

**CHANGES TO CW5 RANK, AND WARRANT OFFICERS  
BRANCH INSIGNIA AND COLORS**

**All Army Activities Message 043/2004**

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FROM: HQDA WASHINGTON DC //DAPE-HRPD-IRPD//  
TO ALARACT (ALARACT 042/2004}

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO CW5 RANK, AND WARRANT OFFICERS BRANCH INSIGNIA  
AND COLORS

A. AR 670-1, 5 SEP 03, WEAR AND APPEARANCE OF ARMY UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA.

1. THIS ALARACT MESSAGE SERVES AS AUTHORIZATION TO PROCURE, DISTRIBUTE  
AND WEAR CW5 INSIGNIA, AND WEAR OF BRANCH INSIGNIA AND COLORS AS  
DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. THE CONVERSION ON THE WEAR OF BRANCH INSIGNIA AND COLORS BY  
WARRANT OFFICERS IS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE FULL INTEGRATION OF  
WARRANT OFFICER RECRUITING, ACCESSION, EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT INTO  
THE BRANCH-BASED SYSTEMS OF THE LARGER OFFICER CORPS. ADDITIONALLY,  
THE INCREASINGLY JOINT NATURE OF OPERATIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE, AND THE EXPANDED USE OF OUR MOST SENIOR WARRANT OFFICERS IN  
JOINT OPERATIONS VALIDATES THE NEED TO STANDARDIZE CW5 RANK INSIGNIA  
AMONG ALL THE SERVICES THAT EMPLOY THEM.

3. TO THIS EFFECT, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF  
STAFF, ARMY ON THE WARRANT OFFICER UNIFORM:

A. CW5 WILL WEAR THE CW5 INSIGNIA APPROVED IN 1970 BY THE FORMER CHIEF OF  
STAFF, ARMY. THE CW5 INSIGNIA IS A SILVER-COLORED BAR, 3/8 INCH IN WIDTH  
AND 1-1/8 INCH IN LENGTH, WITH A BLACK LINE IN THE CENTER OF THE BAR. THIS  
CHANGE WILL TAKE EFFECT ON 9 JULY 2004 COINCIDING WITH THE 86TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARRANT OFFICER CORPS.

B. ALL WARRANT OFFICERS WILL WEAR THE APPROPRIATE BRANCH INSIGNIA ON  
ALL UNIFORMS EFFECTIVE 9 JUL 04. WEAR OF APPROPRIATE BRANCH INSIGNIA  
INCLUDES:

(1). WEAR OF BASIC BRANCH INSIGNIA BASED ON THE WARRANT OFFICER'S  
PRIMARY MOS.

(2). WEAR OF THE GENERAL STAFF INSIGNIA BASED ON THE WARRANT OFFICER'S  
ASSIGNMENT AS FOLLOWS:

(A). WHEN ASSIGNED TO POSITIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF  
THE ARMY, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, OR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OF THE ARMY; OR WHEN AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO WEAR SUCH INSIGNIA DURING THEIR ASSIGNMENT IN THESE OFFICES.

(B). WHEN DETAILED TO DUTY ON THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF.

(C). WHEN DETAILED FOR GENERAL STAFF DUTY WITH TROOPS.

(D). AS DIRECTED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY.

(E). WHEN ASSIGNED TO DEPARTMENTAL OR STATUTORY TOUR TABLE OF DISTRIBUTION AND ALLOWANCE (TDA) POSITIONS IN THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU.

(3). WEAR OF NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU BRANCH INSIGNIA WHEN DETAILED TO THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU FOR 180 DAYS OR LONGER, U.S. PROPERTY AND FISCAL OFFICE OFFICERS, AND OTHER ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (ARNG) TOUR OFFICERS, AS PRESCRIBED BY CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU.

(4). WEAR OF STAFF SPECIALIST BRANCH INSIGNIA {SEE NGR 600-102 (ARNG) OR AR 140-10} WHEN ASSIGNED TO THE ARNG AND THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE, AND WHO ARE NOT ON EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY.

