

## **Pathfinder Badge**

**First worn in 1944. Authorized 1964 (retroactive to 1955)-present**



**A World War II cloth pathfinder badge worn on the lower left sleeve of service coats and on the left pocket of fatigue or utility uniforms before 1968.**

During World War II in the European Theater of Operations the Army Air Force created pathfinder units. As the air force and army ground units worked closely together the European Theater, the Army Air Force in Great Britain authorized army units to wear this insignia. The 82d Airborne Division asked for authorization of the badge in June 1948, which was the first of many requests denied by the Department of the Army. The army finally approved the cloth version in May 1964 and put the insignia into Changes 7, October 1964, of AR 672-5-1.

The army had established a pathfinder school at Fort Benning in 1955 and the school had presented graduates with the cloth badges. That caused the 1964 regulation to state the badge was authorized retroactively to anyone “awarded the badge.” The army directed a change to a metal and enamel version, shown below, in October 1968, and authorized this badge in June 1969.



**The metal and enamel pathfinder badge authorized by Department of the Army in 1968. It is worn on the left pocket flap.**