

## Officers' State Collar Insignia, circa 1903-1905

In December 1902 the War Department said that by June 1903 all Regular Army officers would replace the letters U.S. worn on the collars of service and work uniforms, with small a Great Seal eagle. Enlisted men continued to wear the U.S. letters. The change proved unpopular and in December 1904 the War Department had officers switch back to the U.S. letters between then and June 1905.

During this two year period many states had their National Guard officers switch to a state insignia, usually a simplification of their state seal. Pennsylvania officers had been wearing a keystone before this switch and that state continued to use the keystone after 1905, but again most states returned to state abbreviations. Another simple design was the sunflower, used by Kansas, rather than a more complex insignia.



Since these insignia went on the 1895 style high-collar dress coat that many officers wore as part of a winter service uniform, these insignia were made usually made in gilt. The insignia for the khaki and winter olive drab field uniform collars had bronze insignia, thus the state officers had their insignia in two versions.

Some state officer insignia are found in several varieties, the most common of which are for Massachusetts. Four gilt versions are shown below, and similar variations exist in bronze for the field uniforms.



A few other gilt state collar insignia are shown, followed by some in bronze.



California



Illinois



Connecticut



Ohio



New York



Rhode Island  
other versions exist



Texas



Washington



Utah  
(Silver Color)

As seen above in gilt, and below in bronze, some states had more than one versions, such as Ohio.



The eagle has OHIO above



Ohio



Idaho



Maine



Maryland



Washington



Illinois



Mass State Guard  
perhaps used during WWI