

Special Forces tab, before 1955-present



The Special Forces tab introduced in 1983 for wear on the left shoulder.

Department of the Army message DAPE-MPO-PO, 171548Z June 1983 established the concept that the army would have a Special Forces tab. DA message DAPE-MPO-PO, 061300Z, October 1983 announced the design. The establishing message allowed for retroactive award to those who have completed qualification schools or to those who served in combat with Special Forces units for 120 days, or who prior to 1955 served 120 days in combat as part of a special operations unit other than rangers. The standard cloth tab went on the left shoulder.

Until December 1990 service members entitled to both Ranger and Special Forces tabs could wear only one cloth version, then AR 672-5-1 allowed wear of both. In 1984 the army approved a metal and enamel Ranger and Special Forces tab for wear on selected uniforms pocket flaps but allowed wear of only one of these metal and enamel versions at one time.