



The U.S. Army and The Naming Commission

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Agenda



- The Naming Commission: Background and Context
- The Army's Challenge
- Naming Commission Recommendations
- Army Implementation:
 - Post Names
 - Heraldry
 - Property
 - Other Considerations
- Concluding Thoughts





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The Naming Commission: Background and Context



- The Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) directed the establishment of a commission related to “assigning, modifying, or removing of names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia to assets of the Department of Defense that commemorate the Confederate States of America (CSA) or any person who served voluntarily with the CSA.”
- The commission consisted of eight members (four appointed by DoD and two each from the Senate and House of Representatives), and had five duties:
 1. Assess the cost of renaming or removing names, symbols, displays, monuments, or paraphernalia that commemorate the CSA;
 2. Develop procedures and criteria to assess whether a name etc. commemorates the CSA;
 3. Recommend renaming procedures for the DoD;
 4. Develop plans for the removal of names etc. by January 1, 2024;
 5. Include “procedures and criteria for collecting and incorporating local sensitivities” associated with renaming.
- Cemeteries and museums were exempt.
- The commission published its final report to Congress in August 2022; it is available at <https://www.thenamingcommission.org/> .





Naming Commission Recommendations



- That the Secretary of Defense authorize the Secretary of the Army to rename nine bases
- That the Secretary of the Army use existing memorialization procedures to rename other assets and remove the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery
- That the Secretary of the Army identify and remove references to the CSA in Army unit heraldic items and flags





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The Army's Challenge



- Scope and Volume: the Army is the nation's largest military service, with the most facilities, people, and units subject to the commission's work.
- The Lost Cause:

d. Civil War (Federal Service). A streamer divided horizontally with blue above gray. The inscription is golden yellow (see fig 9-37).



Figure 9-37. Civil War (Federal Service) (Union)

e. Civil War (Confederate Service). Campaign streamers and war service streamers will be awarded for active Confederate military service as an exception to the requirement of "active Federal military service." The streamer is divided horizontally gray above blue. The inscription is golden yellow (see fig 9-38).



Figure 9-38. Civil War (Confederate Service)





Post Names



- Fort A.P. Hill, VA to Fort Walker (Dr. Mary Edwards Walker)
 - Fort Benning, GA to Fort Moore (Lieut. Gen. Hal and Julia Moore)
 - Fort Bragg, NC to Fort Liberty
 - Fort Gordon, GA to Fort Eisenhower (President / Gen. D.D. Eisenhower)
 - Fort Hood, TX to Fort Cavazos (Gen. Richard Cavazos)
 - Fort Lee, VA to Fort Gregg-Adams (Lieut. Gen. Arthur Gregg / Lieut. Col. Charity Adams)
 - Fort Pickett, VA to Fort Barfoot (Tech.Sgt. Van Barfoot)
 - Fort Polk, LA to Fort Johnson (Pvt. William Henry Johnson)
 - Fort Rucker, AL to Fort Novosel (CW4 Michael J. Novosel)
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- CMH began researching potential base namesakes in August 2020
 - The Naming Commission took this initial list as a point of departure
 - Public comment phase: 34,000 names and comments, 3,663 unique names suggested
 - January 2022: Commission reduced the list to 461 candidates, then to 87
 - February-May 2022: Commission reviewed the 87 candidates and consulted local communities again, resulting in the final list





Heraldry



- The Naming Commission directed the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) and The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH) to provide a complete inventory of heraldic items (unit crests, badges, coats of arms, shoulder insignia) which commemorate the Confederate States of America or any individual who voluntarily served with the Confederate States of America
- CMH and TIOH used a three-part methodology for the inventory:
 1. Identify items with Confederate symbolism
 2. Determine whether the symbolism commemorates the CSA
 3. Determine whether the item is in use
- This process identified 456 pieces of heraldry that required further analysis based on the criteria above; this analysis left the conclusion that 202 items commemorated the Confederacy
- Army units using these items will be required to turn in those on-hand and to work with TIOH to develop and manufacture new heraldic items





Property



- Each Army installation is required to identify property (signage, replica objects, art) that references or commemorates the CSA
- CMH's army museum office will assess this property for objects of historical value, and retain them for Army museum exhibits
- The remainder of the property will be advertised for donation to non-Federal museums or historical societies
- Property left over from these two processes will be disposed of by the Defense Logistics Agency and the Army Materiel Command





Other Considerations



- In March 2023, the Army revoked the 1949 exception authorizing the gray-over-blue CSA battle streamer
- Each installation is required to conduct an internal inventory of buildings, roads, facilities, etc that have names, and to remove names of individuals who served the Confederacy
- The Army is in the process of changing mailing addresses and network names that reference the old base names





Concluding Thoughts





Questions and Discussion

