

# The AFP Coat of Arms and Insignia

By Capt. Ambrosio P. Peña

**S**HORTLY after the last World War, there was felt a growing need of changing the Philippine Army uniform and its accompanying accoutrements. In 1946, in an open discussion held on this matter by Colonel Ireneo Buenconsejo, then AC of S, G-1, it was approved in principle to change the uniform especially the rank and branch of service insignia which were of American origin.

## Background

In 1947, definite steps were taken in this direction when HAP created a Uniform Board, under the chairmanship of Colonel Claro B. Lizardo, whose mission was to work on an appropriate designs of the uniform and such other devices worn with it, so as to make them distinct from those of the United States Army. It was reasoned that after all it was largely for expediency that the Philippine Army had adopted the U.S. Army's devices of ranks and branch and service insignia in

1936.

After serious consideration of the matter, the Board presented its concepts of a new set of uniform and its accompanying accoutrements, including a new coat of arms and insignia of rank, arms, and services. When these designs were presented, the then Chief of Staff, Major General Rafael Jalandoni, made the observation that in any future war the Philippine Army would inevitably fight alongside the United States Army. For purpose of quick identification of the military personnel of these two allied countries, no changes should therefore be made on the PA uniform and insignia.

This observation by Gen. Jalandoni had been dispelled by our experience in Korea where the military forces of more than a dozen nations were fighting side by side, each of which has its distinctive set of uniform and insignia. By 1952, therefore, a new Uniform Board was created

under Colonel Carmelo Z. Barbero, then AC of S, G-1, which worked out the designs for a new coat of arms and rank insignia.

These were approved by the then Chief of Staff, Major General Calixto Duque and President Quirino. Final use of the new set would depend, however, on the reaction of the Officers Corps of the AFP after a "service test" of six months. For service testing, the officers in GHQ and some select groups in the field were required to use the new set.

There were varied reactions as a result of the service test, most prominent of which was the one saying that the new insignia of rank, particularly for the company grade officers, were like those used by the ROTC cadet officers. Consequently, after the six-month period, the President disapproved the new design.

#### **Stars for Insignia of Rank**

Soon after the appointment of Lieutenant General Jesus Vargas as Chief of Staff, the idea of adopting a new coat of arms and officers' rank insignia was revived. Toward this end Gen. Vargas instructed Colonel Oscar Rialp, then AC of S, G-1, to work on appropriate devices that could be adopted for use of the Armed Forces.

A new Uniform Board was created under G-1, which, after some lengthy deliberations, presented its concept of the coat of arms and officers' rank devices during a General Staff Conference on 28 October 1954. The

rank devices that this Board had in mind were more evolutionary than symbolic. This Board conceived a "three-pointed star" for the company grade officers, and "five-pointed stars" for the general officers. The base metal to be used for their manufacture was silver.

Immediately after the presentation by a representative of the Uniform Board, Major Rafael Diaz, numerous objections to the designs were raised. Colonel Dionisio Ojeda, then Superintendent of the PA School Center, and Lieutenant Colonel Apolinar G. Fajardo, Chief of the Troop Information and Education Division, were most militant in their objections, and they suggested that the General Staff hold in abeyance the approval of the proposed coat of arms and rank devices. Colonel Ojeda requested that he be given the chance to present the designs conceived in the PASC while Col. Fajardo also requested that the designs his Division had worked on be considered.

The Uniform Board contended that the 3-, 4-, and 5-pointed stars were simple and practical in design, aside from the fact that their cost was very economical.

On the other hand, those who opposed the designs were vehement in their assertions that the "stars" could be likened to amoebic evolution, especially because the proposition of the Uniform Board called for a 3-pointed star to indicate a 2nd lieutenant; and

# THE COAT OF ARMS ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES



Pershing Cap Device



PHILIPPINES

Lapel Overseas Cap Device

(Approved)

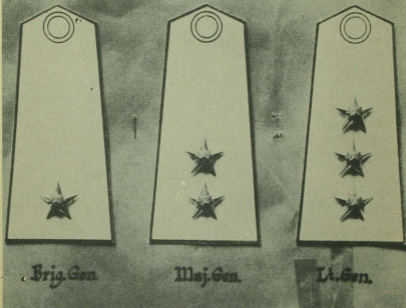
three 3-pointed stars for the captain. A 4-pointed star indicated the rank of a major, two 4-pointed stars the lieutenant colonel; and three 4-pointed stars the colonel. The general officers, from the brigadier, major, and lieutenant general, would have for rank insignia, one, two, and three 5-pointed stars, respectively.

