

THE U.S. CONSTABULARY (1946—1952)

(Revision 2)

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The idea for a police-type force to aid in the occupation of Germany seems to have begun in September and October 1945. It was clear by that point that demobilization would remove most of the wartime divisions—in the end only the 1st Infantry Division would remain in Germany, until the 1951 NATO buildup brought four more back. This “state police” was to be an elite, volunteer and mobile force. After various possible designations, the name U.S. Constabulary was finalized just before the force became operational in 1946. MG Ernest Harmon was appointed Commanding General of the U.S. Constabulary 10 January 1946 and given a small planning staff.¹ His headquarters, when formed, would be for the entire U.S. occupation zone. The Constabulary in Germany would have three brigades (one for each of the German states, or *Länder*) in the US zone; each brigade would have three regiments; and each regiment three squadrons. The goal was to have units deployed in alignment with the German administrative divisions, and the force in Germany was authorized about 32,700 personnel. A tenth regiment was to be established under Headquarters, United States Forces, Austria; one of its squadrons would be in the Berlin District.²

The mission of this new force was set out as:³

maintain general military and civil security; assist in the accomplishment of the objectives of the United States Government in the occupied U.S. Zone of Germany (exclusive of the Berlin District and Bremen Enclave), by means of an active patrol system prepared to take prompt and effective action to forestall and suppress riots, rebellions, and acts prejudicial to the security of the U.S. occupational policies, and forces; and maintain effective military control of the borders encompassing the U.S. Zone.

Constabulary Headquarters was established February 1946 in Bamberg, although there were still problems in determining unit designations, the source of the personnel, and how to establish units in the intended locations. A Constabulary School was created at Sonthofen in the Alps, and a *Trooper's Handbook* prepared to guide the new personnel. Uniforms were quite distinctive: bright golden yellow scarves, combat boots with a

¹ MG Harmon commanded the 2nd Armored Division from July 1942 to May 1943, 1st Armored Division April 1943 to July 1944, 2nd Armored Division again from September 1944, and the XXII Corps from late January 1945 to its inactivation in January 1946.

² The 32,700 figure did not include the regiment in Austria and Berlin. The original planned strength (probably for Germany alone) was 39,000 personnel.

³ Quoted in LTC A. F. Irzyk, “‘Mobility, Vigilance, Justice’ A Saga of the Constabulary” in the March 1947 *Military Review*.

Lineages for the Constabulary would come from the VI Corps, 1st and 4th Armored Divisions, and various cavalry units. These units, all with distinguished World War II records, were chosen to help instill pride in the new Constabulary units. Lineages for the U.S. Constabulary, the three brigades, ten regiments, and 30 squadrons are in the next section. However, some lineage information is incomplete.

Redesignations of units as Constabulary occurred on 1 May 1946; training had begun in April, and the brigades took over the regiments in June 1946. The U.S. Constabulary became operational 1 July 1946. Redeployment, shortages, and personnel turmoil in general prevented affected staffing and training of the Constabulary, but the theater



history indicated that it met its goal of selecting high-quality personnel. Actual strength was substantially below authorized, at least for 1947. In addition to the patrol functions, the Constabulary took over responsibility for static border posts on the frontier with the Soviet zone.

As initially organized, 1st Constabulary Brigade (headquarters near Frankfurt; *Land* Greater Hesse) controlled the 1st Constabulary Regiment (Kassel), 3rd Constabulary Regiment (Wetzlar), and 15th Constabulary Regiment (Weinheim); 2nd Constabulary Brigade (headquarters at Munich; *Land* Bavaria) controlled the 2nd Constabulary Regiment (Freising), 5th Constabulary Regiment (Gablingen), and 11th Constabulary Regiment (Weiden); and 3rd Constabulary Brigade (headquarters at Cannstatt, near Stuttgart; *Land* Württemberg-Baden) controlled the 6th Constabulary Regiment (Bayreuth), 10th Constabulary Regiment (Mohringen), and 14th Constabulary Regiment (Kitzingen).

Important to the new force was the Constabulary School, established at Sonthofen. Company grade officers and enlisted men went through a four week course, while field grade officers had a five-day course. The curriculum included police-type subjects (such as arrests and interrogations and evidence collection) as well as normal military subjects. The School could handle just under 1,000 officers and men a month.⁴

The new organization lasted barely a year before it began to be cut back. On 20 September 1947 the 3rd Constabulary Brigade and 1st, 3rd, 5th and 10th Constabulary Regiments were all inactivated, along with most of their associated squadrons. The light tank troops in all of the regiments were eliminated at the same time, and the surviving squadrons all lost a troop. 1st Constabulary Brigade was then made responsible for the *Länder* of Greater Hesse and Württemberg-Baden (areas of the former 1st and 3rd Brigades), and 2nd Constabulary Brigade for the *Land* of Bavaria. This reduced the authorized strength to 22,000; it would be cut again to 20,000 in early 1948. Actual strength was always below authorized.

