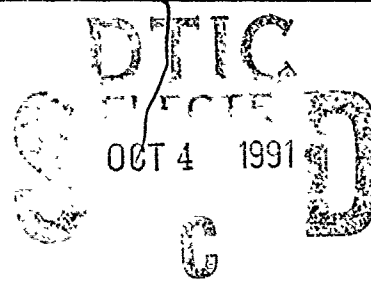


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BUFFALO SOLDIERS
The Formation of the Ninth Cavalry
Regiment: July 1866 - March 1867

A Thesis presented to the faculty of the U.S. Army
Command and General Staff College in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree

MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

by

Harry Johnson, MAJ, USA
B.S., United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1978



Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
1991

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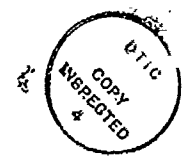
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 The Formation of the Ninth Cavalry
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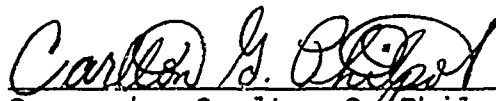
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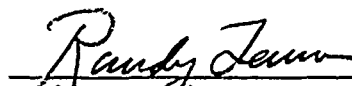
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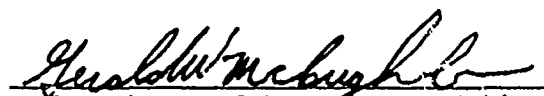
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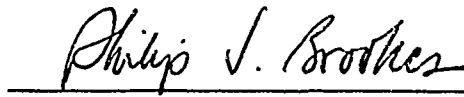
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The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the student author and do not necessarily represent the views of the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College or any other governmental agency. (References to this study should include the foregoing statement.)

ABSTRACT

BUFFALO SOLDIERS: THE FORMATION OF THE NINTH CAVALRY REGIMENT: JULY 1866 - MARCH 1867 by Major Harry E. Johnson Sr., U. S. Army, 112 pages.

This study documents the Ninth Cavalry Regiment's history from its creation on July, 28 1866 through its deployment west in March 1867. Previous historians have not chronicled, in detail, the early history of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. This study fills part of that gap.

The Ninth Cavalry was one of six Black Regular Regiments created by the Reorganization Act of 1866. This study focused on the mustering, formation, and training of that regiment. The regiment was garrisoned in New Orleans, Louisiana. All officers assigned to the new regiments had to meet strict screening requirements. Most of the recruiting for the regiment's Black soldiers was done in the southwest portion of the United States. The unit's officers often complained that the troops were illiterate and difficult to train.

The thesis concludes there were not enough officers available to supervise or train the enlisted soldiers properly. Literacy was not the unit's biggest problem. Despite the lack of officers, the Ninth Cavalry Regiment was the first of the Black Regular Regiments to deploy, en masse, as a part of the peacetime United States Army.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank my family and my classmates for their patience and assistance in this project. The research and writing of this thesis consumed much of my time, energy and humor. I would never have completed this project without their encouragement and understanding.

I would like to give a special thanks to the members of my thesis committee: Colonel Gerald McLaughlin, Commander Carlton Philpot, and Major Randy Lemon. I would have abandoned this project while it was still in its infancy had they not nudged me forward and provided the vision necessary to guide me through the "fog of research." I owe the Committee Chairman, Commander Philpot, a special debt of gratitude for his constant guidance and counsel.

I am forever indebted to my close friend Major Michael Boson for his recommendations and guidance on the use of computer hardware and software to assist in the writing, revisions, and graphics associated with this study. Without his assistance, I would still be working, in pencil, on my first draft. I also thank Mrs. Linda Duree for deciphering and printing the final product.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Black citizens have played an active role in the Army since the Revolutionary War. One of the first citizens to die for the independence of the United States was a young Black man named Christpus Attucks. Attucks was shot down by British soldiers occupying Boston Massachusetts.¹ Blacks also fought in the United States Navy and in State Militias during the War of 1812. Although the Black soldiers performed admirably, after each of these conflicts Congress passed new laws restricting Black participation in the United States Military.²

The Civil War marked the first large scale participation of Blacks in the United States Army. On 17 July 1862, Congress passed the Militia Act.³ This act allowed Blacks to serve as laborers to support the Union Army. Secretary of War Edward Stanton expanded the roles of Blacks in the Civil War on 25 August 1862 by authorizing the recruitment of Black soldiers to support the Union war effort. Over 180,000 Black men enlisted and served as soldiers during the Civil War. About 37,300 Black soldiers died fighting during

the war.⁴ As usual, toward the end of the war the Army began to muster these soldiers out of the service.

At the end of the Civil War the Regular Army consisted of six regiments of Cavalry, five regiments of Artillery and 19 regiments of Infantry for a total of 30 regiments. Ten of the Infantry Regiments each contained eight companies. Each of the other nine Infantry Regiments contained 24 companies. Each of the Cavalry and Artillery Regiments contained 12 companies. The total number of companies in the Army was 448.⁵(see Figure 1) Federal and state laws forbid Blacks from serving in the peacetime Army or even owning a gun.⁶

On July 28, 1866 the United States Congress passed the Army Reorganization Act of 1866. The Act instituted several major changes in the Army. It increased the size of the Army from 30 regiments to 60 regiments. It also standardized the organization of the various regiments. The Act stipulated that Cavalry and Artillery Regiments would consist of twelve companies, and Infantry Regiments would consist of ten companies.⁷ Most importantly, the Reorganization Act opened a new chapter in the Army's history. The Reorganization Act of 1866 decreed that for the first time in the history of the U.S. Army, Black soldiers could serve in the Regular Army during peacetime. Congress stipulated that six of the 30 new regiments, two Cavalry Regiments and four Infantry Regiments, would be

composed of Black enlisted men and White officers.⁸ Thus the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Infantry Regiments became the first Black units in the peacetime Army.⁹

THESIS PURPOSE

Although each of Black Regiments has a unique and enviable military record, this paper focuses on the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. The purpose of this thesis is to document accurately the formation of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. Emphasis will be on recording factual data and not on the interpretation of the facts.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This thesis will focus on three research questions:

- a. What events led to the formation of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment?
- b. How did the Army recruit the personnel necessary to man the unit?
- c. What were the problems and solutions associated with the formation of the Regiment?

LIMITATIONS/DELIMITATIONS

The scope of the research is limited to the period July 28, 1866 through March 30, 1867. This period covers the Reorganization Act that authorized formation of the Regiment in 1866, the activation of the Regiment in New Orleans, Louisiana, and its initial deployment to southwest Texas.¹⁰ The thesis focuses on key factors associated with the formation of the unit. These factors include selecting officers, recruiting enlisted personnel, equipping the unit, and training the unit for combat prior to their departure for the western frontier in late March 1867.

The study does not evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and procedures the Army used to man or train the Regiment nor will it examine the social, economic, or moral climate of the 1860s. The thesis does not compare the formation of the Ninth Cavalry with the formation of any other Cavalry Regiment White or Black. This paper focuses solely on documenting the facts and events affecting the formation of the Ninth Cavalry.

SIGNIFICANCE

This paper is significant because it is the first paper to document the facts surrounding the Ninth Cavalry Regiment's initial formation, recruitment, and training.

THESIS ORGANIZATION

This paper consists of seven chapters. Chapter One is the introduction. Chapter Two is the Review of Literature. Chapter Three explains the Research Methodology. Chapters Four through Six discuss the history of the Regiment and answer the research questions. Chapter Seven summarizes the information and gives the author's beliefs concerning the history of the unit and suggested areas for future research. Appendices contain a copy of the Reorganization Act of 1866 and a copy of the General Order designating the unit as the Ninth Cavalry Regiment.

ARMY ORGANIZATION BEFORE
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1866

Units	Companies per Regt	Off	Enl	Total
Six Regts Cavalry	12	264	7248	7512
Five Regts Artillery	12	273	4674	4947
Ten Regts Infantry	10	340	5480	5820
Nine Regts Infantry	24	693	21303	21995
Noncommissioned Staff (unattached)			129	129
Army Staff		531	2124	2655
Totals	448	2101	40958	43059

Figure 1

ENDNOTES

1. Benjamin Quarles, The Negro in the Making of American History. (New York: Macmillian, 1964), p.52.
2. Russell F. Weigley, History of the United States Army. (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1984), p.93.
3. Dudley Cornish, The Sable Army - Negro Troops in the Union Army, 1861 - 1865. (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1966), p.46.
4. James Dormon and Robert Jones, The Afro-American Experience. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1974), p.256.
5. Secretary of War, Official Army Register for 1866, (War Department, Adjutant General's Office, 1 Aug 1866), p.150.
6. Weigley, p. 93.
7. U.S. Congressional Record, 39th Congress, 1st Session. Secretary of War Report, Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the Army, p.1-2.
8. Adjutant General's Office, Index of General Orders 1866. General Order number 56 dtd 1 Aug 1866.
9. General Order number 91, dtd 23 Nov 1866.
10. U.S. Congressional Record, 40th Congress, 1st Session. Secretary of War Report, Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the Army, p.416.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The purpose of the review of literature is to locate information applicable to the thesis questions. It is difficult to find literature written to preserve the history of the Black units formed at the end of the Civil War. However, it is possible to reconstruct some of the history of these units using other sources of information. Information on the history of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment can be found in literary sources written about Blacks in the American Military, the Post-Civil War Army, and life in the United States during the Reconstruction Era.

The information contained in this thesis was compiled from books, military and congressional records, letters, magazine and newspaper articles, and photographs related to the aforementioned subjects. The thesis uses information from primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. Primary sources included Adjutant General Records, Congressional Records, and personal correspondence between key players such as Secretary of War Edward Stanton and Army Commander General Ulysses S. Grant. Secondary sources

include books on the U.S. Cavalry, the Indian Wars, and life in the United States during the Reconstruction Era. The tertiary sources include magazine and newspaper articles written about Blacks in Post-Civil War America and sketches of Black Cavalrymen.

Blacks in the Military

Books on Black History, especially those written about the Black military experience, contained much of the information on the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. Several of these books also contained information on how Black soldiers contributed to American military campaigns during the Colonial Period, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Books on the Black military experience that provide information pertinent to this thesis include William H. Leckies The Buffalo Soldier's, John M. Carroll's The Black Military Experience, Edward Wakkum's Black Fighting Men, Jack Foner's Blacks and the Military in American History, Dudley Cornish's The Sable Arm, and Bernard C. Nalty's Strength for the Fight.

The Post-Civil War Army

Books written about life in the Post-civil War Army also contributed information on the formation and early

experiences of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. Some of the works referenced in this thesis are Edward Coffman's The Old Army, Theodore Rodenbough's The Army of the United States, Jack Foner's The U.S. Soldier Between Two Wars, Richard Wormer's The ~~101st~~ Cavalry: The Story of the U.S. Cavalry, Robert Utley's Frontier Regulars, and the Army Lineage Series by Mary Lee Stubbs and Stanley Russell Connor.

Primary sources that contained facts about the Ninth Cavalry and the Post Civil War Army are The Index of General Orders and The Official Army Register. The Index of General Orders, 1866 contains the Adjutant General Orders announcing passage of the Reorganization Act. It also contains a copy of General Grant's letter recommending appointment of the first Field Grade Officers to the Regiment. The Official Army Register is another primary source that contains details on the officers and enlisted personnel assigned to old regiments. The Official Army Register of 1866 contained the names and duty positions of the first officers assigned to the Regiments. It also contained organizational tables for cavalry units before and after the mandated reorganization. Both sources were printed by the Adjutant General's Office in Washington D.C.

Several artists helped preserve Black Military History by sketching and photographing Black soldiers.

Several of the sources used in this thesis contained sketches by Paul Rossi and Frederic Remington.

The Reconstruction Era

Another source of information about the Ninth Cavalry was books and articles written about the Reconstruction Era. The Reconstruction Era was the time immediately following the Civil War when the government was reestablishing the union and recovering from the war. During this period both the Congress and the Army were wrestling with the problems of mustering out soldiers, maintaining law and order, and providing security along the western frontier.

Two primary sources of information on the Reconstruction Era, that contained information pertaining to this thesis were The Congressional Record, and The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant. The Congressional Record of the Thirty Ninth Congress is a good primary source of information on the politics involved in the formation of the Black Regiments. The congressional record contains the debates on the types and number of Black Regiments Congress would include in the restructure. It also provides valuable insight into the different motivations for the creation of the Black Regiments. The Papers of General Ulysses S. Grant, edited by John Y. Simon, contained copies

of much of the correspondence General Grant wrote concerning the incorporation of Blacks into the Army. General Grant wrote numerous letters to Secretary of War Stanton and to the commander charged with raising the Ninth Cavalry Regiment; Major General Philip H. Sheridan, Commander of the Department of the Gulf.

Other information about life in the United States during the Reconstruction Era, was drawn from books on that period. Some of the key books used in this thesis are Lerone Bennett Jr's Before the Mayflower, Peter and Mort Bergman's The Chronological History of the Negro in America, William Katz's The Black West, James Sefton's The United States Army and the Reconstruction 1865-1877 and Cavalry Wife, The Diary of Eveline M. Alexander; 1866-1867, edited by Sandra Myres.

