



The Army established the Master Gunner Identification badge in 2018 although some schools had been recognizing master gunners for some time. The Armor School, Ft Fort Knox, had created master gunner programs in the early 1970s to train NCOs in the detailed skills of tank gunnery. These graduates wore a subdued pocket patch with MASTER GUNNER and their qualification vehicle such as M1A1. The drawing at the bottom of this page shows the design of these Fort Knox pocket patches, which were embroidered in black on OD cloth.

The Master Gunner Identification badge was approved by the acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs in January 2018, retroactive to October 1975. Warrant officers, as well as NCOs could qualify for these badges. The 2018 badge, designed by The Institute of Heraldry, is for graduates of several courses:

- Field Artillery
- M1 series Tank Gunnery (more than one course is offered)
- Infantry Fighting Vehicle
- Air Defense, one for Avenger and one for Patriot.
- Aviation

Badges come in two sizes, regular and miniature version (at 1.5 in high), with the regular size being made from polished nickel-silver or in subdued.

The badge was approved by the Army's acting assistant secretary for manpower and reserve affairs in January 2018. The establishing documentation was MILPER Message 19-144, which was issued 5/8/2019.