At the beginning, the US Constabulary was oriented towards its police roles, with its units dispersed. However, even by the time of the 1947 reorganization and reductions, it was beginning to re-orient at least part of its strength towards a tactical role. In July 1947 the 5th Constabulary Regiment at Augsburg was designated the Constabulary reserve and three squadrons (35th, 68th and 74th) were concentrated there. However, on 20 September 1947 these forces were redesignated as the 2nd Constabulary Regiment (2nd, 42nd and 68th Squadrons) and the 5th Regiment was inactivated. The new regiment also retained from the 5th a provisional squadron with a recoilless rifle and a light tank troop, along with the 66th Constabulary Squadron still at on patrol duty Degendorf. The 2nd also began tactical training at Grafenwöhr; it would have the 1st Infantry Division's 7th Field Artillery Battalion in support for combat operations.

⁴ Ibid. LTC Irzyk noted later that most of the personnel coming into the Constabulary by that date were new to the Army, requiring immediate training and indoctrination. Further, there were very few experienced NCOs available.

That December, the Department of the Army approved a request to organize two field artillery battalions (one with 105mm and one with 155mm howitzers) for the Constabulary, and these were activated early January 1948.⁵ By that time, the Army was in the process of relieving the Constabulary of most of its police-type activities, returning them to the German police. Reorganization of the troops began that spring, to adapt them to tactical missions. The 2nd Constabulary Regiment was to be reorganized and retrained as an armored cavalry regiment, and spaces would be found for creating two more artillery battalions, an AAA automatic weapons battalion, and an engineer battalion with attached bridge company. In June 1948, all Constabulary unit commanders were instructed to cease training for the primary (police) mission and concentrate on training for the secondary (tactical) mission. The Headquarters, US Constabulary would be reorganized as a modified corps headquarters, to command both its troops and the 1st Infantry Division in the event of war.

In November 1948 the 2nd, 6th and 14th Constabulary Regiments were reorganized as the 2nd, 6th and 14th Armored Cavalry.⁶ The last two Constabulary regiments in Germany were inactivated at the same time, in November (11th) and December (15th) 1948. This left the three armored cavalry regiments and a few Constabulary squadrons in Germany. The 6th and 14th Regiments each had a Constabulary squadron attached. Two more squadrons disappeared, to form the additional field artillery battalions, and another tasked for the AAA battalion.⁷ In addition, the 547th Engineer Construction Battalion would reorganize as a combat battalion.⁸ The 7879th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion was reorganized and redesignated as the 73rd Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion, and the 93rd Engineer Bridge Platoon was activated. The result was to turn the Constabulary into a self-supporting armored formation.

Five Constabulary squadrons from the inactivated regiments remained active in 1948 or were reformed in 1949, but two of these were inactivated during the latter year. Headquarters, U.S. Constabulary was inactivated 24 November 1950 and the armored cavalry and surviving Constabulary units came under the reactivated Seventh Army. (One of the three remaining separate squadrons was inactivated the same date.) The two surviving brigade headquarters actually lasted into 1951; the last two Constabulary squadrons were inactivated 15 December 1952 in Germany.⁹ With that action, the U.S. Constabulary ceased to exist.

⁵ One Constabulary squadron and one troop from another were used to form the new battalions.

⁶ The new regiments had an authorized strength of 2,610 personnel. These regiments had the parenthetical "(US Constabulary)" in their titles when formed; this seems to have continued at least into 1951 and possibly to 1952 when the last Constabulary squadrons disappeared. They were to get light and medium tanks, and expected to have them issued and the training completed by March 1949. The *actual* squadrons used to form the new regiments are indicated under the regimental and squadron entries; see the warning note on lineages.

⁷ I have been unable to locate the designation of the new AAA battalion.

⁸ Apparently the 8th Engineer Combat Battalion had been assigned in September; it was redesignated as the 54th.

⁹ They were used for patrols along the eastern border, a task that would be taken over by the armored cavalry regiments in December 1952.

Constabulary Unit Lineages

In the section on lineages, I have tried to follow all units and headquarters from their redesignation as Constabulary to their next (non-Constabulary) designation, but have not then tried to continue lineages to the present day.

