



Expert Soldier Badge

The Army established the Expert Soldier Badge on June 13, 2019, although the design was not complete at that time. The badge was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs for award to all soldiers except those in infantry, special forces, and medical fields after discussions in the army for four years. The badge is similar to the Combat Action Badge without the wreath.

Qualification includes passing the Army Combat Fitness Test within the preceding six months, scoring at least 80 percent in all events, and qualification as expert with the M4 carbine or M16 rifle. In a five-day test soldiers must then also take another ACFT, complete day and night land navigation, show medical skills, patrolling ability, demonstrate chemical and nuclear skills, and complete a 12-mile march with pack and combat equipment. The initial badges were presented in October 2019.

The establishing documentation was MILPER Message 19-273, which was issued 9/3/2019.