

SYNOPSIS OF

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE INSIGNIA

EVOLUTION

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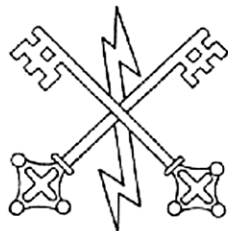


#1 - ARMY INTELLIGENCE (USAR) Officer Celler Insignia.



#2 - ARMY INTELLIGENCE (USAR) Enlisted Celler Insignia.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE (USAR): The insignia for Army Intelligence (USAR), also referred to as Military Intelligence (Reserve) or Military Intelligence Division, G-2, War Department General Staff, was worn during the period 31 March 1924 to 5 October 1962. On 17 August 1923 the Secretary of War authorized a distinctive collar insignia for the Military Intelligence Section, Organized Reserve Corps (ORC). Designs were submitted and one consisting of "an eared shield bearing a circle connected with the border by 13 radial ribs, within the circle a sphinx in profile (couchant)" was approved by the Secretary of War on 22 October 1923. On 19 November 1923 the Adjutant General advised the Quartermaster General that the new insignia had been approved for inclusion in AR 600-75, and on 26 March 1924 the Quartermaster General submitted a sample of the new device to the Adjutant General for approval. The Adjutant General in turn approved the insignia on 31 March 1924. These insignia were originally made in pairs, and were one inch in overall height, meeting the Adjutant General's specification of 11 April 1924. When the standing-collar uniform was replaced by the more modern open-collar model in 1926, the insignia was reduced to 3/4 inch in overall height and made in one style only: with the sphinx facing to the viewer's left. (see sketches 1 and 2) This device was worn only by members of the organized reserves, as no separate intelligence branch existed at this time in the regular army table of organization. The insignia was also worn, however, by members of the Military Intelligence Division, G-2, War Department General Staff.



#3 - ARMY SECURITY (USAR) Officer's Celler Insignia.



#4 - ARMY SECURITY (USAR) Enlisted Celler Insignia.

ARMY SECURITY (USAR): On 13 October 1953 the G-2 of the US Army Security Agency (USASA), by the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2 and through the Assistant Chiefs of Staff G-1 and G-4, Department of the Army, requested approval of an insignia for wear by Army Security Agency personnel in reserve status. Five proposed designs were forwarded for consideration, and on 15 December 1953 the Quartermaster Gen-

eral forwarded four more proposed designs. On 18 January 1954 the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Department of the Army, reported that the Chief of the Army Security Agency had selected a design of crossed keys and a lightning flash, and recommended its adoption. (see sketches 3 and 4) On 1 February 1954 the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, advised the Quartermaster General that this design had been approved. The Army Security Reserve insignia was worn by both officer and enlisted personnel of the USASA (USAR). Active duty officers usually wore Signal Corps branch insignia, however, while enlisted personnel on active duty with the USASA usually wore the Federal eagle device of the Detached Enlisted Men's List (DEML), more commonly known as "Unassigned to Branch." When the merger of the Army Security Agency and Army Intelligence was effected in 1962, both the Army Security (USAR) and the Army Intelligence (USAR) insignia became obsolete.



#5 - ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY/MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH Officer's Celler Insignia.



#6 - ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY/MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH Enlisted Celler Insignia.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH: The formation of a new branch of service, to be called the Army Intelligence and Security Branch, was approved by the Office of the Chief of Staff, Department of the Army, in an announcement dated 29 June 1962. On 5 October 1962 the Vice Chief of Staff, Department of the Army, approved a new branch insignia to be worn by all personnel, both on active duty and in reserve status. (see sketch 5) Army Intelligence (USAR) and Army Security (USAR) were discontinued as separate branches and their personnel were reassigned to the Army Intelligence and Security Branch. On 1 July 1967 the Army Intelligence and Security Branch was redesignated as the Military Intelligence Branch, but no change in insignia accompanied the redesignation. As a result of the Vietnam War the Military Intelligence Branch insignia has been manufactured in an all-black version for wear on the fatigue uniforms.

NOTES: (1) Although information from the Institute of Heraldry indicates that nine designs for an insignia for the Army Security (USAR) were submitted and considered, neither of the authors has any knowledge of the eight disapproved designs. Anyone with such information is requested to contact either author.

(2) Both the Army Intelligence (USAR) and the Army Security (USAR) insignias were also manufactured in cloth versions (gold design on olive drab cloth) for wear on the fatigue uniform. The Army Intelligence and Security/Military Intelligence Branch insignia has been manufactured in several versions for wear on the fatigue uniform. Originally it was made in a gold and blue design embroidered on olive drab cloth but it is now worn in all black - either embroidered on olive drab cloth or of metal with a dull-black anodized finish.

(3) See the April-June 1970 *Trading Post*, page 46, for a related article "Corps Of Intelligence Police".



