

Air Assault Badge, 1974-present



The air assault badge is worn on or above the left pocket flap.

The army activated the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) at Fort Benning, Georgia, in February 1963 test the airmobility concepts that had come from the US Army Tactical Mobility Requirements Board's report, commonly called "Howze Board" after its leader, General Hamilton Howze. The unit soon adapted a pocket badge (shown below) that was authorized locally. The army transferred the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division from Korea to Fort Benning, reflagging the 11th Division in July 1965 as the 1st Cavalry Division, and ordered it to Vietnam. Most soldiers who had earned the 11th Division's air assault badge in Georgia, continued to wear the badge in Vietnam, but new division members did not receive any air assault badge.

The 101st Division was changed from an airborne division to an air assault division in Vietnam and this unit also was without a badge. While the 1st Cavalry Division went on to become mechanized after the Vietnam War, the 101st Division became the US Army's only airmobile division. In 1978 the 101st Air Assault Division requested a special air assault badge to replace the airborne badge that many division members had worn since World War II. The Chief of Staff approved the official air assault badge in 1978. The army authorized the badge in Changes 5, AR 672-5-1, dated 1 November 1979. The badge was made retroactive to 1 April 1974.



An air assault badge worn by the 11th Air Assault Division members in 1964 and 1965.