

## ENGINEER DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

**CONTENTS:** This catalog contains the known distinctive insignia (DIs) worn by units of the Corps of Engineers. The catalog consists of three parts, that will be published in two volumes.

Volume 1: Contains Part I, numbers 1 - 426.

Volume 2: Contains Part I, numbers 427 to end; plus Parts II and III.

### PARTS:

**Part I:** Contains insignia classified by ASMIC as Class A, B, C & D. Each DI will receive its own distinct designation, or "ASMIC Number". The unit's numerical designation is listed first and is followed by a capital letter in alphabetical order assigned to each different unit. The various DIs for that unit will then be assigned a numerical suffix in progressive order, based on the age of the insignia, starting with the oldest insignia receiving the suffix 1. The ASMIC number will always be in the upper left corner of each description.

For those units that are named vice numbered, the ASMIC number will consist of a capital letter, arbitrarily assigned followed by a number in sequence beginning with 1, followed by another capital letter starting with A. Variations of DIs of the same unit will be designated by variations of the second letter A through Z. Units assigned the same initial capital letter will be designated by varying the number from 1 and progressing in numerical order.

**PART II:** Contains insignia classified by ASMIC as Class E, F, FR, FRE, or L. These are insignia that have never been worn by troops. Such DIs will have an ASMIC number determined as described in Part I, but always with a prefix "Z". Only those DIs in Part II will have a prefix Z.

**PART III:** Contains cloth insignia that are of normal or typical DI size and which were worn era "c" or later. Generally these pieces are those that are embroidered or woven on the green combat leader's tab. All insignia shown in PART III will have the prefix "Y". Only those cloth DIs in Part III will have a prefix Y.

### Organization

Line 1: ASMIC Number, Complete Unit Designation (Class/Era)

Line 2: Component - Location/Division (Previous ASMIC Numbers)

Line 3 - End: Description (Size), Description Code.

Line End + 1: Authorization, Approval, Redesignation Dates.

Line End + 2: Notes.

**CLASSIFICATION:** A code describing the design, manufacture and usage of DI's as listed below. The classification of "class" is shown on the first line of the entry in bold face type as an upper case letter enclosed in parentheses with the era worn.

(A) The insignia worn by the unit, samples of which have been approved by the Adjutant General, the Office of the Quartermaster General, or, since 1963, the Institute of Heraldry, U.S. Army (IOH).

(B) Insignia made from an authentic drawing or blazon developed by the Institute of Heraldry and made from dies developed by the Institute of Heraldry. Such pieces become an (A) piece when the unit receives approval for it to be worn.

(C) Insignia worn by the unit, the design of which may or may not have been authorized by the Institute of Heraldry, or its predecessors, and samples of the DI have not been approved by IOH or its predecessors.

(D) Samples made for a unit with the intent that they be worn by the unit, but either not accepted by the unit or the unit was inactivated prior to receiving the insignia. Never worn by troops.

(E) Insignia invented and made by a collector on the basis of drawings, blazons or whim for sale to collectors, veterans associations, etc. Never worn by troops.

(F) An exact, or reasonably exact, copy or reproduction of an existing genuine insignia. May have been made by copying an existing insignia or correct drawing, such as an ASMIC catalog or Trading Post entry, or an approval drawing by IOH. Made for sale to collectors, veterans associations, etc. Never worn by troops.

(FR) A piece which has been restruck from an existing legitimate die originally used for class (A), (B), (C), or (D) insignia and made in proper colors, plating, piercing, etc. Such insignia will differ from the original type only in type of fastener, hallmark and age. Never worn by troops.

(FRE) An insignia which has been restruck from an existing legitimate die used for class (A), (B), (C), or (D) insignia and made in incorrect colors, plating, or piercing etc. It is considered an error restrike and was never worn by troops.

(L) A device similar to a distinctive insignia made for some purpose other than wear as a distinctive insignia, i.e.: lighter pieces, lapel pins, bridle rosettes, regimental favors, plaque pieces.

**ERA:** A code indicating the time period during which the DI appeared and was used. The era is shown as a lower case letter separated from the class by a slash, all enclosed in parentheses.

### ERA:

MJ - Mess Jacket insignia prior to advent of DIs in 1922.

a - 1922-1939 - Pre WWII era.

b - 1940-1947 - WWII era.

c - 1948-1959 - Korean War and post Korean War era.

d - 1960-1980 - Vietnam and post Vietnam era.

e -- 1981 - present

If the exact era is unknown then an 'x' should be used e.g. (C/x).

It should also be recognized that a closer dating may be given in the textual description of the DI. For example, if a DI is noted as a beer can that would place it in the time frame of 1960-1973 even though the era would be shown as "d".

**COMPONENT:** The component of the Army is indicated on the second line as RA = Regular Army, AUS = Army of the United States, NG = National Guard, OR + Organized Reserves, ORC = Organized Reserve Corps, RAI = Regular Army, Inactive, and USAR = Army Reserve. Where the location of the unit is known it is shown by the abbreviation for the Division or state in which it is located.

**CATALOG NUMBERS:** Catalog numbers used in this catalog are newly assigned and have no relationship to prior catalog numbers. Previous catalog numbers are shown at the end of second line in parentheses. Where the DI shown has previously been cataloged in a different catalog such as SCHOOL or MISCELLANEOUS, this is indicated.