A warning note on lineages: lineages are official documents, prepared by the Center of Military History, outlining that unit's organizational history. Two units with the same designation may have no relationship with each other, and have distinct lineages. This is true of the 1st and 2nd Constabulary Brigades, for example. While organizations bearing those designations were in continuous existence from 1946 to 1951, they officially became different units in 1949.¹⁰ Lineages do not account for possible periods of zero strength when a unit remains officially active but without personnel or equipment, and they do not account for "reflagging"—the current Army term for when the personnel of one active unit assume a completely different designation, and possibly even a change in branch and organization.¹¹ These changes are included as footnotes where I am aware of them.

COMMAND ELEMENTS

Headquarters, United States Constabulary

Headquarters, VI Corps reorganized and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters, United States Constabulary. Established initially at Bamberg, it moved February 1947 to Heidelberg and 1 February 1948 to Stuttgart. Inactivated 24 November 1950 in Germany.¹² On 22 January 1951 it was redesignated as Headquarters, VI Corps, and activated in the US.

1st Constabulary Brigade

Headquarters, 4th Armored Division converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters, 1st Constabulary Brigade.¹³ Inactivated 20 May 1949 in Germany; concurrently, converted and redesignated as Headquarters, 4th Armored Division.

Concurrently with that action, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Cavalry Brigade [inactive; formerly part of the 1st Cavalry Division] was converted and redesignated 20 May 1949 as Headquarters, 1st Constabulary Brigade, assigned to the United States Constabulary, and activated in Germany. Relieved 24 November 1950 from

¹⁰ Or, to put it another way, the 1st Constabulary Brigade from 1946 to 19 May 1949 is *not* the same unit as the 1st Constabulary Brigade from 20 May 1949, even though there was no change in personnel, organization, location or assignment on that date.

¹¹ For example, in the 1947 reorganization the *physical* 2nd Constabulary Regiment Headquarters and Headquarters Company disappeared, but it was the 5th that was inactivated and its personnel instantly became the new 2nd. Thus, in lineage terms, the 2nd remained continuously active.

¹² Headquarters and staff of the US Constabulary were used to form Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Seventh Army, which was activated in Germany the same date.

¹³ Presumably the brigade's headquarters troop was the former Headquarters Company of 4th Armored Division, a unit later disbanded. The current 4th Armored Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company descends only from the former Headquarters. In 1960, the Regular Army disbanded division headquarters companies and the division headquarters was reorganized and redesignated as headquarters and headquarters company of the division.

assignment to the United States Constabulary and assigned to Seventh Army. Inactivated 15 August 1951 in Germany. Disbanded 5 December 1951. It would be reconstituted 15 July 1963 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

2nd Constabulary Brigade

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Command A, 4th Armored Division converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Constabulary Brigade and relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division. Inactivated 20 May 1949 in Germany; concurrently, converted and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Command A, 4th Armored Division.

Concurrently with that action, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Cavalry Brigade [inactive; also formerly part of the 1st Cavalry Division] was converted and redesignated 20 May 1949 as Headquarters, 2nd Constabulary Brigade, assigned to the United States Constabulary, and activated in Germany. Relieved 24 November 1950 from assignment to the United States Constabulary and assigned to Seventh Army. Inactivated 15 December 1951 in Germany. (It is not clear why one former 1st Cavalry Division brigade was disbanded and the other not.) This became Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division on 15 July 1963.

3rd Constabulary Brigade

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Command B, 4th Armored Division converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Constabulary Brigade and relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division. Inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany. Another lineage curiosity; unlike the former Combat Command A of the division [original 1st Constabulary Brigade], this was not redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Command B, 4th Armored Division until 25 February 1953.

REGIMENTS

1st Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Armored Group converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany. Converted and redesignated 30 November 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 11th Armored Cavalry.

Controlled 11th, 12th, and 91st Constabulary Squadrons, all of which were inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany.

2nd Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Constabulary Regiment (later Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Troop, 2nd Constabulary Regiment).¹⁴ Converted and redesignated 16 November 1948 as

¹⁴ The date of this redesignation is not part of the official lineage of the 2nd Armored Cavalry.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Armored Cavalry; at the same time, the regiment was organized in Germany.¹⁵

Controlled 2nd and 42nd Constabulary Squadrons, which were reorganized as elements 2nd Armored Cavalry, and 66th Constabulary Squadron, which was relieved 20 December 1948. The 68th Constabulary Squadron was assigned 10 February 1948, and also relieved 20 December 1948.

