

# **RANGER, LRRP & RECON INSIGNIA**



**by SWEDER**

## ORGANIZATION

Among the remarkable separate battalions were the 1st-6th Rangers. These were light infantry trained to slash deep into enemy-held territory in order to demoralize the foe in every way they could. Although the ranger battalions were not created by redesignating existing infantry outfits, and so not given any official history before the time of their constitution in 1942, they were nevertheless heirs to a very old and proud tradition. That tradition went further back than the American Revolution; indeed the rules drawn up by Robert Rogers in 1757 for his famous ranger companies that served for England in North America were reprinted for use in training the rangers of World War II.

The rangers were not the only infantry constituted to perform commando missions. A comparable unit was the 1st Special Service Force, established in July 1942. This force was designed to operate behind enemy lines when snow covered Europe. Accordingly, all its men were volunteers whose civilian aptitudes seemed to prepare them for swift operations in snow. Among them were lumberjacks, game wardens, forest rangers, and professional skiers. The 1st Special Service Force was remarkable also in another way; its personnel were drawn about equally from Canada and from the United States. It was an early experiment in international co-operation, and it worked well. After vigorous campaigning—but not much of it in snow—the unit was disbanded in January 1945 and most of its American personnel transferred to a new regiment, the 474th Infantry.

Still another commando-type outfit was the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), which was organized in October 1943. Its specialization was operation in Burma along the Ledo Road, and its personnel were drawn from men who knew jungle fighting. This unit was commanded by Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill and became very famous under the nickname of "Merrill's Marauders." Like the men of the ranger battalions and of the 1st Special Service Force, the Marauders were volunteers. At length, on 10 August 1944 the unit was reorganized and called the 475th Infantry.

Ranger units, which had fought in World War II and had been dropped from the postwar organization, reappeared during the Korean War. Whereas the World War II rangers had been organized in battalions, the Korean War rangers were organized into separate companies that were normally attached to infantry divisions. All rangers were volunteers, airborne qualified, and specially trained for their mission of infiltrating enemy lines and attacking command posts, artillery positions, tank parks, communications centers, and other key facilities. Since their highly specialized capabilities were not utilized in Korea to the extent anticipated, the ranger companies were inactivated by the end of 1951. Ranger techniques were perpetuated by individual training. In the fall of 1951 a Ranger Department was established at the Infantry School with the goal of providing one ranger-qualified officer per rifle company and one noncommissioned officer per platoon. Starting in July 1954, every newly commissioned Regular Army officer assigned to the infantry was required to take either ranger or airborne training.

## ORGANIZATION

The mission of reconnaissance, intelligence, and patrolling became particularly important in Vietnam. Although all units took part in such operations, specialized infantry units were also organized to carry out certain types of missions. Among them were scout dog platoons and combat tracker teams—both of which used dogs to detect the presence of enemy troops—and long range reconnaissance patrols (LRRP's), also called long range patrols (LRP's). LRP's were small teams specially trained to penetrate deep into enemy-held territory. From there they reported detailed, accurate, and timely information concerning troop concentrations, installations, and activities needed for planning future operations, or they called in and adjusted artillery fire or air strikes.

Infantry long range patrol companies, having twenty-four patrols of five men each, were first assigned on the basis of one per corps or field force, while within divisions LRRP missions were performed by provisional detachments or platoons. Starting in late 1967, a LRP company was attached to each division in Vietnam and eventually to each separate brigade. The number of companies continued to increase and by the end of 1968 about half of all separate infantry companies in the active Army were long range patrol units. They were elements of various different regiments and had no common numerical designation or historical connection with each other until 1 January 1969. On that day the 75th Infantry, the famous "Merrill's Marauders" of World War II, was reorganized under CARS and became the parent regiment for LRP units. At the same time the parenthetical designation of the companies was changed from LRP to ranger, although their long range patrol mission remained unchanged.

## 75th INFANTRY (Merrill's Marauders)

### HERALDIC ITEMS

#### COAT OF ARMS

*Shield:* Quarterly azure and vert, between in the first and fourth quarters a radiant sun of twelve points and a mullet argent, a lightning flash couped bendsinisterwise gules fimbriated or.

*Crest:* None.

*Motto:* *Sua Sponte* (Of Their Own Accord).

