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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.*

For Calendar Year: 2008

Unit: A Troop 1-104 CAVALRY

Unit Address: 22 South 23rd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Unit POC: SFC Christopher Heyman, Unit Readiness NCO

Unit POC Phone Number: (215)560-3926

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)*

Organized 17 November 1774 in the Pennsylvania Military Association as the Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia, The First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry is the oldest mounted unit in the United States Army and one of the oldest units in the Army National Guard. On that day, twenty-eight Philadelphians, concerned for the security of their city and the safety of their ideals, elected Abraham Markoe captain and approved a uniform consisting of a brown coat trimmed with white facings, and a leather helmet. Weapons were a saber, horse pistols, and carbine.

The Troop embarked on the first of many calls to active service on 20 June 1775, when it escorted General George Washington to New York City. Following this mission, the Troop returned home to attend to both official and private affairs.

CPT Markoe presented the Troop with its standard in 1775. Its crest depicts powerful American symbols interlaced with the ideals of liberty and fame, and the motto "For These We Strive." The Troop has carried that standard or a copy in every campaign to the present day.

Mustered into Continental service 30 July 1776 to defend New Jersey, the Troop suffered its first and only casualty in August of the war when Trooper George Fullerton was killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol. In December, Troopers rode to the aid of the retreating Continental Army in New Jersey, and swam their horses across the icy Delaware River on Christmas Night. The Troop stayed in the thick of the fighting the next day at the Battle of Trenton and had the honor of carrying the colors of the captured Hessian regiments to the Continental Congress at Baltimore, Maryland. A week later, the Troop again showed its mettle at the Battle of Princeton, when, in defense of a retreating company of Philadelphia Artillery, the Troop held a bridge against a detachment of the 16th (Queen's) Light Dragoons. For these actions, the Commander-in-Chief wrote the troop a special letter of thanks.

Mustered into Federal service 10 September 1794, the Troop helped quell the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania, and shortly thereafter began calling itself the First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry, the name it bears today.

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The Troop defended Philadelphia during the War of 1812, contributed officers and men for the United States Army during the War with Mexico, and helped quell civil disturbances in the decades leading up to the Civil War. In 1853, the Troop built its first armory. The troop currently occupies its third armory, the only privately owned armory in the National Guard.

In May 1861, President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers for three months service. The Troop fought at Falling Water, an early action in the Civil War, before mustering out in August. The First City Troop furnished cadre for the 6th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry. Organized 18 June 1863 at Philadelphia, and better known as Rush's Lancers, the 6th Pennsylvania amassed a commendable service record during the war. The First City Troop also served with distinction at Wrightsville and Gettysburg.

Mustered into Federal service 7 May 1898, the Troop served in Puerto Rico until the Spanish surrender. The next period of active service for the Troop came in July 1916, after depredations of Francisco "Pancho" Villa took the United States and Mexico to the brink of war.

Troopers left their homes and loved ones on 23 July 1917 to fight in World War I. With little room for horses in the trenches of the Western Front, the Troop fought in France as the 103rd Trench Mortar Battery.

Following the war, the Troop reorganized first as a line troop of horse cavalry, and later as Headquarters Troop, 52d Cavalry Brigade, an element of the 22d Cavalry Division, while keeping its traditional designation and honors intact.

On 23 September 1940, the Troop was reorganized and redesignated as Troop A, 104th Cavalry (Horse-Mechanized), and assigned to the II Corps. Inducted into Federal service 17 February 1941 at Philadelphia, the Troop departed Philadelphia to train for war. 9 April 1942 was a sad day for the Troop, on that day, horses were exchanged for motorcycles and jeeps. While the troop continues to maintain its equestrian tradition, it has been a mechanized cavalry troop since World War II.

Reorganized and redesignated 1 December 1948 as the 28th Reconnaissance Company, the Troop remained loyal to the cavalry tradition while its members continued to strive for liberty, fame, and the defense of the United States. Since 1 April 1975 the unit has been known as Troop A, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry. Ordered into active Federal service 31 May 2002, at Philadelphia, the First City Troop spent seven months in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina enforcing the Dayton Peace Accords as part of SFOR 12. Troopers have more recently fought in the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom IV and Afghanistan. On 26 November 2008, A Troop was ordered into federal service to serve as members of the Multi-national Force and Observers mission in Sinai, Egypt, verifying, observing and reporting on suspected violations of the 1982 Treaty of Peace between Israel and Egypt.

