

Symbolism

10th Regiment United States Cavalry Coat of Arms description from 1911.



The 10th Cavalry Coat of arms was first confirmed on 11 February 1911 at [Fort Ethan Allen](#) in [Vermont](#) as "General Orders No. 1" by order of Colonel Thaddeus W. Jones. The 1911 description of the Arms is different from that used today, and has no functional difference except for symbolism. There was no symbolic explanations or reasons given for the basic symbols of the Regimental Arms in 1911 or when the arms were re-affirmed on 22 August 1991. The following is gathered from many heraldic and military sources

Above the [shield](#) is part of the [distinctive unit insignia](#), the "Buffalo" (American Bison). On the arms it faces left, which represents the western movement of the early unit across the United States. The black and gold on which the buffalo stands are "the colour of the negro" and the "refined gold" which the regiment represents.

The left side is for the 43 years of service (1866–1909) in the [American West](#) that were formative for the 10th Cavalry. The blue represents the sky and open plains of the west. The ceremonial [war bonnet](#) and [eagle feathers](#) honors the respect of the [Native American](#) tribes. The [tomahawk](#) and [stone axe](#) with the heads down indicate peace achieved. The vertical red and white stripes are for 13 major campaigns.

Upper right. The [Castilian Coat of Arms](#), without the crown, represents the [Spanish–American War](#) and indirectly the [Philippine Insurrection](#) where the 10th helped liberate [Cuba](#) (1898) and fought in the [Philippines](#) (1899–1902).

Lower right. The black background is the African-American ancestry. Within the yellow pyramid (triangle) is a symbol of the sun and 3 stars. Under the original 1911 description of the Arms this is described as "In base sable, the Katipunan device on its base, thereon the sun in its splendour, between three mullets, one and two, all or." This stresses the [Katipunan](#), Philippine revolutionaries, who were engaged in three years of campaigns against the 10th.

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