

Heraldic Activities

**Department of the
Army Seal, and
Department of the
Army Emblem
and Branch of
Service Plaques**

**Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
2 April 1992**

Unclassified

Effective 2 May 1992

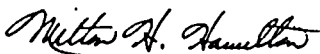
Heraldic Activities

Department of the Army Seal, and Department of the Army Emblem and Branch of Service Plaques

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:


MILTON H. HAMILTON
Administrative Assistant to the
Secretary of the Army

History. This UPDATE printing publishes a revision of this publication. Because the publication has been extensively revised, the changed portions have not been highlighted.

Summary. This regulation prescribes general policy, responsibilities, and procedures governing the Department of the Army Seal,

Department of the Army Plaque, and Army Branch of Service Plaques.

Applicability. This regulation applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

Proponent and exception authority. Not applicable

Army management control process. This regulation is not subject to the requirements of AR 11-2. It does not contain internal control provisions.

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation and establishment of command and local forms are prohibited without prior approval of HQDA (DAPE-HR) WASH DC 20310-0300.

Interim changes. Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Users will destroy

interim changes on their expiration date unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Director, The Institute of Heraldry, U.S. Army, Bldg 15, Cameron Station, Alexandria, VA 22304-5050.

Distribution. Distribution of this publication is made in accordance with the requirements on DA Form 12-09-E, block number 3871 intended for command level B for the Active Army, the Army National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1-1. Purpose.

This regulation prescribes general policies, responsibilities, descriptions, and procedures governing the Department of the Army seal, Department of the Army emblem, and Branch of Service plaques.

1-2. References.

Related publications are listed in appendix A.

1-3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms.

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

1-4. Responsibilities.

a. The Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army provides oversight of heraldry in the Army, and has responsibility for authorizing the use of the Army seal in authentication or validation of documents.

b. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel has staff responsibility for heraldic activities in the Army.

c. The Director, The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), is responsible for—

(1) Developing policies and procedures for the use of the Army emblem and Branch of Service plaques.

(2) Authorizing use of the Army emblem in commercial articles.

d. All Commanders (from unit to major command) will—

(1) Display plaques of prescribed designs only.

(2) Obtain plaques from authorized supply sources.

1-5. Commercial manufacture and sale.

The Army plaque and branch plaques manufactured commercial for optional purchase are controlled items under the Department of the Army Heraldic Item Quality Control System. (See AR 672-8.)

a. *Authority to manufacture.* The Institute of Heraldry is responsible for the certification of individuals, firms, or corporations to manufacture plaques according to applicable specifications. Each plaque will be identified by a hallmark and/or a certificate label certifying that it was produced according to specifications. Procedures governing certifying and monitoring the performance of manufacturers outlined in AR 672-8 are applicable to plaque manufacturers.

b. *Authority to sell.* No certificate of authority is required to sell plaques; however, vendors are responsible to sell only those plaques which have been manufactured in conformance with Government specifications by certified manufacturers and bearing hallmarks assigned by the Institute of Heraldry, U.S. Army.

Chapter 2 Department of the Army Seal

2-1. Authority.

The Department of the Army Seal is authorized by law section 3011, title 10, United States Code (10 USC 3011). General Order No. 1, Department of the Army, 18 September 1947, announced that, at the direction of the President, the traditional seal used during the since the Revolution was redesignated as the Seal of the Department of the Army according to the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947.

2-2. Use.

The Seal is an instrument used as authorized by the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for the authentication or validation of certain documents and records such as commissions, court papers, appointment certificates, retirement certificates, and award certificates requiring the signature of the Secretary of the

Army. The Administrative Assistant authorizes the use of the Army Seal for the Secretary of the Army. The Army Seal may no longer be reproduced in three dimensional form nor is its reproduction in color authorized. Its reproduction for any purpose or in any format without approval of the Office of the Secretary of the Army, is unauthorized. The improper use of the seal, the forging, counterfeiting or altering of it, or the use or possession of a counterfeited or altered seal are prohibited by law sections 506 and 1017, title 18, United States Code (18 USC 1017 and 506).

2-3. Description and Symbolism.

The description and symbolism of the Department of the Army Seal (figure 2-1) are as follows:

a. *Description.* On a disk within a designation band, with small beads on the inner edge and larger beads on the outer edge, the inscription “United States of America” at top and “War Office”, in base, are the following elements:

In the center is a Roman cuirass below a vertical unsheathed sword, point up, the pommel resting on the neck opening of the cuirass and a Phrygian cap supported on the sword, all between on the right (left to the observer) an esponton and on the left (right to the observer) a musket with fixed bayonet crossed in saltire behind the cuirass and passing under the sword guard. To the right (left to the observer) of the cuirass and esponton is a flag of unidentified design with cords and tassels, on a flagstaff with spearhead, above a cannon barrel, the muzzle and slanting upward behind the cuirass, in front of the drum, with two drumsticks and the fly end of the flag draped over the drumhead; below, but partly in front of the cannon barrel is a pile of three cannon balls, one and two. To the left (right to the observer) of the cuirass and musket is a national color of the Revolutionary War period, with cords and tassels, on a flagstaff with spearhead, similarly arranged above a mortar on a carriage, the mortar facing inward and in front of the lower portion of the color and obscuring the lower part of it; below the mortar are two bomb shells placed side by side. Centered above the Phrygian cap is a rattlesnake holding in its mouth a scroll inscribed “This We’ll Defend.” Centered below the cuirass are Roman numeral “MDCCLXXVIII.”

b. Symbolism.

(1) The central element of the Department of the Army seal is a Roman cuirass, a symbol of strength and defense. The United States Flag (of a design used in the formative years of the Nation) and the other flag emphasize the role of the Army in the establishment of and the protection of the Nation.

(2) The sword, esponton (a type of half-pike formerly used by subordinate officers), musket, bayonet, cannon, cannon balls, mortar bombs are representative of traditional Army implements.

(3) The drum and drumsticks are symbols of public notification of the Army’s purpose and intent to serve the Nation and its people.

(4) The Phrygian cap (often called the Cap of Liberty) supported on the point of the unsheathed sword and the motto “This We’ll Defend” on a scroll held by a rattlesnake is a symbol depicted on some American colonial flags and signifies the Army’s constant readiness to defend and preserve the United States.

(5) The date “MDCCLXXVIII” and designation “War Office” are indicative of the origin of the seal. The date (1778) refers to the year of its adoption. The term “War Office” used during the Revolution and for many years afterward, was associated with the Headquarters of the Army, primarily because of the familiarity of the Americans with the British military system.