

BAE CIDG

Department of Broken Arrow Events Impression Guides

Handbook for Civilian Irregular Defense Group Forces Impression Kits



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Introduction

CIDG forces, or Civilian Irregular Defense Group forces, were part of a program developed by the CIA during the Vietnam conflict. This militia was comprised of indigenous people, often of varying ethnic groups in South Vietnam. However, towards the end of the 1960s, 5th SFG American advisors began training CIDG forces to integrate with ARVN troops. Not only was training improved, but weapons were upgraded from M1 Carbines and M14s to M16s, M60s, and M79s by 1969, along with more US-made equipment. For BAE timelines, this is where we typically fall.

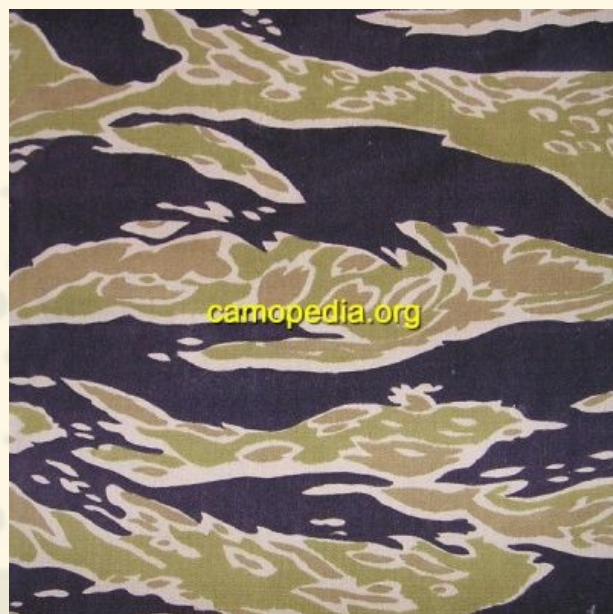
This guide will give you the fundamentals for attending BAE events where CIDG forces are required or approved. Keep in mind, this does not replace standards universally upheld by BAE, but rather supplements them.





1-1. Uniform, Tigerstripe

CIDG forces primarily wore Vietnamese-made tiger stripe uniforms in a variety of patterns, with the most common of these arriving after 1962. Thus, the preferred uniform for Broken Arrow Events' CIDG Impression will be the tiger stripe set. While BAE is not requiring a particular version of this pattern, we highly encourage CIDG troopers to choose a realistic and well-made reproduction. Some recommended versions include Tadpole, Advisor's Type, and "John Wayne," among others. Mixing these patterns is not outside the realm of reality; as long as each piece of the uniform is accepted.



Ripstop Tiger Stripe uniforms, such as those made by Rothco, are NOT ALLOWED



1-2. Uniform, Jungle Fatigues

Jungle fatigues are an acceptable uniform pattern for CIDG forces. While not as common as locally made tiger stripe, many sterile jungle fatigue sets were received from the United States. These can be in any pattern, though third pattern is recommended.

CIDG forces received entirely sterile jungle fatigue uniforms, barren of any patches or insignia from the US. Please do not arrive with a patched uniform, otherwise troopers will be asked to remove the insignia or uniform.

Preferred: Tiger Stripe Uniform

Acceptable: Sterile Jungle Fatigue Uniform, Real or Reproduction

Not Acceptable : Ripstop / Jungle Fatigue cut Tiger Stripe, Patched Uniforms



1-3. Uniform, Headwear

The M-1 Helmet is the standard hard cover. For simplicity's sake, no helmet covers are allowed, as most CIDG forces went without them. These will be required for CIDG members on patrols and guard duty. Avoid nylon chin-straps.



Soft cover can be an OG-105 Hot Weather Field Cap or an issued style boonie hat in Olive Green. Locally made boonies in Tiger Stripe or OD Green are acceptable as well. These soft cover options have to be Vietnam-era style and are only allowed when authorized during off-duty or on work detail.

Required: M1 Pot Helmet No cover.

Approved (Soft Cover)

Not Acceptable: Rothco or poor quality tigerstripe boonie, ERDL helmet covers, modern helmets.



1-4. Uniform, Accessories

Undergarments

Undershirts should be OD Green T-shirt, though no undershirt is perfectly acceptable. A white t-shirt will be approved only for on-base. Please refer to the Uniform of the Day guide at the event for detailed and updated uniform expectations.

Trouser Belt

No belt is necessary, though a standard GI Black web belt w/ Gold buckle belt is acceptable.

Footwear

Standard jungle boots is the standard issue footwear item, along with standard GI issue socks. You may also wear CIDG Boots or Black Palladium High-Top boots.

Undershirt: OD Green T-Shirt

Belt: None, Issued Black web belt w/ Gold buckle

Boots: Standard Jungle Boots, CIDG boots, Black Palladium Style High-Top



1-5. Uniform, Armor

Some CIDG troops were issued Fragmentation vests later in the war. This can be fun to replicate, however, for the safety of troops; they will not be authorized for wear during patrols.

