

Ranger Tab, 1953-present



A cloth ranger tab from the 1990's. The army introduced this general design for wear on the upper left sleeve in 1953. For wear on the pocket flap of the green shirt, and later the mess uniform, the army brought out a metal and enamel version in 1984.

The US Army created ranger infantry battalions during World War II, modeled after British commando units, but then disbanded the battalions after the end of World War II. During the Korean War the army established airborne ranger companies and gave them a double tab with a black background and yellow lettering and border.

The army established its ranger program as a training effort to qualify an individual with the skill soldiers necessary for combat patrols and to then disperse rangers into any unit so the specialists would influence the entire army.

Changes 2 to AR 600-70, January 1953, established the yellow and black ranger tab. In November 1984 the Army Chief of Staff authorized both standard sized and small metal and enamel versions for wear on the pocket flaps of blue and white uniforms, since rangers had no way of showing their qualifications on these uniforms. The army published this initial authorization in an army-wide message. In 1984 the Department of the Army allowed soldiers to wear a small metal and enamel version of the tab on the pocket flap of green shirts and on the mess uniform.

In December 1990 the army allowed service members entitled to both ranger and special forces tabs to wear both on the shoulder, since prior to this soldiers qualified for both had to pick which one they wanted to wear. Only one of the metal tabs that go on shirt pocket flaps may be worn.