

**WARRANT OFFICERS
COLLAR INSIGNIA
(OBSOLETE)**



Collar insignia: An eagle rising with wings displayed standing on a bundle of two arrows, all enclosed in a wreath, all gold color 3/4 inch in height.

The collar insignia was worn by all warrant officers in lieu of a branch insignia. The first warrant officers of the Army were in the Army Mine Planter Service, a service in the Coast Artillery Corps. This service was authorized for the Army by Act of Congress 9 July 1918. The insignia prescribed was the Coast Artillery Corps insignia, with a submarine mine of the same material. War Department General Orders No 65, 20 October 1920, stated that warrant officers would not be permanently appointed in branches; they would be appointed warrant officers of the Army at large. Warrant officers at large could be changed from one arm of the service to another or from one duty to another at will which virtually made them a special corps of their own.

On 20 November 1920, the Chief of Staff approved an insignia for all warrant officers, "an eagle standing on a bundle of arrows; all enclosed in a wreath." The warrant officers' insignia was prescribed for wear on both cap and collar in cutout form. For a brief period in 1943, the warrant officers' insignia was rescinded and the arm or service prescribed. The insignia was rescinded on 29 April 1943 and restored on 20 July 1943. Although the symbolism was not documented at the time of approval, the eagle and arrows probably were taken from the coat of arms of the United States; the laurel wreath, used by the ancient Greeks as a symbol of triumph, often has been used to represent victory and achievement.

On 24 February 2004, the Chief of Staff approved changes to warrant officer insignia with an effective date of 9 July 2004, to include all warrant officers wearing their appropriate branch insignia. However, warrant officer candidates will continue to wear this "eagle rising" insignia, beginning at the senior phase of Warrant Officer Candidate School and continuing through their graduation from Warrant Officer Basic Course. Warrant Officers will wear their individual branch insignia upon graduation from Warrant Officer Basic Course.

Branch colors: Brown has been used as the color to represent warrant officers.

Information & Plaques Courtesy
of The Institute of Heraldry!!