Fragmentation vests are NOT REQUIRED, but a welcome addition for on-base accuracy. If you would like to bring one, a 3/4 Collar or M-69 vest would be acceptable.



Approved: 3/4 Collar or M-69 Vest (approved for on-base only)

Not Allowed: M52, M55, Chicken Plate, Modern Flak Vest



2-1. Equipment, LCE

Issued Load Carrying Equipment is the cotton M1956 web gear set. This set includes:

- M56 Suspenders
- M56 Pistol belt
- M56 Universal Ammunition pouches (2x)
- M56 Canteen covers (2x)
- M56 Compass/First Aid pouches (2x)

A buttpack is acceptable to store additional equipment, but not required.

To carry additional ammunition and explosives, a bandolier and/or M8a1 Claymore bag is acceptable. Cadre advises utilizing a claymore bag for additional storage of water or other important equipment.

Required: Web Gear: M1956 Web Set (2x canteens, 2x ammunition pouches)

Approved: Bandolier, Claymore Bag



2-2. Equipment, Rucksack

The preferred rucksack is the Lightweight Rucksack in any pattern. The size and usability make this rucksack an ideal choice for a BAE event. Having been smaller framed than their American counterparts, CIDG forces often used other, more appropriately sized packs. Therefore, other acceptable rucksacks include the ARVN rucksack, CIDG rucksack, and Tropical Rucksack. If a rucksack is not a viable option, a plain buttpack will suffice. While the issue buttpack is accepted, for operational purposes, it's not a complete system. Please ensure that any gear used is a high-quality replica or an original.

Preferred: Lightweight Rucksack

Acceptable: Tropical, ARVN, CIDG Rucksacks

Reluctantly Accepted: Buttpack



2-3. Equipment, Survival

BAE requires a minimum of two period-correct ponchos per attendee. Versions from the 1980's are accepted, although 50's or 60's versions are preferred. This is non-negotiable for the safety of participants.

For sleep, it is recommend at least one ERDL or OD Green center seam poncho liner, though a wool blanket will also suffice. We also recommend a period-style sleep shirt. This can even be worn underneath the blouse when in colder weather.

The M65 field jacket is the appropriate cold-weather equipment. These are not required, but highly recommend a trooper's comfort.

Required: Two USGI ponchos

Accepted: ERDL or OD Green center-seam poncho liner

Recommended: USGI Sleep Shirt, M65 Jacket



2-4. Equipment, Weapons

In the current BAE timeline, the issued and preferred rifle is the M16a1. An acceptable, albeit earlier rifle can be the XM16e1. Short, 20-round style mid-capacity magazines should be used in these rifles.

Specialty weapons such as the M79 Grenade Launcher and M60e1 will require confirmation or approval from BAE Staff and Cadre.

CAR-15s, M1 Carbines, M14s, AK-variants, and other one-off weapons are NOT acceptable for CIDG forces at BAE events. Cadre understands some of these options may have been prevalent in earlier years, but again, for the operational timeline these are not accepted.

Required: M16a1 (or XM16e1)

Accepted w/ Approval: M79, M60e1

Not Accepted: XM/Car-15, M1 Carbine, AKs, M14s, modern rifles.



2-5. Equipment, Sustenance

Water and food is non-negotiable at BAE events. Participants are expected to bring enough sustenance for themselves for the duration of the event. Cadre heavily stresses hydration, so please ensure a supply of minimum a 1~2 gallons of water per day.

For carrying water, participants are required to have two USGI 1-quart canteens on their web set and 4 quarts on or in their ruck. This can be any combination of 1 and 2 quart canteens in period-style canteen covers.

For food, A USGI Mess tin or Vietnamese style rice bowl is required, along with GI silverware. We recommend creating your own LRRP style rations or C-Rations from canned food. Even if there is a mess tent on-base, troopers are expected to be able to provide for themselves.

Required: 6x 1Q Canteens, USGI Mess Kit or Rice bowl

Accepted: 2Q Canteen w/ Cover, LRRP Rations

Not Acceptable: Yo mama's bowls and silverware

Ben Het Context: (Save but remove)



North West of Kontum, 1970:

Ben Het Camp was a US Army and ARVN encampment established in 1966 just NW of Kontum. The camp was primarily comprised of 12 members from 5th SFG as advisors and 3 companies of CIDG (Civilian Irregular Defense Group) forces, totaling roughly 400 personnel. Sometimes, AATTV (Australian Army Training Team Vietnam) were present. Our event time frame takes place following the Battle of Ben Het of 1969. This armored assault from the PAVN 202nd Armored Regiment inflicted losses, though the biggest concern was the increasingly large PAVN force buildup nearby. Participants of Broken Arrow Events' Ben Het 70 will represent the CIDG forces present on the base during this time. This following guide will give you the key pieces as well as some important details for your impression.