C. ALL WARRANT OFFICERS WILL PLACE THE 'COAT OF ARMS OF THE U.S.' INSIGNIA ON ALL SERVICE CAPS EFFECTIVE 9 JUL 04.

D. UPON PURCHASE OF NEW DRESS OR MESS UNIFORMS, BUT NOT LATER THAN 9 JUL 06, ALL WARRANT OFFICERS WILL:

(1). SEW BRANCH OF SERVICE COLOR SLEEVE ORNAMENTATION ON ALL APPROPRIATE UNIFORMS. IF AN INDIVIDUAL HAS MORE THAN ONE MOS, THE DESIGNATED PRIMARY MOS, IAW DA PAM 611-21 WILL BE CONSIDERED THE INDIVIDUAL'S BASIC BRANCH.

(2). WEAR FIRST-NAMED COLOR OF BRANCH OF SERVICE ON THE ARMY BLUE MESS JACKET LAPEL. IF AN INDIVIDUAL HAS MORE THAN ONE MOS, THE DESIGNATED PRIMARY MOS, IAW DA PAM 611-21 WILL BE CONSIDERED THE INDIVIDUAL'S BASIC BRANCH.

(3). WEAR SHOULDER STRAPS WITH DESIGNATED BRANCH COLORS AND GRADE INSIGNIA ON ALL APPROPRIATE UNIFORMS.

(4). WEAR OUTSIDE HATBAND WITH DESIGNATED BRANCH COLORS ON ALL APPROPRIATE SERVICE CAP/HATS.

(5). THE ITEMS LISTED IN 3D(1) THRU 3D(4) ABOVE MAY BE EFFECTED PRIOR TO THE 9 JUL 04 INSIGNIA CHANGEOVER; HOWEVER, THEY MUST ALL BE DONE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

E. WARRANT OFFICER CANDIDATES WILL WEAR THE WARRANT OFFICER "EAGLE RISING" INSIGNIA BEGINNING AT THE SENIOR PHASE OF WARRANT OFFICER

CANDIDATE SCHOOL AND CONTINUING THROUGH THEIR GRADUATION FROM WARRANT OFFICER BASIC COURSE. WARRANT OFFICERS WILL WEAR THEIR INDIVIDUAL BRANCH INSIGNIA UPON GRADUATION FROM WARRANT OFFICER BASIC COURSE.

4. HOW TO OBTAIN: WARRANT OFFICERS WILL PROCURE, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, THE ABOVE LISTED INSIGNIAS FROM APPROVED VENDORS VIA MILITARY CLOTHING SALES STORES (AAFES).

5. THE ABOVE STATED CHANGES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT REVISION TO AR 670-1.

6. POC FOR UNIFORM POLICY IS SGM W. MORALES, DSN 426-5129; COMM. (703) 696-5129. E-MAIL IS WALTER.MORALES@HQDA.ARMY.MIL.

7. EXPIRATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

--- End of Army ALARACT Message ---

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***Editorial - Food for Thought - Machiavelli: On Change***

*"It should be borne in mind that there is nothing more difficult to arrange, more doubtful of success and more dangerous to carry through than initiating changes in a state's constitution."*

and;

*"There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new."*

- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 1513; Niccolò Machiavelli (1469 - 1527),  
*Italian historian, statesman, and political philosopher*

There has been much consternation as the Warrant Officer Corps changed over the years. Some have even heard to say, "This will be the demise of the Warrant Officer Corps." Never-the less, due to the nature and professionalism of the majority, the Corps has continued to grow as a viable and necessary element of our United States Army. Remember, your attitude could well affect the decision of well-qualified non-commissioned officers to apply for Warrant Officer appointment! Lack of Warrant Officer applicants rather than changes to the Corps could lead to the demise of the Army Warrant Officer!

*David P. Welsh, CW5, AUS Ret, President & Board Chairman, Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation*

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*Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation 4/13/2004  
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