No doubt the designs were very simple but, as pointed out by Col. Fajardo, they violated certain fundamental principles of herald-

ry, among which were: (a) *the design must be expressive of the most salient national symbolism, either by use of symbolic objects or by allegory*; (b) *the design must be simple yet it must accurately portray a national tradition or sentiment*; and (c) *the design must be of natural and logical aptness*.

Colonel Fajardo's commentaries were made to refute a statement made by Maj. Diaz during the staff conference on 28 October, to the effect that the meaning or

# GENERAL OFFICERS



symbolism of a heraldic device may be culled to conform with the design, which the Uniform Board intended to do to justify the adoption of the 3-, 4-, and 5-pointed stars.

In a Disposition Form sent to the Chief of Staff by Col. Fajardo, dated 8 November 1954, the latter pointed out that there exists great possibility of exploiting "as thoroughly as possible the historical background of our country and people as well as the national tradi-

tions to serve as a basis in designing at least the insignia of rank of the AFP officers." This commentary was used on 13 November 1954 by Col. Fajardo as a basis of a formal request to the Chief of Staff to afford him a chance to present to the General Staff the designs created by the TI & ED of an appropriate coat of arms and officers' rank insignia.

The request was granted, and on 23 November 1954, the General

Staff, including the Comptroller, met to hear the proposition of Col. Fajardo. The conference did not turn out as originally intended since the conferees also heard the proposition of Col. Ojeda. Likewise, in this same conference Maj. Diaz once more presented the 3-, 4-, and 5-pointed stars. Nothing definite resulted from this conference, although the majority of the conferees agreed to adopt the design of the rank device of company grade officers as presented by Col. Fajardo, for field grade officers, the design presented by Col. Ojeda, while the 5-pointed got the conferees nod.

Commenting on this matter, Col. Fajardo in his letter to the Chief of Staff, dated 5 February, assailed the choice of design as a "tragi-comedy." He pointed out to the Chief of Staff that "the design of the Officers' insignia of rank was done at random. Consequently, the choice for the AFP rank insignia did not follow a definite logic in that the company grade officers' rank devices were adopted for their supposed 'simplicity'; the general officers' rank insignia were adopted because of their being 'universal' in use; while the field grade officers' insignia were adopted for their 'symbolism'."

#### The TI & ED Design

The designs of the coat of arms and officers' insignia of rank, as proposed by Col. Fajardo were admittedly inspired by the Filipino flag. In alluding to this fact, the Colonel in his letter to the Chief of Staff, dated 5 February, poin-

ted out: "...I submit that if the design and symbolism of our national flag have stood the test of time - they must be honorable and a good one. Therefore I submit that if our revolutionary leaders, in spite of their limited education and narrower perspective, could design the Filipino flag that is the ultimate in symbolism, there is the more reason that we, of this generation, with our claim to having amassed greater wealth of information, a more rounded education and broader horizons, should readily acquire inspiration from the field of honor of our flag as the design of the AFP insignia of rank and such other devices pertinent to our organization. It behooves us as members of the military profession to be loyal to our glorious past. We should be the most militant group of people to adhere to the noble sentiment of the Filipino people and to perpetuate the glorious tradition of our own organization. It is, as a matter of duty, our inherent obligation as members of the military profession to preserve everything that is noteworthy in our history and tradition — the symbol adopted by our heroes and forefathers and bequeathed to us as a noble legacy which is truly our own."

