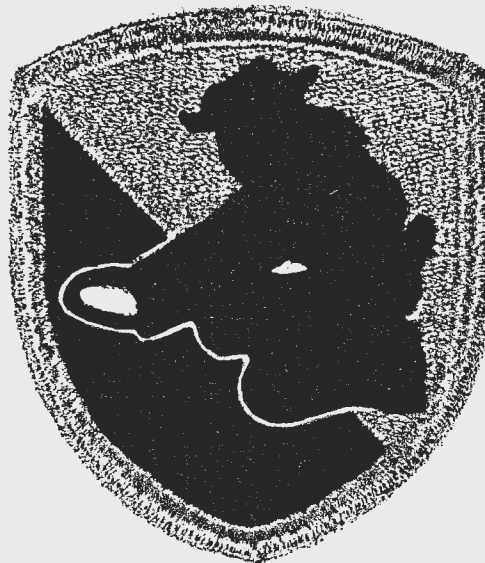


OUR ARMY DIVISIONS

BY JAMES F. GREENE, JR.

49th Infantry Division California National Guard

SSI: On a shield, divided diagonally yellow and red, bordered yellow, a dark blue 49'er panning yellow gold. Authorized 8 July 1949.



The 49th Infantry Division was assigned to the California National Guard on 5 August 1946, with units from the 40th Division and new units. Units were organized in Northern California in 1946-47 as a triangular division. On 1 May 1959 the division was reorganized as a pentomic division, and again reorganized as a ROAD division in 1965.

After twenty-two years as a normal national guard unit in training the division was inactivated 29 Jan 1968. Subordinate units were inactivated, reassigned or reorganized.

Division Series Insignia

On a light blue ellipse a gold representation of the Golden Gate Bridge, all encircled by a triparted border, colors are:

Div HQ — red, white and dark blue.

Div HQ — all red

49 Signal Co — white and yellow

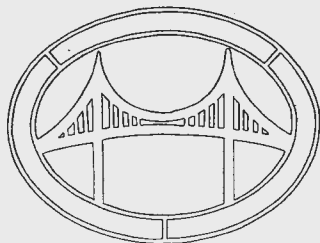
49 MP Co — green and white

49 QM Co — all buff

49 RCN Co — all yellow

49 Admin Co — red and dark blue

Unauthorized, but worn.



149th Armor

COAT OF ARMS

SHIELD:

Or, chain mail vert, in chief a prickly pear cactus of the last and a fleur-de-lis gules and in base a carabao affronte sable.

CREST:

That for the regiments and separate battalions of the California Army National Guard: On a wreath of the colors (or and vert) the setting sun behind a grizzly bear passant on a grassy field all proper.

MOTTO:

Men and Steel.

49th Inf Div

ORGANIZATION

1953-54

HHC
149 Tank Bn
49 Rcn Co
49 Signal Co
579 Engr Bn
49 MP Co

159 Inf
184 Inf
185 Inf

Div Arty
164 FA Bn
629 FA Bn
636 FA Bn
637 FA Bn
149 AAA Bn

126 Medical Bn
749 Ord Co
49 QM Co
49 Repl Co

1960

HHC
1 Bn 149 Armor
2 SQ 149 Armor
49 Sig Bn
579 Engr Bn
49 Avn Co

1 BG 159 Inf
2 BG 159 Inf
1 BG 184 Inf
2 BG 184 Inf
3 BG 184 Inf

Div Arty
1Bn 143 Arty
2 Bn 143 Arty
3 Bn 143 Arty
4 Bn 143 Arty
5 Bn 143 Arty
6 Bn 143 Arty

Div Trains
126 Med Bn
749 Ord Bn
249 Trans Bn
49 Admin Co
49 QM Co

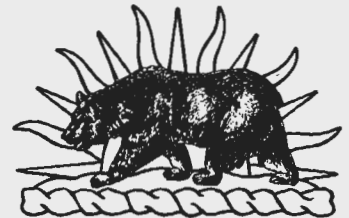
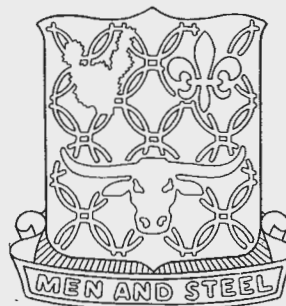
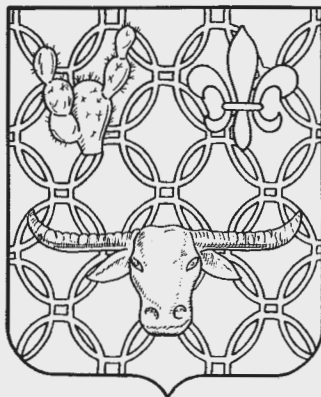
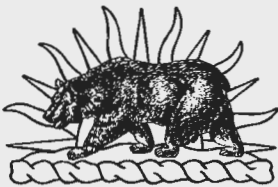
1966

