



The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion – 136th Infantry Regiment traces its lineage back to the 2nd Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry which was mustered into service on June 26, 1861 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The 2nd Minnesota served as part of the Union Army's Army of the Cumberland throughout Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia between 1862 and 1865. Some significant battles included: the battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky, where the unit earned its name as an adversary was quoted saying, "those Minnesota Boys fought like Bearcats."

Additional engagements included the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga and the capture of Atlanta under General Sherman during the famous "March to the Sea".

When the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, the 2nd Minnesota was designated as the 12th Infantry Regiment and mustered into federal service. The Regiment did not serve outside the United States.

During the early 1900s, the recently re-designated 2nd Minnesota was renamed the 136th Infantry and assigned to the 34th Infantry Division at Camp Cody, New Mexico, following the activation of American Forces during World War I.

The 136th Infantry, as part of the 34th Infantry Division, was shipped overseas but suffered the frustration of having its members dispersed to other organizations as replacements, rather than entering the war as a unit.

During World War II, the 136th Infantry was again activated and assigned to the 33rd Infantry Division in August of 1942. After a stay in New Guinea, they moved to the island of Morotai where for 20 days they fought virtually alone against fanatical Japanese resistance. The regiment also saw action during the battle of Luzon, in the Philippines where they overcame resistance at such places as Kennon Road and Skyline Ridge to help secure the island. The 'Bearcats' were inactivated from federal service in February of 1946 at Otsu, Japan. They returned home to Minnesota and were assigned to the 47th Infantry Division.

In 1951, the 47th Infantry Division was once again activated for federal service during the Korean War where they were assigned to Camp Rucker, Alabama. Many members were reassigned and sent to Korea with various combat units.

In 1976, the 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry was assigned as a round-out unit to the active duty forces. This relationship with the 1st Infantry Division and later with the 194th Separate Armor Brigade, enhanced the warfighting capabilities of the U.S. Army throughout the Cold War years.

In 2003, as part of NATO peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, the 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry – with 1,000 other Minnesota National Guard Soldiers - participated in the largest local mobilizations since the Korean War.

In 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment was re-designated as the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment, integrating two mechanized infantry companies, two tank companies, an engineer company and support elements into a functional unit. Together they were assigned to the 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division and served in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. Many of the battalion's Soldiers were under the operational control of the 1st and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force until early July of 2007. While in Iraq the 'Bearcats' compiled an unprecedented total of 475 consecutive days of combat.

For nearly a decade the Moorhead-based 'Bearcats' of 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment have served within their local communities providing support and positive relations with city, county and public organizations. They have responded to the Governor's call for state activation in response to flooding, tornadoes and civil unrest. They continue to augment ready Soldiers in support of federal missions overseas. Recently in June 2016 the battalion took part in a rotation at the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin California. There the bearcats held the standard and propelled the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division to receive a top 25% rating of any brigade across the United States Army.