Evidently this letter drove home a point for the Chief of Staff directed that a conference be held on 10 February 1955 by the Special and General Staffs, including the commanders of the major services, to take up anew the designs for a new coat of

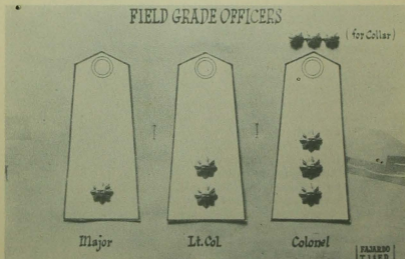
arms and officers' rank insignia proposed by Col. Fajardo.

During this conference, the devices proposed by the PASC and the Uniform Board, expounded by Col. Ojeda and Maj. Diaz, respectively, were practically ignored. Colonel Fajardo, who was given practically the entire conference time to discuss the designs conceived by him, stressed the point that the designs he was presenting for adoption were well within the purview of the criteria set by G-1, in that these proposed devices were (1) symbolic, (2) native in their motif, (3) unique, (4) distinctive, (5) simple, and (6) practical.

Colonel Fajardo, furthermore, stressed that in resolving the problem of an appropriate coat of arms and officers' rank insignia, General Headquarters should be guided by certain heraldic prin-

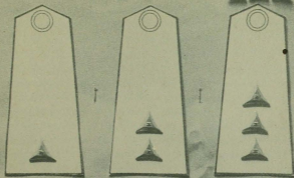
ciples which have been universally accepted and are therefore time-tested. The principles involved were: (1) *The design must be expressive of the most salient national symbolism, either by use of symbolic object or by allegory;* (2) *The design must be simple and yet it must accurately portray a national tradition or sentiment;* and (3) *The design must be of natural aptness and logical sequence.*

To clinch his arguments, Col. Fajardo pointed that inasmuch as the designs conceived by him were inspired by the field of honor of the national flag, they were therefore the most appropriate designs. "After all", Col. Fajardo emphasized, "these (referring to the flag's field of honor) are lofty symbols conceived by our heroes and forefathers, bequeathed to us as a noble legacy which is truly our own;



## COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS.

(for Collar)



2nd Lt

1st Lt

Captain

FAJARDO  
TI & ED

living relics we must fervently cherish and proudly hand down to our posterity." Colonel Fajardo went further to recommend the approval *in toto* of all the designs conceived by the Chief, TI & ED, inasmuch as these designs "logically symbolize the hierarchy and chain of command in our military establishment."

### Decision Reached

After the presentation by Col. Fajardo, Lt. Col. Jose M. Mendoza, Asst. G-1, and Maj. Diaz also spoke in favor of the 3-, 4-, and 5-point stars with a view of still influencing the decision on the matter. Colonel Ojeda also spoke to argue for the designs of the PASC.

The arguments of Col. Fajardo, undoubtedly, gave the conferees a new outlook. Where once there was indecision, now there was crystallized opinion on the mat-

ter of a new coat of arms and officers' rank insignia.

The Chief of Staff, who arrived in the conference room in the midst of the deliberation, made it clear at the outset that the choice of designs for the new coat of arms and officers' rank insignia shall be made a "democratic process" by getting the majority's wish through open voting.

The Uniform Board's designs which were first taken up, got two votes—the votes of Col. Mendoza and Maj. Diaz, while the designs by the PASC had one vote—that of Ojeda. The TI & ED's designs were voted by a great majority—by the General Staff members and the representatives of the major services.

In passing it may be mentioned that the decision to adopt a new set of coat of arms and officers' rank insignia was influenced to a

large degree by the forthcoming SEATO conference in May 1955. The Chief of Staff desired the AFP to have its own devices for use of its officers during that conference in place of those borrowed from the U.S. Army.

### Modifications

By general agreement of the conferees, however, some slight modifications were introduced, against the wishes of Col. Fajardo who fought for the adoption *in toto* of the original designs.