Articles written in the New York Times and the Army-Journal also provided insight into life during the Reconstruction Era. These articles also contain editorials for and against the proposal to allow Blacks into the peacetime Army.

CHAPTER THREE

Research Methodology

This study uses the historical research method. The research effort focused on locating sources that would provide information on the political events leading to Congress' declaration that Black Soldiers could serve in the peacetime Army, the mustering of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment, and the Regiment's preparation for combat. After gathering data from primary, secondary, and tertiary sources related to the research questions, the information was examined and validated to establish hitherto unknown facts and sound generalizations about the formation of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. The final step in the preparation of this thesis was to assemble the information in a logical and chronological manner that would tell the story of the Regiment's formation.

Books on the Indian Wars and on the history of the Post-Civil War Army contained some information on the Ninth Cavalry. These books mentioned the Reorganization Act but largely overlooked the history of the Regiment. Another problem with this literature was that the secondary and tertiary material was often contradictory. This was

especially true when comparing accounts on the quality of the Black Soldiers. However, these secondary sources were useful in identifying primary sources such as military reports, letters, and Congressional Records on the formation of the Ninth Cavalry. Scanning the footnotes and bibliographies of the secondary sources led to the identification of primary sources such as Adjutant General records, biographies, and personal correspondence between key players such as Secretary of War Edward Stanton and Army Commander General Ulysses Grant.

Several of these primary sources were available in military libraries. The sources were located at the Fort Leavenworth Museum Library, the Combined Arms Research Library at the Command And General Staff College, and the Fort Leavenworth Post Library. The research effort gained momentum as more and more military accounts on the formation of the Ninth Cavalry became available.

The military libraries contained several Adjutant General's Office reports. The Adjutant General's Office administered all matters concerning assignments, transfers, and the transmittal of military orders. These books also contain correspondence written to and by members of the Regiments. Several Adjutant General reports were available in the Rare Book files at the Command and General Staff College. The U.S. Army's Center for Military History at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania provided much of the

information that was particular to the Ninth Cavalry Regiment such as Monthly Unit Returns and Quarterly Equipment Reports.

The National Archives houses the most important depository of material on the Black Regiments. The Old Military Records Division is arranged into several record groups. Record Group 94, Office of the Adjutant General, contains the documents relating to the daily operations of Regular forces. It contains the majority of the information on the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. Record Group 393, Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, holds the records of various military divisions and the frontier posts and garrisons.

Newspaper and magazine articles written about Black units helped identify key players and events involved in the formation of the unit. After identifying those people and events, it was easier to go back to my primary sources to get firsthand accounts of those actions and reconstruct the Ninth Cavalry's history. The New York Times Newspaper and the Army-Navy Journal Magazine provided some good articles on public opinion concerning the introduction of Black soldiers into the Army. Military men and civilians frequently wrote to those forums to express their opinions about Black Soldiers. They would be extremely helpful to anyone who wanted to research the public response to the Reorganization Act of 1866.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Reorganization Act of 1866

The first large scale use of Blacks in the U.S. Army came during the Civil War. In August 1862 Secretary of War Stanton authorized the recruitment of Black soldiers to serve in the Union Army.¹ In November 1862 the Army offered Colonel T. W. Higginson of Massachusetts command of the First Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers.² Colonel Higginson, an avowed abolitionist, accepted command of the Regiment, composed entirely of ex-slaves, and it became the first Black Regiment mustered into the service of the United States.³ Colonel Higginson remarked, "had an invitation reached me to take command of a Regiment of Kalmuck Tartars, it could hardly have been more unexpected."⁴

The large number of enlistments led Army Adjutant General, General Lorenzo Thomas to create the United States Colored Troops.⁵ In May of 1863 War Department General Order 143 centralized control of Black units in the United States Colored Troops. Later, on 22 May 1863 the War Department established the Bureau for Colored Troops, under Major Charles W. Foster, to administer United States Colored Troops affairs. The purpose of the bureau was to recruit

and organize additional Black Regiments.⁶ Major Foster immediately launched an aggressive recruitment campaign to muster Black soldiers directly into the Union Army. The bureau was highly successful. By the end of the war the United States Colored Troops had enlisted over 76,000 Black soldiers.⁷

All but four Black Regiments were eventually federalized and became part of the United States Colored Troops. One Black Regiment from Connecticut and three Black Regiments from Massachusetts retained their autonomy.⁸ The remaining Black units were organized into 166 Black Regiments.⁹ The Black Regiments were usually commanded by White Officers. War Department General Order No. 144 established strict controls concerning the selection of officers for the Black Regiments. Each applicant had to be approved by the Adjutant General's Office. Approval was based on the applicant providing recommendations of good behavior and moral character from the community he resided in prior to the war and testimonials on his qualities as an officer from his current Commanding officer. The board conducted a rigorous examination of the applicants physical, mental, and moral fitness to command Black troops. Reports of all persons approved or rejected were sent to the Adjutant General's Office each week. The report of the board was final.¹⁰ Almost 40% of the applicants were rejected.¹¹ In general, the War Department discouraged

Blacks from applying for officer status. However, approximately, 50 - 100 Blacks did receive Officer Commissions during the Civil War.¹²

Black soldiers participated in 449 battles, 39 of them were major engagements.¹³ Sixteen Black soldiers received the Congressional Medal of Honor for service in the Civil War.¹⁴ During the Civil War nearly 180,000 Blacks served as combat troops and military laborers in the United States Colored Troops.¹⁵ They represented almost ten percent of the Union Force. Approximately 38,000 Black soldiers lost their lives.¹⁶

The end of the Civil War resulted in new missions for the Army. After the surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox, the U.S. Army turned its attention to the western frontier. The Army was hard pressed to find enough troops to defend western settlers from attacks by bandits and Indians. The need for frontier security was so serious that Secretary of War Stanton transferred many soldiers, Volunteer and Regular, to the western frontier prior to the end of the Civil War.¹⁷ Between March 1864 and April 1865 the War Department ordered forty seven Regiments of Black Volunteers to the Trans-Mississippi west.¹⁸ By June 1865 over 30,00 Black soldiers occupied various frontier posts.¹⁹

As Volunteer soldiers, both Black and White, were mustered out of the service, the strength of the Army

steadily declined. By January 1866 the Army consisted of 55,326 White Volunteers, 63,373 Black soldiers, and 25,436 White Regulars.²⁰ Despite the mustering out of the Black Volunteers, Black soldiers still comprised over forty three percent of the Army's strength.

Ironically, it was not Congress that had prohibited the use of Blacks in the peacetime Army. The restriction originated in the Army. The Army's Militia Act of December 10, 1814 restricted the class of people eligible for enlistment in the Army to "free, white" persons.²¹ Attorney General Edwin Bates noted in 1864 that no act of Congress had ever prohibited the enlistment of free colored men into any branch of the services.²²

On January 10, 1866, Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts proposed a bill to increase the size of the Army.²³ Senator Wilson was Chairman of the Military Committee of the United States Senate. Included in Senator Wilson's plan was a proposal that several of the Regiments, one artillery, two cavalry, and ten infantry, be composed of Black enlisted men and White officers.²⁴ Senator Wilson's bill met immediate resistance. General Ulysses S. Grant, Commander of the Army, was one of the first people to express concern about the "employment" of Colored troops in the Army. In a letter to Senator Wilson General Grant stated:

...I did not recommend the permanent employment of colored troops because our standing army in time

of peace should have the smallest possible numbers and the highest possible efficiency - aside from the influence this consideration might have, I know of no objection to the use of colored troops and think they can be obtained more readily than white ones.²⁵

In his letter General Grant went on to state that if Colored troops were to be made part of the peacetime Army, he recommended they be kept separate from the White troops.²⁶ General Grant preferred that Black soldiers and their officers be confined to their own arm of service. General Grant also objected to any use of Black soldiers in the artillery. General Grant believed the artillery should be composed entirely of White troops.²⁷

The details of the proposal to increase the size of the peacetime Army was a matter of constant debate in the Thirty Ninth Congress. There was much support in both the House and the Senate to incorporate Black soldiers into the peacetime Army. However not all congressmen believed Black soldiers should be allowed the privilege of serving in the Regular Army. Some of the strongest opposition came from the south. Many southern congressman were afraid that Black soldiers would "...be offensive as they are necessarily offensive by their very nature."²⁸ Ironically, the biggest opponent to the utilization of Black soldiers during peacetime was from the North. He was Senator Willard Salsbury of Delaware. Senator Salsbury moved to ban all

Blacks from the military but the Senate refused to consider the action.²⁹

Despite the opposition, most Congressmen eventually agreed that Blacks should serve in the military. However, no one could agree on the number or types of Black units that would exist after the reorganization. Disregarding the fact that over 15,000 Black soldiers had served in the 12 Heavy Artillery Regiments of the United States Colored Troops, Congress respected General Grant's request to omit Blacks from the Field Artillery.³⁰ General Grant stated that during times of peace he regarded the Artillery as a school for Artillery during times of War. He went on to state that he believed the efficiency of the artillery would be higher if it was composed solely of White troops.³¹

The big question was whether or not Congress would create Black Cavalry Regiments. Senators Wade and Wilson wanted to include Cavalry Regiments in the Black units that would be part of the new force structure.³² Senator Wade believed Blacks would be less prone to desertion than their White counterparts.³³ Senator Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania proposed that the bill to reorganize the Army be amended to include two regiments of Black Cavalry.³⁴ There was little opposition to the amendment.

One argument used by Senator Stevens was that Blacks should be good with horses because their White masters had taught them how to use horses while the Blacks were employed

as slaves.³⁵ Senator John W. Chanler of New York endorsed Senator Steven's proposal to include the Cavalry Regiments and also suggested that if congress really wanted equality they should also open the officer ranks to Black soldiers. Senator Chanler stated that "Negroes should have the opportunity to carry the sword as well as the musket."³⁶ Although Congress ignored Senator Chanler's comment concerning Black commissions, a call for votes confirmed there was overwhelming support for Senator Stevens' proposal to create two regiments of Black cavalry.³⁷

Military opinions on the use of Black soldiers in the military was fairly mixed. One sounding board officers and veterans used to voice their opinion was the Army-Navy Journal. As news of the different reorganization proposals spread throughout the military, the Army-Navy Journal began to print editorials about the Army Bill and about the Colored Soldiers. The first articles appeared in February 1866.³⁸

Articles written in late March and early April 1866 questioned the need for Black soldiers. The writers could not see why we needed Black soldiers when so many White men were available.³⁹ Some claimed they harbored no hard feelings against the Black, they simply wanted to maintain high standards in the Army.⁴⁰ They claimed that their generation of Blacks was not smart enough to satisfactorily perform military duties over a long period of time.⁴¹

Other writers claimed that Black contributions to the Union war efforts were overestimated and that the White men had died to free them while the Blacks slept safely at home.⁴² Another writer stated that being forced to serve in a Black Regiment was a poor reward for service to the country during the Civil War.⁴³ Most of those opposed to serving with the Blacks stated they would find Black soldiers easier to accept if they were assigned to a separate corps with their own officers.

There were officers who supported the use of Blacks in the peacetime military. When writing to the journal these officers pointed to the Blacks' courage during the Civil War as proof of the fitness of Black men for service in the Regular Army.⁴⁴ Some stated that the Blacks were no worse than the numerous immigrants being employed by the military and civilian sectors.⁴⁵ They also argued that it was the sworn duty of soldiers to obey the orders of the President and their superior officers.⁴⁶ These officers applauded Congress' decision to make the Blacks a part of the Regular Army.

A letter written by General Grant to Secretary of War Stanton on May 1866 stated his belief that the immigrants flocking with "unusual rapidity" to the western frontier were citizens of the United States that deserved the government's protection.⁴⁷ General Grant also stated:

The need for troops in the South, in Mexico, and on the Indian frontier to maintain order has made it

necessary to retain Volunteers in the service. Many White Volunteers are restless saying that their contract with the government has been broken and by reason of this dissatisfaction they are of little use and should be mustered out.⁴⁸

General Grant closed the letter by asking Secretary Stanton to let Congress know of the urgent need for Congress to agree on a suitable plan for the reorganization of the Army before the end of the session.⁴⁹

By the close of the first session of the Thirty Ninth Congress both the House of Representatives and the Senate had made several compromises concerning the number and types of Black units that would be included in the Reorganization Act. On the last day of the session, 28 July 1866, Congress endorsed a compromise bill on the reorganization of the Army and forwarded it to President Andrew Johnson for signature.⁵⁰ President Johnson accepted the legislation and signed the bill that finally gave Black soldiers the opportunity to serve in their country's Army on a full-time basis.⁵¹ (See Appendix 1)

The Reorganization Act authorized the expansion of the army from 30 regiments to 60 regiments.⁵² It also allowed Black soldiers to serve in the peacetime army. The act authorized six new regiments of Black soldiers. Two of the new cavalry regiments would be composed of Black soldiers and four of the new Infantry Regiments would be composed of Black soldiers.⁵³ The units would no longer carry the designation of United States Colored Troops nor

would they belong to a separate corps. They would be part of the Regular Army of the United State.⁵⁴

On the evening of July 28, 1866 Senator Wilson wrote to General Grant concerning the Reorganization Act and the Black Regiments.⁵⁵ Senator Wilson stated that he had a hard fight over the bill but he had carried it nearly as he wished. He also stated that he believed the bill was generally satisfactory to the Army.⁵⁶ Senator Wilson made a special plea to the Army Commander concerning the Colored Regiments. He asked General Grant to "...secure men whose sympathies are with our institutions - men who always did and do yet believe the Black could fight and that he has some rights."⁵⁷

The Reorganization Act authorized the Army to have ten regiments of cavalry, five regiments of artillery, and forty five regiments of infantry.⁵⁸ Each regiment of cavalry and artillery would have 12 companies. Each regiment of infantry would consist of ten companies. The total number of companies in the Army would be 630.⁵⁹ The Reorganization Act of 1866 greatly increased the size of the Army. The Regular Army's new authorized strength was approximately 57,000 soldiers.⁶⁰ (see Figure 2) This was more than double the size the Army had been at the close of the Civil War.⁶¹ For the first time in the nation's history, the size of the Army had substantially increased at the end of a war.

