and decorations include, the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

LTC Gammon is married to the former Jamie Isler and resides in Hiller Pennsylvania.

CSM Frank N. Hammond. CSM Hammond entered service with the PA National Guard on 7 Aug 1971. CSM began as a Rifleman with DET 1 Co A of the 2-112<sup>th</sup> INF and worked his way up to 1SG of A Co 1-110<sup>th</sup> INF.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom CSM Hammond served as the Senior Intelligence Sergeant in the Brigade S-2. CSM Hammonds awards include; Combat Infantry

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Badge, Meritorious Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Commendation Medal.

2008 Battalion Staff

XO: MAJ Timothy Moreau

S1: CPT Michael Clark

S2: CPT Walter Kenneweg

S3: MAJ Pete Keruskin

S4: CPT James Jenkins

S6: CPT Jason Levine

Chaplain: CPT Craig Forsythe

2008 Company Staff

HHC Leadership: CPT Scott Douglas, 1SG Steven Fancella

A CO Leadership: CPT Jeffery O'dette, 1SG Joshua Porter

B CO Leadership: CPT Shawn Wray, 1SG Robert Nelson

C CO Leadership: CPT Tommy Guthrie/1LT Petro, 1SG Ricky Yachere

D CO Leadership: CPT William Ault, 1SG Christopher Conti

**2. Medal of Honor Winners** *(Brief biographical sketches, if available, and a brief account of the action or a copy of the citation) ( If none, enter "NONE")*

NONE

**3. Others** *(Winners of Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and other) ( If none, enter "NONE")*

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion 110<sup>th</sup> Infantry received numerous awards to include; 1 Silver Star, 5 Bronze Star Medals for Valor, 72 Bronze Star medals, 56 Purple Heart Medals, and 23 Army Commendation Medals with V Device

**III. Major Accomplishments during the Year**

**A. Operations**

1-110<sup>th</sup> IN trained and mobilized soldiers for the following operations;

Operation Iraqi Freedom - Soldiers attached to 56<sup>th</sup> BDE

Operation Enduring Freedom - Soldiers attached to the 55<sup>th</sup> BDE

Operation Jump Start - Soldiers attached to various units

**B. Training and Exercises**

During FY08 1-110<sup>th</sup> IN conducted its Annual Training at FT. Pickett VA from 01-15 MAY 08. The unit trained on Troop Leading Procedures, Combat Patrolling, MOUT, IWQ, CSWQ, Reflex Fire, Live Fire Shoot House, Cultural Awareness Training, IED lane, and BN Warrior Task Training tests. The BN achieved a 100% GO percentage in both IWQ and Reflex Fire.

**C. Special Events**

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## **1. Unit Day Ceremonies**

Change of Command

The 1-110th Infantry, who led the Brigade in recruiting, saw LTC Timothy Blayney retire after 23 years of military services with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. LTC Ros Gammon left the 2 IBCT Brigade S-3 position to assume command of the BN.

## **2. Civil Actions (State active duty)**

## **3. Permanent Changes of Station**

## **4. Recruiting Initiatives**

HHC- MT. Pleasant Glass Festival  
Scottsdale Heritage Festival  
Scottsdale Fireman Festival  
Smithton Patriot Day

Co A- Indiana Fair

Co B- Green County Fair  
Jacktown Fair  
Rainday Festival  
Green County Heros Run  
Riverfest

Co C Connellsville River Rally  
Fayette County Fair

Co D- Penn Hills Borough Train Display  
Pittsburgh St. Patricks Day Parade

## **5. Other (Include community activities, morale support activities, Christmas party, etc.)**

During Thanksgiving provided meals to senior citezens and families in the MT. Pleasant area.

## **IV. Special Equipment Fielding**

## **V. Appendices**

### **A. Lineage and Honors Certificate**

The 110th Infantry Regiment has a long history of service to Pennsylvania and the Nation. The regiment's lineage dates back to the American Civil War as

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the 48th and 143d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. These two regiments were made up of troops from the southwestern counties of Pennsylvania. Between 1862 and 1865, the 48th and 143d participated in nine major engagements, including Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Appomattox.

