

## Army Staff Identification Badges, 1920-Present



Two versions of the War Department General Staff badge used before World War II. The badge on the right with a large eagle appears in army regulations through World War II, while the badge on the left, also from before World War II, matches the official drawing. Early badges were pin-back.



The three sizes of Army Staff Identification badge. Left to right: the three-inch diameter for Chiefs of Staff and former Chiefs of Staff; the standard 2-inch size, and a post 1989, 1-1/2 inch diameter for wear on shirts. Starting in about 2000, the 3-inch badge was made for collectors. All of these post World War II badges were affixed with three tines, held in place by clutches.

While Douglas MacArthur was army chief of staff he instituted the War Department General Staff two-inch badge for officers who served on the War Department General Staff for at least one year. War Department Circular Number 45, August 2, 1933, established the badge and made it retroactive to June 4, 1920, the date of the 1920 National Defense Act. The establishing circular authorized Chiefs of Staff and former Chiefs of Staff back to June 1920 to wear a three-inch diameter badge on the left chest pocket. General MacArthur was the only Chief of Staff to wear the badge this way. WD Circular 1, 1937, changed the badge to the right chest pocket, the same as for all other officers. Since then, all personnel who wear the badge on a uniform have it on the right side.

Effective March 1942, for the duration of the World War, officers could earn the badge with less than one year of service. The army has continually expanded the number of personnel who could qualify for the badge. Every few years one announcement or another has expanded the offices whose members could wear the badge. For some time only field and general officers could wear the badge, but captains later earned the badge, and then warrant officers. Changes 9 to Chief of Staff Regulation 614-100 expanded the badge to enlisted personnel after September 1979. Earlier changes had authorized civilians in key positions to wear the badge, but as they had no uniform, these civilians were specifically authorized to wear a miniature version on their suit coat lapel.

Before and during World War II the War Department issued a letter of authority to individuals entitled to the badge. After World War II the army issued a certificate that authorized the badge.

Army Chief of Staff John Wickham changed the title to the "Army Staff Identification Badge" on 29 May 1985. AR 670-1, dated January 1986 first called the insignia the Army Staff Identification Badge. Many details regarding who qualified for the badge at different times are contained in various editions of Chief of Staff Regulation No 614-100 and in DA memo 672-1.

When the green shirt became popular as an outer garment, on 23 June 1989 the army approved a 1-1/2 inch diameter badge for it. This smaller badge has only 7 stripes on the shield and was not called out in a specific regulation change.