3rd Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Command A, 1st Armored Division converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Constabulary Regiment and relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division. Inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany. Converted and redesignated 27 February 1951 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Command A, 1st Armored Division.

Controlled 68th Constabulary Squadron, which was relieved 20 September 1947, and the 37th and 81st Constabulary Squadrons, which were inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany.

4th Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Constabulary Regiment. As the regiment in Austria, the 4th was not subordinate to the U.S. Constabulary but came instead under Headquarters, US Forces, Austria. Reorganized and redesignated 10 February 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Troop, 4th Constabulary Regiment Inactivated 1 May 1949 at Salzburg, Austria. Redesignated 20 August 1953 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Armored Cavalry.¹⁶

Controlled 4th, 16th and 24th Constabulary Squadrons, all of which were relieved 1 May 1949.

5th Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Tank Destroyer Group converted and redesignated 1 May 1947 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 5th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany.¹⁷

Controlled 8th, 35th and 74th Constabulary Squadrons, all of which were inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany.

¹⁵ The 2nd, 42nd, and 68th Constabulary Squadrons became the 1st to 3rd Battalions of the new regiment. For some reason, the armored cavalry regiments were organized into battalions and companies instead of the traditional cavalry squadrons and troops. The 2nd and 42nd had been formed from the 1st and 2nd Squadrons of the 2nd Cavalry, Mechanized, making this a rare instance of lineage following the physical unit in the 1948 reorganizations.

¹⁶ However, the regiment was never activated and no other elements may have been constituted; the other units formed from 4th Cavalry, Mechanized, were never redesignated as part of the 4th Armored Cavalry.

¹⁷ I have no further information on the lineage of the former 6th Tank Destroyer Group. As noted earlier, it was the 2nd Constabulary Regiment that actually dissolved, and the personnel and equipment of the 5th immediately became the new 2nd.

6th Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 16 November 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Armored Cavalry; at the same time the regiment was organized in Germany.¹⁸

Controlled 6th and 28th Constabulary Squadrons, which were reorganized as elements 6th Armored Cavalry,¹⁹ and 53rd Constabulary Squadron, which was relieved 16 November 1948.

10th Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Armored Group converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 10th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany.²⁰

Controlled 13th, 71st and 72nd Constabulary Squadrons, all of which were inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany.

11th Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Constabulary Regiment. Reorganized and redesignated 2 February 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Troop, 11th Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 30 November 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Armored Cavalry; concurrently, inactivated in Germany.²¹

Controlled 25th and 51st Constabulary Squadrons, which were inactivated 20 December 1948 in Germany, and the 94th Constabulary Squadron, which had been relieved 6 January 1948.

14th Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 14th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 14th Constabulary Regiment. Reorganized and redesignated 10 February 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Troop, 14th Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 30 November 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 14th Armored Cavalry; remainder of regiment activated in Europe.²²

¹⁸ The 25th, 51st and 66th Constabulary Squadrons became the 1st to 3rd Battalions of the new regiment.

¹⁹ These had been formed from the 1st and 2nd Squadrons of the 6th Cavalry, Mechanized, but this was a purely lineage action. The *actual* units used to form the new regiment were different: see the prior footnote.

²⁰ I have no further information on the lineage of the former 10th Armored Group.

²¹ Organization of the 11th Armored Cavalry (inactive) was completed 30 November 1948 by reconstitution and/or redesignation of elements of the former 11th Cavalry—all of the regiment except the former Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (then active as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized) had been disbanded 26 October 1944. Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Constabulary Regiment (inactive) was also redesignated as an element of the 11th Armored Cavalry.

²² As with the 11th, all of the former 14th Cavalry except its Headquarters and Headquarters Troop had been disbanded 26 October 1944. The disbanded elements were reconstituted, redesignated and activated in

Controlled 10th and 27th Constabulary Squadrons, which were inactivated 20 December 1948, and 22nd Constabulary Squadron, which was relieved 16 December 1948.

15th Constabulary Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 15th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 15th Constabulary Regiment. Reorganized and redesignated 2 February 1948 as Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Troop, 15th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 December 1948 at Fussen, Germany and relieved from the US Constabulary. Redesignated 23 October 1950 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Armored Cavalry Group.

Controlled 1st, 14th and 15th Constabulary Squadrons, which were inactivated 20 December 1948 in Germany.