In 1865, these regiments were mustered out and between 1866 and 1873, were reorganized into the 14th, 18th and 19th Regiments of Infantry, again comprised of troops from Southwestern Pennsylvania.

On November 28th, 1873, the militia was again reorganized and the three regiments were merged into one, thus, the 10th Regiment of Infantry was born.

The 10th Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for the Spanish-American War on 17 April 1898. Training was conducted at Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania and Chickamauga Park, Georgia. The regiment landed in Manila, Philippine Islands on 21 July 1898. Ten days later the 10th Regiment became the first American troops to encounter enemy fire in the Spanish-American War. The regiment distinguished itself so well it was given the nickname "The Fighting Tenth". Spanish-American War and Philippine insurrection service is commemorated on the organizational crest by the blockhouse, palm tree and two stars.

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On 15 July 1917 the 10th Regiment was mobilized as the United States was preparing for World War I. During this time the regiment was redesignated the 110th Infantry and assigned to the 28th Division. Following training at Camp Hancock, Georgia, the 110th sailed for Europe as part of the Division. In Europe the regiment was assigned to the British Northumberland Fusiliers for additional training. Campaigns in World War I were Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, Champagne 1918, and Lorraine 1918. The cost of these six campaigns was 4,183 casualties including 760 dead. The six fleurs-de-lis on the regimental insignia commemorate World War I service.

The period between the World Wars brought another reorganization to the Regiment and the companies were grouped into battalions. This is how the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 110th Infantry Regiment came into service.

On February 1941 the 110th was mobilized for one year of training but due to World War II stayed on until the conclusion of the war. After two and one half years of stateside service and nine months in Great Britain, the regiment landed in Normandy and struck into the forest of St. Sever. Advancing as much as 18 miles in one day the regiment proudly participated in the liberation of Paris. The regiment continued fighting across France into Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany.

On November 2, 1944, in preparation for the drive into Germany, the 110th Infantry Regiment, as part of the 28th Infantry Division, was given the task to secure the right flank of the First U.S. Army. So began the battle in the Huertgen forest.

The Huertgen Forest was dense, primordial woods of tall fir trees, deep gorges, high ridges, and narrow trails; terrain ideally suited to the defense. The Germans had carefully augmented its natural obstacles with extensive minefields. In addition to the rigors of the forest, the men of the 110th would also have to contend with miserable late autumn weather.

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From November 2 to 13, the 110th Infantry Regiment battled the Germans in the Huertgen, one of the most costly fights of WWII. Losses to the 28th Infantry were over 6,000 casualties, 31 Sherman tanks, 16 M10 tank destroyers, and vast numbers of trucks, machine guns, and personal equipment. The 110th Infantry was nearly wiped out, but remained intact. After this engagement, the 110th, along with the rest of the 28th Infantry Division, was moved to what was thought to be a quiet sector to rest and refit. Tragically, these new positions placed it squarely in the path of a German counter attack, and set the stage for the 110th Infantry Regiment's defining moment: The Battle of the Bulge.

After the fighting in the Huertgen, the task of rebuilding the rifle companies, repairing battle damage and training replacements was of necessity and a slow process. But by the middle of December the 110th Infantry had almost a full roster—a roster numbering many men and some officers who yet had to see their first action. There were only two battalions holding the line at this time because the 2d Battalion, located at Donnange, constituted the division reserve. A continuous line across the 9 to 10 mile regimental front was beyond the strength of the 1st and 3d Battalions. As a substitute, a system of village strongpoints, each manned by a rifle company, was set up on the ridge line separating the Our and Clerf Rivers, which here is traced by the excellent north-south highway connecting St. Vith and Diekirch. This highway (known to the Americans as the Skyline Drive) and the garrison line paralleled the Our at a distance of one and a half to two and a half miles.