These modifications were the assignment of the golden "Philippine Sunburst" to indicate the field grade officers' rank instead of its being used by general officers. The star, which was further modified by superimposition of the golden sunburst and the triangle to make it truly distinct, unique, and symbolic, was retained for general officers. Also, by general agreement, the three triangles, three suns, and three stars, to indicate the rank of captain, colonel, and lieutenant general, respectively, were to be presented in a straight line instead of a triangle as was originally intended to portray the triangular *field of honor* of the national flag. The coat of arms was unanimously voted for adoption by the AFP, provided that the motto "UNA ANG BAYAN" was replaced with "PHILIPPINES".

Shortly before the conference broke up, the Chief of Staff directed Col. Fajardo to procure a new set of samples of the coat of arms and officers' rank devices,

manufactured as per agreed modifications, for presentation to secure the approval of the President.

Colonel Fajardo ordered the new devices from Mr. Jose Tupaz, Jr., of the *El Oro Engravers*. Mr. Tupaz as in the past, readily cooperated by re-setting the original dies at his own expenses.

In the second week of March 1955, the new samples were presented to the AFP by Mr. Tupaz, and these were forwarded to the President, through the Secretary of National Defense, on 12 March 1955.

In his 1st indorsement on the matter, dated 15 March 1955, the Undersecretary of Defense, Honorable Jose M. Crisol, recommended approval of the new AFP coat of arms and officers' rank insignia as proposed by the Chief of Staff. The Undersecretary, however, by way of comment and suggestion, voiced the opinion that it were better and of "more patriotic fervor" to retain on the coat of arms the motto "UNA ANG BAYAN" as originally conceived, instead of "PHILIPPINES." The Undersecretary, furthermore, suggested setting the three triangles, three suns, and three stars in a triangular pattern as originally intended as "this will follow the triangular concept of the national flag and the triangular pattern of the insignia of Army of the Revolution."

The President readily approved *in toto* the recommendation made by the Chief of Staff, contained in



a 2nd indorsement, dated 17 March 1955. The President, likewise, approved the proposal that there would be no more "service test" period as recommended by the Chief of Staff.

Immediately after this approval a rush order for 400 sets of the new devices was made to Mr. Tupaz to fill the needs of all the officers attending the forthcoming SEATO conference. The change from the old coat of arms and the U.S. Army's rank insignia was effected by GHQ on 1 September 1955.

It is important that an appraisal of the reasons for the adoption of the new AFP coat of arms and rank insignia be made. Toward this end we have to appreciate fully the terms *symbol*, *symbolism*, and *emblem*. As defined in Webster's International Dictionary, symbol is "an authoritative summary of faith or doctrine", or something "which stands for or suggests something else by reason of *relationship, association, convention, or accidental but not intentional resemblance.*"

Symbolism, on the other hand, is defined as the "practice or art of using symbols, as by investing things with a symbolic meaning or by expressing the invisible, intangible, or spiritual, by means of visible or sensuous representation." Symbolism, likewise, is defined as "the artistic imitation or invention not as an end in itself but as a method of revealing or suggesting immaterial, ideal or

otherwise intangible truth or state."

The word emblem, as defined in Webster's International Dictionary, means "a picture accompanied by a motto." It is also meant as "a visible sign of an ideal, an object, or a figure of an object symbolizing or suggesting another object, or an idea having natural aptness."

### Choice of Symbols

During the pre-Spanish and Spanish periods, the Philippines was lacking in unity as the term is construed today. As a result, there was not a time during the nearly four centuries of Spanish rule when the Filipinos could put up a united front against the tyranny and oppression by the Spanish colonizers. By the end of the 19th century, however, there was developed a national consciousness in the Filipino people, resulting from the liberal ideas entering the country. And when finally the Philippine Revolution against Spain attained the desired momentum there was need of creating a distinctly native symbol that could best speak of the ideals and aspirations of the Filipinos.

That symbol must be one which by reason of relationship, association, or convention could best portray the Filipino sentiment not only at that time but for all times. The Filipino nationalists had to have an artistic imitation of their ideal for freedom, equality, and fraternity; furthermore, that symbol must convey natural

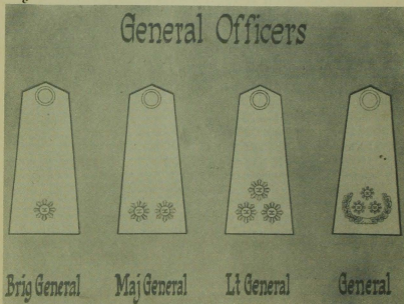
aptness.