SQUADRONS

1st Constabulary Squadron

1st Tank Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 1st Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 15th Constabulary Regiment; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division. Inactivated 20 December 1948 in Germany; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 15th Constabulary Regiment, converted and redesignated as 1st Medium Tank Battalion, and assigned to 1st Armored Division.²³

2nd Constabulary Squadron

2nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 2nd Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 2nd Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 16 November 1948 as elements of 2nd Armored Cavalry [the squadron was used to form the 1st Battalion].

4th Constabulary Squadron

4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 4th Constabulary Squadron; assigned 17 June 1946 to 4th Constabulary Regiment. Reorganized and redesignated 1 April 1949 as 4th Reconnaissance Battalion; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 4th Constabulary Regiment. The unit remained in Austria and thus was not subordinated to the US Constabulary.

6th Constabulary Squadron

6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 6th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 6th Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 20 December 1948 as elements of 6th Armored Cavalry.²⁴

Europe when the 14th Armored Cavalry was formed. The 10th, 1st and 6th Constabulary Squadrons were used to actually form the 1st to 3rd Battalions of the new regiment.

²³ Personnel and equipment of this unit were used to form the 2nd Battalion, 14th Armored Cavalry.

²⁴ However, the personnel and equipment of the actual unit were used to form the 3rd Battalion, 14th Armored Cavalry.

8th Constabulary Squadron

8th Tank Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 8th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 5th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Landshut, Germany. Converted and redesignated 11 December 1951 as 8th Tank Battalion and relieved from assignment to 5th Constabulary Regiment.

10th Constabulary Squadron

10th Armored Infantry Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 10th Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division and assigned to 14th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 December 1948 in Germany and relieved from assignment to 14th Constabulary Regiment; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 10th Armored Infantry Battalion and assigned to 4th Armored Division.²⁵

11th Constabulary Squadron

11th Armored Infantry Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 11th Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division and assigned to 1st Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Fritzlar, Germany. Converted and redesignated 7 April 1949 as 11th Armored Infantry Battalion and relieved from assignment to 1st Constabulary Regiment.

12th Constabulary Squadron

6th Armored Infantry Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 12th Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division and assigned to 1st Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Fritzlar, Germany. Converted and redesignated 10 October 1950 as the 6th Infantry (less 2nd and 3rd Battalions) and relieved from assignment to 1st Constabulary Regiment.

13th Constabulary Squadron

13th Tank Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 13th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 10th Constabulary Regiment; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Coburg, Germany and relieved from assignment to 10th Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 27 February 1951 as 13th Medium Tank Battalion and assigned to 1st Armored Division.

14th Constabulary Squadron

14th Armored Infantry Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 14th Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division and assigned to 15th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 December 1948 at Balufeldin, Germany; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 14th Armored Infantry Battalion, relieved from assignment to 15th Constabulary Regiment and assigned to 1st Armored Division.

²⁵ Personnel and equipment of the unit were used to form 1st Battalion, 14th Armored Cavalry.

15th Constabulary Squadron

15th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized, converted and redesignated (less Troop E) 1 May 1946 as 15th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 15th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 December 1948 at Fussen, Germany and relieved from assignment to 15th Constabulary Regiment.²⁶ Activated 20 May 1949 at Weiden, Germany and assigned to the United States Constabulary. Inactivated 15 December 1952 at Weiden, Germany and relieved from assignment to the United States Constabulary. Redesignated 13 August 1954 as 15th Reconnaissance Battalion.

16th Constabulary Squadron

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 16th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 16th Constabulary Squadron, and assigned to 4th Constabulary Regiment. (Troops of 16th Constabulary Squadron constituted and activated 1 May 1946.) This was the squadron in Berlin, coming under the Austria-based regiment. Relieved 1 February 1949 from assignment to 4th Constabulary Regiment and assigned to the United States Constabulary; operationally it remained under the Berlin District. Inactivated 27 November 1950 at Grafenwöhr, Germany. Converted and redesignated 9 March 1951 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Armored Cavalry Group. (Troops of 16th Constabulary Squadron disbanded 9 March 1951.)

22nd Constabulary Squadron

22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 22nd Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division and assigned to 14th Constabulary Regiment. Relieved from assignment to 14th Constabulary Regiment 16 November 1948 and assigned to the United States Constabulary. Inactivated 20 May 1949 at Hersfeld, Germany; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 22nd Armored Field Battalion.²⁷

24th Constabulary Squadron

24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 24th Constabulary Squadron; assigned 17 June 1946 to 4th Constabulary Regiment. Relieved 1 May 1949 from assignment to 4th Constabulary Regiment and assigned to the United States Constabulary, moving from Austria to Germany.²⁸ Inactivated 15 December 1952 at Bad Hersfeld, Germany. Redesignated 21 April 1953 as 524th Reconnaissance Battalion.

