

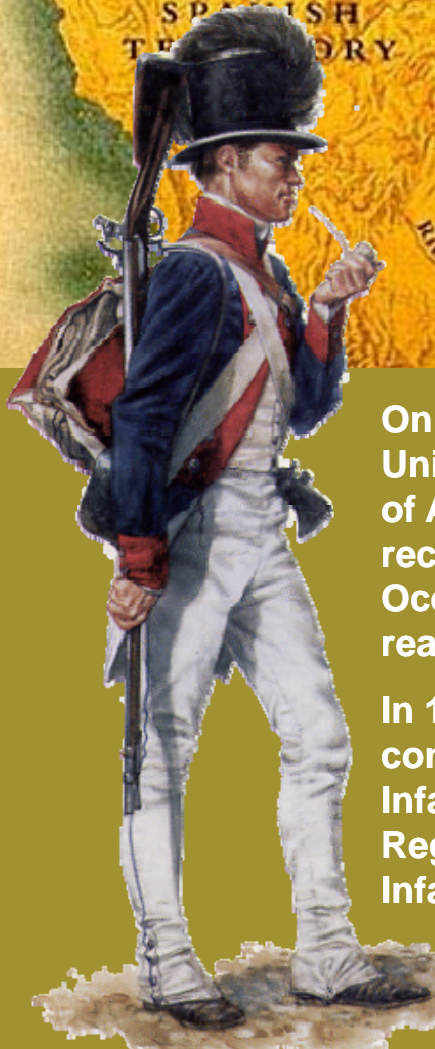
# Meriwether Lewis & the Corps of Discovery



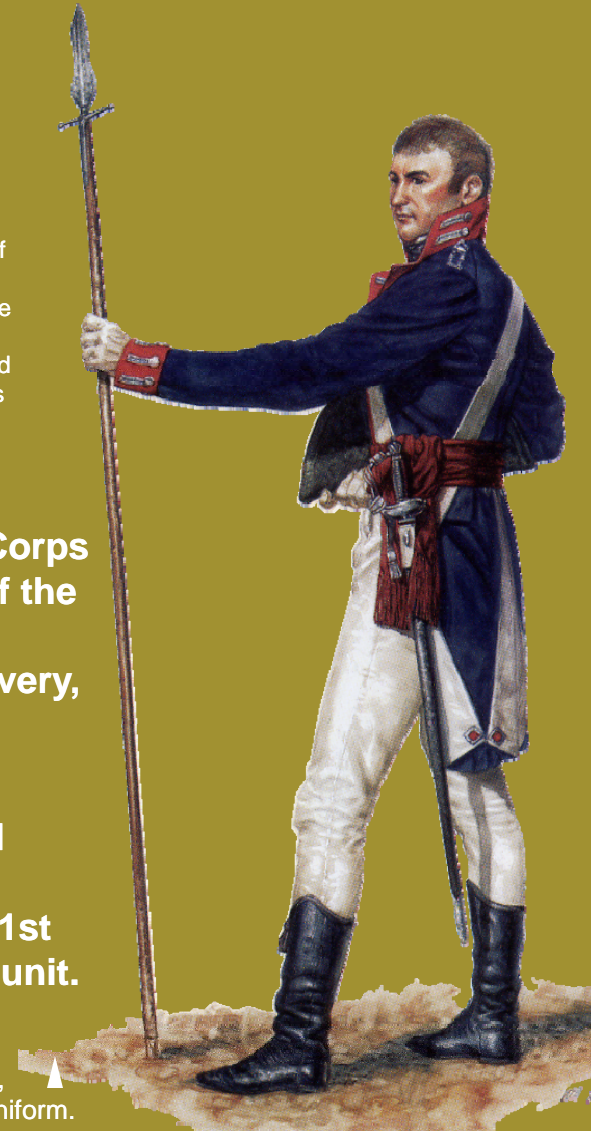
Route of the Corps of Discovery from St. Louis, Missouri, to the Pacific Coast. Red denotes the westward leg and the blue lines the eastward return.

On May 14, 1804, Captain Meriwether Lewis of the 1st United States Infantry and Lieutenant William Clark, Corps of Artillery, with forty soldiers began an exploration of the recently purchased Louisiana Territory to the Pacific Ocean. This expedition, known as the Corps of Discovery, reached the west coast in November 1805.

In 1815, after the War of 1812, the 1st Infantry was consolidated with four other regiments to form the 3d Infantry, one of eight new units. The new 3d Infantry Regiment inherited the lineage and history of the old 1st Infantry, making it the oldest active US Army infantry unit.



Soldier of the 1st US Infantry in full dress uniform.



Captain Meriwether Lewis, 1st US Infantry, in full dress uniform.