



Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc.

CONSTITUTION NEW EDITION

PREAMBLE

For Duty, Honor, and Country, we, The Combat Infantrymen, shall associate for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and to ensure that liberty and justice prevails. To strengthen the camaraderie between members of the Combat Infantrymen's Association and keep alive the patriotism, accomplishments, and memory of our service and the service of those who wear the Combat Infantryman Badge. To consecrate the memory of those who have led the way, exemplifying the Infantry Motto, "FOLLOW ME".

ARTICLE I Name

This organization, with historical ties to the United States Army, shall be known as the COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II Objective and Purpose

1. The Association shall be a non-political, non-profit association that qualifies for Federal Tax exemption under Section 501(C) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Approved by letter, DLN: 17053131013008 from IRS dated May 27, 1998.
2. The primary purposes of this Association are:
 - a. To provide a means of communication and fellowship between men and women who have been awarded the US Army's Combat Infantry Badge (CIB).
 - b. To hold reunions at such times and places as the membership designates to perpetuate liberty and justice through patriotism and companionship.

- c. To assist all veterans of the US Armed Forces, their families, widows and children and other selected charities whenever possible regardless of race, creed, gender, religion, or branch of service. To support our Military in the performance of their duty, protect our Nation's Flag and to support the Constitution of the United States of America.
- d. This Association is organized for a perpetual term.

ARTICLE III Chartering Companies

Units may be organized in a local area to provide members with a meeting place near their homes wherever possible. This will enhance comradeship and patriotism among members of the Association. New charters issued after the implementation of this constitution shall comply with existing bylaws. All units will function under the direct supervision of the Division or State unit assigned by the National Headquarters. Each Division or State chartered unit will maintain a roster of their assigned members. Units shall perform all administrative duties required for the proper maintenance of membership records. State units will report to the Division which is the selected unit of Command for a group of States, single State or specific geographical area. It is recognized that the National Headquarters must have in place an organized central system of reporting and accounting by being able to assign certain State unit Commanders to serve as the administrative unit for specific geographical areas. An updated map will always be in place designating the units and locations. Any changes made to geographical reporting locations, Divisions etc. must be immediately mapped and reported to the webmaster, units involved and the Blue Badge editor. The executive board will approve border changes. All existing chartered units are grandfathered with the implementation of these bylaws, but must comply with the requirements of these bylaws in order to retain their charter.

ARTICLE IV Membership

1. To be eligible for membership in the Association, a person must provide written official proof of having earned the award of the CIB.
2. The Association does have a supporting membership. The supporting membership is separate and distinct from the association for membership requirements. This article was submitted to the board in accordance with the required time limits in writing and moved forward by the executive board and passed by more than the 2/3rds required membership present at Myrtle Beach in 2011.
3. The Executive Board will have the authority to remove members for cause after appointing an investigative committee and reviewing all circumstances such as "STOLEN VALOR" along with other possible causes for removal.

ARTICLE V
Organization and Government

1. The Association will be organized in accordance with a management structure which shall allow for the proper flow and accountability of all necessary administrative functions.
2. The Association will be governed by a Commander, Deputy Commander and a Finance Officer. The Executive Board shall consist of (2) elected and (8) appointed officers and the past National Commander. Total-11
3. In the event that the immediate past National Commander is not available the immediate past National Deputy Commander shall act in his stead.
4. The Commander and Deputy Commander will stand for election and will be elected by a majority vote, at a general membership meeting where ballots shall be counted.
 - a. The term of service will be for (2) years but may be extended to (4) years if agreed upon by both the incumbent Commander/Deputy and the Executive board. Any such decision to extend must be announced no later than (9) months in advance of an election. This will allow for a time period in which potential future candidates would be informed.
 - b. The National Commander and Deputy Commander shall be elected in odd and even numbered years beginning in 2012 if so determined by a vote of the executive board. The Commander shall be elected in even numbered years and the Deputy Commander/XO shall be elected in odd numbered years. A 30 day transition period will be observed in which the outgoing Commanders will train the incoming Commanders.
5. The Executive Board will meet each year prior to the annual business meeting of the Association, time and place will be announced by the Commanding Officer. A majority vote of those present will be needed for any executive board decisions. Electronic meetings and voting throughout the year are also an acceptable practice by the Executive Board in order to perform necessary business. The Executive Board should always consult the Division Commanders prior to voting on issues which could have an effect on such Division or Divisions.

ARTICLE VI
Standing Committees

Committees may be organized as deemed necessary by the Executive Board to perform specific tasks that may arise.

ARTICLE VII
Dues

Dues amounts shall be set by a vote of the general membership present at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII
Uniforms

Division Commands have flexibility concerning the uniform. The CIB must be worn on every uniform. Rank shall not be worn unless approved by the Division Command.

ARTICLE IX
Publications

1. Publication of a newsletter called "The Blue Badge": shall be published and mailed to members who sign up for the publication and choose to have the mailed version instead of the electronic version. This publication shall be the official communication vehicle of the Association. Advertising is acceptable in the Blue Badge but must be consistent with the association 501-c obligations and the association's goals and objectives. The Blue Badge Editor will have the final approval of all such advertising and may veto all or any advertising. The National Website will be governed by the National Commander and the National Webmaster and must also meet the association's 501-c and other organizational goals and objectives.
2. Minutes of all National meetings will be recorded and published by the National Chief of Staff or other designated National Officer. This shall be published in the newsletter as well as electronically.

ARTICLE X
Disposition of Funds

Should the Association ever disband, any funds remaining with the Finance Officer shall be donated to the US Army Emergency Relief Fund. Should any Division or other unit disband all funds will be transferred to the National Headquarters.

ARTICLE XI
Amendments

1. Proposed amendments, rewrites or changes to the Constitution shall be submitted to the National Commander "in writing" for consideration no later than thirty (30) days prior to a scheduled executive board or annual membership Meeting. Proposed changes or additions shall be voted on at the next general membership meeting for approval or disapproval after the executive board has moved them forward for such vote by the members present in accordance with the majority of the board making such decision to move them forward. Individuals submitting changes or additions for consideration shall have the opportunity to contact the National Commander or any Executive Officer for explanations concerning their proposed amendments status. Bylaw changes or amendments may be proposed at the annual meeting and the executive board will review all such motions and determine if such proposals should be adopted.
2. Changes to the Constitution shall require a 2/3 vote of the Membership present at the annual membership meeting.
3. The executive board may pass necessary bylaws or changes for the good of the organization by majority vote and shall have veto power if it is concluded by a majority vote of the executive board that it is necessary to do so in order to properly manage the business of the association .It is recognized that some business may need to be conducted throughout the year including bylaw changes or amendments. The executive board shall have this authority.
4. At the conception of the CIA, the "Founding members" agreed that the National Headquarters of the Association will remain in Asheville, NC, as long as the Association is in existence. There will be no recommendation presented or voted on by the general membership to change this location. The desires of the "Founding Members" shall be carried out.
5. Wherever the word "he" or "his" appears in this Constitution and By-Laws of the Association the word shall be inclusive of both genders.

Should any provision of this Constitution be deemed in conflict with any other provision, such conflict will be resolved by a majority vote of the three members of the Governing Board. This document shall become effective after being signed and (sealed) by the National Commander.

THEREFORE, in witness thereof, I, the National Commander of the Association hereunto subscribed my name on this date, October 27, 2011. (Electronic Signature)

Earl W Kennedy
Commanding Officer

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