

15th Infantry Regiment Association

Constitution

ARTICLE I – DESIGNATION

The name of the organization is the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. It is a non-profit military service organization, established under the guidelines of Department of Defense Instruction 1000.15. *(Amended 17 May 2001)*

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association are to promote morale and high esprit de corps among members of the regiment, provide opportunities and facilities uniting past and present members of the regiment in a program dedicated to the preservation of traditions and history of the 15th Infantry Regiment.

ARTICLE III – GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.1 LICENSING, CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION:

Licensing, certification, incorporation and registration with state and local commissions may be required for engaging in fund raising activities. These activities will be conducted in accordance with state and local laws as well as any installation requirements.

3.2 AUDIT:

The Association's funds will be audited on an annual basis. The Auditor will be appointed by the President and must be a member of the Association. *(Amended 19 June 1996 and 17 May 2001)*

3.3 MISCELLANEOUS:

The Association will procure necessary insurance coverage, will comply with local, state and federal tax laws and will be solely responsible for any liability incurred by the Association. Neither appropriated fund activities nor nonappropriated fund instrumentalities may assert any claim to the assets, or incur or assume any obligation of the Association except as may arise out of contractual relationships.

3.4 DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION:

If the Association is dissolved, all assets on deposit and pending deposit at that time will be used to meet any outstanding debts, liabilities or obligations. The balance of these assets will be disposed of on activities as outlined in Article II – Objectives, as determined by the membership. *(Amended 19 June 1996 and 17 May 2001)*

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership is open to any eligible person. There is no limit on the number of members. Members will pay dues and comply with the Constitution and By-Laws.

4.2 The classes of membership are Regular, Associate and Honorary.

4.3 The types of membership are Life and Annual.

4.4 ELIGIBILITY FOR REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: Present or prior honorable service with the 15th Infantry Regiment or units attached or supporting the 15th Infantry Regiment.

4.5 ELIGIBILITY OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Spouse, parents, children or siblings of any person eligible for regular membership, and any person with a special interest in or an affinity for the 15th Infantry Regiment.

4.6 ELIGIBILITY FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: As granted by the Advisory Board to individuals interested in and/or supporting the 15th Infantry Regiment who were not and/or are not members of the 15th Infantry Regiment.

4.7 No person because of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability or national origin, shall be unlawfully denied membership, excluded from participation, or subjected to unlawful discrimination by the Association.

ARTICLE V – DUES

5.1 Annual membership dues are payable each year prior to October 1, in amounts set forth in the By-Laws.

5.2 Life membership dues are payable at any time in amounts set forth by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI – MANAGEMENT

6. GOVERNMENT: The membership is the governing body of the Association. It meets at least once a year at which time officers and trustees are elected to carry out the day-to-day operations of the Association. Each regular member in good standing has one vote in these elections, expressed in person or absentee ballot. *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

6.1 OFFICERS: *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

6.1.1 ELECTED OFFICERS: Elected officers of the Association are President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer and four (4) Trustees. *(Amended 19 September 1997 and 22 Sep 1999)*

6.1.2 APPOINTED OFFICERS: Appointed Officers are Chaplain, Editor of *THE DRAGON*, Nominations and Elections Chairman, Historian, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer nominated by each active battalion, representative nominated by each active battalion on the Advisory Board, Constitution and By-Laws Chairman, Membership Chairman, Publicity Chairman, and Auditor. They must be members in good standing at time of appointment. These appointments are made by the President and approved by the Board of Trustees. *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

6.2 ADVISORY BOARD: Advisory Board will be members in good standing and include the Honorary Colonel, Honorary Sergeant Major and a representative of each active duty Battalion who is a member of the Association. The Battalion Commanders will designate the representative. *(Amended 19 June 1996 and 22 Sep 1999)*