25th Constabulary Squadron

25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 25th Constabulary Squadron and relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division; assigned to 11th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 December 1948 at

²⁶ Personnel and equipment were used to form the 70th Field Artillery Battalion.

²⁷ Personnel and equipment used to reform 24th Constabulary Squadron in Germany.

²⁸ In fact, its personnel and equipment were used to form the 510th Field Artillery Battalion, activated 1 February 1949 in Austria, and the squadron was reformed 1 May 1949 in Germany from the personnel and equipment of the 22nd Constabulary Squadron.

Straubing, Germany; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 25th Reconnaissance Battalion.²⁹

27th Constabulary Squadron

27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 27th Constabulary Squadron and relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division; assigned to 14th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 December 1948 in Germany; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to 1st Armored Division.³⁰

28th Constabulary Squadron

28th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 28th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 6th Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 20 December 1948 as elements of 6th Armored Cavalry.³¹

35th Constabulary Squadron

35th Tank Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 35th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 5th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Augsburg, Germany. Converted and redesignated 11 December 1951 as 35th Tank Battalion and relieved from assignment to 5th Constabulary Regiment.

37th Constabulary Squadron

37th Tank Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 37th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 3rd Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Weilburg, Germany. Converted and redesignated 11 December 1951 as 37th Tank Battalion and relieved from assignment to 3rd Constabulary Regiment.

42nd Constabulary Squadron

42nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 42nd Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 2nd Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 16 November 1948 as elements 2nd Armored Cavalry [the squadron was used to form the 2nd Battalion].

51st Constabulary Squadron

51st Armored Infantry Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 51st Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division and assigned to 11th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 December 1948 in Germany and relieved from assignment to 11th Constabulary Regiment; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 51st Armored Infantry Battalion and assigned to 4th Armored Division.³²

²⁹ Personnel and equipment were used to form 1st Battalion, 6th Armored Cavalry.

³⁰ Personnel and equipment were used to form the 74th Field Artillery Battalion, activated 15 December 1948.

³¹ Purely a lineage action; the personnel and equipment of this unit were not used to form one of the battalions of the new armored cavalry regiment.

³² Personnel and equipment used to form 2nd Battalion, 6th Armored Cavalry.

53rd Constabulary Squadron

53rd Armored Infantry Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 53rd Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division and assigned to 6th Constabulary Regiment. Relieved from 6th Constabulary Regiment and assigned to the United States Constabulary 16 November 1948. Inactivated 20 May 1949 in Germany and relieved from assignment to the United States Constabulary; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion and assigned to 4th Armored Division.

66th Constabulary Squadron

66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 66th Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division and assigned to 2nd Constabulary Regiment. Relieved from assignment to 2nd Constabulary Regiment and inactivated in Germany 20 December 1948; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.³³

68th Constabulary Squadron

68th Armored Field Artillery Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 68th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 3rd Constabulary Regiment; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division. Relieved from 3rd Constabulary Regiment 24 September 1947 and assigned to the United States Constabulary. Assigned to 2nd Constabulary Regiment 10 February 1948. Inactivated 20 December 1948 in Germany; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 2nd Constabulary Regiment and converted and redesignated as 68th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to 1st Armored Division.³⁴

71st Constabulary Squadron

771st Tank Battalion (less Company D and Service Company) converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 71st Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 10th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Hesselthal, Germany. Converted and redesignated 11 December 1951 as 771st Tank Battalion and relieved from assignment to 10th Constabulary Regiment/

72nd Constabulary Squadron

4th Tank Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 72nd Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 10th Constabulary Regiment; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Coburg, Germany and relieved from assignment to 10th Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 27 February 1951 as 4th Medium Tank Battalion and assigned to 1st Armored Division.

³³ Personnel and equipment used to form 3rd Battalion, 6th Armored Cavalry.

³⁴ Personnel and equipment used to form 3rd Battalion, 2nd Armored Cavalry.

74th Constabulary Squadron

474th Anti Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self Propelled) converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 74th Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 5th Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany.³⁵

81st Constabulary Squadron

81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized, converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 81st Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division and assigned to 3rd Constabulary Regiment. Inactivated 20 September 1947 in Germany and relieved from assignment to 3rd Constabulary Regiment. Converted and redesignated 27 February 1951 as 81st Reconnaissance Battalion and assigned to 1st Armored Division.

