

THE TOYO GAKUHO

Vol.88, No.3 - December 2006

(THE JOURNAL OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
OF THE TOYO BUNKO)

Characteristics of the Jinwuwei and Its Relationship to the *Xingjun* System

TAGASHIRA Kentaro

This article analyzes the relationship between the Jinwuwei 金吾衛, which was one of the twelve central guards (*Shierwei* 十二衛), and the system of the army in the field (*Xingjun* 行軍), through an examination of Tang period tactical manuals, like *Taibaiyin-jing* 太白陰經, and the statutes concerning the duties of Jinwuwei contained in *Tongdian* (通典).

The research to date argues that since the main duty of the Jinwuwei was to patrol the capital palace, its was more a security police force than an army regiment. This notion is based on *Tangliudian* 唐六典, by and large an explanation of various Tang institutions. However, according to *Tongdian*, the majority of the statutes concerning the duties of Jinwuwei was derived from the *Xingjun* system as described in the Tang tactical manuals.

During the Beizhao 北朝 and Sui-Tang periods, whenever an army in the field was organized, a unit called *yuhoujun* 虞候軍 was usually formed within it to take charge of reconnaissance and sentry duties during military operations, the same duties entrusted to the Jinwuwei. In other words, the main purpose of the Jinwuwei was to guard the Emperor like a *yuhoujun* unit, whenever he journeyed away from the capital.

The author concludes that the Jinwuwei should be considered essentially a *yuhoujun* unit within the *Shierwei*, the army in the field (*Xingjun*) under the direct command of the Emperor.