

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Florida

Office of the Department Commander

John M. Vaughn III, DC
854 Hibiscus Street
Boca Raton, FL 33486-3540
Suvyankeel@aol.com

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER # 2 SERIES 2013-2014 15 August 2013

1. **Whereas** the mission of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War along with the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865; to assist in every practicable way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members; to cooperate in doing honor to all those who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of, our constitutional Union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all.
2. **And Whereas** the Department of Florida, SUVCW has, in honor of the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865, adopted the symbol of The Tenth (10th) Army Corps, the only Union Army Corps to fight in the State of Florida during The Rebellion.
3. **And Whereas** it is vitally important that each and every member of our Order within the Department be more fully informed as to the history of our country, the history of those who saved the Union, and the service of Union soldiers and sailors in the State of Florida during The Rebellion; so that we might be better able to diffuse knowledge throughout our communities consistent with the mission of our Order.
4. **And Whereas** Brother Michael E. Farrell, PDC, Council and Department Historian has compiled and written an excellent, detailed and highly informative *History of the Formation of the Tenth Army Corps* that is worthy of the broadest possible dissemination within and beyond the Department of Florida.
5. **Therefore** in accordance with our mission, **it is therefore Ordered** that the attached *History of the Formation of the Tenth Army Corps* (hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein):

- a. Be read aloud, by the Camp Commander (or his designee), in its entirety, at a regular meeting of each camp within the Department of Florida and that the aforesaid history be discussed by the members.
- b. That a printed or electronically transmitted copy of the *History of the Formation of the Tenth Army Corps* be distributed to each current and new member of the Department of Florida by his camp commander or coordinator.
- c. That the Department Signals Officer post a copy of the *History of the Formation of the Tenth Army Corps* on the department website.

So Ordered this 17th day of July 2013

John M. Vaughn III
Commander
Department Order, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attested:

Lloyd B. Monroe
Secretary
Department Order, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War





SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE TENTH ARMY CORPS

The 10th Army Corps symbol has been adopted by the Department of Florida, SUVCW. It represents the Army, which fought in the States of: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. The 10th Army Corps holds the distinction of being the only Union Army Corps to fight in the State of Florida.

Here is a brief description of how the Union Army was organized and the history leading up to the establishment of the 10th Army Corps.

On the eve of the Rebellion the Regular Army of the United States was essentially a frontier constabulary whose 16,000 officers and men were organized into 198 companies scattered across the nation at seventy-nine different posts.

4:30AM On April 12th, 1861 a Confederacy of insurgents in the slaveholding States fired on Fort Sumter; located in Charleston harbor, South Carolina. The attack was an act of open rebellion against the U.S. Federal Government. The insurgents controlling the State of South Carolina felt their constitutional right to hold slaves as property was threatened, by the lawful election of President Abraham Lincoln. The slaveholding States had withdrawn their representatives from the U.S. Congress. President Lincoln refused to recognize a Confederacy, formed by the insurgents controlling those State Governments who incited rebellion to dissolve our Union. The Stars of those States remained on the National Flag. Lincoln refused to recognize the rebels as a government and warned foreign nations not to interfere. This frustrated the rebels to end the peace through an act of war.

Why did the Americans go to war?

Whether a master is a King, President or common man, slavery existed in all races over thousands of years within human societies all over the world. When Europeans came to colonize the New World (America) they brought their slaves with them. Many different peoples came to North America because of economic opportunities for some, and freedom from oppression for others. Over time two societies would develop around two very different economies in America. One was based on Agriculture the other on Manufacturing. The one used slaves as a labor force, the other paid wages to freemen. Agriculture dominated the economies of the colonies to the North and South. A culture between master and slave was well established by the time the American Colonies had won their independence from the British King. Times and attitudes towards slavery were changing.

New industries increasingly began to dominate the States to the North. These economies sectionalized our country in a way that created bitter political divisions within our Republic. The political contradiction between the Declaration of Independence recognizing the equality of men, and the U. S. Constitution recognizing human property had never been resolved to the liking of these two factions, Slaveholders and Freemen. Although the States had reservations they formed a Union, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A moral division split the Christian Churches; some believing that all men were brothers and descendants of Adam & Eve and hence detested enslavement of their Black brothers. While other church leaders pointed out that bondage and slavery were human conditions, as illustrated in accounts of the Bible, they believed slavery to be ordained by God.