CPT Richards:

A Troop capitalized upon the recent MFO 51 deployment by successfully implementing much needed Soldier development programs in the following areas, Soldier education development, NCO development, Squad sized element development, and the improvement rate of APFT. Soldiers participated in distance learning programs either through the GOArmyED program or through

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Civilian institutions to further their civilian careers and to better their position for promotion. As a result of such imitative A TRP was able to promote to the next grade 12 soldiers and to two grades higher 4 Soldiers since MOB date. This program has had a profound impact on retention while strengthening the morale within the Troop. The structure or lack thereof of the MFO mission emphasized the development Non Commissioned Officers, especially at the ranks of Staff Sergeant and Sergeant, requiring the NCOs to operate remote sites for extended periods of time while conducting 24/7 mission essential operations. This emphasis on the NCO, squad sized element leadership, transitioned the OIF/OEF veteran NCOs into positions of increased planning responsibility to include refinement and actualization of training plans and daily tweaking of the Composite Risk Management System. A Troop's NCOs have developed a cohesive bond with the Soldiers within their squads/platoons which will directly transition into the current training year affording continued growth and preparation of both the NCO and the Soldiers.

In November 2007 A TRP had a APFT pass rate of 60% . Upon completion of the MFO mission the APFT pass rate increased to 92% . This rate does not speak to the individual success of several Soldiers passing their APFT for the first time in years and or losing 50+ pounds. The individual Soldier has benefited from the emphasis on APFT as has the Troop. A Troops Soldiers are fit to fight.

Realistic hurdles remain in place to include recruiting and retention. The deployment schedule remains a challenge for some Soldiers; however, the training during the TY2009 emphasizing and continuing team structuring as well as an aggressive recruiting/retention program will ensure that every possibility is in place to actively engage Soldiers.

II. Organization and Administration

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

Calvary

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

To conduct reconnaissance and surveillance in support of the development of the brigade's situational awareness and knowledge in the area of operations. Squadron operations empower the brigade to anticipate, forestall and dominate threats, ensuring brigade mission accomplishment through decisive action and freedom of maneuver.

Conduct Route Security
 Conduct ReDeployment Operations
 Conduct ReIntergration

C. Personnel

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

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Commander: CPT Anselm T W Richards was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1970. Having been reared in Philadelphia and graduated from Saint Joseph's Preparatory School, he attended Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, from which he was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, a double major in History and Philosophy. While in college, he was a member of the Varsity Baseball and Sailing Teams.

In 2000, CPT Richards enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, A Troop, 1/104th Cavalry, as a 19 D (Cavalry Scout) and attended OSUT Training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. At that time he was also elected to membership in the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, the oldest military unit in continuous service in the United States. In 2002, he entered Officer Candidate School at Ft. Indian Town Gap and was commissioned from the first accelerated class, 43a, in August 2002. CPT Richards then attended The Armor Officer Basic Course at Ft. Knox and was graduated in September of 2003. He served as a tank platoon leader in A Troop, 1/104th Cavalry

In January of 2005, CPT Richards was deployed with B Troop, 1/104th Cavalry to Ar Ramadi, Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV. He was an Armored Platoon Leader in Ar Ramadi, leading a platoon comprised of twenty seven soldiers, four HMMWVs and two M1A1 Tanks in combat operations in the Ar Ramadi province of Iraq. He returned from his tour in Iraq on 10 June 2006 to Philadelphia and A TRP, 1/104th Cavalry.

On 5 February 2007, CPT Richards was made Commander of A TRP 1/104th Cavalry and Captain of the First City Troop. On 26 November 2008, CPT Richards deployed as Commander of A TRP 1/104th Cavalry to the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt as part of Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) 51 to sustain the Camp David Peace Accord of 1979 between Israel and Egypt.

CPT Richards resides with his wife Caroline and daughter Hannah in Newport, Rhode Island.

CPT Richards has been awarded The Army Commendation Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, The National Defense Service Medal, The Iraq Campaign Medal, The Global War on Terrorism Medal, The Army Service Ribbon, The Overseas Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve medal with "M" Device and Multinational Forces and Observers Medal,

First Sergeant: 1SG Alexander Bevan Cummin. 1SG Cummin was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1965. He received his high school degree in 1983 from the Episcopal Academy and his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988 from the University of Pennsylvania. He entered the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1989 and completed basic training and Cavalry AIT at Fort Knox, KY. His first deployment was as a Platoon Sergeant with Stabilization Force 12, Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2002-03. He was acting First Sergeant from June 2003 until his promotion to First Sergeant on 22 June 2004. His second deployment was with A Troop as a member of the Multi-national Force and Observers (MFO) 51 mission in Sinai, Egypt. 1SG Cummin is a graduate of all of the requisite schools, including PLDC, BNCOC, ANCOG and First Sergeant's Course. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Global War on Terror Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal with Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Bronze Hourglass and M device (2nd Award), NCO Professional Ribbon with Numeral 3, Multinational Forces and Observers Medal, the Governor's Unit Citation and the Order of St. George Medallion.

