

## 256TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM



**Shoulder Sleeve Insignia**



**Combat Service Identification Badge**



**Distinctive Unit Insignia**

**Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. Description:** On a gray rectangular shield with arced top and bottom within a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) gray border 3 inches (7.62 cm) in height and 2 inches (5.08 cm) in width overall, a blue saltire surmounted by a fleur-de-lis the center frond red and the outer fronds and cross-bar gold.

**Symbolism:** The saltire, symbol used on military maps to represent a brigade, stands for the Organization. In addition, the saltire, which appears on the coat of arms of Nova Scotia and on the Confederate flag, alludes to the Brigade's home area whose early inhabitants were from Nova Scotia, and to the Confederacy of which Louisiana was a part. The fleur-de-lis, referring to the location of the Brigade's headquarters at Lafayette, stands for the French background and traditions of that part of the State. The center frond is red in reference to Lafayette's original name, Vermilionville, and to nearby Bayou Vermilion. The combination of blue, for Infantry and gray, for the Confederacy, with red and gold also alludes to the branch colors for Artillery and various other components of the Brigade. The rectangle shield shape is the traditional shape for shoulder sleeve insignia of brigades.

**Background:** The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 256th Infantry Brigade on 23 July 1968. It was redesignated for the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and amended to update the description on 3 August 2007. **(TIOH Dwg. No. A-1-500)**

**Combat Service Identification Badge:** A silver color metal and enamel device 2 inches (5.08 cm) in height consisting of a design similar to the shoulder sleeve insignia.

**Distinctive Unit Insignia. Description:** A silver colored metal and enamel insignia 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in height consisting of a silver live oak surmounted by a fleur-de-lis, the center frond red and the outer fronds and cross-bar gold; all above a blue scroll inscribed "Honor Our Heritage," in silver letters.

**Symbolism:** The live oak, indigenous to Louisiana, stands for strength. It also refers to the location of the Brigade's headquarters at Lafayette, the home of the Live Oak Society, an organization of huge trees, each more than a century old. In addition, the venerable oaks, inherited from the past, allude to the unit's motto. The fleur-de-lis is taken from the Brigade's shoulder sleeve insignia. It indicates that the units are a part of that organization and refers to the French background and traditions of its home area. The colors blue and silver are for the Infantry.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 256th Infantry Brigade on 13 February 1969. It was redesignated for the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team with the description updated on 3 August 2007.