

Parachutist badge, 1941-present



A British made US parachutist badge manufactured World War II. It is worn on or above the left coat pocket flap.

The US Army formed the 501st Parachute Battalion in October 1940. On March 3, 1941 Captain (later Lieutenant General) William Yarborough of the battalion went to Washington to procure a suitable parachutist badge. Yarborough sketched a design that was formally approved by the War Department on March 10, 1941, and with the help of the Quartermaster General's office procured the initial 350 badges from Bailey, Banks, and Biddle. The badge first appeared in AR 600-35, in November 1941.

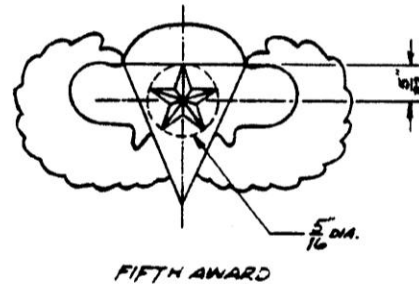
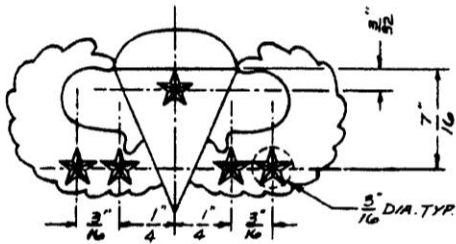
Initially parachute qualified officers received \$100 per month and enlisted men \$50. In 1946 the army established a program for airborne unit volunteers. White soldiers went to the airborne school at Ft. Benning and black soldiers to the 555th Airborne Infantry Battalion, Fort Bragg.

The army assigned some troops directly to airborne units and let that unit train soldiers as parachutists and gliderists. The 11th Airborne Division, serving in occupation duty in northern Japan, conducted such local parachute and glider training.

Soldiers started to wear a small star on their badge for each combat jump during World War II but these were not authorized. This continued in Korea and Vietnam but they were not authorized until December 1983 for the jump into Grenada. The army authorized the following assaults as combat jumps that rated small stars in December 1983:

- Oran, N. Africa, 8 Nov 42, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Youks Les Bains, Tunisia, 15 Nov 42, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Gela, Trapani, and Palermo, Sicily, 9-11 July 43, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Salerno, Italy, 14 Sep 44, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Avellino, Italy, 9-10 Sep 44, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Normandy, France, 6 & 7 June 44, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Southern France, 15-16 Aug 44, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Nijmegen-Arnhem, Holland, 17 Sep 44, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Anzio, Italy, 22-23 Jan 44, recognized, DA GO 37, 1950.
- Wesel, Germany, 24 March 1945, recognized in WD GO 70, 1945.
- Tagaytay, Luzon, Philippine Islands, 3 Feb 45, recognized WD GO 109, 1945.
- Corregidor, Philippine Islands, 16 Feb 1945, WD GO 109, 1946.
- Luzon, Philippine Islands, 31 Jan 45, but listing just says WD GO 1945.
- Sukcu'on-Such'on, Korea, 20 Oct 50, recognized DA GO 80, 1954.
- Munsan-Ni, Korea, 23 Mar 51, recognized DA GO 80, 1954.
- War Zone "C" Vietnam, 22 Feb 1967, DA GO 48, 1971.

Besides the above jumps the army recognized airborne assaults into Grenada (1983), Panama (1989), and Iraq (2003). The locations of the four bronze stars and the large 5th gold combat jump star are shown:



- (a) - 1ST AWARD
- (b) - 2ND AWARD
- (c) - 3RD AWARD
- (d) - 4TH AWARD
- (e) - 5TH AWARD

DASH NOS.	ITEM
-1:	COMBAT PARACHUTIST REGULAR SIZE
-2:	COMBAT PARACHUTIST SUBDUED
-3:	COMBAT PARACHUTIST DRESS MINIATURE
-4:	SENIOR COMBAT PARACHUTIST REGULAR SIZE
-5:	SENIOR COMBAT PARACHUTIST SUBDUED
-6:	SENIOR COMBAT PARACHUTIST DRESS MINIATURE
-7:	MASTER COMBAT PARACHUTIST REGULAR SIZE
-8:	MASTER COMBAT PARACHUTIST SUBDUED
-9:	MASTER COMBAT PARACHUTIST DRESS MINIATURE