ASA & MI

- (A) Insignia worn by a unit, samples of which have been approved by The Adjutant General, The Office of the Quartermaster General or The Institute of Heraldry, U. S. Army.
- (B) Variation of an "A" insignia; differs slightly from the approved sample in color, finish, size, etc.
- (C) Insignia worn by an organization, samples of which have never been approved or are not known to have been approved by The Adjutant General, The Office of the Quartermaster General or The Institute of Heraldry, U. S. Army. Undoubtedly some insignia bearing this classification are "A" insignia but until such time as it can be definitely established that samples have been approved, they must of necessity be considered as "C" insignia.
- (D) Insignia made from an authentic drawing or blazon but never worn.
- (E) Insignia made from sketches of insignia which have previously appeared in THE TRADING POST but never worn.
- (L) "Lighter" or miniature insignia normally used on cigarette lighters or jewelry.

While all categories are described and illustrated THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY INSIGNIA COLLECTORS recognizes categories "A", "B" and "C" only.



1A 1st MI Bn
(C) CLASS
On a teal blue shield, issuant from base a flash bendwise terminating in a dexter hand supporting an annulet winged to chief, all yellow; within the annulet a white human eye with black pupil. The motto "INFORMARE LABORAMUS" (We labor to inform) is black on a gold scroll (29 x 29mm)



2A 2nd MI Bn
(A) CLASS
On a shield divided per chevron abased teal blue & silver an enhanced silver chief dancette of 2, the apexes surmounted by 2 counterchanged roundels; in base a black rampant sphinx. The motto "OCULI CUITUS SECRETI" (The eyes of intelligence) is black on a silver scroll. (28 x 25mm)



24A 24th MI Bn
(C) CLASS II
On a purple shield & above a gold foot a gold winged eye, the wings displayed & inverted, emitting to base 3 countercharged rays. The motto "OUR EYES SUPPORT" is black on a gold scroll. (29 x 28mm)



302A 302nd ASA Bn
318 (C) CLASS
On a shield divided per fess abased silver & teal blue, in chief a transparent red fox's mask charged on the forehead with a black billet fesswise & in base a key, palewise between 2 stylized flashes, all silver. The motto "LOYALTY, VIGILANCE, PRIDE" is black on a silver scroll. (29 x 29mm)



302AL 302nd ASA Bn
318 (D) CLASS
Differs from Number 302A in that the base of the shield is light instead of teal blue. (29 x 29mm)



306A 306th ASA Bn
(C) CLASS
On a teal blue shield an abased silver volcano surmounted by a black pellet charged with a silver star; in chief an orange lightning flash fesswise. The motto "NEMO VIGILANTIER" (No one more watchful) is black on a silver scroll. (29 x 26mm)



309A 309th ASA Bn
(C) CLASS
On a white shield a pale emitting in saltire four lightning flashes, all teal blue, charged with a key, bit to dexter in base, the bow a bear's head, all gold. The motto "SENTINELS OF SECURITY" is teal blue on a gold scroll. (29 x 26mm)



311A 311th ASA Bn
(A) CLASS
On a shield divided per fess teal blue & white, in chief between 2 silver flashes a silver phoenix rising from red flames of fire & in base a teal blue sword fesswise. The motto "DICITE AUDIAMUS" (You speak, we listen) is teal blue on a silver scroll. (29 x 29mm)

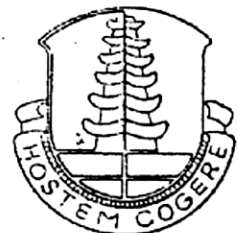


311B 311th ASA Bn
(L) CLASS
Similar to Number 311A but smaller. (23 x 23mm)



3134 313th ASA BN
(C) CLASS

On a teal blue shield a fess chequy silver & orange; overall a white six-pointed star. The motto "SAVOIR C'EST POUVOIR" (Knowledge is power) is black on a silver scroll. (29 x 29 mm)



319A 319th MI BN
(C) CLASS

On a shield divided per pale teal blue & gold a counter-changed Korean temple; in base a foot divided per cross white & black. The motto "HOSTEM COGERE" (Know the enemy) is black on a gold scroll. (29 x 28mm)



321A 321st ASA BN
(C) CLASS

On a shield divided per fess enhanced silver & teal blue, in base a teal blue flash bend-sinisterwise & in base a silver Korean temple. The motto "VIGILANTIA ET PERSEVERANTIA" (Vigilance and perseverance) is teal blue on a silver scroll (29 x 29mm)



321B 321st ASA BN
(C) CLASS

Differs from Number 321A in that the chief and Korean temple are white instead of silver (30 x 30mm)



321C 321st ASA BN
(C) CLASS

Differs from Number 321B in that the flash and base are dark instead of teal blue and the chief and Korean temple are white instead of silver. (30 x 30mm)



321D 321st ASA BN
(D) CLASS

Differs from Number 321A in that the motto is misspelled "VIGILANTIA ET PERSEVERANTIA" (30 x 29mm)



321E 321st ASA BN
(L) CLASS

Similar to Number 321A but smaller. (24 x 24mm)



327A 324th ASA BN
(A) CLASS

A shield divided quarterly black and teal blue; on the first quarter a flash and on the 4th quarter a key, both silver. The motto "FORTIOR EX VIGILIS" is black on a silver scroll. (29 x 29mm)