The Africans were purchased as slaves from African Nations, and traded to the agricultural industries throughout the Americas. The masters of slaves enacted laws to perpetuate the peculiar institution, for the benefit of themselves and the Agricultural economy in their section of our country. In fact the U. S. Supreme Court had ruled in favor of those States laws that had slavery, by enforcing Federal laws, superseding States laws, which abolished slavery. In the land of the free the social injustice allowed many White people to believe they were superior to the Black race. However, abolitionists White & Black opposed this idea of superiority, and declared that the races are equal in the eyes of God and should be under the laws of man. By the election of 1860 many States had abolished slavery, and these "Free Labor" States were refusing to return run away slaves declaring their "States Rights" to do so. By 1860 the Americans in the South were fearful of the coming changes that the anti-slavery Republican Party might bring. Political and civil strife was at its breaking point. It snapped when a Republican, Abraham Lincoln, was elected President. **They would rather break the Union than face the possibility of changes to the slave culture and social institutions the agricultural economy was based upon. They felt WAR was the only way, for the question to be decided once and for all. And it would be!**



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE TENTH ARMY CORPS

In 1861, the U.S. Army was under the command of Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, the seventy-five-year-old hero of the Mexican-American War. His position as general-in-chief was traditional, not statutory, because secretaries-of-war since 1821 had designated a general to be in charge of the field forces without formal Congressional approval. The field forces themselves were controlled through a series of geographic departments whose commanders reported directly to the general-in-chief.

The U.S. Federal government had two basic options for the use of the Regular Army. It could be divided into training and leadership cadre for newly formed volunteer regiments or be retained in units to provide a reliable nucleus for the U.S. Federal Army in coming battles to preserve the Union of the old slave republic. Lt. General Scott wanted the "Regulars" to fight as units and therefore the war, was fought primarily with State-militia volunteer officers and men, the vast majority of who had no previous military training or experience. The Federals began the war with a Regular Army organized into an essentially (Napoleonic) musket-equipped structure. Each of the ten prewar infantry regiments consisted of ten 87-man companies with a maximum authorized strength of 878.

At the beginning of the rebellion, the Federals added nine Regular infantry regiments with a newer "French Model" organizational structure. The new regiments contained three battalions, with a maximum authorized strength of 2,452. The new regular battalion, with eight 100-man companies, was, in effect, equivalent to the prewar regiment. The U.S. Federal War Department established a volunteer infantry regimental organization with a strength that could range from 866 to 1,046 (varying in authorized strength by up to 180 infantry privates). These smaller units were formed into Divisions, Corps and Departments of the Union Army. Various enlistment figures exist, but the best estimates are that approximately two million men enlisted in the Union Army during 1861-65. Of that number, 1 million were under arms when the Rebellion ended.

Early in the war, an Expeditionary Force was created to support the blockade strategy of the Lincoln administration. It was a combined military operation between the Navy and the Army. The Army would provide ground troops under the command of Brigadier General Thomas West Sherman and the Naval Force was under the command of Commodore Samuel F. Dupont. The Expeditionary Force formed in September of 1861, it was at this time that the military career of what would become the 10th Army Corps began. The first engagement November 4th 1861 was at Port Royal, S.C. And on January 1st 1862 the regiments of what would eventually be part of the 10th Army Corps were again engaged in support of an action to take the fort at Port Royal Ferry, S.C., under the direction of General Isaac Stevens 2nd Brigade Exped'y Corps. After many months preparing for the siege of Fort Pulaski, Georgia, General Thomas W. Sherman was relieved of Command of the Expeditionary Corps in March of 1862.

The Department of the South was created under the Command of Major General David Hunter from the troops of the Expeditionary Corps. It was on this date, April 10, 1862, that the troops from the Expeditionary Army Corps participated in the siege of Fort Pulaski, Georgia under the Command of Brigadier General Gilmore. Military history was made during the siege of Fort Pulaski. For the first time in military history rifled canon successfully reduced a Fortress from over a mile away. What was thought to take months of siege only took 30 hours. The Confederate Commander of Fort Pulaski was told by no less a man than General Lee himself that the canon placed, a mile away on Tybee Island, Ga., would not be a problem.

The various regiments of Union troops forming the Department of the South had been stationed throughout the Sea Islands along the shores of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. With little resistance these same Union troops took the cities of Jacksonville and St. Augustine Florida. On April 13, 1862, following the Union capture of Ft. Pulaski Maj. Gen. David Hunter issued General Order No. 7 freeing those enslaved. The General also advocated enlistment of black soldiers in the Union Army. President Lincoln overturned the order. This was the first indication that the war was not about preserving the old slave republic but about establishing a new republic providing freedom to all peoples. In January 1863 Pres. Lincoln would issue the Emancipation Proclamation. The Bureau of Colored Troops was established on May 22, 1863.

During this time tens of thousands of slaves escaped from their plantation masters to the occupation forces of



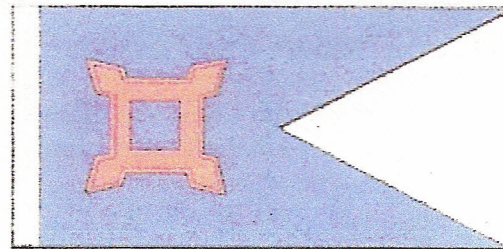
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE TENTH ARMY CORPS

the Union Army located along these shores. It was at this time that the Department of the South established housing, food, medical care and education to the escaped slaves. This military organization laid the foundation of what would be known later as the Freedman's Bureau. The Union troops in the Department of the South also had the distinction of mustering the first colored regiments that were formed from the freed slaves.