Section 1 of the Reorganization Act ensured that the "Colored" Regiments would be part of the Regular Army. Black units would no longer carry the title of United States Colored Troops. Section 1 stated that the units would be known as "the Army of the United States."⁶²

Section 3 of the Act stated that the new Cavalry Regiments to include the Black Regiments would have the same organization as was provided by law for Cavalry Regiments.⁶³ It did list two changes to the organization of the Regiments. Each Regiment was authorized a Veterinary Surgeon. Since the authorization was for a civilian surgeon, the position did not count against the officer or enlisted strength totals for the Regiments. The second change was the abolishment of the position of Commissary Sergeant of Cavalry.⁶⁴

Section 3 also contained specific instructions on how to fill officer vacancies in the Cavalry Regiments.⁶⁵ Vacancies for First Lieutenants and Second Lieutenants would have to be filled by selections of officers and soldiers from the Volunteer Cavalry. In the grades above First Lieutenant, two thirds of the original vacancies would come from the Volunteer Cavalry units and one third from the officers of the Regular Army all of whom had to have served two years during the Civil War.⁶⁶ Section 24 of the Reorganization Act contained additional screening

requirements for officers being assigned to the Cavalry Regiments.⁶⁷

The Reorganization Act of 1866 authorized an additional person in each of the Black Regiments.⁶⁸ Prior to the Reorganization Act, Chaplains were assigned to a fort or a post.⁶⁹ Section 30 of the Reorganization Act authorized each Black Regiment to have a Chaplain. The purpose of the Chaplain was to assist in the education of the Black soldiers by providing instruction in "the common branches of education."⁷⁰

Only Black Regiments received this special authorization.⁷¹ Congress believed educating the Black soldiers would greatly improve their effectiveness.⁷² The Reorganization Act was not the first instance where Chaplains were assigned educational duties. The use of Chaplains as educators for Black soldiers grew out of the circumstances of the Civil War.⁷³

An important part of helping freed slaves prepare for a new life was teaching them to read and write. This was often done under the supervision of Chaplains in the Union Army. A Colonel in the Fifty Ninth Colored Regiment wrote his son in 1863 that during off-duty hours his wife, assisted by the Chaplain, taught the men to read and write.⁷⁴ The wife of the Colonel of the Thirty Fifth Colored Infantry Regiment also wrote that their Chaplain assisted her in teaching the men to read and write.⁷⁵ By

1866 the use of Chaplains as educators in Black Regiments was an accepted practice. Congressman Halbert Paine of Milwaukee, Wisconsin convinced Congress to authorize one Chaplain for each of the Black Regiments.⁷⁶

Each Black Cavalry Regiment was authorized 45 Officers and 1,195 enlisted soldiers for a total strength of 1,240 men.⁷⁷ Section 8 of the Reorganization Act stated that enlistments in the Cavalry would be for a period of five years. Soldiers enlisting in the Infantry and Artillery only had to sign up for three years of service.⁷⁸

All officers had to have two years of Civil War experience and had to take a special examination before a board of experienced officers.⁷⁹ Section 24 of the Act made successful completion of the examination a mandatory requirement.⁸⁰ Although more than eighty Black Officers served in the union Army during the Civil War, Congress made no provisions to force the commissioning of Black Officers.⁸¹

General Grant wasted no time in responding to Congress' authorization to utilize Black soldiers during peacetime. On August 2, 1866 General Grant wrote Secretary of War Edward Stanton and requested permission for Major General Phillip Sheridan to raise two of the Black Regiments, one of Cavalry and one of Infantry.⁸² General Phillip Sheridan was commander of the Department of the

Gulf. The headquarters for the Department of the Gulf was New Orleans, Louisiana.

Secretary of War Stanton approved General Grant's request. On August 7, 1866 General Grant telegraphed General Sheridan and told him that "two regiments of colored Regulars will be raised out of troops in your command."⁸³ General Grant forwarded additional guidance to General Sheridan on the mustering of the colored soldiers. On August 14, 1866 Assistant Adjutant General Major General Edward Townsend sent Major General Sheridan a telegraph from General Grant outlining General Grant's instructions concerning the recruiting of the Black soldiers. The telegraph stated:

"General Grant directs that in raising new Colored Regiments, recruiting from Volunteer Regiments now in service be first exhausted, before taking men from Civil life. That then, care be taken not to disturb labor contracts to get recruits. That the depots for Regiments be chosen with regard to places where recruits are made so that new regiments shall replace Volunteer Regiments, to be discharged when reduced by enlistment in the Regulars."⁸⁴

The Cavalry Regiment mustered in the Department of the Gulf would become the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. The Adjutant General published General Order 92 on November 23, 1866 designating the General Sheridan's Cavalry Regiment as the Ninth Cavalry.⁸⁵ Although the General Order was not published until 23 November 1866, the effective date of the order was 21 September 1866.⁸⁶ (See Appendix 2)

Although Black soldiers had played an important part in the United States Military, it was not until after the Civil War that lawmakers began to recognize the contributions of Black soldiers to the public defense. Even then many lawmakers saw the use of Black soldiers in the Regular Army as a matter of economics. They believed it would be difficult to recruit the White soldiers necessary to meet the Army's growing manpower needs.⁸⁷ Forcing the Army to lift its peacetime ban on the use Black soldiers would open up the pool of Black manpower created by the Emancipation Proclamation. Lawmakers also believed Black soldiers would be less prone to desert the Army while camped on the rugged western frontier.⁸⁸

Some lawmakers, like Senators Wilson and Wade, considered the move to include Blacks in the military a logical and humanitarian gesture. These lawmakers realized Blacks had made a positive contribution to the defeat of the South and the preservation of the Union during the Civil War. When faced with opposition to their proposal to include Blacks in the peacetime military, they made concessions such as reducing the number and types of Black Regiments that would be authorized and agreeing to place them mainly on the western frontier.⁸⁹

Opposition from Congressman who wanted to deny Black soldiers the right to serve in the military could not overcome Black contributions to the Civil War effort. Black

soldiers performed with honor as laborers and more importantly, as combat troops. Congress also felt the pressure to live up to the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation. Although Black soldiers would still have to battle racial prejudice and the harshness of life on the western plains, the Reorganization Act of 28 July 1866 gave them the opportunity to prove they deserved a place in the peacetime Army of the United States. The Ninth Cavalry Regiment would be the first Black Regiment to muster and deploy in force as a unit of the Regular Army during peacetime.

ARMY ORGANIZATION AFTER
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1866

Units	Companies per Regt	Off	Enl	Total
Ten Regts Cavalry	12	442	11950	12392
Five Regts Artillery	12	335	5650	5985
Forty One Regts Infantry	10	1439	28536	29975
Four Regts Reserves	10	140	2784	2924
Fifteen Post Bands			360	360
Noncommissioned Staff (unattached)			165	165
Army Staff		643	2137	2780
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
Totals	630	2999	51582	54581

Figure 2

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CHAPTER FIVE

The Officers

Providing leadership for the Black Regular Regiments was an important issue for the Thirty Ninth Congress. The issue of what type of officers would lead the Black units sparked several discussions within the congress. Initially, Senator Wilson proposed that only officers with two years of Civil War service "distinguished for capacity and good conduct" and with two years service in the Black Volunteer Regiments should receive a commission in the Black Regular Regiments.¹

The Military Commission of the Senate omitted the requirement for service in the Black Volunteer Regiments before sending the bill to the senate for consideration.² The committee believed that imposing a requirement for service in the Black Regiments would limit the amount and quality of the officers available for service in the new Black Regiments.³ Senator Wilson assured his colleagues, regardless of the commission's ideas, only officers that had served in the Black Volunteer Regiments would receive commissions in the Black Regular Regiments.⁴

On April 17, the House of Representatives discussed the issue of how to appoint officers to the Black Regular Regiments.⁵ Congressmen John Farnsworth of Illinois and Gilman Marston of New Hampshire proposed that positions in the Black Regular Regiments be open to all Army Officers.⁶ Congressman Halbert Paine, from Wisconsin, further proposed that the Army fill some positions in the Black Regiments with officers graduating from the United States Military Academy. Congressman Paine believed that this would provide the Black Regiments with "highly trained and proficient commanders."⁷

Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, from Pennsylvania, opposed the proposition to open positions in the Black Regular Regiments to all officers. He insisted that the Black Regular Regiments be led by men who had served in Black Volunteer Regiments during the Civil War.⁸ Congressman Stevens believed there would be enough officer volunteers from the Black Volunteer Regiments raised during the Civil War to man the Black Regular Regiments.⁹ Congressman Stevens stated that "those who bore the taunts and prejudices of their comrades for serving with Negroes" should have the opportunity to lead the Black Regular Regiments.¹⁰

Congressman Farnsworth agreed that those officers who had served in the Black Volunteer Regiments would be more likely to receive commissions in the Black Regiments. He

appealed to his peers to allow all qualified officers to apply for commissions in the new Regiments.¹¹ James A. Garfield, a Congressman from Ohio who later became the twentieth President of the United States, agreed with Farnsworth and Marnston. He believed the positions in the Black Regiments should be open to everyone. He also wanted to include special provisions for those officers who previously applied for commissions in the Black Volunteer Regiments although they did not receive that position.¹² Although there was much concern in the Congress for the well being of the Black Regulars, Congress had to consider the efficiency of the Army when deciding on the how to provide leadership for the new units. They voted to open the selection process to any qualified officer.¹³

In a July 28, 1866 letter to General Ulysses S. Grant, Senator Henry Wilson made several recommendations concerning the officers to be appointed to the Black Regiments. Senator Wilson wrote:

You will of course be consulted, and will have considerable influence, in the appointment of officers to command them, and I trust your influence may be used to secure men whose sympathies are with our institutions - men who always did and do yet believed that the Negro could fight and that he has some rights. In their hands the Negroes will be moulded into good soldiers, and such, and only such as they should be placed over them.¹⁴

In the letter Senator Wilson named Adelbert Ames, James Brisbin and Charles Russell as the type of men he preferred

to be assigned to the Black Regular Regiments. Senator Wilson asked General Grant to make these men Colonels if possible.¹⁵ All of these officers served with the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War.

