

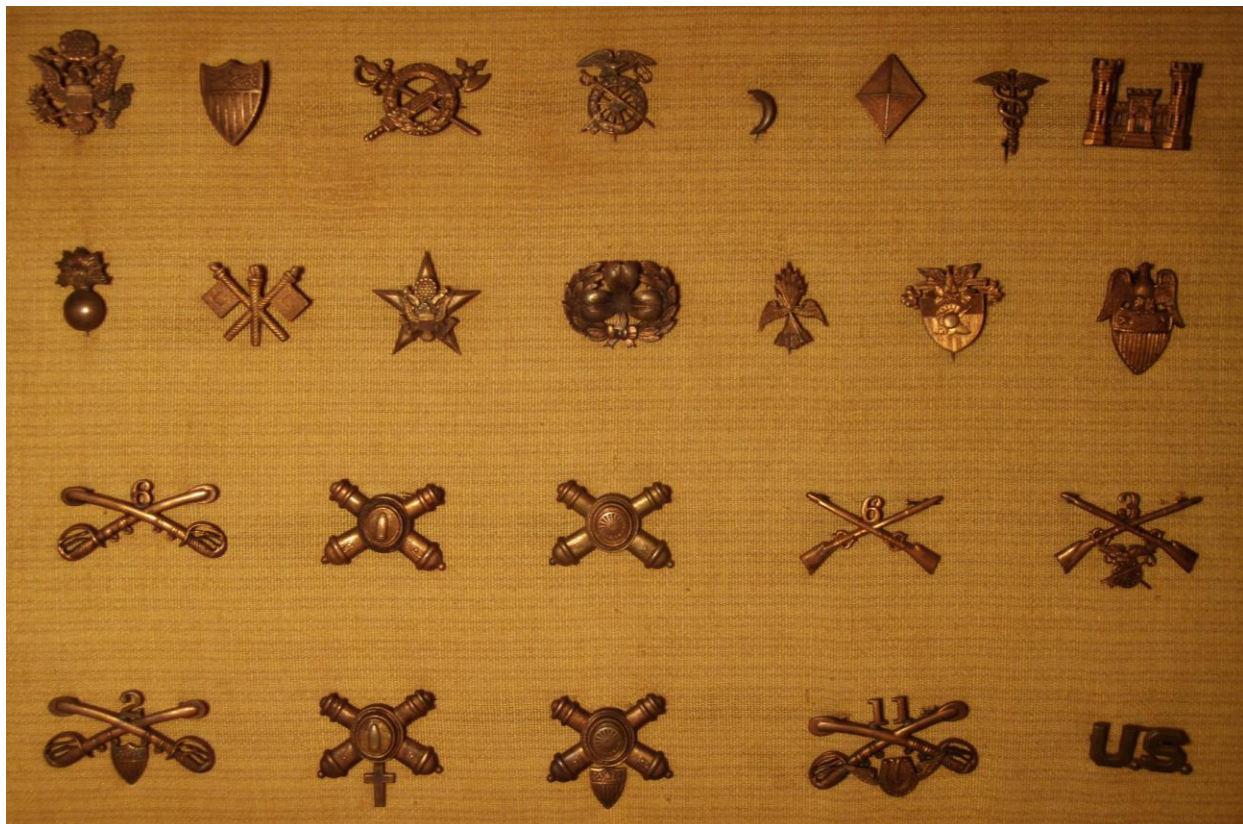
A 1903 Collection of Officers' Collar Insignia

Shown is the content of a shadow box that was assembled several years before World War I. All insignia, the background cloth to which the insignia are pinned, and the frame that has been removed for this picture, are all original. The frame is believed to have been assembled as a sample of each insignia prescribed for officers' service uniforms in 1903, with two exceptions.

Between early 1903 and early 1905 officers wore small versions of the bald eagle taken from the Great Seal of the United States. This is the first insignia in the top row. The eagle replaced the previously used "U.S." letters that are shown as the last insignia in the bottom row.

The second missing insignia is a staff officer's insignia for the Corps of Engineers. During this time regimental staff officers wore small insignia that represented their duty, below the crossed arms of their branch (adjutant-shown by a shield, commissary-by a small crescent, chaplain-by a cross, veterinarian-by a winged horseshoe, and supply-by a quartermaster device). Corps of Engineer staff officers wore their small duty insignia above the turret of the castle. The Corps of Engineers were organized into battalions at the time, as engineer regiments were not organized until 1916.

If a person removed the 2d Cavalry adjutant insignia in the lowest row and replace it with an insignia for a commissary of the engineers (a castle with a crescent above), then each branch authorized a staff officer would be represented, and each staff position would have one example displayed. The problem with this is that in engineer battalions only the adjutant and quartermaster staff officers were authorized. There was no commissary office in the engineer battalions, but the person who assembled the frame may not have known that and finally filled in the space with the 2d Cavalry adjutant.



The insignia are, left to right:

Row One-

Federal Insignia	Adjutant General's Department	Inspector General's Department	Quartermaster General's Department	Commissary Department	Finance Department	Medical Department	Corps of Engineers
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Row Two-

Ordnance Department	Signal Corps	General Staff Corps	Records and Pension Office	Bureau of Insular Affairs	Professor, US Military Academy	Aide to Major General
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Row Three-

6th Cavalry Regiment	Coast Artillery	Field Artillery		6th Infantry Regiment	3d Infantry Regiment Adjutant
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Row Four-

2d Cavalry Regiment Adjutant	Chaplain assigned to Coast Artillery	Field Artillery Adjutant		11th Cavalry Regiment Veterinarian	Pre 1902 Federal Insignia
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