

# GRINGO40S

## United States Army of the Mexican American War

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### US Regular Infantry

Generally the Infantry had 10 companies of 50 men, but attrition reduced the company size. Often only 5 or 6 companies were present.

One company was a "Light"/ skirmishers, all companies armed with smoothbore muskets, sometimes with percussion cap locks. The original 8 Regular Regiments were well drilled, and disciplined. Many of the junior officers were West Point graduates, well schooled in their duties. Often Regular Regiments were commanded by Majors or even Captains, as their field officers were elevated to brigade or other command, or too old for active service.



### US Regular Dragoons

These were mounted on large horses and armed with sabres, carbines (many Hall breech-loaders) and single shot horse pistols. Officers often had Colts. The regiment was usually scattered on various duties, so that only 2 or 3 companies were together on a battlefield.



## Volunteer Infantry Regiments

These were usually musket armed, but often had two skirmisher companies armed with rifles. None of the American rifles had bayonets. Texas Ranger companies can be considered rifle armed, even though some had shotguns and muskets. Many had Colt revolvers and big hunting knives as back up weapons.

## Mounted Volunteer Regiments

These were basically as the name implies, mounted infantry. All were good fighters, except the last two, who were poorly trained and disciplined. They had the standard ten company organization.

- Two Texas Mounted Regiments in the Monterrey Campaign,
- Tennessee Mounted Regiment with Scott,
- 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Mounted Regiment in the New Mexico-Chihuahua,
- 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Mounted Regiment.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Cavalry & Mounted Rifles.



## U.S. Artillery

Batteries usually had 4x 6pdr bronze smoothbore guns, but some had 2x 6pdr & 2x 12pdr howitzers. Some batteries utilized captured Mexican guns. An Artillery Battery usually had 70 to 75 gunners, with 6 to 8 horses for rapid movement. The gunners were so highly trained they could move quickly, unlimber and fire a round in 30 seconds.



## Naval Landing Forces

A Battalion of Marines served with Gen. Scott's Army, and another in California.

Units of sailors were involved in duties when Mexican ports were attacked, and especially in California. Commodore Stockton's forces included companies of sailors armed with boarding pikes and single shot pistols!

## WARGAMING NOTES

Assuming figure scale is 1 to 10 and 1 model per 2 pieces.

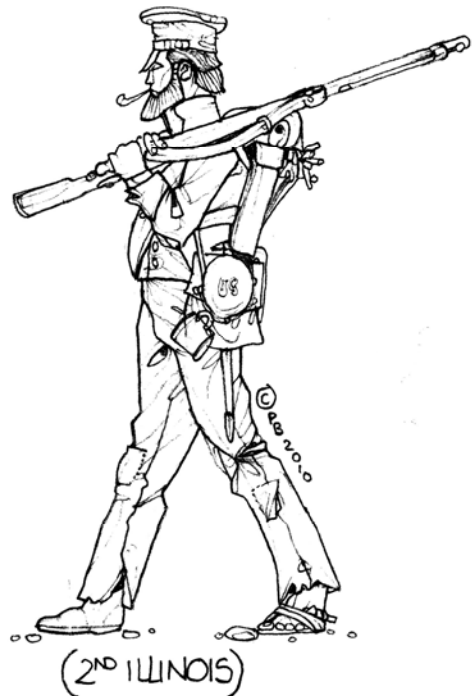
### US Regulars

These should have high morale.

**An Infantry Regiment** could consist of 5 companies (1 Light) plus staff: a CO, a 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command, 2 NCOs with Regiment Colours and National flag, Drummer, Bugler, and a Surgeon.

**Infantry Companies** of 4 to 5 figures. This could include an Officer, NCO, and Drummer (or Bugler for "Light" Company)

**Cavalry Units** of 8 to 12 figures, including Officer, NCO with Company Guidon, Bugler. Since an entire Regiment was seldom together, a cavalry battalion would be two to three companies, with a CO & Bugler, maybe a US flag or Regiment flag.





## US Irregulars and Volunteers

The Volunteers were generally trained, but not as efficient.

**Mounted Volunteer Battalion** of four or five companies of 2 to 5 mounted figures, organized as above. It is necessary to have duplicate dismounted, figures.

**Texas Ranger unit** of 8 to 12 mounted figures, including 1 CO, 1 NCO w shotgun, 6-10 riflemen, (1 guidon bearer optional).

## US Artillery

An Army Artillery Battery consists of 2 guns, with 6 gunners, 2 NCOs, and 1 Captain

## Naval Forces

The Marine Battalion under Scott would be represented by 3 companies organized as for the Infantry, with a small staff, only one colour bearer with National flag.

Other naval landing parties would have 1 company of Marines and the remainder Sailors, 1 with musket, 1 carbine, 1 with half-pikes & pistols. Sailor companies were led by a Lieutenant and a Boatswain with pipe. Staff would be a Captain or Commodore, Petty Officer, and flag bearer.



## Gringo40s Dispatches

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