Senator Wilson was not the only person who tried to influence the selection of officers for the new regiments. Dozens of officers who had served in the Civil War attempted to obtain positions in the expanded Army. Generals wrote to General Grant requesting commissions and appointments for their former comrades in arms. As early as April 12, 1866 General Philip Sheridan wrote to General Grant and recommended Brevet Major General George Custer for command of one of the new cavalry regiments being proposed in the Reorganization Act.¹⁶

Politicians wrote to General Grant and Secretary Of War Stanton trying to obtain positions for officers from their states who had served with White Volunteer Regiments during the War. Delegations from Illinois and Rhode Island petitioned the War Department to name Colonels from their state to command one of the new regiments.¹⁷ Most of the applications for commissions contained letters of recommendation from prominent political figures.¹⁸

Most officers requesting commissions in the newly expanded Army simply wanted a commission in any regiment. However, a few officers requested service in one of the Black Regiments. These officers had served in the Black

Volunteer Regiments during the Civil War. Some of them like Frederick Kendall, a former Captain in the Eighth Colored Artillery, wrote the War Department and stated he wanted "to improve the golden opportunity for those who are capable and ambitious."¹⁹ Others like Henry Corbin, a Colonel in the 14th United States Colored Troops and James Pratt, who had three years experience in a Black Volunteer Regiment, stated they simply preferred that branch of service.²⁰

General Grant had his own ideas about officers for the Black Cavalry Regiments. On August 2, 1866 General Grant wrote to Secretary Stanton and submitted a list of officers he recommended for appointments as field grade officers in the Ninth Cavalry Regiment.²¹ One name listed for promotion to Colonel was Edward Hatch.²² Edward Hatch was a native of Bangor Maine. He spent two years at Norwich University but did not graduate. After a brief stint at sea, he moved to Iowa where he was successful in the lumber business.²³ On August 12, 1861 he was commissioned a Captain in the 2nd Iowa Cavalry.²⁴ Within ten months Edward Hatch had risen to the rank of Colonel. In the spring of 1863 he took part in Benjamin Grierson's famous raid through central Mississippi, a diversionary effort ordered by General Grant. He continued operations throughout Northern Alabama and was breveted a Brigadier General of Volunteers on April 27, 1864. While campaigning against Nathan Bedford Forrest and John Hood, in Tennessee,

Hatch received the Brevet rank of Major General.²⁵

Mustered out of the Volunteer service in January 1866, Hatch was able to continue service in the Regular Army as the first Commander of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. Colonel Hatch had never served with colored troops.²⁶

Hatch was not the only field grade officer General Grant appointed to the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. Wesley Merritt was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Ninth Cavalry in November of 1866.²⁷ General Grant originally appointed Wesley Merritt as the Lieutenant Colonel of the newly formed 7th Cavalry.²⁸ The 7th Cavalry was a White Cavalry unit. General Grant recommended George Armstrong Custer for the Lieutenant Colonel's position in the Ninth Cavalry.²⁹ On August 13, 1866 Brevet Major General Custer wrote the Assistant Adjutant General, Major General Edward Townsend requesting duty in Michigan due to the death of his father.³⁰ General Grant and Secretary of War Stanton traded several letters concerning General Custer. Eventually General Custer went to the 7th Cavalry.³¹

Wesley Merritt was born in New York City on 16 June 1834. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1860. This was the last class of West Point officers to pass into the Regular Army before the southern secession.³² After service on the western frontier, Merritt was recalled to Washington DC and served in the Army of the Potomac. Merritt served as an Aide de Camp to General Phillip Cooke

and later to General George Stoneman.³³ As a Captain he commanded the Reserve Cavalry Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. On June 29, 1863 he was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers and commanded a Brigade of Regulars in General John Buford's division at Gettysburg.³⁴ Merritt received brevet promotions repeatedly in both the Volunteer and Regular forces. He was second in command to General Philip Sheridan during the Appomattox Campaign. On 1 April 1865 he was made a full Major General of Volunteers³⁵. Lieutenant Colonel Merritt was the Ninth Cavalry's lone West Pointer.

General Grant appointed three Majors to the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. They were Andrew Alexander, George A. Forsyth, and James F. Wade.³⁶ Like Hatch and Merritt these officers had distinguished careers in the Civil War as Cavalry Officers.

Andrew Alexander was a Regular Army Officer from Kentucky.³⁷ He served on General George McClellan's staff during the Peninsula Campaign. He received brevet promotions for actions at Gettysburg and Atlanta. On April 16, 1865 he became a Brevet Brigadier General.³⁸ George "Sandy" Forsyth was a Union Officer born in Pennsylvania in 1835.³⁹ He became a First Lieutenant with the 8th Illinois Cavalry in September 1861. He rose to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers for actions in Virginia at Opequon, Dinwiddie Courthouse, and Five Forks.

He received a commission as a Major in the Regular Army by his appointment to the Ninth Cavalry Regiment.⁴⁰

James F. Wade was a Regular Army officer from Ohio.⁴¹ He became a First Lieutenant with the 3rd U.S. Cavalry on May 14, 1861. He rose to the rank of Colonel in 1864. In Feb 1865 he became a Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers for war service and for gallantry during campaigns in southwest Virginia.⁴²

Section 24 of the Reorganization Act contained the screening requirements for all officers being assigned to one of the new regiments.⁴³ Congress stated that no person would receive a commission in the new regiments until they had passed an examination before a board of officers, composed of officers from that arm of service.⁴⁴ The provision authorized the Secretary of War to convene the board and directed board members to inquire into the person's service during the war and into the general qualifications of the applicant.⁴⁵ It also allowed the Secretary of War to appoint the officer to a position based solely on the officer's qualifications and services. Consequently, commissions could be made without regard to the officers' previous rank.

The examination process was very slow. Officers had to submit an application for service in the new regiments based on previous experience.⁴⁶ The application consisted of a letter from the candidate requesting appointment as an

officer, letters of endorsement, records of prior service, and recommendations from distinguished civic leaders.⁴⁷ If the War Department approved the application, the officer had to take an oral examination. Besides passing the oral examination, prospective officers had to have favorable recommendations by senior officers and had to produce certification of physical fitness to successfully complete the screening process.⁴⁸ Officers who passed the complete examination received an assignment to one of the new regiments.

The oral examination involved general knowledge questions and did not concentrate on military proficiency.⁴⁹ Many of the questions were taken from history, geography, and mathematics. The New York Times reported that the boards tended to rely on the candidates war record and asked questions that only tested the applicants general intelligence.⁵⁰

Some officers who failed the test were given a second chance. Theodore Boice failed his first examination but because of his excellent combat record, he was given a second chance. Boice passed his second examination and joined the Ninth Cavalry as a First Lieutenant in February 1867. Lieutenant Edward Heyl was another officer who failed his initial examination before the Cavalry Board. Lieutenant Heyl had risen from the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant to that of Captain in the Third Pennsylvania

Cavalry during the war. Lieutenant Heyl failed the board in October 1866. Authorized a second examination by board President, Colonel David Hunter, Heyl passed his next examination and joined the Ninth Cavalry in February 1867. Heyl received a commission as a Captain of Cavalry and took immediate command of E Company, Ninth Cavalry.⁵¹

In spite of the possibilities for greater rank and quicker promotion, White officers avoided service with the Black units and officer recruitment proceeded at a snails pace. By October 1866 there were only three officers assigned to the Ninth Cavalry. Only one officer, Captain James Brisbin, the Acting Adjutant, was present for duty at New Orleans, Louisiana.⁵² (See Figure 3) Colonel Hatch and Major Forsyth were both detached to other duties in the Department of the Gulf.⁵³

The November 1866 Regimental Return shows five officers assigned to the Regiment however only one officer Major James F. Wade was present for duty.⁵⁴ The officers assigned to the Regiment now included Colonel Hatch, Majors James Wade and George Forsyth and Captains Brisbin and Gamble.⁵⁵ Colonel Hatch had been called to Washington D.C. to appear before the Cavalry Board.⁵⁶ The other officers were detached to recruiting duty. Captain Brisbin was detached to recruiting duty in Louisville, Kentucky. Captain Gamble was assigned to recruiting duty at Vicksburg, Mississippi.⁵⁷

The Regimental Return also reflected the assignment of Captains and Lieutenants to fill Company Command positions. However these officers were not included in the unit strength since they had not reported to the unit for duty.⁵⁸ Most of the officers were either enroute to Louisiana or had gone directly to recruiting duty.

In December of 1866 the situation concerning the officers was still critical. As soon as officers reported for duty they were detached to other duties to support the mustering of the Regiment. The December report reflects an officer strength of one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, three Majors, two Captains and one First Lieutenant.⁵⁹ Only eight of the 45 officers authorized to fill the Regiment had been assigned to the unit. Only two of those officers, Major Wade and Captain Gamble, were present for duty.⁶⁰

The Regimental Return for January 1867 reflected few improvements in officer manning. Only three of eight officers were present for duty.⁶¹ Colonel Hatch had finally joined the Regiment and was in command of the headquarters at New Orleans.⁶² Major Wade was there to assist Colonel Hatch in getting established in the headquarters. Because officers were still recruiting and enroute to the Regiment many of the company command positions, which had Captains and Lieutenants designated by name, had not been filled.⁶³

February 1867 saw the officer strength almost double.⁶⁴ The February return shows 15 officers assigned to the regiment. Eleven of those officers were now present for duty in the New Orleans area.⁶⁵ Lieutenant Colonel Merritt was now present for duty in New Orleans. The Regiment's full compliment of field grade officers had finally reported for duty though only two of the three Majors were actually present for duty in New Orleans.⁶⁶ Major Alexander was temporarily assigned to an inspection team.⁶⁷ One big improvement in the officer manning was the arrival of eight company commanders.⁶⁸ This significantly improved the command and control of the arriving recruits.

The officer strength for March 1867 was similar to that of the previous month. Thirteen of the fifteen assigned officers were present for duty.⁶⁹ Nine of the companies had at least one officer present for command and control. The March Regimental Return shows that Colonel Hatch had sent two officers to San Antonio, Texas to pave the way for the Regiment's movement west.⁷⁰ Although 13 officers were present for duty only 11 officers were present to accompany the Regiment on the long march westward.

It is difficult to fully appreciate the amount of work that faced the officers of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. It was incumbent upon the officers to ensure that the Black soldiers would be clothed fed, equipped, and drilled into an

effective fighting force prior to their deployment west. The men they would have to train consisted of both veteran soldiers and new recruits. The new recruits would require training in the basic soldier skills of military courtesy, marching, and marksmanship.⁷¹ The officers also faced the task of training the soldiers in the fundamentals of horsemanship and mounted cavalry drills.⁷²

Fortunately the officers assigned to duty with the Ninth Cavalry were well skilled in Cavalry tactics. Many of the officers had earned brevet promotions to the rank of General Officer during the Civil War.⁷² The Ninth Cavalry also had a mixture of both Volunteer and Regular Officers. The government would depend upon these officers, along with their counterparts in the other Black Regular Regiments, to solve the problems of incorporating the Black soldier into the Regular Army.

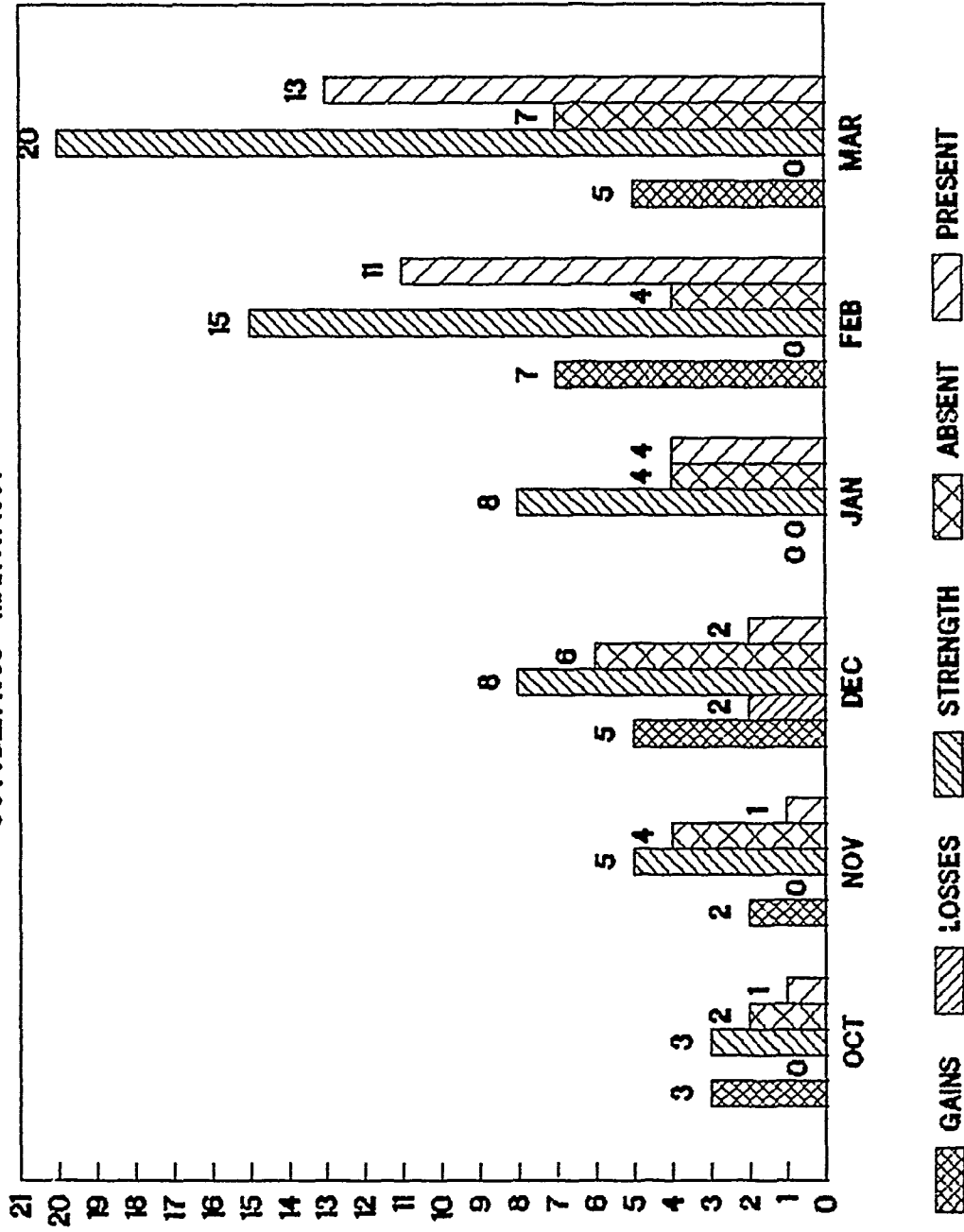
The Regimental Return for April 1867 was sent from San Antonio, Texas. It showed there were troops stationed in both San Antonio and Brownsville, Texas. Nineteen officers were now assigned to the Regiment. Most of the key positions in the staff had an officer assigned to the slot and present for duty. More importantly, each company had a Captain or First Lieutenant serving as the Company Commander although he was usually the only officer in the company.

