

The original insignia of the Sergeant Major of the Army was designed by Colonel Jasper Wilson and approved by the Chief of Staff General Harold K. Johnson on 4 July 1966. This insignia is described by the Institute of Heraldry as follows: A shield $3/4$ " in height of gold colored medal base divided diagonally from upper left to lower right, the upper part red the lower part white on which is a silver 5-pointed star surmounted by the coat of arms of the U.S. in color, between 2 white 5-pointed stars at top and two red 5-pointed stars in base. The shield is on a 1" disk of gold color medal.

The insignia as described above is worn only by the Sergeant Major of the Army. A similar insignia without the gold disk but with eagle atop the shield is worn by the aides to the Chief of Staff, Army. Although the Chief of Staff wears no insignia, his flag is similar in that it is the diagonal red and white with the star and U.S. coat of arms. However, the 4 stars (two on each side) are in the same plane. As this is the Chief of Staff flag, it is rectangular in shape and is used as such on stationery, name tags, etc.

C

Comments on the Insignia of the Sergeant
Major of the Army

TAG

CO, TIOH

20 July 66

ATTN: Col McLellan

1. In response to your telephonic request a few comments are made herewith regarding the insignia which was presented to the new Sergeant Major of the Army.

2. The insignia obviously was improvised by cutting the eagle off of an officer's insignia of the Aide to the Chief of Staff; the shield resulting therefrom then being soldered onto an enlisted brass disc. Beyond this assumption The Institute of Heraldry may not comment, for we were not consulted and have no knowledge of what went on.

3. The officer ^{insignia} badge for the Aide to the Chief of Staff, from which SGM Wooldridge's insignia was made, also was designed without the knowledge of this Institute. On 19 February 1961 we were informed by DCSPER by telephone that the design (with the per bend sinister background) had been approved formally by General Wheeler and that TIOH was to develop the end item immediately. DCSPER stated that even that office had not been contacted regarding the design. At that time The Institute of Heraldry advised DCSPER informally that the per bend sinister some day would be picked up as a point of controversy. Since the Chief of Staff, personally, had written his approval upon the design we were required to go ahead with its development against a stringent deadline.

4. Regarding the implications of bastardy in the "per bend sinister" in the design of the insignia the following comments are offered:

a. Among the nations of Europe a number of differencings have been used in coats of arms to denote bastardy. These, however, were not marks of abatement, but were placed there to manifest that, although the person was armigerous by bloodright, he had no inheritance right.

b. In England the baton sinister sometimes was used to

20 July 1966



only narrower and coupled at

the ends. In French the bend at times is called a "barre". Through semi-ignorance of the science of heraldry, novelists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries widely popularized the "bar sinister" as a mark of bastardy so that today's heraldic dilettante assumes that anything sinister (meaning "left" in heraldry) denotes dishonor.

color separations in the direction and place of a bend sinister. The division "per bend sinister" is entirely different from the ordinary "bend sinister", both of which are entirely different from the charge "baton sinister".

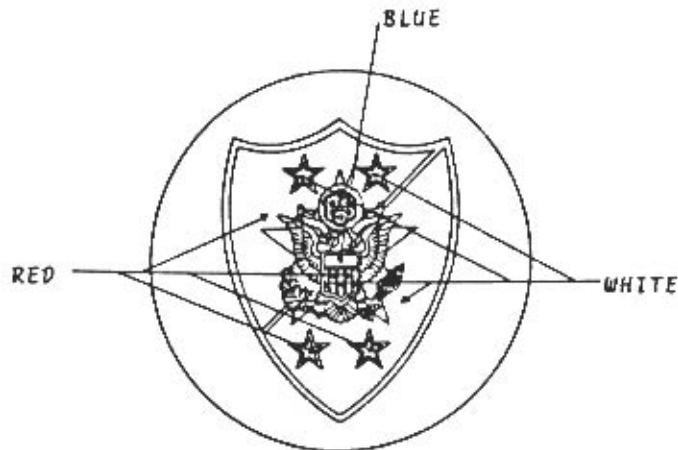
4. In the science of heraldry even the baton sinister does not necessarily denote bastardy. Since it was used for that purpose, however, heraldic designers do avoid its use. The "band sinister" popularly is associated indistinguishably with the "baton sinister", and through the same uninformed conviction "per band sinister" also carries a strong popular stigma. All of these notions, with the partial exception of the "baton sinister", are, in reality, romantic hogwash.

HARRY D. THORPE
Colonel, AGC
Commanding

MILITARY SPECIFICATION SHEET

INSIGNIA, COLLAR, THE SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY

This specification is approved for use by all Departments and Agencies of the Department of Defense.
The complete requirements for procuring the item(s) described herein shall consist of this document and the issue in effect of Specification MIL-I-15665.



