

CIRCULAR }  
No. 186 }

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 11 May 1944.

### INFANTRY BADGE

**1. General.**—The present war has demonstrated the importance of highly proficient, tough, hard, and aggressive Infantry, which can be obtained only by developing a high degree of individual all-around proficiency on the part of every infantryman. As a means of attaining the high standards desired and to foster esprit de corps in infantry units, the Expert Infantryman and Combat Infantryman badges are established for infantry personnel.

**2. Eligibility.**—The award of the Expert and Combat Infantryman badges is restricted to officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men assigned to infantry regiments or lower infantry units, except officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men of the Medical Department and the Corps of Chaplains.

**3. Qualification.**—Personnel whose eligibility is established under paragraph 2 may qualify to wear the infantry badges as follows:

*a. Expert Infantryman badge.*

(1) By attaining the standards of proficiency established by the War Department, or

(2) By satisfactory performance of duty in action against the enemy.

*b. Combat Infantryman badge.*—By exemplary conduct in action against the enemy.

**4. Presentation and how worn.**—Announcement of the award of Expert Infantryman and Combat Infantryman badges will be made in unit orders and presentation will be made with appropriate ceremony. Badges will be worn as prescribed in section V, AR 600-40, 31 March 1944. Only one of these badges will be worn at a time. The Combat Infantryman badge is the higher award.

**5. Award within regiment and unit.**—Within a regiment, award may be made by a regimental commander upon the recommendation of a company commander. In any unit not a part of a regiment, the award will be made upon recommendation of the unit commander with the approval of the commanding officer of the next higher command.

**6. Qualifications for unit streamers.**—*a.* When 65 percent of the Tables of Organization strength of a company, battalion, and regiment have been awarded the Expert Infantryman badge or the Combat Infantryman badge, the unit will be entitled to a white streamer with the appropriate title, "Expert Infantry Company, Battalion, or Regiment," or "Combat Infantry Company, Battalion, or Regiment," as the case may be, inscribed in blue letters for the unit guidon, color, or standard as prescribed in AR 260-10, 20 November 1931. A unit once qualified for either or both the Expert or Combat Infantry streamer is entitled to retain such streamer or streamers permanently. A unit qualified for both Expert and Combat Infantry streamers may fly only the Combat Infantry streamer with its unit guidon, color, or standard.

*b.* In calculating the percentage mentioned above, only the holders of the Combat Infantryman badge will be considered for the Combat Infantry streamer.

**7. Withdrawal of right to wear badge.**—*a.* The right to wear the badge may be withdrawn only by a commander authorized to make the award, and then only if the individual by his own misconduct incapacitates himself for