During the period between August 1866 and March 1867 the officers of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment had managed to

recruit, muster and train one of the Army's first Black Regular Regiments. Though badly understaffed, Colonel Hatch and his subordinates would form the Black soldiers into a fighting unit that was able to mount up and ride to destiny on the western frontier.

OFFICER STRENGTH REPORT

OCTOBER 1966 - MARCH 1967



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CHAPTER SIX

THE BLACK ENLISTED

The recruiting of enlisted soldiers for the Black Regiments began almost immediately once Secretary Stanton and General Grant decided on where to place the Black units. Secretary Stanton was anxious to begin recruiting Black soldiers for the newly created Black Regulars. He authorized the temporary use of officers serving in the United States Colored Troops as recruiters for the Black Regiments.¹ He believed this would speed up the recruitment of the enlisted soldiers necessary to man Black Regiments. Therefore recruitment of enlisted soldiers, for the Ninth Cavalry Regiment, began before the Regiment's officers arrived at the unit headquarters in New Orleans.

In response to Secretary Stanton's orders, General Grant ordered the Department Commanders to canvass the Regiments of Black Volunteers for recruits to fill the Black Regular Regiments.² Major General Sheridan, Commander of the Department of the Gulf, ordered the mustering officer at New Orleans to take charge of the recruiting for the Ninth Cavalry.³ Shortly afterward, he directed Major Francis

Moore of the Sixty Fifth United States Colored Infantry to take charge of the recruiting effort. The men obtained by Major Moore would form the nucleus of the enlisted strength of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment.⁴ General Sheridan wrote to Army Adjutant General, General Lorenzo Thomas, that the Ninth Cavalry Regiment would be a good regiment composed of old soldiers.⁵

A recruiting party usually consisted of an Officer, two Noncommissioned Officers, and several Privates.⁶ According to Army Regulations, only Regular Officers could sign enlistment papers.⁷ Therefore as soon as new officers reported for duty they were usually ordered into recruiting service. Recruiters for the Ninth Cavalry usually established temporary recruiting stations. Once they gathered a sufficient number of recruits, the recruiting officer forwarded the men to the regimental garrison in New Orleans, Louisiana. Noncommissioned officers accompanied the recruits on the trips. As soon as the number of recruits began to dwindle the recruiting party moved to a new location.⁸

The War Department provided each recruiting party with funds for enlistment bonuses, advertising, and the renting of facilities.⁹ All recruits received a two dollar enlistment bonus.¹⁰ In the Adjutant General's Report for 1866, General Lorenzo Thomas stated:

Unusual facilities have been given this office for recruiting the colored Regiments. Not only have the officers in general recruiting service been instructed to recruit specially for them, but their Regimental officers have been sent to any places north and south as likely to give success. No pains or expense has been withheld from this branch of the recruiting service.¹¹

Initially, Regular and Volunteer Officers relied on Black enlisted soldiers in the United States Colored Troops to fill the positions in the Black Regular Regiments. Basic pay for a private was thirteen dollars a month.¹² Veteran soldiers, who decided to reenlist received two dollars a month extra pay as soon as their total service in both the Black Volunteer Regiments and the Black Regular Regiments reached five years.¹³ This was more than most Black soldiers could expect to earn as civilian laborers or farmers. The promise of food, clothing, and shelter was another valued benefit of Army life.

Eventually, recruiters had to turn to the cities to obtain fresh recruits. Although most freedman remained in the rural areas of the south, many left the farms and plantations and migrated to the cities. These Blacks found little opportunity for employment since they were largely uneducated. Regimental recruiting officers took advantage of the high unemployment rates to enlist recruits for the Black Regular Regiments. Recruiting was especially successful in the larger cities within the state of Louisiana.¹⁴

The Ninth Cavalry Regiment initially took advantage of the large concentration of United States Colored Troops stationed in the southeastern United States.¹⁵ Recruitment of enlisted soldiers for the Ninth Cavalry Regiment began in August 1866. Regimental Returns show that men were recruited as early as August 5, 1866 for service with the Ninth Cavalry.¹⁶ By the end of October 1866, the Ninth Cavalry Regiment boasted an enlisted strength of 541 soldiers.¹⁷ (See Figure 4) Nearly all of the early recruits came from areas around New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.¹⁸ The effectiveness of the recruiting effort prompted Major General Sheridan to inform General Grant that the Regiment would be ready for service by Christmas.¹⁹

In addition to officers from the Black Volunteer Regiments, agents from the Freedman's Bureau helped obtain recruits for the Ninth Cavalry.²⁰ General Grant's insistence that they not interfere with labor contracts that involved Black men did not bother most members of the Freedman's Bureau since most of them tried to get Black soldiers to enlist directly from the Black Volunteer Regiments into the Black Regular Regiments.²¹

In November 1866, the Ninth Cavalry began to spread its recruiting efforts to other parts of the country.²² Up to this point all of the Ninth Cavalry's enlisted men, except for four recruits from Jacksonville, Florida, had come from the areas around New Orleans and Baton Rouge,

Louisiana.²³ The Ninth Cavalry learned that members of the Fifth and Sixth Regiments of the United States Colored Cavalry were being discharged from Volunteer service and were returning to their homes in Kentucky.²⁴ Major Forsyth, the Acting Regimental Adjutant received permission from General Lorenzo Thomas to use Volunteer officers from these units to recruit soldiers for the Ninth Cavalry.²⁵ Captain Brisbin, an officer in the Ninth Cavalry, went to Louisville to join the recruiting effort. At the end of November, the enlisted strength stood at 597 men.²⁶

The utility of enlisting soldiers from the Colored Volunteer Cavalry Regiments did not escape the officers of the Ninth Cavalry. Captain Brisbin had informed Major Forsyth:

...the men are returning to their homes in the Kentucky Blue Grass region but many have indicated that they desire to reenlist. It would be greatly to the interest of the service if some of them could be reenlisted as they are natural horsemen and physically the finest Black men in the country.²⁷

The recruiting effort was not without its misfortunes. Within a week after enlisting, most of Captain Brisbin's recruits came down with smallpox.²⁸ Fortunately, city officials in Louisville, Kentucky came to the rescue of the Black recruits. Spearheaded by the Mayor, and several local doctors, city hospitals provided the medicines and medical expertise necessary to save the soldier's lives.²⁹ None of the recruits died from the disease.

Medical problems also plagued the Ninth Cavalry's Regimental Garrison at New Orleans. During the period between October and December 1866 the Regiment was ravaged by a Cholera epidemic.³⁰ During September 1866, recruits for the Regiment were assembled in New Orleans as part of the mustering of the Regiment. The troops were billeted in buildings previously used to process cotton. Recruiters were having so much success recruiting Black soldiers that the cotton presses quickly became overcrowded.³¹

Living conditions in the cotton presses were unsanitary. The soldiers had to cook their rations over open fires inside the billets.³² Cholera struck in October 1866 killing nine soldiers. Colonel Hatch tried to remedy the condition by having the soldiers moved to camps in the New Orleans suburbs of Greenville and Carrollton. Despite his attempts, another 15 soldiers died of Cholera in November 1866.³³ A rigid military quarantine was established and sanitary conditions enforced by the officers. These methods appeared to control the disease. By December living conditions had improved so that only five soldiers died of disease.³⁴ (See Figure 5) Medical problems among the Black soldiers prompted Secretary of War Stanton to report that the adoption of these measures availed to control the disease before it assumed a more alarming epidemic form."³⁵ During the period deaths from all cases

of Cholera to White soldiers was one to fifty two compared to one to twenty nine for Black soldiers.³⁶

During December 1866, 105 Black soldiers enlisted in the Ninth Cavalry Regiment.³⁷ In addition to recruits from New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, soldiers began arriving from recruiting depots in Vicksburg, Mississippi and Louisville, Kentucky.³⁸ By the end of December the Regiment's enlisted strength was 692 soldiers.³⁹ Although the Regiment was not ready for service, as predicted by Major General Sheridan, recruiters had managed to fill over one half of the Ninth Cavalry's enlisted positions within five months.

January brought continued increases in the Regiment's enlisted strength. Another 115 soldiers joined the Regiment bringing the aggregate enlisted strength to 795 soldiers.⁴⁰ All enlisted soldiers joining the Regiment in January 1867 were recruited in Louisville, Kentucky.⁴¹ In light of their recruiting success in Kentucky, recruiters from the Regiment expanded their recruiting efforts in that state. During January, Francis Moore, now a First Lieutenant assigned to Company B Ninth Cavalry opened a new recruiting depot in Lexington, Kentucky.⁴²

In February the pace of recruiting slowed dramatically. Only 54 soldiers arrived at the depot in New Orleans.⁴³ Most of the soldiers arrived from recruiting stations in New Orleans, and Louisville. Only six soldiers

were recruited at the station opened in Lexington, Kentucky.⁴⁴ The slow down in additions to the Regiment was no cause for alarm. The Regiment now had 845 of the 1195 enlisted soldiers authorized by law.

Enlisted gains in March 1867 were only slightly better than those of February. The Regiment gained an additional 65 enlisted soldiers in March 1867.⁴⁵ The Ninth Cavalry Regimental Return for March 1867 reported an enlisted strength of 875 soldiers.⁴⁶ At the end of March, the Ninth Cavalry Regiment was at 73% of its authorized strength for Black soldiers. The Cavalry Companies had an average strength of 70 soldiers. They minimum company strength authorized by law was 50 soldiers.⁴⁷ The smallest company in the Ninth Cavalry Regiment had a strength of 65 soldiers.⁴⁸

All during the winter officers, attempted to improve the state of drill, discipline, and organization of the Regiment.⁴⁹ Since few officers were present for duty training was a constant challenge. Though many of the Black soldiers were not educated in ways of the Army, they were willing to learn. The Regimental history states that constant drilling and hard work led to some successes.⁵⁰

The literacy of the Black soldiers raised constant complaints from the White officers. By the winter of 1866 most recruiting officers admitted the futility of trying to recruit educated Blacks in the south. Colonel Hatch

reported that none of his soldiers, enlisted in the south, were able to properly fill the roles of clerks and Sergeants.⁵¹ It was not uncommon for officers to have to assist the sergeants with roll call and the preparation of reports.⁵² Few men could read or write their own name. Consequently, the officers were forced to attend to all the details of military administration and to assist in almost all the duties normally assigned to noncommissioned officers.⁵³

Colone] Hatch reminded recruiting officers to only enlist men who had the education necessary to function in the Cavalry.⁵⁴ Some of the Black soldiers enlisted in the north were literate and regimental commanders sought authorization from the War Department to open recruiting stations in northern cities. By March 1867 most of the Black Regiments, to include the Ninth Cavalry, had recruiting stations in northern cities.⁵⁵

Once the Black soldiers arrived at the Ninth Cavalry's garrison in New Orleans, they were assigned to companies and began a period of instruction in Cavalry Drill.⁵⁶ Training the new soldiers occupied almost all of the officers time. Black Civil War veterans assisted the officers in drilling the men who had no previous military experience.⁵⁷ Most of the veterans in the Ninth Cavalry had served previously as foot soldiers and quickly mastered dismounted Cavalry drill.

The shortage of officers was the biggest detriment to the training of the Ninth Cavalry soldiers. Most of the Black companies had been organized without officers.⁵⁸ Originally Volunteer officers had helped with the recruiting and mustering of the Regiments. However, the Volunteer officers were eventually mustered out to the service leaving the companies with plenty of recruits and no officers.⁵⁹ The few officers that reported to the Ninth Cavalry were often dispatched to recruiting duty. Companies had to be combined into Squadrons, a unit made of three companies, so that one officer would be available to drill the Squadron.⁶⁰

Training the raw recruits was no easy task. The skills required by the Army Manual on Cavalry Tactics would have been difficult for literate soldiers. The Basis Of Instruction for Cavalry units was the 1862 Manual of Cavalry Tactics.⁶¹ The recruits started their instruction on foot during their first week of arrival at the unit.⁶² The first week usually consisted of instruction in discipline, military courtesy, police of unit areas, and guard duty. The recruit was also taught how to mount a horse, without saddle, and the principal parts of the arms and equipment used by Cavalry soldiers. The new soldiers would drill on these lessons twice a day for the next six to eight weeks. At the end of this period, the soldier was expected to have mastered basic marching, manual of arms, to include

inspection, carrying, loading and firing of his carbine, and the manual of arms for the Cavalry Sabre.⁶³ The tactics manual allowed 70 lessons for the soldier to master the 16 tasks taught during basic Cavalry instruction.