HHC
1 Bde
2 Bde
3 Bde
49 MP Co
49 Avn Bn
49 Sig Bn
579 Eng Bn

1 Bn 159 Inf
2 Bn 159 Inf
1 Bn 184 Inf
2 Bn 184 Inf
1 Bn 185 Inf
2 Bn 185 Inf
1 Bn 149 Armor
2 Bn 149 Armor
1 SQ 170 Cav

Div Arty
1 Bn 143 Arty
2 Bn 143 Arty
3 Bn 143 Arty
4 Bn 143 Arty
5 Bn 143 Arty

Div Spt Cmd
49 Admin Co
126 Med Bn
749 Maint Bn
249 S&T Bn



SYMBOLISM:

Yellow in the armor color and green is associated with armor organizations. The cactus alludes to Mexican border service and the fleur-de-lis, service in World War I. The caraboa, a beast of burden often used for transportation, is common in the Philippines and represents World War II service there. The chain mail — a kind of armor used by warriors in ancient times — signifies the type of organization.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

The distinctive insignia is the shield and motto of the coat of arms.

164th Field Arty Bn

COAT OF ARMS:

SHIELD:

Gules a cocoanut palm tree issuant bendwise between a fleur-de-lis and a rattlesnake coiled to strike or.

CREST:

That for the regiments and separate battalions of the California Army National Guard: On a wreath of the colors, or and gules, the setting sun behind a grizzly bear passant on a grassy field, all proper.

MOTTO:

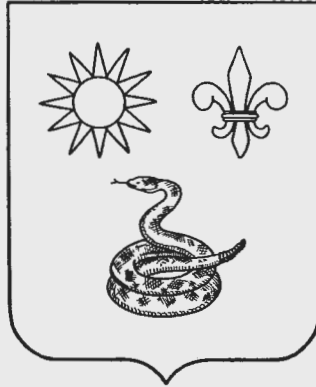
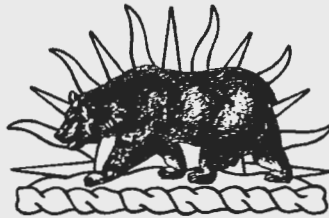
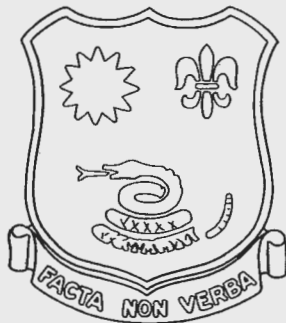
Cura et perfectam (Accuracy and perfection)

DESCRIPTION:

The red and gold are for Artillery while the cocoanut palm tree symbolizes service in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The fleur-de-lis and the rattlesnake represent service by elements of the organization in France during World War I and on the Mexican Border, respectively.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

The insignia is the shield and motto of the coat of arms. The sample of the insignia was approved 11 April 1952.



629th Field Arty Bn — 143d Artillery

COAT OF ARMS:

Approved 18 Mar 25; amended 3 Nov 25.

SHIELD:

Gules, in chief fesswise a sun in splendor of twelve spiked rays (the 40th Div shoulder sleeve insignia) and a fleur-de-lis, or, in base a rattlesnake coiled to strike, of the like.

CREST:

That for regiments of Calif NG.

MOTTO:

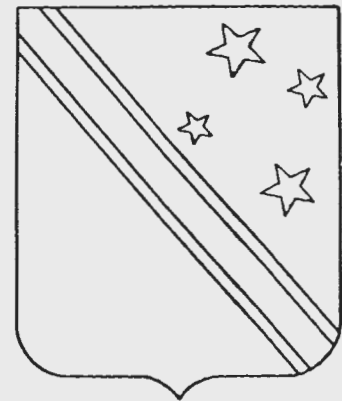
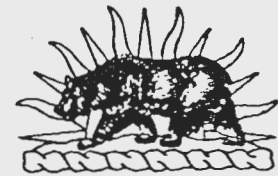
Facta Non Verba (Deeds, not words)

DESCRIPTION:

The gold sun is the shoulder sleeve insignia of 40 Div, the rattlesnake represents the service on the Mexican border and the fleur-de-lis the service in France.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

Approved 18 Mar 25; amended 3 Nov 25. Shield and motto of the coat of arms.



636th Field Arty Bn

COAT OF ARMS:

SHIELD:

Gules, on a bend or a bendlet azure, in chief four mullets of the second.