**MEASUREMENTS:** Measurements are shown in parentheses at the end of the description. They are to the nearest millimeter and always listed as (height x width). Often pieces vary in size. If a DI varies by at least 2mm in one direction, it is listed as a variation and given a distinctive ASMIC number. If a DI varies by 1 mm in both directions it may or not be considered as a distinct variation. If it is it will be assigned a distinctive ASMIC number, if not it will be noted as a minor variation under NOTE. Pieces that vary by 1 mm in one direction will be listed as a minor variation under NOTE. In some cases for Viet Nam made DIs (beer cans), because of the many variations in sizes, variations in size, not exceeding 2mm in one direction and identical in design and shape, may be listed as minor variations under NOTE.

**COLORS:** All colors, except black, white and yellow will be noted as opaque (op) or transparent (tr), yellow is presumed op unless noted. Where the DI is made with IOH tools the IOH color chip number is shown, except for black, white and red, no number is given. Chip number is given only once, at initial usage.

**INSIGNIA DESCRIPTION CODE:** Following the description and size is the Insignia Description Code, which describes the type of manufacture, backing (clasp), hallmark and country of origin. The code is organized as follows:

**TYPE PIECE/ BACKING; HALLMARK/ COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**  
All codes that are utilized in the entries are contained in the DI CATALOG HANDBOOK. Not all categories will be noted for each insignia. For example:

- TYPE PIECE - No entry for enamelled DIs.
- BACKING - No entry for clutch backs. S/P means that the DI could be either screw back or pin back, P/C means that a DI could be either pin back or clutch back. The entry for backing does not preclude other type backings, but is the best estimate of known backings and what would have been used in the era the DI was worn.
- HALLMARK: Always an entry, if known, If there is no hallmark, the abbreviation NH is used. Where three or more current manufacturers have made the piece the abbreviation CM is used.
- COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. No entry if US made.

**AUTHORIZED/APPROVED DATES:** Following the description are the dates the DI was authorized (auth), approved (appr) or redesignated (redes) by IOH or its predecessors. Date of approval is the date the first sample was approved. Only Class "A" DIs will have both an authorization and approval dates. Those redesignations that are pertinent to understanding the DI's lineage are listed. Where the last redesignation shows a date but no unit, it infers that the redesignation date is for the current unit designation.

**NOTE:** Follow the authorization, approval and redesignation dates. The word: NOTE will be followed by information of interest, such as:  
Minor variations  
Cross references to other listings of DIs related to the described DI.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** Abbreviations used in this catalog are:

A Austria  
 ABN Airborne  
 AD Armored Division  
 AGY Agency  
 APPR Approved  
 ARM Armored  
 AS Amphibious Support  
 AUS Army of US (1942-45)  
 AUTH Authorized  
 AUX Auxiliary  
 AVN Aviation  
 BC;VN Beercan; Vietnam  
 BD Base Depot  
 BDE Brigade  
 BE Base Equipment  
 BN Battalion  
 CAM Camouflage  
 CAV Cavalry  
 CBI China, Burma, India  
 CBT Combat  
 CLD Colored  
 CM Current Manufacturers  
 CMD Command  
 CO Company  
 CS Combat Support  
 CST Construction  
 DEC Decal  
 DEP Depot  
 DET Detachment  
 DT Dump Truck  
 DIV Division

E England  
 EHOPB European horizontal open pin back  
 EHSPB European horizontal safety pin back  
 EVOPB European vertical open pin back  
 EVSPB European vertical safety pin back  
 EU Engineer Utility  
 F France  
 FAC Facility  
 FB Float Bridge  
 FF Fire Fighting  
 FOR Forestry  
 G Germany  
 GP Group  
 GS General Service  
 HAW Hawaii  
 HE Heavy Equipment  
 HP Heavy Pontoon  
 HPB Horizontal pin back  
 HYD Hydrographic  
 I Italy  
 ID Infantry Division  
 LB Loop back (sew on)  
 LE Light Equipment  
 LP Light Pontoon  
 M Mexico  
 MBL Mobile  
 MSL Missile  
 MTD Mounted  
 MTN Mountain  
 NG National Guard  
 NH No hallmark  
 OP Opaque  
 OPB Open pin back  
 OR Organized Reserves (1922-47)  
 ORC Organized Reserve Corps (1947-52)  
 P Philippines  
 PB Panel Bridge/pin back  
 PC&R Port Construction & Repair  
 P/C Pinback or clutch back  
 PL Plastic  
 PLC Plastic coated  
 PLI Plastic, Ivory  
 PLL Plastic, laminated (WWII)  
 PM Pot metal  
 PR Patch replica  
 PS Phillipine Scouts  
 PTD Painted  
 RA Regular Army  
 RAI Regular Army Inactive (1930s-42)  
 REDES Redesignated  
 REGT Regiment  
 RLWY Railway  
 SB Screw back  
 SCH School  
 SEP Separate  
 S/P Screw back or pin back  
 SPT Support  
 SQ Squadron  
 ST Sterling  
 SVC Service  
 SS Special Service  
 TBR Treadway Bridge  
 TOP Topographic  
 TR Transparent  
 USAR US Army Reserve (1952-)  
 UTL Utility  
 VN Vietnam  
 VPB Vertical pin back  
 WS Water Supply

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**DI CATALOG HANDBOOK:** Refer to the DI Catalog Handbook for more complete information regarding entries, abbreviations, etc.

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