

XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS



Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



Combat Service Identification Badge



Distinctive Unit Insignia

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. Description: Issuing from the sinister side of a 2 1/4 inch (5.72 cm) white square, flat side up, a blue dragon's head all within a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) blue border. (The dragon's tongue points to dexter base corner.) Immediately above and touching the insignia a blue arc tab 11/16 inch (1.75 cm) in width, 2 1/2 inches (6.35 cm) in length containing white letters "AIRBORNE" 5/16 inch (2.38 cm) in height.

Symbolism: The dragon's head is representative of cunning, endurance and ferocity against enemies and is symbolic of the strategy and powerful attack of the Corps.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 18th Army Corps on 15 February 1944. It was amended to change the description and add the airborne tab on 1 May 1950. The insignia was redesignated for the XVIII Airborne Corps on 16 September 1958. **(TIOH Dwg. No. A-1-73)**

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 color metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in height overall consisting of an ultramarine blue square angle up bearing the silver head and neck of a dragon issuing from base and lower right side between two elevated white wings counterwise, the tips touching above the square and issuing in base from a stylized silver motto scroll lined with ultramarine blue and inscribed "Sky Dragons" in ultramarine blue letters, the internal areas between the square and wings and the square and scroll of scarlet with upper area bearing three silver five-pointed stars, one and two.

Symbolism: The design was suggested by the authorized shoulder sleeve insignia, history and mission of the XVIII Airborne Corps. The dragon and the wings symbolize mobility, endurance, surprise and ferocity of attack by airborne units. The red areas allude to the field and skies of war, the 3 stars referring to the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe Campaigns, World War II, in which the organization participated. The colors white and blue are used for all Corps.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 25 June 1969.

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