6.3 TERM OF OFFICE: The term of office for elected officers shall be two years. The President shall be limited to one term. The Vice President and Trustees are limited to two terms. There is no term limit for the Secretary or Treasurer. A term begins as installed at the Regimental Dinner during the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Reunion. As an exception, the Treasurer's term of office shall begin on 1 January. *(Amended 19 June 1996 and 22 Sep 1999)*

6.4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall consist of all elected officers, except the Trustees. *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

6.5 BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The Board of Trustees will consist of all elected officers and the immediate Past President. *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

6.6 VACANCIES: In the event a vacancy occurs in an elected office position the following policy will apply: *(Added 18 Sep 2003)*

6.6.1 The office of President will be filled by the Vice President.

6.6.2 Other offices will be filled by Presidential appointment with approval of the Board of Trustees.

6.6.3 Officers filling vacancies will hold office for the remaining term of that office.

ARTICLE VII – ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Association will be determined by the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Advisory Board and shall be professional and social in nature.

ARTICLE VIII – PUBLICATION

THE DRAGON, published quarterly and distributed to all members in good standing, is the official publication of the Association. The publication will be directed by the Editor who shall ensure that the publication conforms to and carries out the spirit of the constitution and in accordance with Army Regulation 600-20 and Field Service Regulation 210-4. It will keep members informed of Association events, active duty unit activities, veteran's activities as well as history and pertinent information about the 15th Infantry Regiment.

ARTICLE IX – BY-LAWS

9.1 The Association will have the full power to adopt By-Laws, which are not in conflict with the Constitution. By-Laws may be adopted, ratified, modified or repealed at the Association annual meetings, or by any special meeting called for that specific purpose under Section I of the By-Laws.

9.2 The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, revised edition, shall govern the Association in all cases, which are applicable and are not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, altered or repealed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of all regular members and absentee ballots, at an annual meeting, provided notice thereof has been given by publication in one issue of *The Dragon*. Proposed amendments may be submitted by any regular member in writing to any elected Association officer. All proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the Board of Trustees and those warranted to be essential will be forwarded by the President to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for organizing and preparing them for the membership vote. (*Amended 19 September 1997*)

BY-LAWS

SECTION I – MEETINGS

1.1 REUNIONS: An Annual Reunion will be held each year at a scheduled “Can Do Rendezvous” in observance of Organization Day of the 15th Infantry Regiment. Whenever possible the “Can Do Rendezvous” will be sponsored alternately by one of the active duty battalions. In the event the active battalions are unable to sponsor the event, it shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to prepare and implement contingency plans and make timely announcements to the members. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the President. (*Amended 22 Sep 1999 and 12 Sep 2002*)

1.2 BUSINESS MEETINGS: One or more business meetings held in conjunction with the “Can Do Rendezvous” form the legislative base for the Association. A notice of time, place and agenda will be published in *THE DRAGON*. In case of time constraints, notices will be disseminated by U.S. Mail. (*Amended 12 Sep 2002*)

1.3 QUORUM: A quorum shall consist of the regular members in good standing present at a regular business meeting. (*Amended 22 Sep 1999*)

1.4 ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Absentee ballots may be used by any regular member unable to attend the annual meeting to elect Association Officers and to vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. (*Added 19 September 1997*)

SECTION II – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

2.1 PRESIDENT: Presides at all meetings of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and general membership meetings. May call special meetings, Special meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, may be held as a group, in person, by phone or by mail.

2.1 VICE-PRESIDENT: Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

2.3 SECRETARY: Maintains accurate records of all Association proceedings, a copy of the approved Constitution and By-Laws, a current list of members and their addresses, a

current list of all elected and appointed Association officers, a copy of all applicable Army Regulations, a current list of Distinguished and Honorary Members of the Regiment and issues special certificates.