*Symbolism:* The colors blue, white, red, and green represent four of the original six combat teams of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly referred to as "Merrill's Marauders," which were identified by color. (To avoid confusion, the other two colors, khaki and orange, were not represented in the design.) The unit's close co-operation with the Chinese forces in the China-Burma-India Theater is represented by the sun symbol from the Chinese flag. The white star represents the Star of Burma, the country in which the Marauders campaigned during World War II. The lightning bolt is symbolic of the strike characteristics of the Marauders' behind the line activities.

#### DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the shield of the coat of arms.

### LINEAGE AND HONORS

#### LINEAGE

Organized 3 October 1943 in the Army of the United States in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations as the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional). Consolidated 10 August 1944 with the 475th Infantry (constituted 25 May 1944) and consolidated unit designated as the 475th Infantry. Inactivated 1 July 1945 in China.

Redesignated 21 June 1954 as the 75th Infantry. Allotted 26 October 1954 to the Regular Army. Activated 20 November 1954 on Okinawa. Inactivated 21 March 1956 on Okinawa.

Reorganized 1 January 1969 as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System.

Company A activated 21 February 1969 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Company B activated 10 February 1969 at Fort Carson, Colorado. Company C activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam. Company D activated 20 November 1969 in Vietnam; inactivated 10 April 1970 in Vietnam. Company E activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam; inactivated 23 August 1969 at Fort Lewis, Washington; activated 1 October 1969 in Vietnam; inactivated 12 October 1970 in Vietnam. Company F activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam. Company G activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam.

Company H activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam. Company I activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam; inactivated 7 April 1970 in Vietnam. Company K activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam; inactivated 10 December 1970 in Vietnam. Company L activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam. Company M activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam; inactivated 12 October 1970 in Vietnam. Company N activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam. Company O activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam; inactivated 20 November 1969 in Vietnam; activated 4 August 1970 in Alaska. Company P activated 1 February 1969 in Vietnam.

#### CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

*World War II*  
India-Burma  
Central Burma

*Vietnam*  
(to be determined)

#### DECORATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered MYITKYINA (5307th Composite Unit cited; WD GO 54, 1944, as amended by WD GO 86, 1944)

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered BINH DUONG PROVINCE (Company F, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 39, 1970, as amended by DA GO 2, 1971)

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered THUA THIEN-QUANG TRI (Company L, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 48, 1971)

Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company G, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 53, 1970)

Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970 (Company M, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 50, 1971)

## LINEAGES AND HERALDIC DATA

Company E additionally entitled to: Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company E, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 59, 1969, as amended by DA GO 53, 1970); Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company E, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 59, 1969, as amended by DA GO 53, 1970)

Company F additionally entitled to: Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company F, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 43, 1970, as amended by DA GO 48, 1971)

Company H additionally entitled to: Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company H, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 59, 1969, as amended by DA GO 53, 1970)

Company I additionally entitled to: Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970 (Company I, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 53, 1970)

Company K additionally entitled to: Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company K, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 3, 1970); Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company K, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 53, 1970)

Company L additionally entitled to: Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company L, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 43, 1970)

Company O additionally entitled to: Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969 (Company O, 75th Infantry cited; DA GO 43, 1970)

# 1st SPECIAL FORCES

## HERALDIC ITEMS

### COAT OF ARMS

*Shield:* Argent, a fighting knife in bend hilt to base sable.

*Crest:* On a wreath of the colors two arrows saltirewise argent.

*Motto:* *De Oppresso Liber* (Liberate From Oppression).

*Symbolism:* The shield was originally approved for the 1st Special Service Force of World War II on 26 February 1943. The knife is of a distinctive shape and pattern and was issued only to the 1st Special Service Force.

The crest is the crossed arrow collar (branch) insignia of the 1st Special Service Force, World War II, changed from gold to silver for harmony with the shield and to make a difference from collar insignia. The motto more fully translated means "from oppression we will liberate them."

### DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the crest and motto of the coat of arms combined with the fighting knife from the shield in the form of a badge.

## LINEAGE AND HONORS

### LINEAGE

Constituted 5 July 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 1st Special Service Force, a joint Canadian-American organization to consist of the First, Second, and Third Regiments and Service Battalion. Activated 9 July 1942 at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana. Disbanded 6 January 1945 in France.