After mastering basic dismounted tasks, the Cavalry troops progressed to mounted individual training and platoon level dismounted training.⁶⁴ The object of the individual training was to teach the troopers how to manage their horses and weapons in all directions at all gaits.⁶⁵

According to the Cavalry manual this instruction required the instructor to train the soldiers slowly using a gradual and constant application of the principles of horsemanship. The manual also stressed the need to teach the lessons "as much as practicable to each man separately."⁶⁶ A lack of trainers made it impossible for the officers of the Ninth Cavalry to properly train the soldiers in basic mounted instruction.

Horsemanship instruction always commenced at a walk in order to allow the soldiers and the horses to become accustomed to each other.⁶⁷ Once the soldiers could sit on the mounts comfortably, they learned to move the horse in a circle. Eventually the soldiers learned to move the horse in all directions. By the end of the instruction the soldiers were supposed to be able to make the horse gallop in all directions. They were also supposed to know how to use the pistol, carbine, and sabre to engage targets.⁶⁸

Platoon dismounted training was relatively simple once the cavalry troopers had learned basic marching and drill. Platoon drill consisted of learning how to form the platoon and how to prepare for inspection.⁶⁹ Platoon training was also the soldiers first exposure to fighting as members of a unit.⁷⁰ Platoon drill contained lessons on how to fire and maneuver as members of a dismounted squad and as members of a platoon.⁷¹

The lack of officers also led to discipline problems for the Regiment. The soldiers arrived so quickly that there were too few officers to discipline and educate the Cavalry soldiers. With only one officer available to supervise the drill and duties of a squadron of men, the troops had plenty of idle time. No one was available to keep them busy or supervise routine tasks.⁷² The idleness led to constant unrest. Desertions were also a constant problem among the Black soldiers.⁷³ Figure 5 shows the monthly desertion rate for the Ninth Cavalry. During the period October 1866 to March 1867 a total of 100 soldiers deserted the Regiment.

The Ninth Cavalry Regiment received equipment similar to that of their sister Cavalry Regiments. The soldiers received Spencer's, Rifled Calibre .50 Breech Loading Carbine.⁷⁴ It had become the standard arm of the Cavalry in 1864. The carbine weighed 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds and had a total

length of 39 inches. It fired seven cartridges from a magazine that passed through the butt of the weapon.⁷⁵

The soldiers of the Ninth Cavalry received the standard accoutrements that accompanied the carbines. The accoutrements included slings, swivels, and cartridge boxes.⁷⁶ The cartridge boxes carried ten extra magazines of ammunition for the carbines. This allowed the soldier to carry 70 extra rounds into combat. The soldiers also received small items necessary for the repair and cleaning of the carbines.⁷⁷

The revolvers issued to the Regiment were a mixture of Colt's Army Calibre .44 Old and New Models, and Remington's Army Calibre .44.⁷⁸ The Colt Model 1848 was the first revolver manufactured in mass quantities for government use. It was a huge pistol that weighed four pounds one ounce. The Colt Model 1860 was a streamlined weapon that became the official United States Army pistol during the Civil War. Between January 4, 1861 and November 10, 1863 the Army purchased over 107,000 of the new pistols.⁷⁹ The 1860 model pistol became known as the New Model Army Pistol and the 1848 version became known as the Old Model Army Pistol. The Ordnance Returns did not reflect the breakdown of Old and New Model pistols within the Regiment. The Regiment also had Remington New Model Revolvers.⁸⁰ The Remington New Model Revolver was also a calibre .44 weapon. It fired six shots. Although the

Remington only weighed two pounds 14 ounces it was still second in popularity to the Colt New Model Army Pistol.⁸¹

The Black soldiers received equipment necessary for life in the Cavalry. Each soldier received equipment necessary to use and take care of his horse. This equipment included bridles, girths, lariats, saddle blankets, spurs and straps, and combs and brushes.⁸² The Regiment also had feed bags and saddles for the horses. In addition to the carbine and pistol soldiers were armed with light Cavalry Sabres to include sabre belts and plates.⁸³

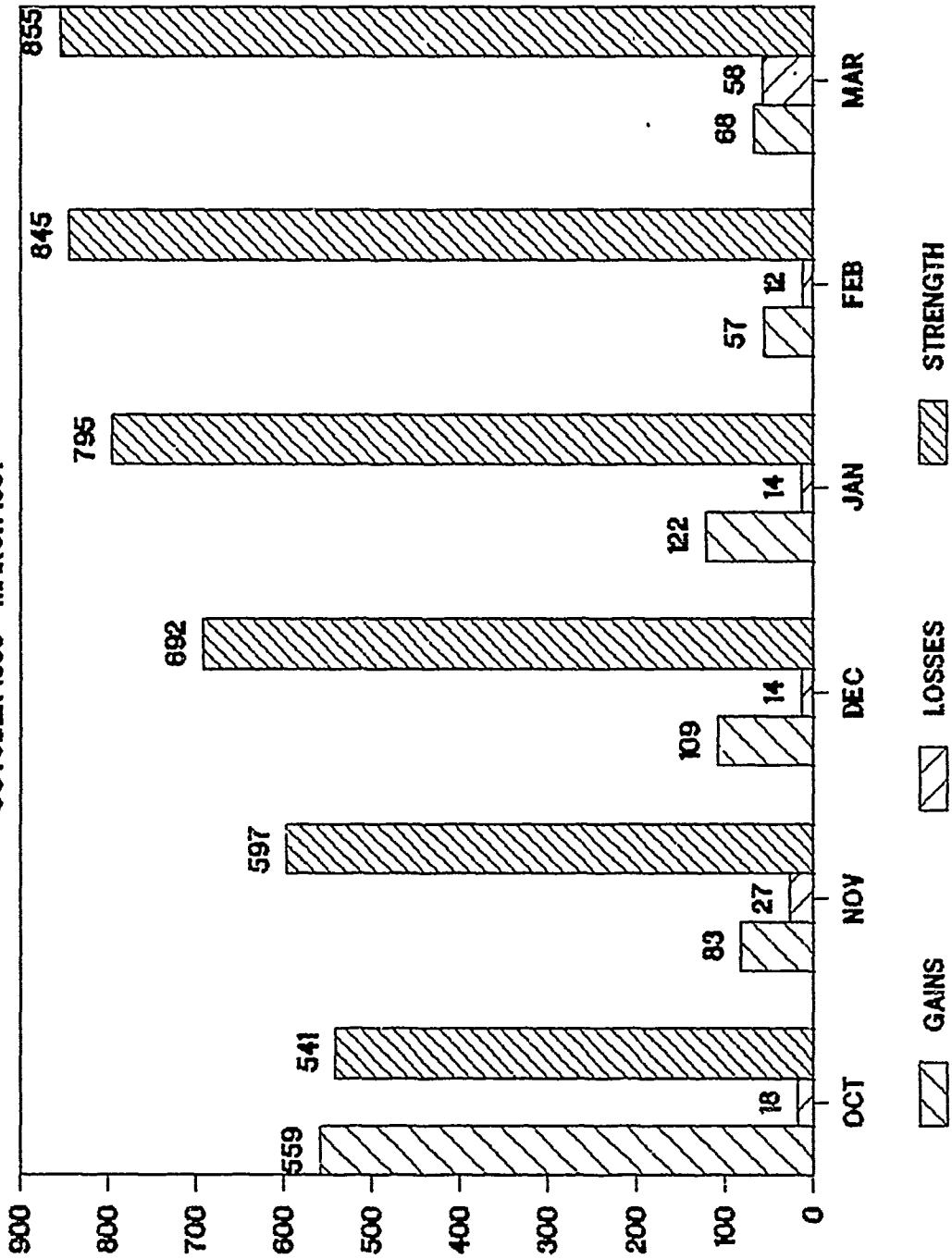
The Black Regulars of the Ninth Cavalry were undoubtedly dissatisfied with their initial exposure to life in the peacetime Army. Those soldiers, who were veterans of the Civil War, had to sit in idleness inside overcrowded cotton presses and endure the insults of officers who called them illiterate and undisciplined. Those who expected training in Cavalry skills received little formal instruction due to the lack of officers. The few skills they learned were taught by Civil War veterans skilled only in Infantry tactics.

Despite outbreaks of Cholera and Dysentery, the overwhelming majority of the soldiers endured life in New Orleans. Over 800 Black soldiers boarded steamships in late March 1867 and left Louisiana to meet their fate on the western frontier. They disembarked in Indianola, Texas during the last week of March 1867 and began overland treks

toward San Antonio and Brownsville, Texas. These men would prove that Senator Wilson's impression of the Black soldier was correct. They would prove that the Black soldier was a fighter and that the Black soldier had some rights.

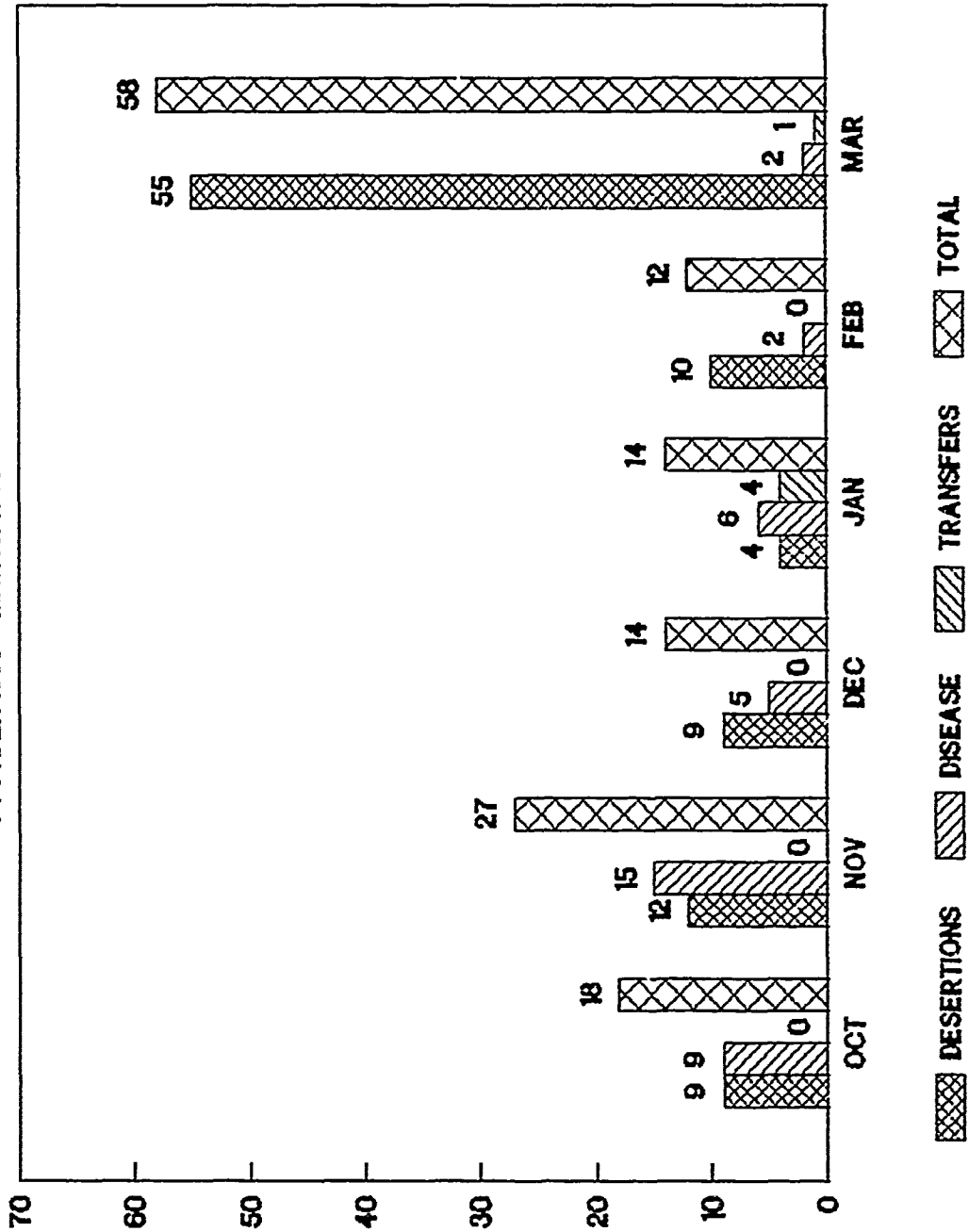
ENLISTED STRENGTH REPORT

OCTOBER 1965 - MARCH 1967



ENLISTED LOSSES

OCTOBER 1866 - MARCH 1867



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CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSION

The Army Reorganization Act of 1866 created six regiments of Black Regulars. Two of the Regiments were Cavalry units. The other four regiments were Infantry units. The Ninth Cavalry Regiment was one of the Cavalry units. This study has documented the story of the unit's history starting with the Reorganization Act of July 1866 and followed it to the unit's deployment west in April 1867. The research focused on the mustering, formation, and training of the Regiment.

Previous historians have not chronicled, in detail, the early history of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. This study fills a void in the Regiment's early history. It also sheds more light on the events leading to the legislation that created the Regiment, and how the Army responded to guidance from the Congress and the Secretary of War.