2.4 TREASURER: Manages all Association financial transactions, including collection of dues and disbursements. Maintains historical records of the Association's financial transactions and audits. Prepares a biannual financial report as of June 30 and December 31 for the Executive Committee's approval. Maintains the official membership list. *(Amended 17 May 2001)*

2.4.1 ASSISTANT TREASURER: Assist the Treasurer in managing financial transactions to include raffle mailing, sale of promotional items, and maintaining rosters. Assumes the responsibilities of the Treasurer in his absence. *(Added 17 May 2001)*

2.5 ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER: Represents the battalion Association members, solicits memberships, accounts for and forward those funds to the Treasurer, prepares articles for *THE DRAGON* and may expend authorized funds to support Association activities in the battalion.

2.6 HISTORIAN: Collects stores historical memorabilia researches and develops historical excerpts relating to the history of the 15th Infantry Regiment. Develops and submits historical articles to the Editor of *THE DRAGON*. *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

2.7 TRUSTEES: Represents the members of the Association at the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

2.8 ADVISORY BOARD: Provides leadership and liaison between the Army and the Association. Offers advice to the Board of Trustees and recommends Distinguished and Honorary Members of the Regiment.

2.9 CHAPLAIN: Executes duties as appropriate to enhance the well being of all Association members. Directs the religious observances of the Association.

2.10 EDITOR: Responsible for the quarterly publication of the Association's newsletter. He will receive, review, accept or reject items based on their content.

2.11 MEMBERSHIP: Maintains the official membership data base and rosters, contacts prospective members offering membership, and issues permanent membership cards based on class and types of membership, issues membership certificates and prepares membership reports for the Board of Trustees. *(Added 22 Sep 1999)*

2.12 PUBLICITY: Prepares announcements of Association activities and mails to veterans and military type magazines and newsletters. Maintains a listing of activities to notify. *(Added 22 Sep 1999)*

2.13 AUDITOR: Audits the treasurer's financial records on an annual basis following the close of our fiscal year. Submits final report of the audit to the President for review and action by Board of Trustees. *(Added 22 Sep 1999)*

2.14 CUSTODIAN OF MEMORABILIA: Maintains accounting for Association artifacts

and memorabilia donated to and stored in the Association's Historical Repository. Coordinates with other units on loan and return of items. Maintain current inventory of the Association's artifacts and memorabilia. *(Added 22 Sep 1999)*

2.15 ATTENDANCE: Attendance at all meetings by all officers is expected. An officer unable to attend any meeting shall notify the President with valid justification, furnish all required reports and a proxy prior to the meeting. *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

SECTION III – GOVERNANCE BETWEEN ANNUAL MEETINGS

GOVERNING AUTHORITY: Between annual meetings, governing authority for the Association is vested in the Board of Trustees. Its decisions have immediate effect and remain in force until ratified, modified or repealed at the next membership meeting. In the event the Board of Trustees cannot meet, the Executive committee may meet on their behalf.

SECTION IV – STANDING COMMITTEES

4.1 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

4.1.1 The Chairman shall not be a member of the Board of Trustees or a candidate seeking elective office. The chairman shall call for nominations of Association Officers in *THE DRAGON* in sufficient time to allow publication and return of the absentee ballots before the annual meeting. Nominations will be accepted December 1 through January *(Amended 19 September 1997)*

4.1.2 The Chairman will submit a ballot 90 days prior to the election for publication in the next issue of *THE DRAGON* listing all nominees for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and four (4) Trustees.

4.1.3 The Chairman will, with the Treasurer, verify the validity of absentee ballots, tally votes and present a report at the annual meeting when the elections are conducted. *(Added 19 Sep 1997)*

4.1.4 During the annual business meeting when elections are held, if there is an office without a nominee, nominations may be accepted from the floor. Under unusual circumstances, as determined by a 2/3 vote of the members present the meeting nominations may be accepted from the floor. *(Added 19 September 1997)*

4.2 CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS: The Chairman shall, at the direction of the President through coordination with the Board of Trustees, prepare proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws and present them for membership vote at the annual meeting. *(Amended 22 Sept 1999)*

