

39TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)



DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA

Distinctive Unit Insignia

Description: A Silver color metal and enamel device 1 3/32 inches (2.78 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules, on a mount issuant from base a gigantic ox statant affronté Argent charged on the forehead with a mullet of the field, all within a bordure of the second. Attached below and to the sides of the shield is a Red scroll inscribed "FIGHT, BUILD AND DESTROY" in Silver letters.

Symbolism: The shield is the coat of arms approved for the 39th Engineer Combat Regiment, differenced by a border to indicate the descent of the 39th Engineer Battalion from the 2d Battalion of that Regiment. Scarlet and white are the colors of the Corps of Engineers. The ox represents Paul Bunyon's ox, "Babe," whose gargantuan performances are symbolic of the functions of the Battalion. Babe was of such gigantic size that he drank large lakes dry; his horns measured six miles across from tip to tip; and his walking through the forests made splendid roads, clearing the trees and brush. The star on the forehead of the ox alludes to Texas, the state in which the Battalion was activated.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 25 May 1955.

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COAT OF ARMS

Coat of Arms

Blazon:

Shield: Gules (red), on a mount (hill the ox is standing on) issuant from base (bottom of the shield) a gigantic ox statant (standing) affronté (facing forward) Argent (silver or white) charged on the forehead with a mullet (star) of the field (red), all within a bordure (border) of the second (silver or white).

Crest: On a wreath of the colors Argent (white) and Gules (red) a mound (hill) Vert (green) and thereon a tower of the first (white) charged with an arrowhead point up of the second (red) all in front of a European (halberd) and an Oriental (magari-yari) pole arm in saltire (crossed) all Or (gold).

Motto: FIGHT, BUILD AND DESTROY.

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Crest: The halberd is used to refer to Europe and the magari-yari to Asia; together they allude to the unit's World War II and Vietnam service. The colors red, white and green refer to the National Colors of Italy where the organization participated in six campaigns. The tower represents fortifications; the arrowhead, the assault landing at Sicily; and the color red, the award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Gold and red refer to the colors of the Republic of Vietnam where the unit participated in fourteen campaigns and received two Meritorious Unit Commendations.

Background: The coat of arms was approved on 25 May 1955. It was amended to add a crest on 18 January 1973.

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COLORS

Organizational colors are a solid color background with an embroidered American eagle displayed centered thereon. In its right talon, the eagle holds an olive branch; in its left talon, a bundle of 13 arrows, all in proper colors. Its beak grasps a white scroll inscribed with the unit motto. Below the eagle is a white scroll inscribed with the designation of the organization. On the eagle's breast is embroidered the shield of the coat of arms and the crest is above the eagle's head.