

Recruiting Badges



Large recruiting badges in silver (authorized in 1966) and gold (authorized in 1973) lasted until 1983 when they were replaced by a small version with green enamel around the wording. The initial version (left), 1966-1973, came with the stars made as a part of the basic badge. After 1973 both badges were made with removable stars (right). Silver and gold stars went on the silver badge while sapphire and gold stars went on the gold badge.

The army staff approved a large silver recruiting badge in November 1966 for temporary wear by enlisted personnel while they were assigned to recruiting duty. Changes 16, Army Regulations 672-5-1, dated 1 September 1967, announced the badge to the army. This badge had the three stars at the bottom as part of the overall design and integral to the badge itself. On 22 January 1973, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel approved the addition of 1, 2, or 3 gold stars to be added to the silver badge, to show that the wearer has met various recruiting goals. As a highest recognition the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel also approved a gold version. Initially recruiters drilled small holes in the silver stars so they could add gold ones, or many soldiers simple glued gold stars over the silver ones. The Institute of Heraldry designed badges for removable stars that was approved in October 1974.

At a recruiting conference on September 11, 1975 the Secretary of the Army approved the concept that once a soldier received a gold recruiting badge, it became a permanent award. At the same conference the Secretary approved sapphire achievement stars for those holders of gold badges who met their recruiting goals. This caused the gold badge to also be made with removable stars.

Some drill instructors complained that their badge was smaller than recruiters, and as a result the army developed a new smaller recruiting badge and the final design of December 1980 more closely matched the drill instructor badge. Small silver and gold colored badges, first made in 1981, are shown.



An army message of 21 June 2001 allowed the basic recruiting badge to be permanently awarded to most recruiters, including officers such as detachment and battalion commanders, brigade commanders, deputy commanding generals, and the commanding general of the Recruiting Command. Prior to this the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel had expanded the personnel in the Recruiting Command who could wear the badges. This included warrant officer team chiefs, band recruiters, chaplain recruiters, and Medical Department recruiters. Soldiers wear this badge on the left side. Officers who earned a permanent recruiter badge while in an enlisted status may continue to wear the badge.



For subdued cloth badges worn on utility or battle dress uniforms, a silver badge is represented by olive-green background while a black cloth background represents a gold badge. With the advent of the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) and its exclusive use of metal badges, recruiter badges came in black and in olive green, representing the silver and gold dress versions. Personnel may wear only one version of the recruiting badge and it goes on the wearer's left chest pocket.