91st Constabulary Squadron

91st Armored Field Artillery Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 91st Constabulary Squadron and assigned to 1st Constabulary Regiment; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 1st Armored Division. Inactivated 20 September 1947 at Hersfeld, Germany. Converted and redesignated 6 January 1948 as 91st Field Artillery Battalion and activated in Germany.

94th Constabulary Squadron

94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion converted and redesignated 1 May 1946 as 94th Constabulary Squadron; concurrently, relieved from assignment to 4th Armored Division and assigned to 11th Constabulary Regiment. Relieved from assignment to 11th Constabulary Regiment 6 January 1948; concurrently, converted and redesignated as 94th Field Artillery Battalion.

SPECIAL TROOPS**97th Constabulary Signal Squadron**

Formed by conversion and redesignation of 97th Signal Battalion. The squadron was co-located with Constabulary Headquarters. Redesignated 5 July 1950 as 97th Signal Operation Battalion, remaining assigned to the US Constabulary. Relieved from assignment to the US Constabulary 24 November 1950 and assigned to Seventh Army.

Constabulary School Squadron

Formed by conversion and redesignation of 465th Anti Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self Propelled), who arrived at Sonthafen 12 February 1946 to assume the role of Constabulary School troops.³⁶ The School itself began operations March 1946. It was closed in June 1948, and its personnel used to help form Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7732nd Field Artillery Group, which was activated 20 July 1948.

³⁵ I have no further information on the lineage of the former 474th Anti Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self Propelled).

³⁶ The original strength of the School was 948 personnel. In 1946, the School could handle 650 students per month. This increased to 1,000 by 1947.

ARTILLERY

The decision to reorganize as a tactical force in 1948 led to creation of artillery units as well as the reorganization of other Constabulary units into three armored cavalry regiments at the end of the year. Field Artillery units, while under the command of the US Constabulary, were technically not Constabulary units. The same was true of other units with branch designations (e.g., Engineers).

7732nd Field Artillery Group

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7732nd Field Artillery Group, activated 20 July 1948 at Sonthofen, absorbing personnel of the disbanded Constabulary School. This was the command element for field artillery battalions assigned to the US Constabulary. This was disbanded 1 April 1951 at Sonthofen, with its personnel used to help activate the Headquarters and Headquarters Batteries of the 35th and 36th Field Artillery Groups at that location.³⁷

70th Field Artillery Battalion

Activated 15 December 1948 at Fuessen.³⁸ Equipped with towed 105mm howitzers and tasked to support 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Reorganized and redesignated 15 October 1951 as 70th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

74th Field Artillery Battalion

Activated 15 December 1948 at Landshut.³⁹ Equipped with towed 105mm howitzers and tasked to support 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Reorganized and redesignated 15 October 1951 as 74th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

91st Field Artillery Battalion

91st Constabulary Squadron (inactive) converted and redesignated 6 January 1948 as 91st Field Artillery Battalion and activated in Germany. Equipped with towed 105mm howitzers and tasked to support 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Redesignated 20 May 1949 as 91st Armored Field Artillery Battalion, assigned to 1st Armored Division, and inactivated at Sonthofen.⁴⁰

94th Field Artillery Battalion

94th Constabulary Squadron converted and redesignated 6 January 1948 as 94th Field Artillery Battalion. Equipped with towed 155mm howitzers and tasked for general

³⁷ All four of the field artillery battalions were initially placed under the 36th Field Artillery Group (the CO of the 7732nd became the CO of the 36th); the 70th and 74th were then transferred 1 May 1951 to the 35th. The 36th was attached to the 1st Constabulary Brigade for the period 16 May to 1 July 1951; the 35th was attached to the 2nd Constabulary Brigade for a period as well.

³⁸ Organized from personnel and equipment of 15th Constabulary Squadron, which was inactivated the same date.

³⁹ Organized from personnel and equipment of 27th Constabulary Squadron, which was inactivated the same date.

⁴⁰ Personnel and equipment used to form 517th Field Artillery Battalion.

support of the US Constabulary. Redesignated 20 May 1949 as 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, assigned to 4th Armored Division, and inactivated.⁴¹

517th Field Artillery Battalion

Activated 20 May 1949 at Sonthofen.⁴² By 1951 located at Wetzlar. Continued direct support role for 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment with towed 105mm howitzers. Reorganized and redesignated 10 September 1951 as 517th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

519th Field Artillery Battalion

Activated 20 May 1949 at Sonthofen.⁴³ By 1951 located at Wetzlar. Continued general support role with towed 155mm howitzers.