Finally in 1896, the first native emblem was unfurled by Bonifacio, which was a red triangle charged with a Tagalog letter "K". Later on, two more K's were added each of which stood for, *Kataastâasan*, *Kagalanggala-ngan*, *Katipunan*. The other revolutionary leaders, having no other thought except to give a symbol or meaning to the cause they were fighting for, and with the original Bonifacio flag as as their model, put up distinctive emblems of their own. There was therefore nothing standard; nor was there one that could best portray the sentiment of a united people.

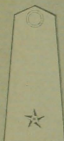
Two more years had to go by. The Philippine Revolution against Spain became national in magni-

ude, involving as it did practically all of the provinces of the country. But the design of the Filipino emblem or flag that we have today was not conceived in our own country which was then torn by the war and by fratricidal strifes. Our Filipino leaders, among them Emilio Aguinaldo, Pio Valenzuela, and Gregorio del Pilar, had gone in voluntary exile to Hongkong and within the peaceful environs of that British Crown Colony were to dig deep into history and accept as *intangible* truth the most notable features of the Philippines and its people. These salient features were intricately woven into a fabric which finally materjalized into an emblem or flag that is truly representative of the rich historical background, the glori-

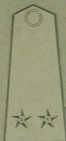
The first insignia for general officers approved by the Uniform Board.



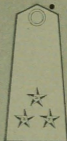
# Field Grade Officers



Major



Lt Colonel



Colonel

ous traditions, and the noble sentiment of the Filipino people and their country.

It is the same flag conceived in 1898, in Hongkong, that we revere today and to which we owe allegiance. The Filipino tri-colored emblem has withstood changes and time for no other reason than the fact that it is the most eloquent manifestation as well as the ultimate in design that could best symbolize everything that is lofty in Philippine history.

Take the color scheme: the blue stands for freedom; the red, for courage, and the white, for purity. The right side of the flag, which under a heraldic principle is the field of honor, contains the white triangle on which is charged the symbolic

Philippine sun on the center and the three stars inside the angles of the triangle. That a triangle should represent the field of honor of our flag, was not intentional but rather an *accidental resemblance* to the geographical conformity of the country. And further, it is an accidental resemblance to a geographical conformity of a larger territory of which the Philippines was once upon a time a part.

History holds that in the remote past the Philippines in succession was a part of the great Mahjapahit and Shri-Visaya empires. The Mahjapahit Empire, founded in the 8th century, included the vast areas from the southern half of Formosa in the north, the Malay Peninsula, Su-

matra, and Ceylon in the west, the Moluccas and the western half of Java in the east. Taken as a whole, this once vast Asian empire was triangular in shape.

It is universally accepted in heraldry that, in designing any object to represent another, one must make use of the most expressive existing symbolism. With this rule in mind, the designers of the new coat of arms and rank insignia of the Armed Forces have drawn inspiration from the Filipino flag. These designs, therefore, speak well of the rich heritage of the Filipinos and are in keeping with their present loyalties and nationalism.

#### **New Coat of Arms**

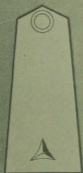
First, the three most distinctive symbols contained in the field

of honor of the Filipino national flag have been combined: the white triangle, the eight-rayed sun and the three stars. These are held together by a garland of sampaguita, the Filipino national flower, which also holds in place a blue scroll charged "UNA ANG BAYAN". The motto was believed most appropriate since it can inspire patriotism and can serve well as a battlecry. This design was unanimously approved in principle by the General Staff in its conference on 28 October 1954. Subsequently, however, in another conference of the General Staff, the motto "UNA ANG BAYAN" was changed to "PHILIPPINES".

