

BAE USGI

Department of Broken Arrow Events Impression Guides

Handbook for 173rd Airborne Brigade Impression Kits



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Introduction

The 173rd Airborne Brigade, the first major ground combat unit of the United States to serve in Vietnam, was instrumental in numerous operations throughout the conflict in Vietnam. Renowned for its airborne capabilities and rapid deployments, the brigade played a pivotal role in combat missions, search and destroy operations, and securing crucial strategic positions, shaping American military strategy in Vietnam.

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





1-1. Uniform, Jungle Fatigues

Jungle fatigues are the only uniform for USGI forces. These can be in any pattern, though third pattern is recommended. Reproductions are acceptable, though ensure they are made accurately and of quality materials. If you opt to use a rothco uniform, we strongly recommend you dye it to a correct green color.

We require all attendees to have at least one uniform entirely sterile. However, if you would like to patch a separate uniform for on base, please use appropriate insignia and your in-event rank, the proper cut, and full-color patches.

Preferred: Original Uniforms, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Pattern

Acceptable: SOF, Moore, or Dyed Rothco Reproductions, etc.

Not Acceptable : BDU Cut uniforms, tiger stripe, utility uniforms



1-2. Uniform, Headwear

The M-1 Helmet is the standard hard cover. The Mitchell Pattern cover is required and should contain NO GRAFFITI! An elastic helmet band is also required. Please ensure there are no cat-eyes on the back. Avoid nylon chin-straps.



Soft cover is an OG-105 Hot Weather Field Cap. Period-style boonie hats are acceptable, pending the Uniform of the Day.

Required: M1 Pot Helmet w/ Mitchell Pattern Cover

Approved (Soft Cover)

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



1-3. 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

A standard GI Black web belt w/ Gold buckle belt is acceptable.

Footwear

Standard jungle boots are the only accepted footwear, along with standard GI style socks. Originals or 80's dated recommended, reproductions accepted. Panama or Vibram sole.

Undershirt: OD Green T-Shirt
Belt: Issued Black web belt w/ Gold buckle
Boots: Standard Jungle Boots



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. However, Therefore, other acceptable rucksacks include the ARVN rucksack, WWII-Vietnam Mountain Rucksack, and Tropical Rucksack. If a rucksack is not a viable option, a plain buttpack will suffice. While the issued 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, Mountain 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, M14s, AK-variants, and other styled weapons are NOT acceptable for USGI forces at BAE events. Cadre understands some of these options may have been prevalent in other 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, along with GI silverware is required. 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

Accepted: 2Q Canteen w/ Cover, LRRP Rations

Not Acceptable: Yo mama's bowls and silverware