



Military Corner

Second Army

Second United States Army was formed 15 October 1918 during World War I. It functioned as a training and administrative headquarters until being inactivated 15 April 1919. It was activated again and served as a training army for much of its existence until inactivation in 1966. It is presently based at Fort Belvoir, Virginia as U.S. Army Cyber Command/Second Army.

Second United States Army was reactivated on 1 October 1933 to consolidate forces in the continental United States under four regional army commands. It was headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1940, with the activation of Army General Headquarters, the four field armies were given responsibility for training forces in their respective areas and conducting maneuvers to evaluate training and readiness. In September 1941, Second U.S. Army participated in large-scale maneuvers pitting it against Third U.S. Army in what were known as the Louisiana Maneuvers. Over 350,000 troops took part. Also in 1941, four regional defense commands were established coterminous with the army areas, and the Commander, Second U.S. Army became also Commanding General, Central Defense Command.

With First and Fourth Armies be given primary responsibility for defense of the eastern and western coasts of the United States, and later with First Army's relocation to England to command U.S. Army forces in the invasion of France, Second and Third Armies assumed increasing responsibility for the training and organization of the rapidly expanding army and preparing troops for overseas deployment. When Third Army headquarters was relocated to France in 1944 to serve as a combat command, Second Army assumed its stateside responsibilities as well.

Second U.S. Army was commanded from 1940 to 1943 by Lt. Gen. Ben Lear. He was succeeded by Lt. Gen. Lloyd Fredendall, who held command until war's end.

In November 1964, the Department of the Army announced First and Second Armies would merge and Second Army subsequently inactivated. Second Army headquarters staff were retained and became the new staff for U.S. First Army. On 1 January 1966 at Fort Meade, Second Army was inactivated and its colors cased by commander, Lt. General William F. Train who then assumed command of U.S. First Army.

Second Army was reactivated on 1 October 1983 under U.S. Army Forces Command as a regional command to control Army Reserve forces in the southeastern United States, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It was headquartered at Fort Gillem, Georgia. It was again inactivated on 3 July 1995. On 1 October 2010 Second Army was again re-activated as United States Army Cyber Command/Second Army based out of Fort Belvoir, VA [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_United_States_Army]