326A 326th ASA BN
(L) CLASS

On a white disc a white rabbit (face, ears, coat & trousers black) holding a white telescope & standing on a quarter-ton military vehicle (vehicle red, wheels black, speed lines gold). The designation "326 ASA" is gold on a black strip. (24 x 21mm)



502A 502d MIL INTEL BN
(C) CLASS

On a silver shield between 2 dark blue beacon fires in base enflamed yellow, a dark blue pale charged in chief with a silver beacon fire, enflamed yellow. The motto "FREEDOM BY VIGILANCE" is black on a silver scroll. (29 x 28mm)



532A 532nd MI BN
(C) CLASS

On a shield chequy teal blue & gold a rampant black horse. The motto "NOSCE HOSTEM" (Know your enemy) is gold on a teal blue scroll. (29 x 29mm)



5250A 5250th INTEL CO
(C) CLASS

On a dark blue shield a sphinx between 6 stars, 3 in chief & 3 in base, all yellow & all within a narrow yellow border. (31 x 25mm).



5250B 5250th INTEL CO
(F) CLASS

Similar to Number 5250A but smaller. The shield has no border and the stars and sphinx are gold instead of yellow. (29 x 31mm)

508

Military Intelligence (MI) Units Beer Can Insignia



1st MIBARS

Teal blue shield, silver border and scroll. Winged ring, arm and hand yellow. Eye white and black. INFORMARE LABORAMUS (Work for Information) black. Eye represents observation, arm is a lightning flash representing signal and the hand represents support.



Detachment A, 1st MIBARS

Blue shield, yellow scroll, both with silver borders. Ill red, blue disc, black and white eye and yellow wings. Located at Bien Hoa.



Detachment D, 1st MIBARS

Blue disc, silver rectangle, red map of Vietnam. NHA TRANG and VIETNAM black. Eagle is black with silver head, three lines yellow as is "D" DET, 1ST and MIBARS. Border of disc is black. Located at Nha Trang.



HHC, 1st MIBARS

Blue numbers one, yellow upper, left and lower borders with thin black border. Yellow winged ring with black and white eye. yellow map of Vietnam with red lines and stars indicating detachment locations at Da Nang, Nha Trang, Bien Hoa and Can Tho and Headquarters at Saigon. HHC, MIBARS and 19 VIETNAM 66 red. Other variations exist.



Detachment B, 1st MIBARS

Blue disc and tab with red borders. DI of 1st MIBARS, "B" DET, 1ST MIBARS and BEST BY TEST silver. Located at Da Nang.



519TH MI Bn

DI of the unit: gold shield and scroll, dark blue globe, Sphinx, STRENGTH THRU INTELLIGENCE and detail of scroll. Grids, book and detail of Sphinx gold.



Detachment C, 1st MIBARS

Gray shield, yellow C, three red bars and IV. Tab and scroll teal blue, DETACHMENT and 1ST MIBARS yellow. Overall border black. Located at Can Tho.



525th MI Group

A beer car of the DI.



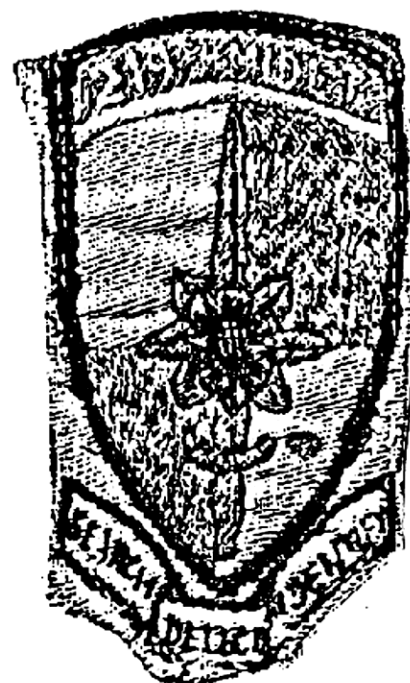
Combined Material Exploitation Center

Red, yellow and gray shield with a yellow border. White tab CMEC black as is TI (Technical Intelligence). Knife white, hilt and handle yellow.



131st AVN Co (Variation)

Differs, the hawk and scroll are on a white disc which has a black border. AVN is in place of MI.



219th MI Detachment

Shield divided quarterly light blue and white, dark blue border, light blue tab. Yellow-gold sword and flower. 219TH MI DET light blue as is scroll with black borders and SEARCH DETECT IDENTIFY.



20th Aerial Surveillance and Target Acquisition. Became 131st MI Co.

Subdued, OD background, black hawk with yellow beak and claws. White scroll, black borders and 20TH ASTA. NIGHT and HAWKS.



131st MI Co Tab

White, black borders, and OV-ID, SUPER and MOHAWK.



131ST MI CO

OD background, black hawk, yellow beak and claws. White scroll, black borders and 131ST MI CO, NIGHT and HAWKS.



Imagery Interpretation Section, 635th MI Detachment

Blue shield, black border, green aircraft, black and white detail. Yellow tab and scroll. TRAILWATCHERS and II SECTION and 635 MID black.