MATERIAL:

SHIELD AND DEVICE: GILDING METAL

DISC: RED BRASS

DIMENSIONS (INCHES):

DISC:

DIAMETER: 1, $+1/64$, -0

THICKNESS: $.040 \pm .005$

EAGLE AND SHIELD:

HEIGHT (OVERALL): 1-1/4 (REF)

THICKNESS (THICKEST POINT): $.080 \pm .005$

DEVICE:

HEIGHT (OVERALL): 3/8 (REF)

THICKNESS (THICKEST POINT): $.060 \pm .005$

FINISH:

DISC: MIRROR-LIKE POLISHED

SHIELD: ENAMELED, STAR NICKEL PLATED, REMAINDER GOLD PLATED, POLISHED

EAGLE DEVICE: ENAMELED, GOLD PLATED, SATIN FINISH

FSC 8455

AMSC N/A

1 of 2

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

NOTES:

1. DEVICE SHALL BE SECURED TO THE ENAMELED BASE WITH TWO RIVETS.
2. THE RIVETS SHALL BE SOLID AND SHALL BE FABRICATED FROM ANY TYPE BRASS. THE RIVETS SHALL BE LOCATED ON THE VERTICAL CENTERLINE OF THE DEVICE.
3. THE DEVICE SHALL BE LOCATED ON A VERTICAL CENTERLINE OF THE SHIELD WITH THE BASE OF THE DEVICE 1/4 INCH ABOVE THE LOWEST POINT OF THE SHIELD.
4. ENAMELED AREAS SHALL BE AS INDICATED AND SHALL MATCH THE STANDARD OR APPROVED GUIDE SAMPLES AND SHALL CONFORM TO COLOR CHIPS LISTED BELOW:

<u>COLOR</u>	<u>CHIP NO.</u>
RED	1
WHITE	28
BLUE	18

5. THE STAR UNDER THE DEVICE SHALL BE NICKEL PLATED.
6. ATTACHING DEVICE SHALL BE PRONG AND CLUTCH TYPE. THE PRONGS SHALL BE LOCATED ON THE VERTICAL CENTERLINE, EQUIDISTANT FROM EACH END AND $7/8 \pm 1/64$ INCH ON CENTERS.

Custodian:
Army - IH

Review activity:
DLA - CT

Preparing activity:
Army - IH

(Project No. 8455 - 0269)

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!



A Sergeant Major of the Army Named



Ceremony Gives Soldier New Top Noncom Rank

William O. Wooldridge, a soldier whose sole ambition 25 years ago was to be a good private, became today after three wars the first sergeant major of the Army.

In his new rank, established by General Order 35, July 4, Wooldridge, holder of 1 Silver Star from action in Europe in World War II, became the highest ranking enlisted man in the Army. He will serve as an advisor to Gen. Harold K. Johnson, chief of staff.

Wooldridge, who was sworn in at ceremonies on the parade field at the Pentagon, was selected as top soldier from among 47,000 senior noncommissioned officers of the Army.

Sgt. Maj. Wooldridge's new insignia was pinned on by Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. Looking on were Wooldridge's wife, Barbara, and four sons and one daughter.

When told in Viet Nam recently of his promotion, Wooldridge commented: "I feel like I've just been kicked out of home. It's a great honor but I'll miss the division, I'll really miss this



SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM O. WOOLDRIDGE

outfit." Wooldridge was then serving as sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division.

Twenty-five years ago I came, new WOOLDRIDGE, Page A-4

into the Army hoping to be a good private," he recalled.

Wooldridge joined the Army in 1940 and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, then at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex. He served in all of the division's eight European campaigns from North Africa through Germany.

In 1944 he suffered a face wound from tank fire during the battle of Aachen. After returning to the United States in 1945 he was sent to Japan for two years, then it was back to Europe and once more to the 1st Division.

Wooldridge went to Viet Nam with the division's advance party last September. He was due to rotate back to the United States in July but extended for six months to remain with his division. He made a brief visit to the United States last December as the division's representative when Birmingham, Ala., adopted the 1st Division.

The 43-year-old sergeant major is a native of Shawnee, Okla. He was recommended for his present post by Maj. Gen. William Dupey, commanding general of the division.

The new OLC, unprecedented in Army history, places an enlisted man on the staff of the Army's chief of staff to advise on problems affecting enlisted personnel, the education and advancement of noncommissioned officers and on morale, training, pay and promotions.

His job, in brief, as to present the enlisted man's viewpoint to the Army's staff chief.

SMJ. OF THE ARMY

EM Gain Voice At Chief's Ear

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — William O. Wooldridge was sworn in as the first Sergeant Major of the Army here this week.

"Privates are my business," he said. "I don't think I'll have any trouble communicating with them. And they won't have any difficulty communicating with me."

At a colorful Army Full Honor ceremony, Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Harold K. Johnson, personally pinned the oak leaf office in Wooldridge's uniform. The honor guard was made up of the 3d Infantry, drilled in Army Blue and in Revolutionary War uniforms, plus elements of the Army Band.