The presence of the XLVII Panzer Corps on the 110th Infantry front was not suspected. With three divisions, and added corps troops, the XLVII Panzer Corps possessed a considerable amount of shock and firepower, amounting to 17,000 infantrymen, 220 tanks, and 184 artillery pieces. There was no hint from any source that this force was about to strike squarely into the 110th.

On December 16th 1944, the first of the 3 German divisions attacked the Regiment. Over the next four days the men of the 110th pitted their rifles and hand grenades against the German tanks. Through hard, desperate, and at times hand to hand fighting, the 110th Infantry threw a whole series of monkey wrenches into the well-oiled machinery of the XLVII Panzer Corps. The American infantry had made excellent use of the ground and had held their positions, refusing to buckle under the weight of numbers, completely disrupting the German timetable.

This action was credited with preventing the Germans from gaining their breakthrough, and allowing General Patton's Third Army to stop the enemy advance. The price of this victory was high for the 110th. Of 3,117 men on the rolls in December 16th, 2,500 were killed, wounded or captured by the 18th of December.

A month later the regiment was back in action to liberate Colmar. The end of World War II found five more campaign streamers added to the regimental colors. These were Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. When V-J Day was proclaimed the 110th was training in the states for the final battle against Japan.

The fifth tour of active duty for the Regiment in a 52-year period began in September 1950 when the Regiment was called to active duty during the Korean emergency. After a year of intensive training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana and

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In June 1953 the 110th was being reorganized in Western Pennsylvania, while the colors were still on German soil. In 1954, during the first annual training camp since reorganizing after the Korean emergency, the regimental colors were returned to Pennsylvania.

In April 1968 the 110th Infantry, was placed in the 56th Brigade (made up of Pennsylvania units) and assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division, New York National Guard.

In December 1971 the Regiment was returned to the 28th Infantry Division Pennsylvania Army National Guard and redesignated the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 110th Infantry, with headquarters in Scottdale and Indiana, Pennsylvania respectively.

In September 1995 the 110th was reorganized, combining the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and redesignated the 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized).

In the wake of the Attack on America, 11 September 2001, the men of the 1-110th were again called to service. In October 2001, as part of Operation Noble Eagle, units from the 110th were deployed to guard nuclear power plants and airports across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These elements are still on duty today.

In June 2002, a detachment of HHC, 1-110th IN (M) was mobilized and deployed to the Federal Republic of Germany as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The detachment was attached to 55th BDE, 28th ID to conduct Stability and Support Operations in support of the War on Terrorism. The unit conducted mobilization training at Fort Dix, NJ until August 2002, then deployed forward to multiple locations throughout Germany and returned to CONUS in February 2003.

In September 2002, the 110th was again reorganized, this time into a completely modernized Mechanized Infantry Battalion, equipped with the M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, further increasing the capability of the battalion to accomplish any mission, whether in Pennsylvania or abroad. The units are presently located as follows: HHC in Mt. Pleasant, Co. A in Indiana, Co. B in Greensburg, Co. C in Waynesburg, and Canonsburg.

In March 2003, C Company, 1-110th, with additional soldiers from A and B Companies, 110th, mobilized and deployed to the Kosovo as part of KFOR 5-A. C Company was attached to the 1-111th, 56th BDE, 28th ID to conduct Stability and Support Operations in support of UN Resolution 1255. The unit conducted mobilization training at Fort Stewart, GA until June 2003. Following training at Fort Stewart, GA the unit conducted their Mobilization Readiness exercise at Fort Polk, LA. C Company deployed to Kosovo from July 2003 until February 2004.

