

U.S. ARMY ELEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES - AFGHANISTAN



Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



**Combat Service
Identification Badge**



Distinctive Unit Insignia

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. Description: A shield-shaped embroidered device 3 3/8 inches (8.57 cm) in height by 2 3/8 inches (6.03 cm) in width overall edged with a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) black border, consisting of a stylized brown mountain range with snow-covered peaks upon a tripartite field, black, scarlet and green, with golden brown sprigs of wheat to either side. The silver wings device of the new Afghan Air Corps at center is surmounted by a black sword detailed silver, hilt to base and overall two rifles Proper hilts down saltirewise.

Symbolism: The wheat denotes prosperity for the Islamic Government of Afghanistan. The sword represents support of security for the combined efforts of the Afghan National Security Forces, the United States, and Coalition authorities as they bring peace and stability to the region. The wings device of the new Afghan Air Corps signifies the technological advances being implemented in modern Afghanistan. The rifles denote defense and military readiness. The Hindu Kush mountain range is represented by the snow-capped mountains, emphasizing Afghan sovereignty; the background colors of the National Flag, black, scarlet, and green, symbolize Afghanistan and the new democracy forming there.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the U.S. Army Element, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan on 21 May 2008. It was amended to change the description on 23 June 2008. It was amended to change the symbolism on 1 October 2008. The insignia was redesignated for the US Army Element, United States Forces-Afghanistan on 3 December 2008. **(TIOH Dwg. No. A-1-918)**

COMBAT SERVICE IDENTIFICATION BADGE: A gold 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 gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height overall consisting of an ultramarine blue shield charged with the head of a snow leopard full-face in white, detailed gold, surmounting the top of a gold weighing scale in base, the shield mounted upon a stylized gold scroll, the rolls at top and bottom forming two motto scrolls in black inscribed at top "STRENGTH" and in base "THROUGH PARTNERSHIP" in gold letters.

Symbolism: Gold represents the U.S. Army Element and mission goals of excellence in the Command. Ultramarine blue recalls the important significance of that color in the aspirations of Afghanistan citizens, the Lapis Lazuli gems and blue skies of the region and the desire for access to a coastline. The snow leopard, native to Afghanistan and known there as “the predator best left alone” represents the dangerous consequences of initiating an aggression towards an antagonist which did not seek conflict. The weighing scales symbolize Afghanistan’s pursuit of justice and rule of law reform. White denotes integrity and high ideals. Black signifies the national resolve for peace and justice.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the U.S. Army Element, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan on 20 March 2007. It was redesignated for the U.S. Army Element, United States Forces-Afghanistan on 3 December 2008.