Reconstituted (less Service Battalion) 15 April 1960 in the Regular Army; concurrently, consolidated with the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th Ranger Infantry Battalions and the 2d Infantry Battalion (see ANNEXES 1-6) to form the 1st Special Forces, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System.

#### ANNEX 1

Constituted 27 May 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 1st Ranger Battalion. Activated 19 June 1942 at Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland. Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion. Disbanded 15 August 1944 in the United States.

Reconstituted 1 September 1948 in the Army of the United States and redesignated (less Companies E and F) as the 1st Infantry Battalion; concurrently, activated at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone (Company E redesignated as the 559th Infantry Company—hereafter separate lineage; Company F redesignated as the 560th Infantry Company). Battalion inactivated 4 January 1950 at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone.

Company A redesignated 25 October 1950 as the 1st Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B redesignated 2 November 1950 as the 5th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Battalion redesignated 24 November 1952 as the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion and allotted to the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies [less Company E] restored to unit by redesignation).

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 1st Battalion, First Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 1st, 7th, 8th, and 9th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

#### ANNEX 2

Organized 21 May 1943 in North Africa as the 3d Ranger Battalion (Provisional). (Constituted 21 July 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 3d Ranger Battalion.) Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 3d Ranger Infantry Battalion. Disbanded 15 August 1944 in the United States.

Company A reconstituted 25 October 1950 in the Regular Army as the 3d Ranger Infantry Company; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B reconstituted 2 November 1950 in the Regular Army as the 7th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 5 November 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Company C reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 11th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 5 January 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 21 September 1951 in Japan. Company D reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 12th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 1 February 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 27 October 1951 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Company E

reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 13th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 1 February 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 15 October 1951 at Camp Pickett, Virginia. Battalion reconstituted 24 November 1952 in the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies restored to unit by redesignation).

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 1st Battalion, Second Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 3d, 13th, 14th, and 15th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

#### ANNEX 3

Organized 29 May 1943 in North Africa as the 4th Ranger Battalion (Provisional). (Constituted 21 July 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 4th Ranger Battalion.) Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion. Disbanded 24 October 1944 at Camp Butner, North Carolina.

Company A reconstituted 25 October 1950 in the Regular Army as the 4th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B reconstituted 2 November 1950 in the Regular Army as the 8th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Battalion reconstituted 24 November 1952 in the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies restored to unit by redesignation).

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 2d Battalion, Second Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 4th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

#### ANNEX 4

Constituted 21 July 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 5th Ranger Battalion. Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion. Activated 1 September 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Inactivated 22 October 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts.

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 1st Battalion, Third Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 5th, 19th, 20th, and 21st Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

#### ANNEX 5

Constituted 16 December 1940 in the Regular Army as the 98th Field Artillery Battalion. Activated 20 January 1941 at Fort Lewis, Washing-

ton. Converted and redesignated 25 September 1944 as the 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion. Inactivated 30 December 1945 in Japan.

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 2d Battalion, Third Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 6th, 22d, 23d, and 24th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

#### ANNEX 6

Constituted 11 March 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 2d Ranger Battalion. Activated 1 April 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion. Inactivated 23 October 1945 at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia. Redesignated 29 July 1949 as the 2d Infantry Battalion (concurrently, Companies E and F disbanded). Activated 15 September 1949 at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone. Inactivated 4 January 1950 at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone.

Company A redesignated 25 October 1950 as the 2d Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B redesignated 2 November 1950 as the 6th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 December 1951 in Germany. Company C redesignated 27 February 1951 as the 14th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; concurrently, activated at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 27 October 1951 at Camp Carson, Colorado. Company D redesignated 27 February 1951 as the 15th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; concurrently, activated at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 5 November 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Company E reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 9th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 5 January 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 5 November 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Company F reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 10th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 5 January 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 15 September 1951 in Japan.

Battalion redesignated 24 November 1952 as the 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion and allotted to the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies restored to unit by redesignation). Redesignated 14 June 1955 as the 2d Infantry Battalion (concurrently, Companies E and F absorbed by battalion). Activated 1 July 1955 in Iceland. Inactivated 11 March 1960 at Fort Hamilton, New York.