ENGINEERS

54th Engineer Combat Battalion

As the 8th Engineer Combat Battalion, this unit was activated 15 September 1948 in Germany and placed under the US Constabulary. On 1 December 1948 it was redesignated as the 54th Engineer Combat Battalion.⁴⁴

547th Engineer Combat Battalion

As the 547th Engineer Construction Battalion, this unit returned to Germany (Gelnhausen) in September 1947. This was a segregated unit—all enlisted personnel were African American. On 29 August 1948 it was reorganized and redesignated as the 547th Engineer Combat Battalion and assigned to the US Constabulary. It remained with Seventh Army after the US Constabulary was inactivated.

Constabulary Unit Organization

A Constabulary regiment had a headquarters and headquarters troop (which included a motorcycle platoon [25 motorcycles] for traffic control and patrols, and a horse platoon [33 men and 30 horses] for difficult terrain⁴⁵); a light tank troop [17 M24 light tanks],⁴⁶ and three Constabulary squadrons. The regiment included nine L-5 light aircraft. The light tank troops were disbanded in 1947.

⁴¹ Personnel and equipment used to form 519th Field Artillery Battalion.

⁴² Formed from personnel and equipment of the inactivated 91st Field Artillery Battalion.

⁴³ Formed from personnel and equipment of the inactivated 94th Field Artillery Battalion.

⁴⁴ Thus avoiding further confusion with the 1st Cavalry Division's 8th Engineer Combat Squadron, which was redesignated in 1949 as a battalion.

⁴⁵ The only vehicles were four tractors with semitrailers. The platoon had 27 rifles and 4 submachine guns; as with the rest of the Constabulary, each individual also had a pistol. The horse platoons were still active in mid 1948.

⁴⁶ The M24 Chaffee light tank had crew of five, a 75mm gun, coaxial and hull mounted .30-caliber machine guns, and a .50-caliber machine gun on the turret top.

A Constabulary squadron was organized into five troops: three mechanized and two motorized. They were similar to a World War II mechanized cavalry reconnaissance troop, but with more light vehicles. A troop had 5 officers and 155 enlisted men.

The mechanized troops had jeeps and M8 armored cars.⁴⁷ There were 10 armored cars in the troop (three in each platoon—one per section—and one at troop headquarters). Each troop had three platoons, with three 13-man reconnaissance sections. The jeeps (three in each section) had .30-caliber light machine guns mounted, and the troopers had five submachine guns and seven M1 rifles; each man also had a pistol.

A motorized troop had trucks (mainly 1 ½-ton) with a .30-caliber light machine gun. The three platoons had three sections, but with only 12 men in each. Individual weapons were five submachine guns and seven M1 rifles, along with a pistol for each man. The troop was also authorized three 57mm recoilless rifles and three 81mm mortars.

Personnel shortages in early 1947 led to elimination during the year of the light tank troop in each regiment, and one troop in each squadron was eliminated. However, the 2nd Constabulary Regiment later regained a light tank troop, and also gained a recoilless rifle troop. The new four-troop squadrons were reorganized solely with mechanized troops.

In 1948, pistols were withdrawn from personnel armed with submachine guns or rifles.

In addition, an April 1948 table reorganized the troops with reconnaissance, rifle, and weapons platoons. The recon platoons had identical sections with jeeps and M8 armored cars. The rifle platoon, carried in 2½-ton trucks, had rifle squads and a light machine gun section of two squads. The weapons platoon had mortar squads and recoilless rifle sections.⁴⁸

I have not seen 1948 TOEs for the new armored cavalry regiments. However, they did include both light and medium tanks. The former would most likely have been used to replace the M8 armored cars in recon companies, and the latter may have been used to form a medium tank company in each battalion. The regiments were reinforced in 1951 by addition of an armored infantry battalion for each one, and the towed 105mm howitzer battalions were reorganized as armored field artillery with SP weapons.

⁴⁷ The M-8 armored car was a 6x6 vehicle with an open-topped turret and 37mm gun, coaxial .30-caliber machine gun, and a crew of four. It could have a ring or pintle-mounted .50-caliber machine gun for AA use.

⁴⁸ CPT H. P. Rand, "A Progress Report on the United States Constabulary", in the October 1949 *Military Review*. Presumably, but not stated in the article, there were two or three recon troops and one each of the rifle and weapons troops.

Sources

As a paper prepared for Obat.com, this is primarily concerned with units and organization. Those interested in the US Constabulary should consult the US Constabulary Association web site, which is a treasure-trove of photographs and other valuable material. A number of the references listed here can be viewed or obtained as links from that site. The best short overview of the US Constabulary and its roles is the paper by Kendell Gott.

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