INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Shoulder Sleeve Insignia Former Wartime Service (SSI-FWTS)

1. PURPOSE. To provide information on history of shoulder sleeve insignia - former wartime service (SSI-FWTS).

2. FACTS.

- Custom of wearing SSI-FWTS originated in World War II.

- High-point GIs rotating home as casuals to Zone of Interior (CONUS) routinely were assigned to different returning divisions.

- Rotatees, proud of their old "outfit", were reluctant to exchange its SSI for that of new unit. This was most true of National Guardsmen, also proud of their state.

- In 1945, the Army permitted returning personnel to shift their old SSI to the right shoulder, while wearing that of assigned unit on the left. (WD Cir 111, 7 Apr 45)

- This was NOT recognition of "combat" but wartime overseas service (it applied equally to front line and rear echelon troops).

- Still assigned personnel would not move their SSI to right shoulder nor wear same SSI on both shoulders. (IAW C7, AR 600-40, 31 Oct 45).

- Originally confined to World War II service, the policy was later extended to personnel with overseas service during World War I. (WD Cir 102, 22 Apr 47)

- Later, the Army again extended policy to cover subsequent wars, such as Korea (DA 37333, 9 Jan 51) and Vietnam (DA 728961, 19 Aug 65).

- During Vietnam, policy to wear same SSI on both shoulders led to unauthorized local practice of altering approved design to create pair. (SR 600-60-1, 26 Oct 51)

- Current practice is to "award" right-arm SSI as a sign of "combat" experience, even to currently-assigned personnel; this was not intent of original policy.

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This message changes the wear policy outlined in AR 670-1, Appendix F, for Shoulder Sleeve Insignia—Former Wartime Service (SSI-FWTS). This guidance applies to Soldiers of all components (Active, ARNG, and USAR) that deploy during periods of service designated for wear of the SSI-FWTS, in accordance with AR 670-1, paragraph 28-17. See the message for policy changes.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE  
R 281253Z MAR 07  
FM PTC WASHINGTON DC//ALARACT//  
TO ALARACT  
BT  
UNCLAS  
SUBJ: ALARACT 055/2007  
THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER  
ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//DAPE-HRPD-IRPD//  

SUBJECT: AR 670-1, 3 FEB 05, WEAR AND APPEARANCE OF ARMY UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA

1. THIS MESSAGE SERVES AS IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE WEAR POLICY OUTLINED IN AR 670-1, APPENDIX F, SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA-FORMER WARTIME SERVICE (SSI-FWTS).


3. THIS POLICY CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND IS NOT RETROACTIVE.

4. THIS GUIDANCE APPLIES TO SOLDIERS OF ALL COMPONENTS (ACTIVE, ARNG, AND USAR) THAT DEPLOY DURING PERIODS OF SERVICE DESIGNATED FOR WEAR OF THE SSI-FWTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AR 670-1, PARAGRAPH 28-17.

5. THERE IS NO TIME-IN-THEATER REQUIREMENT TO BE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE SSI-FWTS.

6. A DEPLOYED UNIT (COMPANY OR HIGHER) WILL WEAR THEIR UNIT'S SSI AS THE SSI-FWTS. THIS IS TRUE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT DEPLOYS, AND REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF CHANGES TO THE UNIT'S ALIGNMENT OR OPERATIONAL CONTROL (OPCON) DURING THE PERIOD OF DEPLOYMENT.

7. WHEN ECHELONS BELOW COMPANY LEVEL DEPLOY, MEMBERS OF THESE UNITS WILL WEAR THE SSI OF THE LOWEST ECHELON DEPLOYED UNIT (COMPANY OR HIGHER) IN THEIR NEW DEPLOYED CHAINS OF COMMAND AS THEIR SSI-FWTS.

8. WHEN THERE IS NO INTERMEDIATE UNIT (COMPANY OR HIGHER) IN THE DEPLOYED CHAIN OF COMMAND, DEPLOYED SOLDIERS WILL WEAR THE SSI OF THE SENIOR ARMY COMMAND IN THE THEATER AS THEIR SSI-FWTS.