The central political figures in the creation of the Black Cavalry Regiments were Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts and Congressman Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania. Senator Wilson submitted the proposal that

started the reorganization of the Army. His original proposal included a provision for 13 Black Regiments. As the bill wound its way through committees in the House and the Senate, Senator Wilson and Congressman Stevens protected the sections of the bill that would ensure the Black Regiments became a part of the Regular Army. Congressman Stevens insisted on amending the proposal to include two regiments of Black Cavalry. Although they had to make several concessions, Wilson and Stevens fought and won the political battles necessary to keep the two regiments of Black Cavalry in the legislation.

The central figures in the formation of the Regiment, at the National Level, were Secretary of War Edward Stanton and Army Commander General Ulysses S. Grant. Secretary of War Stanton allowed the Army to use Volunteer Officers, that otherwise would have been mustered out of the Army much earlier, to assist with the recruiting and formation of the Regiments. He also instructed General Grant and Army Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas to form the Regiments as quickly as possible. He backed this up with the funds necessary to recruit the soldiers quickly and move them to their regimental garrisons.

General Grant was the man responsible for choosing the initial leaders of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment. Although he did not fully support the idea of the Black Regular Regiments, he supplied them with leaders who had distinguished

themselves for valor and leadership during the Civil War. General Grant ignored Senator Wilson's recommendation on whom should lead the Black Regular Regiments. Instead, he chose the men he felt could get the job done. Three of those men, Colonel Edward Hatch, Major Francis Moore and Major James Wade played pivotal roles in the successful organization of the Regiment.

Colonel Edward Hatch was a successful Cavalry commander during the Civil War. Although he had never served with a Black Volunteer unit, he proved himself capable of commanding the Ninth Cavalry. It was Colonel Hatch who complained to the Army Adjutant General about the lack of officers in the Regiment. Still Colonel Hatch managed to organize all twelve companies of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment by the end of February 1867. Lieutenant Colonel Wesley Merritt assisted Colonel Hatch in the training of the Regiment once he arrived in February. Unfortunately there was too little time and too few officers available to train the Regiment properly before they departed for San Antonio in April 1867.

Major Francis Moore was key to the Ninth Cavalry's recruiting efforts. Major Moore had served with Black Volunteers during the Civil War. He was able to use this experience, along with his contacts in the Black units, to recruit heavily in New Orleans and Kentucky. Major Moore helped recruit over one half of the Regiment's enlisted

soldiers during the period between August 1866 through March 1867. Major Moore received a commission as a Lieutenant in the Regular Army and served with Company B, Ninth Cavalry. His whole company consisted of men he had served with in the 65th United States Colored Troops.

Major James Wade provided an anchor for the unit at their New Orleans Headquarters. He essentially ran the Regiment from November 1866 until Colonel Hatch arrived in January 1867. Although Colonel Hatch was officially the commander of the Regiment, it was Major Wade who executed his orders, maintained accountability and administration in the headquarters, and controlled the Black soldiers prior to Colonel Hatch's arrival.

Although the Black Volunteer Regiments performed admirably during the Civil War, Army Regulations that prevented Blacks from serving in the Regular Army during peacetime were still in effect in 1865. However, military and political leaders had to face the fact that Black soldiers had proved, by their wartime service, that they could be effective fighting men.

The creation of the Black Regular Regiments was mainly a matter of economics. The fact that these soldiers could provide the manpower necessary to double the size of the Army could not be overlooked by a Congress faced with the problem of providing security for American settlers on the western frontier. Most White soldiers were demanding

their release so they could rebuild their lives and homes in the aftermath of the Civil War. Despite arguments concerning the capabilities, acceptance, and discipline of the Black soldier, there was no other feasible solution to the manpower requirements created by the Reorganization Act.

The creation of the Black units also had certain political benefits for White politicians. By creating Black Regular units they could provide further opportunities for those Volunteer Officers who had commanded Black Volunteer units during the Civil War. Congress felt there should be some way to reward these men. They performed a valuable service to their country while being ostracized, by their counterparts for having to serve in the Black Units.

The literacy of the Black soldiers in the Ninth Cavalry brought constant complaints from the Regiment's White officers. They complained that the Black soldiers could not read or write at the level of proficiency required to perform clerical or Noncommissioned Officer duties. Part of the Ninth Cavalry's literacy problems stemmed from the way they recruited their soldiers. Higher quality recruits were available, but the Ninth Cavalry was more interested in speed than quality. They were one of the first regiments ready for deployment.

The tasks facing the Black enlisted soldiers would have been difficult for high quality recruits. The soldiers lacked the proper instruction in Cavalry tactics. The

officer staff was undermanned and they expected too much from the Black soldiers. Instruction that was designed for one on one training was taught at ratio of one officer to 200 soldiers. Black soldiers were not as educated as their White counterparts. This fact, coupled with the pressure on the White officers to prepare the Regiment for deployment, may have caused them to overemphasize the literacy problem and use that complaint to speed up officer assignments for the Regiment.

The officers also complained of discipline problems within the Ninth Cavalry. There is no evidence to support the fact that discipline within the unit was worse than that of their White counterparts. As a matter of fact, the number of courtmartials for the unit was lower than that of the White Cavalry Regiments. The complaint of the lack of discipline may have been directly related to the high number of desertions in the Ninth Cavalry. However, one must consider the Black soldier's first experiences with the Ninth Cavalry consisted of being billeted in overcrowded cotton presses, cooking on open fires inside the billets, and watching cholera spread through the unit. Once living conditions improved, desertions dropped off until the soldiers learned they were moving to Texas.

AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

More research needs to be done into the events that took place during the Regiment's time in New Orleans. I was also unable to find any account written by Black members of the unit on life in the Regiment during its formation. None of the libraries I contacted in the State of Louisiana could provide any information on the unit's early history. I had to take all my information from military sources.

It is hard to believe there is no civilian account of the garrisoning of the soldiers in New Orleans especially since there was a Cholera epidemic in the unit. I believe someone who knows exactly what they are looking for could locate more information on the Black soldiers stay in the city. Surely the local press recorded the unit's activities.

Research should be done on the Regiment's early campaigns to see how their performance relates to the type of officers chosen to lead the Regiment, the quality of the Black soldiers, and the training they received in New Orleans. From this research one could determine what impact the method's and procedures used to form the regiment had on the Regiment's performance during its early campaigns against the Indians?

Despite the hardships endured by the officers and enlisted men of the Ninth Cavalry Regiment, the unit

campaigned successfully against the Indians. During the next two decades they would receive numerous citations and battle streamers for campaigns against the Indians. They would also help tame the western frontier by building forts, protecting settlers and capturing outlaws. Eleven of the Black soldiers would win the coveted Congressional Medal of Honor. The unit who historians claimed started westward as an "ill-disciplined mob" would quickly mature and gel into a capable band of ferocious fighters who the Indians would respectfully call "Buffalo Soldiers."

APPENDIX A

GENERAL ORDERS }

No. 56. }

WAR DEPARTMENT.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Washington, August 1, 1866.

The following Act of Congress is published for the information and and government of all concerned:

[PUBLIC—No. 181.]

AN ACT to increase and fix the military peace establishment of the United States.

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the military peace establishment of the United States shall hereafter consist of five regiments of artillery, ten regiments of cavalry, forty-five regiments of infantry, the professors and corps of cadets of the United States Military Academy, and such other forces as shall be provided for by this act, to be known as the Army of the United States.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the five regiments of artillery provided for by this act shall consist of the five regiments now organized; and the first, second, third, and fourth regiments of artillery shall have the same organization as is now prescribed by law for the fifth regiment of artillery; but the regimental Adjutants, Quartermasters, and Commissaries shall hereafter be extra lieutenants selected from the first or second lieutenants of the regiment.*

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That to the six regiments of cavalry now in service there shall be added four regiments, two of which shall be composed of colored men, having the same organization as is now provided by law for cavalry regiments, with the addition of one Veterinary Surgeon to each regiment, whose compensation shall be one hundred dollars per month; but the grade of company Commissary Sergeant of cavalry is hereby abolished. The original vacancies in the grades of First and Second Lieutenants shall be filled by selection from among the officers and soldiers of Volunteer cavalry, and two-thirds of the original vacancies in each of the grades above that of First Lieutenant shall be filled by selection from among the officers of Volunteer cavalry, and one-third from officers of the Regular army, all of whom shall have served two years in the field during the war, and have been distinguished for capacity and good conduct. Any portion of the cavalry here may be armed and drilled as infantry or dismounted cavalry*

at the discretion of the President, and each cavalry regiment shall hereafter have but one Hospital Steward; and the regimental Adjutants, Quartermasters, and Commissaries shall hereafter be extra lieutenants selected from the First or Second Lieutenants of the regiment.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the forty-five regiments of infantry provided for by this act shall consist of the first ten regiments, of ten companies each, now in service; of twenty-seven regiments, of ten companies each, to be formed by adding two companies to each battalion of the remaining nine regiments; and of eight new regiments, of ten companies each, four regiments of which shall be composed of colored men, and four regiments, of ten companies each, to be raised and officered as hereinafter provided for, to be called the Veteran Reserve Corps; and all the original vacancies in the grades of First and Second Lieutenant shall be filled by selection from among the officers and soldiers of Volunteers, and one-half the original vacancies in each of the grades above that of First Lieutenant shall be filled by selection from among the officers of Volunteers, and the remainder from officers of the Regular army, all of whom shall have served two years during the war, and have been distinguished for capacity and good conduct in the field. The Veteran Reserve Corps shall be officered by appointment from any officers and soldiers of Volunteers or of the Regular army who have been wounded in the line of their duty while serving in the army of the United States in the late war, and who may yet be competent for garrison or other duty to which that corps has heretofore been assigned.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the appointments to be made from among Volunteer officers and soldiers under the provisions of this act shall be distributed among the States, Territories, and District of Columbia, in proportion to the number of troops furnished by them respectively to the service of the United States during the late war, reduced to an average of three years' term of service: *Provided*, That the regulation provided in this section governing the proportion of officers to be selected from each State shall not be applied to the States of California, Oregon, and Nevada.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That each regiment of infantry provided for by this act shall have one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, one Adjutant, one Regimental Quartermaster, one Sergeant Major, one Quartermaster Sergeant, one Commissary Sergeant, one Hospital Steward, two Principle Musicians, and ten companies; and the Adjutant and Quartermaster shall hereafter be extra lieutenants, selected

from the First or Second Lieutenants of the regiment. Each company shall have one Captain, one First Lieutenant and one Second Lieutenant, one First Sergeant, one Quartermaster Sergeant, four Sergeants, eight Corporals, two artificers, two Musicians, one Wagoner, and fifty Privates, and the number of Privates may be increased at the discretion of the President, not to exceed one hundred, whenever the exigencies of the service require such increase; and the President is hereby authorized to enlist and employ in the Territories and Indian country a force of Indians, not to exceed one thousand, to act as scouts, who shall receive the pay and allowances of cavalry soldiers, and be discharged whenever the necessity for their further employment is abated, or at the discretion of the Department Commander.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That fifteen bands, including the band at the Military Academy, may be retained or enlisted in the army, with such organization as is now provided by law, to be assigned to brigades in time of war, and in time of peace to assembled brigades, or to forts or posts at which the largest number of troops shall be ordinarily stationed, and the band at the Military Academy shall be placed on the same footing as other bands; one Ordnance Sergeant and one Hospital Steward for each military post, and the same number of Post Chaplains as at present authorized, who shall be appointed as now provided by law; and the President of the United States is hereby authorized to appoint for each national cemetery now established, or that may be established, a Superintendent, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of an Ordnance Sergeant, to be selected from among the non-commissioned officers of the Regular army and Volunteer forces who have received certificates of merit for services during the war.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That all enlistments into the army shall hereafter be for the term of five years for cavalry and three years for artillery and infantry, and recruits may at all times be collected at the general rendezvous in addition to the number required to fill to the minimum all the regiments of the army, provided that such recruits shall not exceed in the aggregate three thousand men. It shall be competent to enlist men for the service who have been wounded in the line of their duty while serving in the army of the United States, provided it shall be found, on medical inspection, that by such wounds they are not unfitted for efficiency in garrison or other light duties, and such men when enlisted shall be assigned to service exclusively in the regiments of the Veteran Reserve Corps.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be one General,

one Lieutenant General, five Major Generals, and ten Brigadier Generals, who shall have the same pay and emoluments and be entitled to the same staff officers in number and grade as now provided by law.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the Adjutant General's Department of the army shall hereafter consist of the officers now authorized by law: viz: One Adjutant General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General; two Assistant Adjutants General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Colonels of cavalry; four Assistant Adjutants General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonels of cavalry; and thirteen Assistant Adjutants General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Majors of cavalry.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be four Inspectors General of the army, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Colonels of cavalry; three Assistant Inspectors General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonels of cavalry; and two Assistant Inspectors General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Majors of cavalry.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the Bureau of Military Justice shall hereafter consist of one Judge Advocate General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General, and one Assistant Judge Advocate General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Colonel of cavalry: and the said Judge Advocate General shall receive, revise, and have recorded the proceedings of all Courts Martial, Courts of Inquiry, and Military Commissions, and shall perform such other duties as have been heretofore performed by the Judge Advocate General of the army. And of the Judge Advocates now in office there may be retained a number not exceeding ten, to be selected by the Secretary of the War, who shall perform their duties under the direction of the Judge Advocate General until otherwise provided by law, or until the Secretary of War shall decide that their services can be dispensed with.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the Quartermaster's Department of the army shall hereafter consist of one Quartermaster General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General; six Assistant Quartermasters General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Colonels of cavalry; ten Deputy Quartermasters General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonels of cavalry; fifteen Quartermasters, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Majors of cavalry; and forty-four Assistant Quartermasters, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Captains of cavalry; and the vacancies hereby created in the grade of Assistant Quartermaster shall be filled by selection from among