Commanding sergeant major, Robert B. Bayles, Wooldridge was selected to be the first Sergeant Major of the Army from nominations received from front-line commanders. At the time of his selection, he was sergeant major of the 1st Div. in Vietnam. He learned of his selection as speaker of the division forward CE from an enlisted man engaged in Operation 22 Pass II, 10 miles north of Saigon.

Chief of Army Insignia Band, Commanding sergeant major, Robert B. Bayles.

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(The WOOLDRIDGE, Page 35)



Sgt. Maj. of Army WILLIAM O. WOOLDRIDGE



A FULL HONOR ceremony honored the first S.M.J. of the Army Wooldridge (saluting in foreground) as he was sworn in at the Pentagon this week.

Wooldridge

(Continued from Page 1)

During the ceremony, Gen. Johnson and Mrs. Wooldridge pinned to his tunic lapels the new insignia worn only by the Army Sergeant Major, the Chief of Staff's shield on the standard enlisted brass disk. The Sergeant Major of the Army wears a pair of these insignia in place of the branch and U.S. insignia normally worn by enlisted men.

It was announced at the ceremony that the tenure of the job of Sergeant Major of the Army would be concurrent with that of the Chief of Staff of the Army for whom he worked.

Wooldridge, according to the Chief of Staff will be his senior enlisted assistant and adviser in matters affecting enlisted personnel.

The Army Sergeant Major expects to travel extensively both with the Chief of Staff and on his own, visiting units and talking to troops. He hopes to learn of the problems of the enlisted corps and to represent its point of view to the chief of staff. Asked his opinion of the soldiers in the Army today, Wooldridge pointed out that he had fought

EM's Man at the Top

BIRTH: August 12, 1922, Shawnee, Okla.

HOMETOWN: Brownwood, Tex.

ENTERED ARMY: November 12, 1940.

LAST ASSIGNMENT: Division sergeant major, 1st Brig., 1st Div.

DECORATIONS: Silver Star with OLC, Legion of Merit with OLC, Bronze Star, Air Medal with five OLCs, Army Commendation Ribbon with two OLCs, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge with Star.

FAMILY: Wife Barbara, sons, William (18), Terry (17), John (11), Mike (9), and daughter Sue (14).

With the "Big Red One", the 1st Div., in two wars (Was II and Vietnam). "Today's soldiers are smarter and tougher," he said.

While he regretted leaving the division, he said he was proud to be selected for his new assignment and that there were other great fighting units in the Army the spokesman of whose enlisted members he now becomes.



Prepared for the OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
by the U.S. ARMY COMMAND INFORMATION UNIT • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315



UNITED STATES ARMY
THE SERGEANT MAJOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

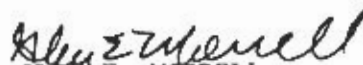
DACS-SM

24 August 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Insignia Worn by the Sergeant Major of the Army

1. Request that paragraph 26-16a(1)(a), AR 670-1 be changed to exempt the Sergeant Major of the Army from the requirement to wear the shoulder sleeve insignia of Headquarters Company, US Army. Except for SMA Van Autreve, all former Sergeants Major of the Army have elected not to wear the Headquarters Company, US Army shoulder sleeve insignia. The logic in their reasoning was that the Sergeant Major of the Army represents the total enlisted force, not one specific unit. Paragraph 26-21b, AR 670-1 exempts the Sergeant Major of the Army from the requirement to wear the distinctive unit insignia. It would be inappropriate for the Sergeant Major of the Army to wear the shoulder sleeve insignia of the unit, but not the distinctive unit insignia. This requested change will eliminate the inconsistency between paragraphs 26-16a(1)(a) and 26-21b.
2. The Sergeant Major of the Army branch insignia identified in paragraph 26-10a(28), AR 670-1 has been worn by all former Sergeants Major of the Army in lieu of the traditional branch insignia and the US insignia. The Sergeant Major of the Army branch insignia has also been worn on the garrison cap in lieu of the distinctive unit insignia. It is requested that paragraph 26-4b(2)(a), AR 670-1 be changed to indicate that the Sergeant Major of the Army will wear the Sergeant Major of the Army branch insignia in lieu of the US insignia. It is also requested that paragraph 26-21d(2), AR 670-1 be changed to indicate that the Sergeant Major of the Army will wear the Sergeant Major of the Army branch insignia vs. the distinctive unit insignia on the garrison cap. To be consistent, paragraph 26-9L, AR 670-1 should be changed to indicate that the Sergeant Major of the Army will wear the Sergeant Major of the Army branch insignia vs. the branch insignia of their PMOS.
3. In addition to the specific changes requested above, request that AR 670-1 be reviewed to determine if other changes are necessary in order to bring the regulation into line with the actual wear practices for the Sergeant Major of the Army branch insignia.
4. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.


GLEN E. MORRELL
Sergeant Major of the Army