

Parachutist Badge (United States)

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Parachutist Badge



Basic Parachutist Badge

(Issued by the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, & Navy)

Awarded by [United States Armed Forces](#)

Type	Badge
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Awarded for	Airborne training course
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Status	Currently awarded
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Statistics

Last awarded	Currently awarded
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[Army Precedence](#)

Next (higher)	Expert Field Medical Badge
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Next (lower)	Parachute Rigger Badge^[1]
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Senior Parachutist Badge



Master Parachutist Badge

The **Parachutist Badge**, also commonly referred to as "Jump Wings" or "Silver Wings" is a [military badge](#) of the [United States Armed Forces](#) awarded to members of the [United States Army](#), [Air Force](#), [Marine Corps](#) and [Navy](#). The [United States Coast Guard](#) is the only [branch](#) that does not issue its own Parachutist Badge, but its members are authorized to receive the Parachutist Badges of other services in accordance with their prescribed requirements. The DoD military services are all awarded the same Basic Parachutist Badge. The Army and Air Force issue the same Senior and Master Parachutist Badges while the Navy and Marine Corps issue the Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Badge to advanced parachutists. The majority of the services earn their Basic Parachutist Badge through the [U.S. Army Airborne School](#).

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Army

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the [US Army Basic Airborne Course](#) at [Fort Benning, Georgia](#). It signifies that the soldier is a trained military [parachutist](#), and is qualified to participate in airborne operations. The badge and its sew-on equivalent may be worn on the Army Combat Uniform (ACU).^[2]

The original Army Parachutist Badge was designed in 1941 by [Captain](#) (later [Lieutenant General](#)) [William P. Yarborough](#) and approved by the Department of the Army in March of that year. The Parachutist Badge replaced the "Parachutist Patch" which had previously worn as a large patch on the side of a paratrooper's garrison cap. LTG Yarborough also designed the Senior and Master Parachutist Badges and the addition of stars to portray the number of combat jumps. The flash that is worn behind the badge is also a contribution of [William P. Yarborough](#).^[3]

Basic Parachutist Badge

To be eligible for award of the basic Parachutist Badge, an individual must have completed the Basic Airborne Course of the Airborne School of the [United States Army Infantry School](#) at [Fort Benning](#),

Georgia. To graduate, a student must complete the three-phase course consisting of a ground phase, a tower phase, and a jump phase. By the end of the course, a student will have completed five jumps in varying jump configurations, from a "no load" jump all the way to a full combat load jump at night.^[1]

Senior Parachutist Badge

To be eligible for the Senior Parachutist Badge, an individual must have been rated excellent in character and efficiency and have met the following requirements:

1. Participated in a minimum of 30 jumps including fifteen jumps with combat equipment to consist of normal TOE equipment including individual weapon carried in combat whether the jump was in actual or simulated combat. In cases of simulated combat the equipment will include water, rations (actual or dummy), ammunition (actual or dummy), and other essential items necessary to sustain an individual in combat. Two night jumps must also be made during the hours of darkness (regardless of time of day with respect to sunset) one of which will be as jumpmaster of a stick. In addition, two mass tactical jumps which culminate in an airborne assault problem with either a unit equivalent to a battalion or larger; a separate company battery; or an organic staff of regimental size or larger. The soldier must fill a position commensurate with his or her rank or grade during the problem.
2. Either graduated from the Jumpmaster Course of the [United States Army Advanced Airborne School](#) at Fort Bragg, the Airborne Department of the Infantry School or the Jumpmaster School of a separate airborne battalion or larger airborne unit, or infantry divisions and separate infantry brigades containing organic airborne elements, including the [United States Army Alaska](#) (USARAK) or the [United States Army Special Operations Command](#) (USASOC) Jumpmaster Course or served as jumpmaster on one or more combat jumps or as a jumpmaster on 15 noncombat jumps.
3. Have served on jump status with an airborne unit or other organizations authorized parachutists for a total of at least 24 months.^[1]

Master Parachutist Badge

To be eligible for the Master Parachutist Badge, an individual must have been rated excellent in character and efficiency and have met the following requirements:

1. Participated in a minimum of 65 jumps including twenty-five jumps with combat equipment to consist of normal TOE equipment, including individual weapon carried by the individual in combat whether the jump was in actual or simulated combat. In cases of simulated combat the equipment will include water rations (actual or dummy), ammunition (actual or dummy), and other essential items necessary to sustain an individual in combat. Four night jumps must also be made during the hours of darkness, one as jumpmaster of a stick. Five mass tactical jumps must be made which culminate in an airborne assault problem with a unit equivalent to a battalion or larger; a separate company/battery; or an organic staff of regimental size or larger. The individual must fill a position commensurate with their rank or grade during the problem.
2. Either graduated from the Jumpmaster Course of the Airborne Department of the Infantry School or the Jumpmaster School of a separate airborne battalion or larger airborne unit, or infantry divisions and separate infantry brigades containing organic airborne elements, including the U.S. Army Alaska Jumpmaster Course, or served as jumpmaster on one or more combat jumps or as jumpmaster on 33 noncombat jumps.
3. Have served on jump status with an airborne unit or other organization authorized parachutists for a total of 36 months (may be non-consecutive).

The 25 combat equipment jumps necessary to qualify for the Master Parachutist Badge must be from a [static line](#).^[1]

The master parachutist badge is 38mm in width at the widest part of the wings and 31mm from the top of the wreath to the bottom of the parachute where the risers meet in a point.

Airborne background trimming



Basic Parachutist Badge of a [World War II](#) veteran from 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, [101st Airborne Division](#) (as indicated by the background trimming) who made two combat jumps (as indicated by the two Combat Jump Devices).

Soldiers assigned to Army units on airborne status wear a cloth oval background trimming underneath their Parachutist Badge,^[4] which shares the basic design of the unit's beret flash.^[5] This is one method by which an individual can identify a parachute qualified soldier serving in a unit on active jump status, called a "Paratrooper," versus a parachutist serving in a non-airborne unit. The original background trimming was also a contribution of William P. Yarborough.^[4]

Combat Jump Device

If a soldier completes an airborne jump into a combat zone, they are authorized to wear a Combat Jump Device on their Parachutist Badge. The device consists of a star or arrangements of stars, indicating the number of combat jumps.^[6] The use of stars as Combat Jump Devices did not gain official approval until after the 1983 invasion of Grenada ([Operation Urgent Fury](#)). The stars are awarded as follows:^{[7][8]}

One combat jump	A small bronze star centered on the shroud lines 3/16 inch below the canopy
Two combat jumps	A small bronze star on the base of each wing
Three combat jumps	A small bronze star on the base of each wing and a small bronze star centered on the shroud lines 3/16 inch below the canopy
Four combat jumps	Two small bronze stars on the base of each wing
Five or more combat jumps	A large gold star centered on the shroud lines 5/16 inch below the canopy