the persons who have rendered meritorious services as Assistant Quartermasters of Volunteers during two years of the war; but after the first appointments made under the provisions of this section, as vacancies may occur in the grades of Major and Captain in this Department, no appointment to fill the same shall be made until the number of Majors shall be reduced to twelve, and the number of Captains to thirty, and thereafter the number of officers in each of said grades shall continue to conform to said reduced numbers.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That the number of Military Storekeepers in the Quartermaster's Department shall hereafter be as many as shall be required, not exceeding sixteen, who shall have the rank pay, and emoluments of Captains of infantry.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That the provisions of the act for the better organization of the Quartermaster's Department, approved July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, shall continue in force until the first day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty seven, and no longer.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That the Subsistence Department of the army shall hereafter consist of the number of officers now authorized by law, viz: one Commissary General of Subsistence, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General; two Assistant Commissaries General of Subsistence, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Colonels of cavalry; two Assistant Commissaries General of Subsistence, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonels of cavalry; eight Commissaries of Subsistence, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Majors of cavalry; and sixteen Commissaries of Subsistence, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Captains of cavalry.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That the Medical Department of the army shall hereafter consist of one Surgeon General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General; one Assistant Surgeon General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Colonel of cavalry; one Chief Medical Purveyor and four Assistant Medical Purveyors, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonels of cavalry, who shall give the same bonds which are or may be required of Assistant Paymasters General of like grade, and shall, when not acting as Purveyors, be assignable to duty as Surgeons by the President; sixty Surgeons, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Majors of cavalry; one hundred and fifty Assistant Surgeons, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenants of cavalry for the first three years' service, and with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Captains of cavalry after three

years service; and five Medical Storekeepers, with the same compensation as is now provided by law; and all the original vacancies in the grade of Assistant Surgeon shall be filled by selection, by examination, from among the persons who have served as staff or regimental Surgeons or Assistant Surgeons of Volunteers in the army of the United States two years during the late war, and persons who have served as Assistant Surgeons three years in the Volunteer service shall be eligible for promotion to the grade of Captain; and the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to appoint from the enlisted men of the army, or cause to be enlisted, as many Hospital Stewards as the service may require, to be permanently attached to the Medical Department, under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That the Pay Department of the army shall hereafter consist of one Paymaster General, with the rank pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General; two Assistant Paymasters General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Colonels of cavalry; two Deputy Paymasters General, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonels of cavalry; and sixty Paymasters with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Majors of cavalry, to be selected from persons who have served as Additional Paymasters.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That the Corps of Engineers shall consist of one Chief of Engineers, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General; six Colonels, twelve Lieutenant Colonels, twenty-four Majors, thirty Captains, and twenty-six First and ten Second Lieutenants, who shall have the pay and emoluments now provided by law for officers of the Engineer Corps.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That the five companies of Engineer soldiers and the Sergeant Major and Quartermaster Sergeant heretofore prescribed by law shall constitute a battalion of Engineers, to be officered by officers of suitable rank detailed from the Corps of Engineers; and the officers of Engineers acting respectively as Adjutant and Quartermaster of this Battalion shall be entitled to the pay and emoluments of Adjutants and Quartermasters of cavalry.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That the Ordnance Department of the army shall consist of the same number of officers and enlisted men as now authorized by law, and the officers shall be of the following grades, viz: one Brigadier General, three Colonels, four Lieutenant Colonels, ten Majors, twenty Captains, sixteen First Lieutenants, and ten Second Lieutenants, with the same pay and emoluments as now provided by law; and thirteen Ordnance Storekeepers, of whom a num-

ber not exceeding six may be appointed and authorized to act as Paymasters at armories and arsenals. The Ordnance Storekeeper and Paymaster at the national armory at Springfield shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments of Major of cavalry, and all other Ordnance Storekeepers shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments of Captains of cavalry, and two-thirds of the Military Storekeepers and Ordnance Storekeepers to be appointed under this and the fourteenth section of this act shall be selected from Volunteer officers or soldiers who have performed meritorious service in the army of the United States during the late rebellion.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be one Chief Signal Officer of the army, who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Colonel of cavalry; and the Secretary of War shall have power to detail six officers and not to exceed one hundred non-commissioned officers and privates, from the battalion of Engineers, for the performance of signal duty; but no officer or enlisted man shall be so detailed until he shall have been examined and approved by a Military Board, to be convened by the Secretary of War for that purpose; and enlisted men, while so detailed, shall, when deemed necessary, be mounted upon horses provided by the government.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted,* That the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, Commissary General of Subsistence, Surgeon General, Paymaster General, Chief of Engineers, and Chief of Ordnance shall hereafter be appointed by selection from the corps to which they belong, and no person shall be appointed to any vacancy created by this act in the Pay, Medical, or Quartermaster's Department until he shall have passed the examination now required by law.

SEC. 24. *And be it further enacted,* That no person shall be commissioned in any of the regiments authorized by this act until they shall have passed a satisfactory examination before a board, to be composed of officers of that arm of the service in which the applicant is to serve, to be convened under the direction of the Secretary of War, which shall inquire into the services rendered during the war, capacity and qualifications of the applicants; and such appointments, when made, shall be without regard to previous rank, but with sole regard to qualifications and meritorious services; and persons applying for commissions in any of the regiments authorized by this act shall be entitled in cases of passing the examination, and being appointed or commissioned, to receive mileage from the place of his residence to the place of examination, or such portion of that distance as he may actually

travel, the same as is paid to officers traveling under orders, but there shall be paid no other compensation.

SEC. 25. *And be it further enacted*, That the office of sutler in the army and at military posts is hereby abolished, and the Subsistence Department is hereby authorized and required to furnish such articles as may from time to time be designated by the Inspectors General of the army, and the same to be sold to officers and enlisted men at cost prices; and if not paid for when purchased, a true account thereof shall be kept, and the amount due the Government shall be deducted by the Paymaster at the payment next following such purchase: *Provided*, That this section shall not go into effect until the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven.

SEC. 26. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of promoting knowledge of military science among the young of the United States the President may upon the application of an established college or university within the United States, with sufficient capacity to educate at one time not less than one hundred and fifty male students, detail an officer of the army to act as president, superintendent, or professor of such college or university; that the number of officers so detailed shall not exceed twenty at any time, and shall be apportioned through the United States, as nearly as practicable, according to population, and shall be governed by general rules, to be prescribed from time to time by the President.

SEC. 27. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever troops are serving at any post, garrison, or permanent camp there shall be established a school where all enlisted men may be provided with instruction in the common English branches of education, and especially in the history of the United States; and the Secretary of War is authorized to detail such commissioned officers and enlisted men as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section; and it shall be the duty of the post or garrison commander to cause to be set apart a suitable room or building for school and religious purposes.

SEC. 28. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize or permit the appointment to any position or office in the army of the United States of any person who has served in any capacity in the military, naval, or civil service of the so-called Confederate States or of either of the States in insurrection during the late rebellion; but any such appointment shall be illegal and void.

SEC. 29. *And be it further enacted*, That in construing this act, officers who have heretofore been appointed or commissioned to serve

with United States colored troops shall be deemed and held to be officers of Volunteers; and officers of the Regular army who have also held commissions as officers of Volunteers, or have commanded Volunteers, shall not on that account be held to be Volunteers under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 30. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed as affecting existing laws respecting the rank, pay, and allowances of Chaplains of the army, but the same shall remain as now established by the act entitled "An act to amend section nine of the act approved July seventeen, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled 'An act to define the pay and emoluments of certain officers of the army, and for other purposes.'" approved April nine, eighteen hundred and sixty-four. One Chaplain may be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for each regiment of colored troops, whose duty shall include the instruction of the enlisted men in the common English branches of education; and Chaplains, when ordered from one field of duty to another, shall be entitled to transportation at the same rate as other officers.

SEC. 31. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to vacate the commission of any officer now properly in service or whose name may be borne on the Army Register as partially retired according to law.

SEC. 32. *And be it further enacted*, That officers of the Regular army entitled to be retired on account of disability occasioned by wounds received in battle may be retired upon the full rank of the command held by them, whether in the Regular or Volunteer service at the time such wounds were received.

SEC. 33. *And be it further enacted*, That the Provost Marshal (General's Office and Bureau shall be continued only so long as the Secretary of War shall deem necessary, not exceeding thirty days after the passage of this act.

SEC. 34. *And be it further enacted*, That all officers who have served during the rebellion as Volunteers in the armies of the United States, and who have been or may hereafter be honorably mustered out of the Volunteer service, shall be entitled to bear the official title, and upon occasions of ceremony to wear the uniform of the highest grade they have held by brevet or other commissions in the Volunteer service. In case of officers of the Regular army, the Volunteer rank shall be entered

upon the official Army Register: *Provided*, That these privileges shall not entitle any officer to command, pay, or emoluments.

SEC. 35. *And be it further enacted*, That the third section of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six," shall continue in force for one year from the passage of this act: *Provided*, That no officer who is furnished with quarters in kind shall be entitled to receive the increased commutation of rations hereby authorized.

SEC. 36. *And be it further enacted*, That section three of the act approved February twenty, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, authorizing the appointment of a Solicitor of the War Department, be and the same is hereby repealed.

SEC. 37. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to have prepared, and to report to Congress at its next session, a code of regulations for the government of the army and of the militia in actual service, which shall embrace all necessary orders and forms of a general character for the performance of all duties incumbent on officers and men in the military service, including rules for the government of Courts Martial. The existing regulations to remain in force until Congress shall have acted on said report.

SEC. 38. *And be it further enacted*, That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved July 28, 1866.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.

APPENDIX B

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 92. }

WAR DEPARTMENT.
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.
Washington, November 23, 1866.

Under the act of July 29, 1866, the designation and organization of regiments, by which the military peace establishment is increased and fixed, will be as follows. The provisions of this order are in accordance with the condition of the army on, and are of effect from, the 21st day of September, 1-66:

I. The two additional regiments of Cavalry, composed of white men, will be the 7th and 8th Regiments of Cavalry. The field officers of these regiments are—

7TH CAVALRY.

Colonel.

Smith, Andrew J.

Lieutenant Colonel.

Custer, George A.

Majors.

Gibbs, Alfred.

(See note.)

Station: Military Division of the Missouri.

8TH CAVALRY.

Colonel.

Gregg, John L.

Lieutenant Colonel.

Devin, Thomas C.

Majors.

Gamble, William.

Price, William R.

(See note.)

Station: Military Division of the Pacific.

The two additional regiments of Cavalry, composed of colored men, will be the 9th and 10th Regiments of Cavalry. The field officers of these regiments are—

8TH CAVALRY.

Colonel.

Hatch, Edward.

Lieutenant Colonel.

Merritt, Wesley.

Majors.

Alexander, Andrew J.

Wade, James F.

Forsyth, George A.

Station: Department of the Gulf.

10TH CAVALRY.

Colonel.

Grierson, Benjamin H.

Lieutenant Colonel.

Walcott, Charles C.

Majors.

Forsyth, James W.

(See note.)

Station: Military Division of the Missouri.

II.—The ten old regiments of Infantry will retain their designation. The first battalions of the three-battalion regiments will retain the designation of the regiments to which they belonged, and, under the new organization, will be the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th Regiments of Infantry. The officers of these regiments are—

11TH INFANTRY.

Colonel.

Ketchum, William S.

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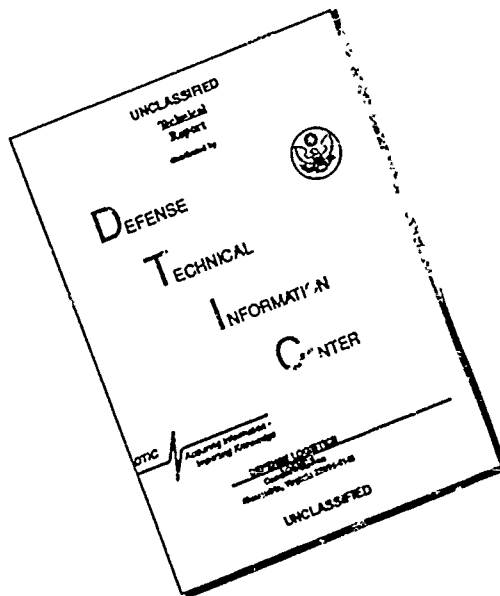
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