9. SOLDIERS WHO ARE CROSS-LEVELLED, ASSIGNED, ATTACHED, OR AUGMENTING DEPLOYED UNITS, AND SOLDIERS WHO ARE TDY ON ORDERS THROUGH THE USE OF DD FORM 1610 (REQUEST AND AUTHORIZATION FOR TDY TRAVEL OF DOD PERSONNEL) WILL WEAR THE SAME SSI-FWTS WORN BY MEMBERS OF THEIR DEPLOYED UNIT (COMPANY OR HIGHER) TO WHICH ATTACHED OR OPCON. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO MEMBERS OF TRIAL DEFENSE AND CIDC, WHO WILL WEAR THE SSI OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMANDS AS THEIR SSI-FWTS.
10. SOLDIERS AUTHORIZED TO WEAR MORE THAN ONE SSI-FWTS MAY CHOOSE WHICH SSI-FWTS THEY WEAR. SOLDIERS MAY ALSO ELECT NOT TO WEAR THE SSI-FWTS.

11. PRECEDENCE WAS ESTABLISHED IN VIETNAM FOR ELEMENTS ORGANIC TO, OR AN INTEGRAL PART OF AN ORGANIZATION TO WEAR THE ORGANIZATIONAL SSI AS THEIR SSI-FWTS.

12. SOLDIERS ATTACHED OR OPCON TO OTHER SERVICES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO WEAR OTHER SERVICES PATCHES AS THEIR SSI-FWTS WITHOUT WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE DCS, ARMY G-1 OR A DELEGATED REPRESENTATIVE.

13. POC FOR UNIFORM POLICY IS SGM K. EASLEY, DSN 225-5287; COMM. (703) 695-5287. E-MAIL IS KATRINA.EASLEY@HQDA.ARMY.MIL.

14. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DCS, G-1.

15. THIS AUTHORITY IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

16. EXPIRATION. THIS MESSAGE WILL EXPIRE UPON NEXT PUBLICATION OF AR 670-1.

17. EXPIRATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

BT
#6323
NNNN
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

USAWOA Online 4/3/2007
Appendix F
Shoulder Sleeve Insignia—Former Wartime Service (SSI–FWTS)

F–1. Applicability.
This guidance applies to soldiers of all components (Active, ARNG and USAR) that deploy during periods of service designated for wear of the SSI–FWTS, in accordance with paragraph 28–17.

F–2. General.
   a. There is no time-in-theater requirement to be authorized to wear the SSI–FWTS.
   b. A deployed unit that is authorized to wear an SSI in its own right (or an organic component thereof), in accordance with para 28–16, will wear that unit’s SSI as the SSI–FWTS. This is true regardless of whether the headquarters element deploys, and regardless of the number of changes to the unit’s alignment or operational control (OPCON) during the period of deployment.
   c. When a unit not entitled to its own SSI deploys, the OPCON relationship prior to deployment is terminated; and a new OPCON relationship is established. Members of these units will wear the SSI of the lowest echelon deployed unit entitled to an SSI in each of their new deployed chains of command as their SSI–FWTS.
   d. When there is no intermediate unit that has its own SSI in the deployed chain of command, members of units not entitled to their own SSI will wear the SSI of the senior Army command in the theater as their SSI–FWTS.
   e. Soldiers who are cross-leveled, assigned, attached, or augmenting deployed units, and soldiers who are TDY on orders through the use of DD Form 1610 (Request and Authorization for TDY Travel of DOD Personnel) will wear the same SSI–FWTS worn by members of the deployed unit(s) to which attached or OPCON. This does not apply to members of Trial Defense and CIDC, who will wear the SSI of their respective commands as their SSI–FWTS.
   f. Soldiers authorized to wear more than one SSI–FWTS may choose which SSI–FWTS they wear. Soldiers also may elect not to wear the SSI–FWTS.
   g. Precedence was established in Vietnam for elements organic to, or an integral part of an organization to wear the organizational SSI as their SSI–FWTS.