CREST:

That for the regiments and separate battalions of the California Army National Guard: On a wreath of the colors, or and gules, the setting sun behind a grizzly bear passant on a grassy field, all proper.

MOTTO:

Never silenced.

The colors red and yellow are for Artillery. The four stars of the constellation Southern Cross allude to the campaigns in which the battalion participated during World War II in the Pacific Theater. The blue bendlets alludes to the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation awarded the battalion for service in the Philippines Islands.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

The insignia is the shield and motto of the coat of arms. The sample of the insignia was approved 15 December 1955.

637th Field Arty Bn

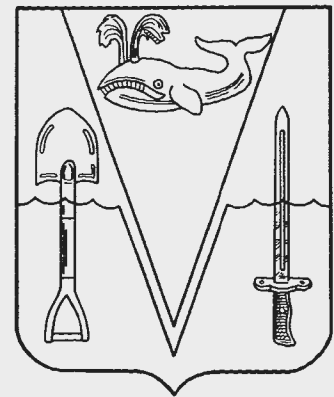
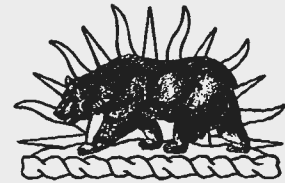
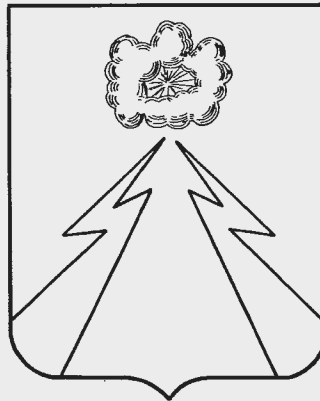
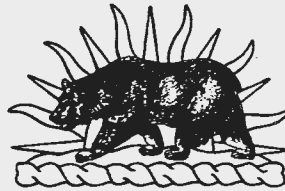
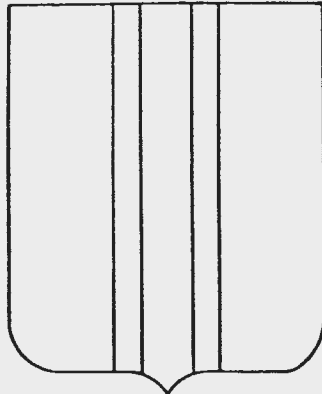
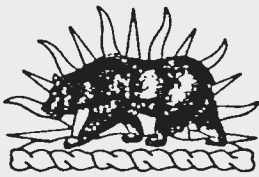
COAT OF ARMS:

SHIELD:

Gules, on a pale or a pallet vert.

CREST:

That for the regiments and separate battalions of the California Army National Guard: On a wreath of the colors, or and gules, the setting sun behind a grizzly bear passant on a grassy field, all proper.



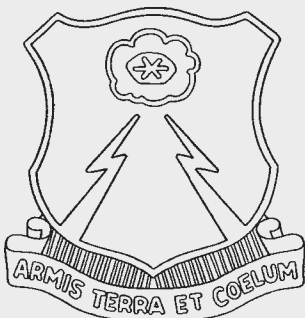
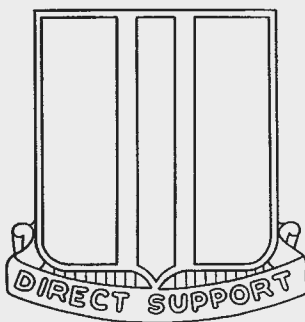
MOTTO:

Direct support.

Red and yellow are the colors used for Artillery. The pale is symbolic of strength and in combination with the green pallet represents the agricultural productiveness, wealth and sunshine of the Santa Clara Valley in which the battalion is located.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

The insignia is the shield and motto of the coat of arms. The sample of the insignia was approved 1 August 1952.



149th AAA AW Bn

COAT OF ARMS

SHIELD:

Gules, issuing from base chevron-wise two lightning flashes or, in chief a bomb burst proper.

CREST:

That for the regiments and separate battalions of the California National Guard: On a wreath of the colors (or and gules) the setting sun behind a grizzly bear passant on a grassy field all proper.

MOTTO:

Armis Terra et coelum (Arms on the Ground and in the Skies).

Approved 13 February 1952. The shield is red for Artillery. The burst and the lightning flashes denote the results of fast upward action and mobility of the unit.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

The insignia is the shield and motto of the coat of arms. The sample of the insignia was approved 15 December 1952.

579th Engineer Bn

COAT OF ARMS: Approved 29 Jan 1954

SHIELD:

Per fess engrailed argent and gules, on a pile asure that part over the second fimbriated of the first between a shovel and a bayonet counterchanged of the field a spouting Pacific Right Whale nainat of the last.

