

Scuba Diver badge, 1974-2005



Scuba diver badge was awarded to soldiers who graduate from the Combat Diving Qualification Course, conducted by the Special Warfare School in Key West; the Navy Special Warfare Center, Coronado, CA; or other Special Operations Command diver schools. It was replaced by the Special Operations diver badges in 2005.

The Army Chief of Staff approved award of a special scuba diver badge in May 1969 based upon request initiated by the US Army diving school then at Fort Eustis, Virginia. Through oversight the army did not publish the authority to qualify and wear the badge until June 1974. Army pay regulations and AR 611-74, "Management of Army Divers," called these personnel "combat divers." Scuba divers had to be male and assigned to the infantry or special forces. Qualified divers had to complete 6 dives in 6 months and also one deep dive (70 to 120 feet) every 12 months.