On September 3rd, 1862 the Tenth Union Army Corps was established from troops in the Department of the South; General Order 123 by the Secretary of War. Major General David Hunter was relieved of command on September 16th, 1862. The newly formed Tenth Army Corps was placed under the command of Major General O. M. Mitchel.



10th ARMY CORPS

The 10th Army Corps symbol is the FORTRESS as seen on the flag outlined in red. The following are the regiments that made up the 10th Corps in October of 1862:

Hilton Head & Fort Seward, S.C.

Brig. Gen. A. H. Terry Commanding

- 3rd New Hampshire, Col. J. H. Jackson
- 47th New York, Col. J. L. Frazier
- 76th Pennsylvania, Col. D. C. Strawbridge
- 97th Pennsylvania, Col. H. R. Guss
- 3rd Rhode Island Artillery, Lieut. Col. S. R. Bucklin
- 3rd US Artillery, Battery E, Lieut. E. Gittings
- 1st New York Engineers, Col. E. W. Serrell

Graham's Plantation

- 1st Massachusetts Cavalry (detachment), Lieut. J. G. Thayer

Beaufort, S. C.

Col. T. H. Good Commanding

- 6th Connecticut, Maj. L. Meeker
- 7th Connecticut, Col. J. R. Hawley
- 8th Maine, Col. J. D. Rust
- 4th New Hampshire, Col. Louis Bell
- 47th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. G. W. Alexander
- 55th Pennsylvania, Col. Richard White
- 1st Massachusetts Cavalry (battalion), Maj. A. H. Stevens, Jr.
- 1st Connecticut Light Battery, Capt. A. P. Rockwell
- 1st New York Engineers, Company H, Capt. F. H. Cruso

Fort Pulaski, GA.

- 48th New York, Col. W. B. Barton
- 3rd Rhode Island Artillery, Company G, Capt. J. H. Gould



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE TENTH ARMY CORPS

Continuation of regiments that made up the 10th Corps in October of 1862:

- Fort Clinch, FLA.
1st New York Engineers, Company C, Capt. J. E. Place
- Old Town, FLA.
1st New York Engineers, Company E, Lieut. H. Farrand
- Key West, FLA.
90th New York, Col. J. S. Morgan
- Fernandina, FLA.
9th Maine, Col. Rishworth Rich
- Saint Augustine, FLA.
7th New Hampshire, Col. H. S. Putnam

aggregate and grand total of Officers and Men when the Tenth Corps was formed, is reported as 14, 579. Other regiments would come to swell the ranks of the brave in the Tenth Corps such as the famous 54th Massachusetts, 1st North Carolina and the 8th U.S.C.T.

The Union Army 10th Corps would be commanded by six army officers during its career in the War of the Rebellion 1861- 1865. In chronological order of their command they were:

- Maj. Gen. Ormsby McKnight Mitchel
- Brig. Gen. John Milton Brannan
- Maj. Gen. David Hunter
- Maj. Gen. Quincy Adams Gilmore
- Maj. Gen. David Bell Birney
- Maj. Gen. Alfred Howe Terry

The Tenth Army Corps was engaged in the following battles during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865: James Island; Pocotaligo; Morris Island; **Fort Wagner**; **Olustee**; Walthall Junction; Chester Station; Proctor's Creek; Drewry's Bluff; **Cold Harbor**; Bermuda Hundred; Ware Bottom Church; **Petersburg**; Strawberry Plains; Deep Bottom; Chffin's Farm; New Market Road; Darbytown Road; Charles City Road; Fair Oaks (1864); **Fort Fisher**; Sugar Loaf Battery; Fort Anderson; Wilmington.

The war was won; 200,000 African Americans had joined the Union Army to fight against the enslavement of their race. Many of their regiments served in the Tenth Corps. By the Grace of God the Union Army kept the States united. Seldom mentioned are those southerners Black & White who joined the Union Army and the 10th Corps to keep the STAR of their State from being torn out of the blue field on our National Flag.

It is little noted nor remembered that countless numbers of African Americans in the service of the Union Army Tenth Corps and Naval Operations were hung or shot as TRAITORS when captured by the Confederate rebels. Odd as this may seem in today's world the Confederate rebels expected the slaves to be loyal to them. White Unionist who lived in the seat of the rebellion considered traitors by the rebels; their lives forfeited and property confiscated. The slaves left the Plantations by the tens of thousands many giving aid to the Union troops with information, or joining the Union Army. This angered the rebels and they took their vengeance on the Battlefield of Olustee, FL. by executing wounded Black soldiers. There is a mass grave of Black and White Union soldiers buried somewhere on that field, we know not where. In tribute we remember their service to our country.

Symbols are part of our mission to keep green their memory. The Tenth Corp symbol represents these Union troops who fought in the Grand Army of the Republic and their story of glory & honor. Every member shall know the history of the Corps. Among the Brotherhood of our Fraternal Order, the Brothers in the Department of Florida will wear this symbol of the Union Army with pride and purpose.