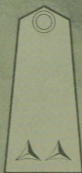
As finally approved by the General Headquarters and the Pres-

*First proposed, these insignia for company grade officers were disapproved.*

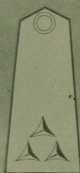
## Company Grade Officers



2nd Lieutenant



1st Lieutenant



Captain

ident, the new coat of arms has for its central motif the silver triangle, superimposed with the symbolic eight-rayed Philippine sun charged on its center with ancient Tagalog letter "K". Historically, the K was a feature of the early flags used by the Filipino revolutionists of 1896. It stood for Kalayaan (freedom) and Kasarinlan (independence). The main intention of the designers of the new coat of arms was therefore to associate our country's newly-found freedom with the past aspirations of our revolutionists. The letter K is as well a reminder of the AFP's zealot devotion in the discharge of its duties to safe-guard the independence of the country.

At the base of the triangle is a blue scroll charged "Philippines". The garland of sampaguita, the national flower, emanates from the scroll and encircles the silver triangle and the sun. The two tips of the garland hold the cluster of three stars which during the revolution of 1896 portrayed the united effort of the three major island groups of the country, namely: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The whole device is done in gold except for the silver triangle and the blue letter K and the blue scroll.

#### **Insignia of Rank**

Like the coat of arms, the new devices of rank insignia have been intended to depict Filipino sentiment, traditions, and history. Their design have also been inspired by the field of honor of

the Filipino flag.

A modified silver equilateral triangle whose sides each of 3/4-inch, are drawn with a little arc instead of with a straight line, represents the rank of company grade officers, while the symbolic golden Philippine sun with its 8 rays, 3/4-inch in diameter has been set aside to indicate the rank of field grade officers. Both of these rank devices are charged on the center with the blue letter "K" in old Tagalog script, signifying *Kalayaan* and *Kasarinlan*.

Adopted to represent the general officer's rank is a silver star, one-inch in diameter, on which is superimposed a golden 8-rayed sun (field grade) and further superimposed with a silver triangle (company grade) charged on the center with a blue letter "K". The general's star with its superimposed devices is the most original and distinctive of its kind. It is intended to depict the chain of command and cohesiveness in the military hierarchy.

The new rank devices are presented in a one-two-three concept. The 2nd lieutenant, major, and brigadier general would be represented by one triangle, one sun, and one star, respectively. The 1st lieutenant, lieutenant colonel, and major general would each have two triangles, two suns and two stars set on a horizontal row. The captain, colonel and lieutenant general gets three triangles, three suns, and

three stars, also set on a horizontal row. A clearance or space 1/8-inch between each of the multi-devices was also provided for.

The rank devices as discussed above are intended for use on shoulder boards or shoulder straps and on the collar in the case of 2nd and 1st lieutenants, major and lieutenant colonel, and brigadier general and major general. The multi-devices of rank for use on the collar of the captain, colonel, and lieutenant general were of reduced sizes of 1/2-inch, with a 2/32-inch clearance or space between each device.

Although these new rank devices were already approved by the President, the Uniform Board made one final move at their modifications by presenting to the Chief of Staff in the latter part of March 1955, a proposition that all of the collar rank devices, including those for the 2nd lieutenant, major, and brigadier general, should be of the reduced size, that is 1/2-inch. The Uniform Board, likewise, proposed that the multi-devices of ranks be set without clearance or space from each other.

The fallacy of these propositions were assailed by Col. Fajardo who claimed that the 1/2-inch triangle or 1/2-inch sun for the use of the 2nd lieutenant or major, would be too small for ready identification at a distance. Moreover, these single devices of rank would not be any different in appearance, especially from a distance, from college fraternity

pins.

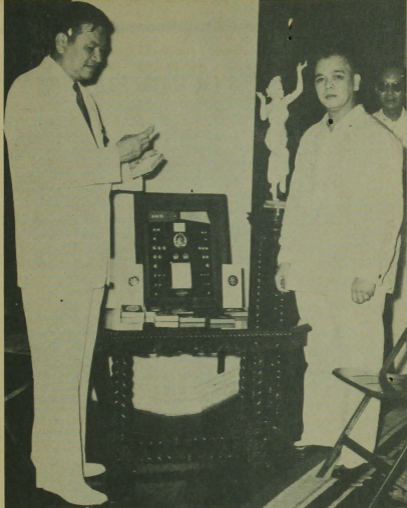
Colonel Fajardo also pointed out that the multi-devices of rank when set close to each other would look like "sitting ducks." One has only to imagine how the captain's bars of the U.S. Army would look like if they were set side by side without clearance. The proposal at modifying what had already been approved by the President would look "preposterous."

