

525th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade (E-MIB) – Unit History

The 525th E-MIB traces its lineage to World War II as the 525th Interrogation Team and the 218th Counterintelligence Corps Detachment. The 525th Interrogation Team was activated on 1 May 1946 at Heidelberg, Germany and assigned to the European Theatre of Operations. The 525th Interrogation Team was deactivated in November 1946 and reactivated in February 1948, as the 525th HQ Intelligence Detachment and assigned to Fort Bragg, NC. During the Korean War, elements of the Detachment participated in seven campaigns and earned one Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations.

In December 1953, the Detachment was again redesignated as the 525th Military Intelligence Group and transferred from Fort Bragg, NC, to Fort Meade, MD. The 525th MI Group established and operated the Second U.S. Army Intelligence School, training active and active and reserve personnel providing specialized intelligence teams to support active and reserve units.

In November 1965, the 525th MI Group deployed its headquarters to Tan Son Nhut Airbase, Vietnam to support Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) J2. The 525th MI Group participated in 16 campaigns and was decorated with four Meritorious Unit Commendation Awards. In March 1973, the Group returned to the United States and inactivated. On July 1, 1974, the Group was activated again at the Presidio of San Francisco and, in 1977, assigned to U.S. Army Intelligence Security Command.

On May 16, 1979, the Army consolidated the 525th MI Group with the 218th Military Intelligence Detachment and became a Headquarters and Operations company. The 525th MI BDE returned to Fort Bragg, NC, on 16 June 1979. Over the next two decades, the 525th MI BDE provided XVIII Airborne Corps all-source analysis, SIGINT collection, and HUMINT and CI Support in OPERATION JUST CAUSE in Panama, OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in Kuwait, and OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti. Throughout these operations, the 525th MI BDE provided support to the XVIII Airborne Corps.

Following the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, the 525th MI BDE again answered the nation's call by deploying elements in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (Afghanistan) and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (Iraq) between 2001 and 2005. In 2006, the 525th transformed once again from a Military Intelligence Brigade to a Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BfSB). In 2010, the 525th BfSB deployed to Regional Command - South in Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (Afghanistan) and with responsibility for the Spin Boldak district in Kandahar and the Charman-Wesh border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Brigade earned three Meritorious Unit Citations for its support of both OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

In 2015, the 525th became the first BfSB in the Army to transform into an Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade (E-MIB). During the transition, the Brigade established a provisional MI Battalion at Fort Gordon, GA, to provide Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination (PED) support to all three U.S. Army Corps.

In 2017, the 525th E-MIB was called to be the first of the Army's three E-MIBs to assume the TASK FORCE OBSERVE, DETECT, IDENTIFY, and NEUTRALIZE (TF ODIN) mission in support of OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL (Afghanistan). As TF ODIN, the 525th provided the Resolute Support Commander the ability to manage and synchronize the Army's medium altitude Aerial and Ground Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance assets across the commander's area of responsibility. The Brigade earned a Meritorious Unit Citation for its achievements in support of OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL.

The 525th E-MIB deployed in 2018 to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, to again assume the TF ODIN mission in support of OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL.

Upon redeploying the 525th E-MIB initiated the transformation of its two existing Military Intelligence Battalions into Intelligence and Electronic Warfare (IEW) battalions to provide direct support of the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne Division.

In August 2021, the Brigade began another transformation adding two additional IEW Battalions; the 103rd IEW BN at Fort Stewart, GA, and the 302nd IEW BN at Fort Campbell, KY. The new design aligns the IEW Battalions in a direct support relationship to the Corps and Division G2s, with the 519th IEW BN (Corps) supporting the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 319th IEW BN (DIV) supporting the 82nd Airborne Division, the 103rd IEW BN supporting the 3rd Infantry Division, and the 302nd IEW BN (DIV) supporting the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

In October 2021, the 525th E-MIB deployed 32 Soldiers to the CENTCOM AOR with less than 96 hours of notification to enable screening and evacuation operations from Hamid Karzai International Airport in Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE.

In February 2022, the 525th E-MIB deployed elements to Poland and Germany to support XVIII ABN Corps and OPERATION NEW NORMAL to assure European allies and deter aggression following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Later, in 2023, the Brigade deployed to Poland in support of OPERATION EUROPEAN ASSURE DETER REINFORCE providing invaluable analytic, HUMINT and CI support to V Corps, Security Assistance Group Ukraine (SAGU), USAEUR-AF, and NATO Allies, to help stabilize the European Theater.

525th EXPEDITIONARY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE UNIT AWARDS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

ARMY SUPERIOR UNIT AWARD

HHC, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade
-OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN, KOSOVO FORCE (15 MAY 13-13 FEB 14)

MERITORIUS UNIT CITATIONS

525th Military Intelligence Group
- VIETNAM (1 DEC 67-30 NOV 68)
- VIETNAM (1 DEC 68-24 SEP 69)

HHC 525th Military Intelligence Group (redesignated on 25 SEP 69)
- VIETNAM (1 JAN-31 DEC 70)
- VIETNAM (1 JAN-5 MAR 71)

HHC, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade
-OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (27 SEP 07-7 DEC 08)
-OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (27 JUL 10-21 JUL 11)

HHD, 525th Military Intelligence Brigade
-OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (16 NOV 04-15 NOV 05)
-OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL (26 MAR 17-16 OCT 17)

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II: Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe

Vietnam: Defense; Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase II; Counteroffensive, Phase III; Tet Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase IV; Counteroffensive, Phase V; Counteroffensive, Phase VI; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer-Fall 1969; Winter-Spring 1970; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase VII; Consolidation I; Consolidation II; Cease-Fire

Armed Forces Expeditions: Dominican Republic; Panama

Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Afghanistan: Consolidation III

DESTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA



Description/Blazon

A gold color metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in width overall consisting of a black equilateral triangle charged with a gold lion rampant, in base two rows of alternating squares gold and blue (oriental), all above a voluted gold scroll inscribed "FAST FACTUAL FAITHFUL" in black letters.

Symbolism

The gold lion rampant on a black background was taken from the coat of arms of Heidelberg, Germany, where the Group was first activated. The triangular shape alludes to the deltas in Vietnam and symbolizes the unit's service in that country. The triangle and lion with the checkered rows allude to tenacity, flexibility, and secrecy and represent the combined intelligence programs of the organization.

Background

The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 525th Military Intelligence Group on 26 May 1969. It was redesignated for the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade on 30 July 1985. The insignia was redesignated effective 16 March 2008, for the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade with the description updated. The insignia was redesignated for the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade effective 16 October 2014.

SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA



Description/Blazon

On a rectangle arched at the bottom with a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) yellow border, 2 1/2 inches (6.35 cm) in width and 3 inches (7.62 cm) in height overall, below a white and black checkered chief consisting of two rows of five squares each, a field divided from upper left to lower right with silver gray above oriental blue separated by a yellow lightning flash with point at lower right.

Symbolism

Oriental blue and silver, gray are the colors traditionally associated with Military Intelligence. The lightning flash refers to the communication and electronic warfare functions of the unit. The checkered area alludes to the overt and covert aspects of the Military Intelligence mission with the black and white colors referring to constant vigilance day and night.

Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade on 30 July 1985. It was redesignated effective 16 March 2008, for the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and amended to delete the airborne tab and update the description. The insignia was redesignated for the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade effective 16 October 2014.