



# Twilight Tattoo Participating Units



## **3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT (THE OLD GUARD)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment, traditionally known as “The Old Guard,” is the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the Army. The Old Guard is the U.S. Army’s official ceremonial unit and escort to the President. They conduct and support official joint service and Army ceremonies, memorial affairs, and special events representing the U.S. Army and the Armed Forces to the highest standard. The Old Guard continuously prepares for its contingency missions in the National Capital Region by maintaining trained forces year-round for operations within the Military District of Washington and Joint Force Headquarters National Capitol Region.

### **CAISSON PLATOON**

The Old Guard Caisson Platoon is the only unit of its kind remaining in the United States Army. Its name is derived from the horse drawn wagons once used by the American Expeditionary Force to supply guns, ammunition and spare parts to the battle lines. Today these same caissons are used to transport flag draped caskets to their final resting places in Arlington National Cemetery.

The solemn dignity that the riders and horses lend to the ceremony is neither accidental nor instinctive. The Soldiers and horses constantly train for this duty. The majority of these men and women come to Fort Myer, Va., not as expert horsemen but as trained infantrymen or military-police officers. The hours spent in the cemetery in the saddle — modified 1928 McClellan saddle — are but a portion of their duties, as they also maintain the stables and tack and care for the horses.

### **COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF’S GUARD**

Today’s Commander-in-Chief’s Guard was created by The Old Guard to honor the unit established in 1776 by Gen. George Washington, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. Originally established as Washington’s personal guard, the unit was comprised of exemplary men who represented all of the colonies. Known as “his Excellency’s Guard” and “Washington’s Body Guard,” the unit was discharged in 1783 at the end of the war.

Organized into a 66-man company, the CINC Guard represents the Continental Army. The color team bears a replica of the flag of Washington’s headquarters, carried throughout the Revolutionary War. The remaining Soldiers carry 12-pound replica British Brown Bess muskets with thirteen-inch bayonets used for close-in fighting. The Soldiers wear colonial uniforms, including white wigs. They maintain proficiency in the weaponry and tactics of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Soldiers participate in firing demonstrations for celebrations throughout the year, including the George Washington birthday celebration.

### **OLD GUARD FIFE AND DRUM CORPS**

The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is the only unit of its kind in the United States Armed Forces and is charged with maintaining some of America’s oldest military music traditions. Their crisp drill and early American music represent the dedication, discipline and precision of the United States Army to our Nation and the world.

Created in 1960, as an element of The Old Guard, The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is one of only four Army premier musical organizations. The Fife and Drum Corps’ uniforms, distinguished by the tricorne hat, white wig, and red colonial-style greatcoat, are patterned after those worn by the field musicians of the 1<sup>st</sup> American Regiment of 1784, to which The Old Guard traces its roots. The musicians’ blue-trimmed red greatcoats were opposite in color to those worn by the infantry soldiers. This helped commanders identify their musicians through the smoke and confusion of the battlefield.

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## **U.S. ARMY DRILL TEAM**

In 1948, The Old Guard selected the Army's finest Soldiers to concentrate on precise marching and crisp rifle drill. These Soldiers became what is known as The U.S. Army Drill Team. Although the original members are long gone, the rigid standards they established remain unchanged.

Trim military bearing, strength and dexterity are mandatory for qualification to the Drill Team. Soldiers on the Drill Team use bayonet-tipped 1903 Springfield rifles. Soldiers are selected for this elite team after 75 days of rigorous and competitive drill practice. These Soldiers and their performances are one of the finest examples of what hard training, constant practice and teamwork produces in today's Army.

## **CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD**

The Continental Color Guard's heritage traces back to the early days of our nation and is a tradition in the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). The purpose of the unit is to recall the history of the regiment.

The five-man team is comprised of two armed guards flanking three color ensigns who carry the National Colors, the U.S. Army Colors and the Colors of their parent unit, The Old Guard. The team carries the National Color in the place of honor – on the right. The Army flag is to its left and The Old Guard's regimental colors are on the Army flag's left. The armed guards are responsible for protecting the honor of the National Colors.

The Army colors bear 178 campaign streamers, representing every campaign in which the Army has participated. The Old Guard's colors bear 52 campaign streamers – earned by the unit's participation in major U.S. conflicts – and one valorous unit award, two Meritorious Unit Commendations and three Superior Unit Awards.

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