A compromise was agreed upon however, to have the reduced collar rank devices include those for use of the 1st lieutenant, lieutenant colonel, and major general. This compromise measure was the one finally approved by the Chief of Staff, along with the original intention to provide a clearance of 1/8-inch between the multi-devices of rank for use on the shoulder board or shoulder strap, and 2/32-inch between the multi-devices of rank for use on the collar.

### Conclusion

For the record, the desire to change the pre-war PA coat of arms, which made use of the American eagle for its main motif, and the U.S. Army's rank devices, resulted directly from our change in political status. The first effort taken toward this end was late in 1946, inspired by Col. Buenconsejo, then AC of S, G-1.

Definite steps in this direction were taken in 1947 with the creation of a Uniform Board under Col. Lizardo, but the Board's designs were disapproved by the then Chief of Staff, Gen. Jalandoni.



*President Magsaysay was presented a complete set of coat of arms and rank insignia of the AFP by Mr. Jose Tupaz, Jr. in a ceremony at Malacañang, on 23 November 1955.*

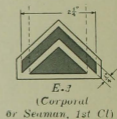
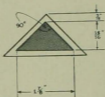
In 1952, new designs were proposed by Col. Barbero, then AC of S, G-1. The new sets were tentatively approved and used during a six-month "service test" period. The indifferent re-action to these insignia led to its final disapproval by then President Quirino.

The new Coat of Arms and of-

ficers' rank devices now in use were the product of an intense research by the heraldry section of the Military History Branch, TI & ED. Colonel Fajardo, as Chief of the Division, had chiefly inspired these designs, which were approved by President Magsaysay on 17 March 1955.

## EM's Chevrons

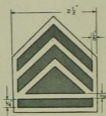
*E-2*  
(Private, 1st Class  
or Seaman, 2nd Cl)



*E-3*  
(Corporal  
or Seaman, 1st Cl)



*E-4*  
(Sergeant)



*E-5*  
(Staff Sergeant)



*E-6*  
(Technical Sergeant)



*E-7*  
(First Sergeant)

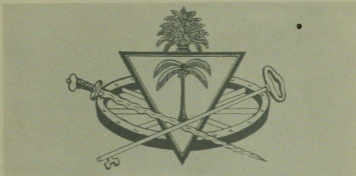


*E-8*  
(Master Sergeant)

Like the new AFP coat of arms and officers' rank insignia, new chevrons for EM got stiff triangular design from National Flag. They are now distinctive.



# AFP QM INSIGNE



The features of the insignie are the following:

## *Technical Description, Meaning and/or Significance*

**The Key.** — A universal and ancient symbol for storage and supplies.

**The Kris (Creese).** — One of the weapons of the Malayas used in the safeguarding of supplies for the individual, the family, the home and the nation for military purposes.

**The Wheel.** — For transportation, a major function of the QM Service. Modern military operations depend largely on transportation for movement of personnel, equipment and supplies. The eight spokes of the wheel represent the eight original provinces of the Philippines that revolted against the Spaniards for independence.

**The Equilateral Triangle.** — For equitable distribution and service. It also represent unity as defined in the National Flag. The apex is down to form a funnel, through which the QM Service collects and supplies the armed forces.

**The coconut.** — Found throughout the Philippines. It is a source of hundreds of QM supplies such as stationeries, food, fuel, clothing, janitorials and many others. The four leaves represent the four major services of the AFP.

**The Rice.** — On top of the triangle is the prime commodity and need of the soldier. It is the staple food of the nation. On food the army moves.

## **The Color**

**Gold** — for abundance

**Black** — represents soil. Agriculture is the basic industry of the country from which most QM items come.