In January 2005, 1-110th was mobilized and deployed to Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Task Force 1-110th (TF Panther) was organized with two Motorized Rifle Companies and one Tank Company; A/1-110th (with soldiers from Companies B & C, 110th), B/1-125 IN (Michigan Army National Guard) and

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C/1-103d Armor. In addition to the aforementioned companies, additional soldiers from the 28th ID and KYARNG were assigned across the battalion. The 110th was assigned to 2nd BDE, 2nd Marine Division. The 1-110th conducted mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Following mobilization training at Camp Shelby, the 110th conducted a Mobilization Readiness Exercise at Fort Irwin, CA in May 2004. In June 2005, the 1-110th deployed forward to Camp Habbaniyah, in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. Operations in Iraq were conducted daily by all elements of the 1-110th IN for 12 months. A/1-110th IN conducted patrolling and security operations continuously at all hours of the day and night. HHC 1-110th conducted indirect fire support and transportation for US and Iraqi Troops, as well as emplacing obstacles and improving observation posts.

1st Battalion 110th Infantry conducted full spectrum operations in a 102 square mile area of operations in the Al Anbar province. The AO was bisected from east to west by the Euphrates River and Main Supply Route Michigan. The 110th assumed the mission from its predecessor, the 1-506th IN, with fewer troops and less equipment. In total Task Force Panther completed 450 Platoon level missions, 225 Company Level Operations, and 10 TF level operations in addition to the enduring task of securing FOB Habbaniyah, various observation posts, and patrolling MSR Michigan.

The battalion contributed greatly to the effort of returning the security of Iraq to the Iraqis. Upon the battalions arrival, the local security forces of Iraq had deteriorated considerably. The local militia had been disbanded due to widespread corruption and inefficiency.

After the battalions OIF rotation, the unit was reorganized. HHC remained in Mt Pleasant and its only change was adding a detachment that was formally Det 1 HHB 1-107<sup>th</sup> field Artillery. The new DET 1 HHC (-) was located in Pittsburgh PA. Co A, of Indiana PA, consolidated with Co B, formally located in Greensburg PA. The new Co B was made up of what was Co C. The units remained in Waynesburg and Cannonsburg, and were just reflagged as Co B. Co C was formed from Co A and Co C of the 1-103<sup>rd</sup> Armor Battalion, and was located in Friedens PA. Two more companies were added. Co B 1-103<sup>rd</sup> Armor in Connellsville was reflagged as Co D of the 1-110<sup>th</sup> IN, and Co B 867<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion was reflagged as Co E 1-110<sup>th</sup> located in Wasington PA. These major changes were due to the unit being restructured as a Heavy Mechanized Battalion.

In 11 March 2008, the 110th was again reorganized. The battalion was redesignated as a Light Infantry Battalion. The DET 1 HHC (-) was reflagged back to Det 1 HHB 1-107<sup>th</sup> field Artillery. Co C of Connellsville became Co D and remained at its location. DET 1 Co C became Co C, since there was no longer a detachment. In August of 2008 the battalion again went through some changes, and the changes remain to this day;

HHC Located in Mt Pleasant  
 Co A Located in Indiana PA  
 Co B(-) Located in Waynesburg  
 DET 1 Co B(-) Located in Canonsburg  
 Co C(-) Located in Connellsville  
 DET 1 Co C Located in Friedens  
 Co D (Weapons CO) Located in Pittsburgh

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The above history highlights mainly the active federal service of the 110th Infantry. It must be remembered that federal service makes up less than nine years of the over 200 years of total service. Interspersed among these calls to active duty are many years of hard work and training by dedicated citizen-soldiers to ensure the battalion's readiness to answer any emergency. Foremost among the state emergencies are the Johnstown Flood of 1936, the civil disturbances in Pittsburgh, PA in April 1968 and Hurricane Agnes in June 1972.

## **B. Unit Citations**

Luxembourg Croix Guerre, Streamer embroidered LUXEMBOURG  
Governors Unit Citation  
Headquarters Company additionally entitled to:

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN  
THEATHER 1944

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN  
THEATHER 1944-1945

Company A additionally entitled to:

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN THEATHER  
1944

## **C. Selected Orders** *(Include alert orders, mobilization orders, etc)*

## **D. Other.**

## **VI. Glossary** *(A list of words not commonly used, acronyms and their explanations)*

PDT- Pre Deployment Training (formally Annual Training)

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