CREST:

That for the regiments and separate battalions of the California National Guard: On a wreath of the colors (argent and gules) the setting sun behind a grizzly bear passant on a grassy field all proper.

MOTTO:

Semper Laborantes (Always Working).

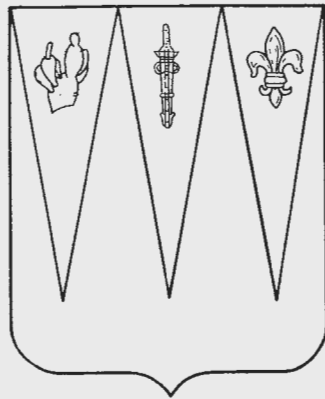
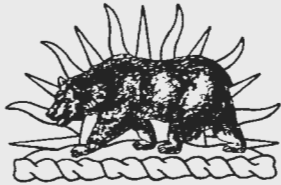
DESCRIPTION:

Red and white are the colors of the Corps of Engineers. Blue refers to the organization's descent from an Infantry Regiment. The shovel and bayonet allude to the Engineer combat mission of the battalion. The Pacific Right Whale symbolizes the campaign honors awarded the unit for service in the Pacific during World War II.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

The shield and motto of the coat of arms. Samples approved: 18 May 1973.





159th Infantry

COAT OF ARMS: Approved 20 Apr 1927

SHIELD:

Azure, three piles issuant or, in chief a prickly pear cactus vert, a sheathed Roman sword paleways point to base gules, and a fleur-de-lis of the first.

CREST:

That for regiments of Calif NG. Wreath: Or and azure.

MOTTO:

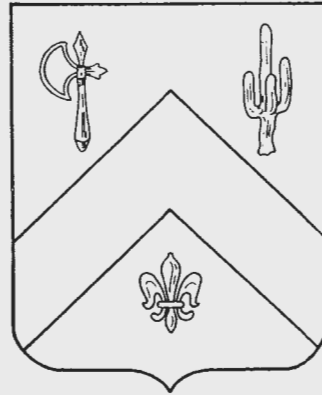
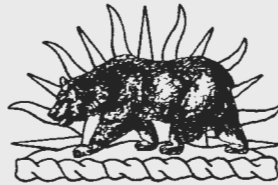
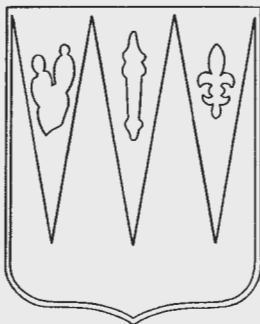
Unity for Service.

DESCRIPTION:

The shield is blue for Inf. The three piles indicate the organization has been in Federal service three times, and each pile is charged with a device representative of the service.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

Approved 20 Apr 27; amended 18 June 27. Shield only of coat of arms.



184th Infantry

COAT OF ARMS:

Approved 3 June 27.

SHIELD:

Azure, a chevron between a battle ax, a giant cactus, and a fleur-de-lis, all or.

CREST:

That for regiments of Calif NG. Wreath: Or and azure.

MOTTO:

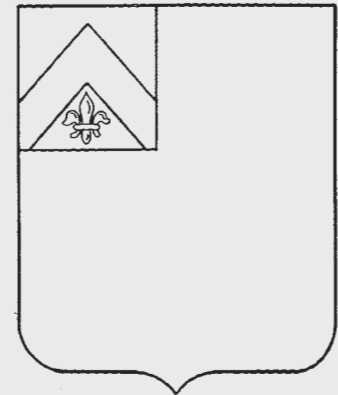
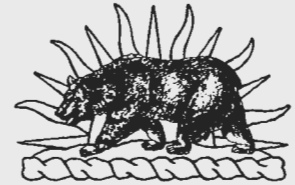
Let's Go

DESCRIPTION:

The shield is blue for Inf; the battle ax was used by the Sarafield Grenadiers (one of the ancestor units) as part of their drill paraphernalia, the giant cactus and the fleur-de-lis represent Mexican border and World War service, respectively.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

Approved 3 June 27. Shield only of the coat of arms.



185th Infantry

COAT OF ARMS:

Approved 12 July 30; amended 26 Aug 31.

SHIELD:

Azure, on a canton argent a chevron and a fleur-de-lis of the first.

CREST:

That for regiments of Calif NG. Wreath: Argent and azure.

MOTTO:

Nunquam Non Paratus (Never unprepared)

DESCRIPTION:

The shield is blue for Inf. The canton in silver — the old Inf color — charged with the chevron from the arms of the 184 Inf and the fleur-de-lis from the arms of the 160 Inf indicates descent from those organizations.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA:

Approved 12 July 30. Shield and motto of the coat of arms.

