

Badge History



International graduates of the US Army Command and General Staff College had long sought some distinctive emblem that would identify the wearer as a resident graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff Officer Course. In the early fall of 1964 the commandant (Major General Harry J. Lemley, Jr.) – on his return from a trip to South America where he had met a number of international graduates – caused the present insignia to be designed and produced.

The Badge is a silver device, two and one-eighth inches in diameter, in the center of which is the Leavenworth Lamp. In a circle surrounding the lamp are the words USA COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, and extending from this central insignia are alternately 12 bright and 12 darker sunflower leaf-shaped curves signifying the 12 months of day and night study that the average International Military Student spends in earning his diploma from the College.

The Leavenworth Lamp is used as the central theme because of its significance to the CGSC graduate: the traditional lamp of learning symbolizing the knowledge gained through study, discussion and reflection – from which emerges a mailed fist representing the military nature of this knowledge. Clenched in the fist are a rifle and a sword, in recognition of the origin of the College as the School for Application of Infantry and Cavalry, and a guided missile symbolizing the future. The whole of the symbolism represents the idea that from the College emerge leaders who, with their knowledge and control of the past, present, and future weapons of war, protect our liberty.