

THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDRY  
Bldg. 16, Cameron Station  
Alexandria, VA 22304-6050

DAPC-PDH-P

16 DEC 1987

SUBJECT: Distinctive Unit Insignia for the 17th Aviation Brigade

Commander  
17th Aviation Brigade  
APO San Francisco 96301-0043

1. The distinctive unit insignia redesignated this date for the 17th Aviation Brigade, with symbolism revised, was originally approved for the 17th Combat Aviation Group by letter AGAH-A, The Institute of Heraldry, 31 December 1968.

2. The description and symbolism of the design are as follows:

DESCRIPTION

A gold color metal and enamel insignia 1 1/4 inches in height consisting of a blue disc bearing a gold eagle in flight, wings extending beyond the upper edge of the disc, grasping in its talons a sword, blade white, hilt and pommel gold; all above a gold scroll inscribed "FREEDOM'S EAGLES" in red letters.

SYMBOLISM

The colors ultramarine blue and gold are used for aviation units. Gold and red, the colors of the national flag of the Republic of Vietnam, allude to the activation and initial combat service of the unit as a Group in Vietnam. The eagle, mythological guardian of the air, refers to aviation power; the sword stands for combat. The sword is white for the purity of the cause of freedom for which it is raised. It appears on the shoulder sleeve insignia of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam and of the 1st Aviation Brigade under which the Group served and identified the Group, the predecessor organization, with those organizations.

3. This authorization is in accordance with paragraph 28-21a, AR 670-1.



D-4425

17TH ~~GROUP~~ AVIATION GROUP  
NONCOLOR BEARING UNITS

ACTUAL SIZE  $1\frac{1}{4}'' \times \frac{1}{4}''$

METAL COLOR---GOLD

FINISH---MIRROR-LIKE POLISH

VICE---

ENAMEL--VITREOUS OPAQUE

CHARGES--FLUSH--DETAILS INCISED

LETTERING-----VITREOUS OPAQUE ENAMEL (RED#1)

PIERCING-----NONE--RECESSED & LINED BETWEEN DEVICE & SCROLL

CHIP No.-----BLUE#18 WHITE#28 RED#1

DESIGN ORIGINALLY APPROVED 31 Dec '68

MANUFACTURING DRAWING APPROVED

12 August 1975

THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDRY, US ARMY

*Charles R. Spittler*  
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