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In 1993, 1SG Cummin entered into the Certificate Program of the Institute of European Studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium and completed that program the following spring. He became a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer in 1999. During the deployment with MFO 51, he received his Executive Certificate in Project Management from the University of Management and Technology and completed 6 of the 9 courses for the Information Technology Project Management Masters Program, maintaining a 3.73 GPA. He has been employed with SunGard Availability Services since 1999 and currently works as a Senior Consultant, advising clients on how to recover their business after experiencing a disaster. 1SG Cummin resides in King of Prussia, PA with his wife Alexandra and two sons, Hunter (age 12) and Nathaniel (age 8).

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")*

2LT Frain, Jourdan, BSM with V device, Purple Heart

III. Major Accomplishments during the Year

A. Operations

Unit completed training in January 2008 for MFO 51 and deployed to South Camp, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt later that month. During the next 10 months, A Troop operated remote sites in the Sinai Peninsula, conducted base security and performed as a Emergency Response Team at North Camp, Sinai, Egypt. During the entire mission, A Troop did not have any casualties or significant injuries and all soldiers returned home safely.

B. Training and Exercises

A Troop has increased its desert warfare training from specific training events while deployed to MFO. We ran squad movement exercises, inconjunction with ruck marches, and obstacle courses. We have furthered the knowledge base of our NCO's with conduct of NCOES while deployed as well. The Troop will further its knowledge base on MOUT in 2009 with the help of Philadelphia SWAT.

C. Special Events

1. Unit Day Ceremonies

A Troop (FWD) held its 234th Annivesary on 18 November 2008 in Fort Lewis, WA after returning from its deployment.

2. Civil Actions *(State active duty)*

None.

3. Permanent Changes of Station

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None.

4. Recruiting Initiatives

A Troop met the Squadron Commander's intent and exceeded 100% strength during 2008.

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

A Troop (FWD) held its annual celebration of George Washington's Birthday on 25 February 2008 at South Camp, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. During the deployment, the unit conducted 4 BBQ events as morale support activities, and also held numerous movie nights at the camp's outdoor theatre. A Troop (REAR) conducted monthly family support activities.

IV. Special Equipment Fielding

None.

V. Appendices

A. Lineage and Honors Certificate

Traditional Designation: First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry

Historical Outline:

17 November 1774 Organized as the Philadelphia Light Horse.

20 June 1775 Mustered to escort General George Washington to Boston, MA.

30 July 1776 Mustered into Federal service to support New Jersey.

10 September 1794 Mustered into Federal service to quell the Whiskey Rebellion.

1 October 1794 designation changed to First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.

1812 Mustered into Federal service to defend the United States from Great Britain.

18 June 1863 Mustered into Federal service as part of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry during the Civil War.

7 May 1898 Mustered into into Federal service during the Spanish-American War.

1 July 1916 Mustered into Federal service as part of the Border War with Mexico.

23 July 1917 Mustered into Federal service as part of World War I.

1 June 1921 Redesignated as Troop D, 104th Cavalry.

1 April 1929 Redesignated as Troop G, 104th Cavalry.

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18 June 1939 Redesignated as Troop F, 104th Cavalry.

22 September 1940 Reorganized and redesignated as Service Troop, 104th Cavalry.

17 February 1941 Inducted into Federal service for World War II.

1 January 1944 Redesignated as Headquarters and Service Troop, 104th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

1 October 1953 Reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 104th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

1 June 1959 Reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 104th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

1 April 1975 Reorganized and redesignated as A Troop 1-104th Armored Cavalry 28th Infantry Division

31 May 2002 Ordered into active Federal service in support of SFOR 12; released from active duty 20 May 2003 and reverted to state control

26 November 2007 Ordered into active Federal service in support of MFO 51; released from active duty on 1 December 2008 and reverted to state control.

B. Unit Citations

Campaign Participation Credit:

Revolutionary War
Trenton
Princeton
Brandywine
Germantown

Civil War
Peninsula
Manassas
Antietam
Fredericksburg
Gettysburg
Wilderness
Spotsylvania
Cold Harbor
Petersburg
Shenandoah
Appomattox
Virginia 1861
Virginia 1862
Virginia 1863
Virginia 1864
Maryland 1863
Pennsylvania 1863

War with Spain
Puerto Rico

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World War I
Ypres-Lys

World War II-EAME
Central Europe

Decorations: Govenner's Unit Citation, 2003

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

None

D. Other.

Unit had 1 German soldier and 1 French soldier serving in the unit as part of the unit's foreign exchange program.

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

AT - Annual Training
SFOR - Stabilization Force

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