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 2d Battalion, First Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 2d, 10th, 11th, and 12th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

## LINEAGES AND HERALDIC DATA

### CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

#### *World War II*

Algeria-French Morocco  
(with arrowhead)  
Tunisia  
Sicily (with arrowhead)  
Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead)  
Anzio (with arrowhead)  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy (with arrowhead)  
Northern France  
Southern France (with arrowhead)  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

#### *Aleutian Islands*

New Guinea  
Leyte (with arrowhead)  
Luzon

#### *Vietnam*

Advisory  
Defense  
Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase II  
Counteroffensive, Phase III  
Tet Counteroffensive  
(other campaigns to be determined)

### DECORATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **EL GUETTAR** (1st Ranger Battalion cited; WD GO 56, 1944)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **SALERNO** (1st and 3d Ranger Battalions cited; WD GO 41, 1947)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **POINTE DU HOE** (2d and 5th Ranger Infantry Battalions cited; WD GO 10, 1945, and WD GO 73, 1944)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **SAAR RIVER AREA** (5th Ranger Infantry Battalion cited; WD GO 23, 1947)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **VIETNAM 1966-1968** (5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces cited; DA GO 45, 1969)

Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered **VIETNAM 1968** (5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces cited; DA GO 70, 1969)



Blue lozenge edged gold. RANGERS in gold letters.



White lettering, red border, on black tab



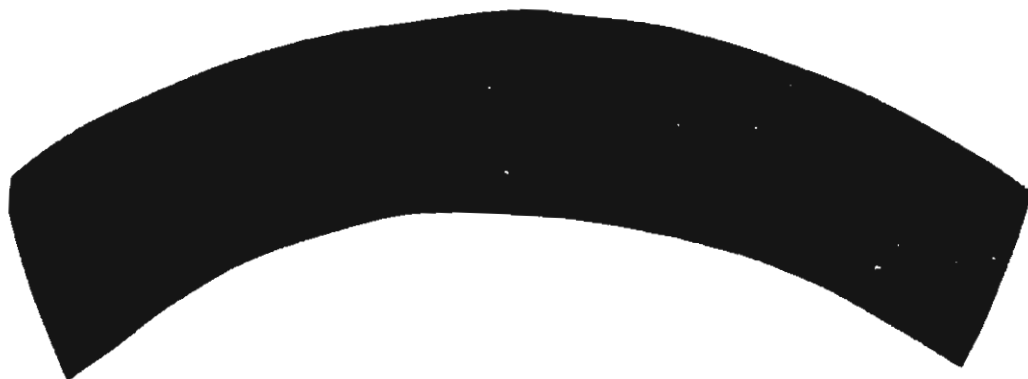
White lettering, red border on black tab



### *Merrill's Marauders*

Shoulder Insignia, 5307th Composite Unit. A blue shield with Merrill's Marauders. A red lightning bolt on a green field separating the white Kounmentang sun of China and star of Burma.





*Special Recon Bn (WWII)*

red border lettering, on black tab.



Jingpaw Rangers      Kachin Rangers.  
Blue shield with alternating red and  
white vertical stripes. Letters in  
white.



75th REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

On a shield 2 inches in width and 3 inches in height, overall blue outlined white with 1/8 inch red border, a white bayonet and cannon saltirewise.

The three colors refer to the three elements of the team -- blue for Infantry, scarlet for Artillery, and scarlet and white for Engineers. The shield shape with crossed bayonet and cannon symbolizes the effective combat readiness of the unit.



7th Ranger Co (Skull & Dice)

Black skull and crossbones with gray wings; small gray-faced dice edged black and with black spots. All on orange ellipse bordered black.





White letters on red background.



Gold on Black



Subdued



White lettering, red border on black twill tab.



White lettering, red border on black tab



Black lettering and border on olive drab.



Subdued version



On a shield, bordered black, quartered blue, green, a yellow lightning bolt; on 1st quarter a white 8 pointed star, on fourth quarter a white five pointed star.



White lettering, red border, on black tab





White lettering, red border on black tab



White lettering, red border, on black tab



White lettering, red border, on black tab



SUBDUED PATCH

75th INFANTRY REGIMENT



Embroidered gold merrowed border and outline of red lightning flash thru top and bottom. Patch divided by top blue and bottom green backgrounds. White Star of India and China on top portion.



White lettering, red border, on black tab



49th RANGER COMPANY



D Co., 151st Inf. - Airborne Rangers



CO Q, 75th INFANTRY (ABN/RANGERS)



Subdued Black lettering and border on fatigue colored twill



White lettering, red border on black tab