4.2.1 The Chairman shall submit all proposed changes to the Constitution and By- Laws to the President for review with the Board of Trustees in sufficient time to allow publication in one issue of *THE DRAGON* and return of absentee ballots before the annual meeting. *(Added 19 Sep 1997 and Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

4.2.2 The Chairman will, with the Treasurer verify the validity of the absentee ballots, tally results and present a report at the annual meeting. *(Added 19 Sep, 1997 and Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

SECTION V - DUES

5.1 ANNUAL DUES: Regular and Associate annual membership dues of ten dollars (\$10.00) are payable on or before October 1 of each year. As an exception regular annual membership dues of five dollars (\$5.00) for Active Duty Soldiers are payable on or before October 1 of each year. The amount of annual dues is to be determined by budget needs as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the members. New annual members who pay dues between May 1 and September 30 will be in good standing until October 1 of the following year. The Treasurer will remove members not paying dues by January 1 from the Association's roster. *(Amended 19 June 1996)*

5.2 LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES:

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| Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor | No Charge |
| Veterans of World War I | No Charge |
| China Hands | No Charge |

Other Life Membership dues are based on the following ages:

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| Up to age 60 | \$ 150.00 |
| Age 60 to Age 69 | \$ 120.00 |
| Age 70 to Age 79 | \$ 100.00 |
| Age 80 and over | \$ 50.00 |

Purchase of a Life Membership in the Association carries with it only the guarantee of membership in the Association without additional dues as long as they live and the Association exists and to receive copies of the Association's publications. No other guarantee is given or implied. A part of Life Membership dues will be placed in a Life Trust Fund. *(Amended 19 September 1997)*

SECTION VI – METHODS OF FINANCING

6.1 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FUND RAISING: The Association shall be financed by membership dues and fund raising events. The Association shall be self-sustaining and there shall be no financial assistance from any nonappropriated fund activity.

6.2 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: When approved by the Board of trustees, the social activities hosted by the Association will be financed by charging each attending member a prorated share of the cost.

6.3 REFUND OF DUES: Should any member voluntarily resign his membership or default in payment of dues, he shall forfeit all membership privileges and refund of dues will not be made *(Amended 19 September 1997)*

SECTION VII – AWARDS

7.1 DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT (DMOR) (AR 600-82): *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

7.1.1 ELIGIBILITY: Must have served on active duty with the regiment. Distinguished service may be with or subsequent to duty with the regiment.

7.2 HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT (HMOR) (AR 600-82): *(Amended 22 Sep 1999)*

7.2.1 ELIGIBILITY: May be any individual who has provided a service or made a contribution to the regiment. May not be or have been a member of the regiment.

7.3 NOMINATION AND APPROVAL: May be nominated by anyone. Nominations shall be submitted to the Advisory Board. *(Amended 19 September 1997)*

SECTION VIII – RECORDS

All records of the Association, excluding the checkbook, will be maintained on a fiscal year basis, held two years and then retired to the Association's Historical Repository. The checkbook (stubs) will be held three years after completion of the last entry in the checkbook register and then retired to the Association's Historical Repository. *(Amended 19 September 1997)*

SECTION IX – HISTORICAL REPOSITORY

The Association shall acquire, maintain, and own a repository of regimental historical memorabilia items. Such items can be loaned to any museum or other exhibits, but ownership of all items in the repository remains with the Association.

APPROVAL

The Constitution and By-Laws were approved at a meeting of the membership of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association on 8 September 1995.

The Constitution and By-Laws were amended as follows:

---At the Annual Meeting at Fort Benning, GA on 19 June 1996.

---At a special meeting at Fort Worth, TX on 19 September 1997.

---At the Annual Meeting at Savannah, GA on 22 September 1999.

---At the Annual Meeting at Fort Stewart, GA on 17 May 2001.

---At the Annual Meeting at Buffalo, NY on 12 September 2002.

---At the annual Meeting at Saint Louis, MO on 18 September 2003