



Description:

On a blue Norman shield 2 5/8 inches high and 2 1/3 inches wide, four white stars of varying sizes all slightly tipped to the dexter, arranged to represent the Southern Cross.

Symbolism:

The four white stars on the blue field are symbolic of the Southern Cross under which the organization has served.

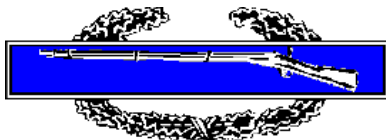


SHOULDER INSIGNIA

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Shoulder Insignia. The color blue is used to denote infantry, the yellow and red symbolize cavalry and artillery. The double-headed match, used during the days of the matchlock musket, is lighted at both ends to ensure readiness. The 196th was activated 15 September 1965 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, by General Order Number 266.



The Massachusetts origin of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and its connection with early American history is symbolized by a blue powder horn and red carrying strap, denoting infantry and artillery, and by a yellow - for cavalry - vertical arrow from the state seal of the Commonwealth.



The recipient soldier must have been personally present — and under hostile fire — whilst serving primary duty, in either an assigned infantry or a special forces unit, that was actively fighting the enemy in ground combat; said unit might be either of brigade-size or smaller. For example, soldiers with an infantry MOS (military occupational specialty), who are members of a rifle squad organic to a cavalry platoon, in a cavalry troop, would be eligible for the CIB. Battle or campaign participation-credit, alone, is insufficient; the unit must have fought the enemy in active ground combat in that assigned-duty time.

An Aviation person, gunner pilot Crewchief life expectancy in combat is less than 5 minutes. A grunt is 7 minutes. An 11B officer<CO type> is 7 times less likely to get killed than a rifleman, a point man is 3 times more likely to get killed than a rifleman. An RTO and platoon leader life expectancy is 3 minutes, as they are a primary target as is an M-60 person.

IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY

- Vietnam Veterans: 9.7% of their generation.
- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).
- 8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (August 5, 1964 - March 28, 1973).
- 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters). 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (January 1, 1965 - March 28, 1973).
- Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- Of the 2,6 million, between 1 - 1,6 million (40 - 60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.
- 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
- Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969).

CASUALTIES

- Hostile deaths: 47,359.
- Non-hostile deaths: 10,797.
- Total: 58,202 (includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.
- 8 nurses died - 1 was KIA.
- Married men killed: 17,539.
- 61% of the men killed were 21 or younger.
- Highest state death rate: West Virginia - 84.1% (national average 58.9% for every 100,000 males in 1970).
- Wounded: 303,704 (153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured requiring no hospital care).
- Severely disabled: 75,000--23,214 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations. Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII
- Missing in Action: 2,338.
- POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity).

DRAFTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

- 25% of the total forces in country were draftees 648,500 as opposed to 66% of the ones in WWII.
- Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.
- Reservists killed: 5,977.
- National Guard: 6,140 served; 101 died.
- Total draftees (1965-73): 1,728,344.
- Actually served in Vietnam: 38%.
- Marine Corps draft: 42,633.
- Last man drafted: June 30, 1973