

## GRUNT



Helmet liner of an instructor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army. The rank of sergeant is indicated by the yellow decal.



Helmet liner of a 21<sup>st</sup> Corps staff sergeant. From 1957 to 1970, the 21<sup>st</sup> Corps had its headquarters at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, one of the largest Reserve Officers Training Corps summer camps for the US Army during the Vietnam War.



Helmet liner of a major with the US Army Armor School. Established in Fort Knox, Kentucky, in 1940, the facility provided armor training for soldiers and officers.

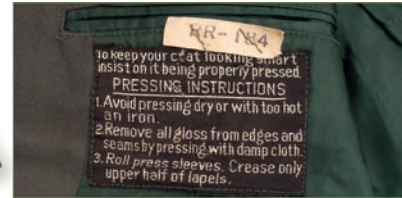


Helmet liner of a staff sergeant in the 390<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 98<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In 1959, the 98<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was redesignated as the 98<sup>th</sup> Division (Training), and in 1968, the 390<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Basic Combat Training).

GRUNT



This jacket is from the first production run. The 1966 contract DSA-100 puts its manufacture between July 1965 and June 1966.



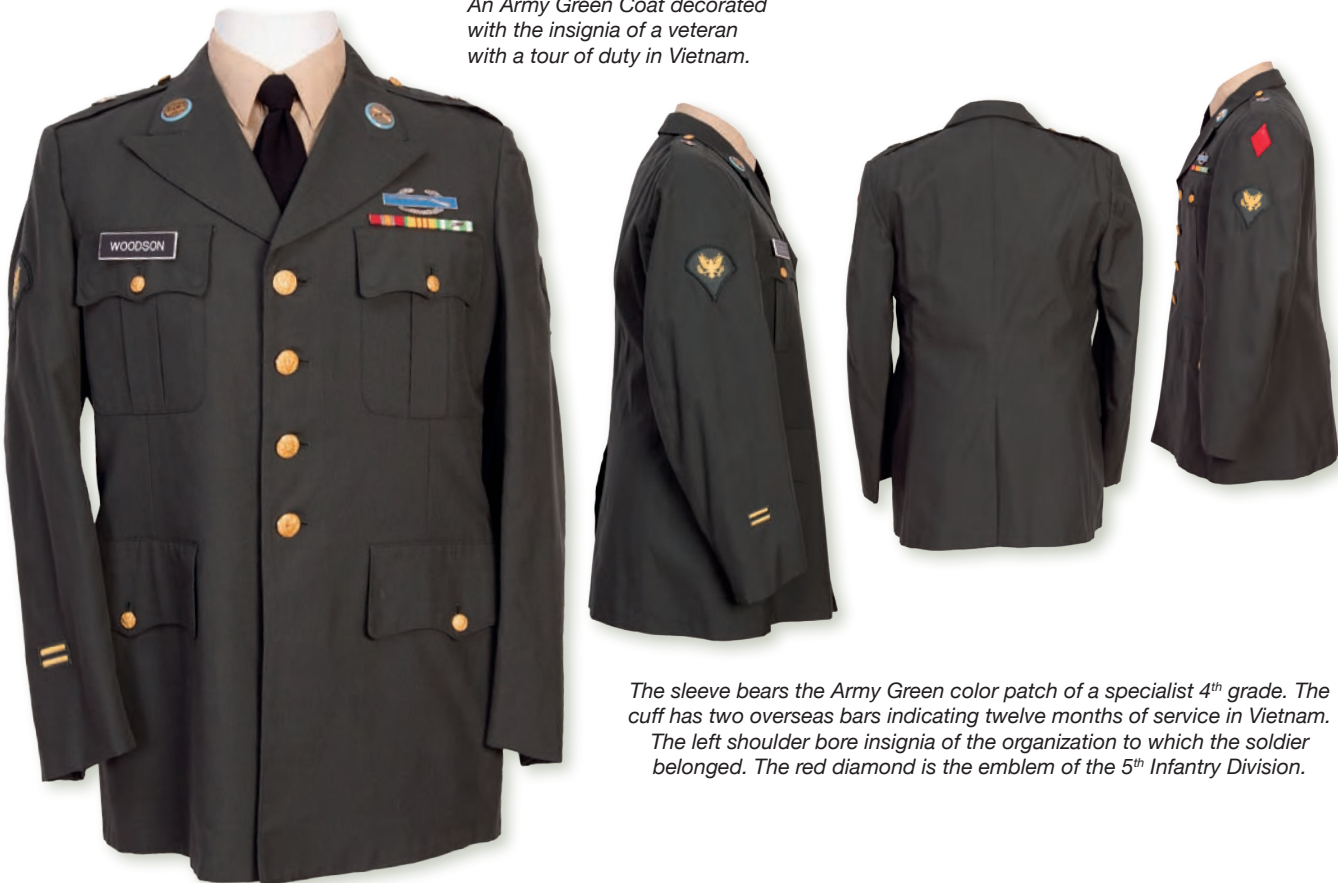
On the cleaning instructions label you can still see the identification tag that was placed by the laundry.



The ribbons on the sleeves indicate that this is an official jacket.

Army Green Coat in summer fabric, made of poly/wool AG344.

An Army Green Coat decorated with the insignia of a veteran with a tour of duty in Vietnam.



The sleeve bears the Army Green color patch of a specialist 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The cuff has two overseas bars indicating twelve months of service in Vietnam. The left shoulder bore insignia of the organization to which the soldier belonged. The red diamond is the emblem of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

# TA-312 Field Telephone

These telephones were used for wired communications between different positions on the battlefield or at military installations. They operated using existing civilian phone lines or by laying additional cable. In combat, units in the field were required to lay miles of cable to connect phones between different units. In Vietnam, field operations were covered by PRC radio; field telephones were used to create communication systems within artillery camps or bases.



TA-312 Field Telephone manufactured under a 1967 contract.

On the side of the bag there is an opening to access the crank handle of the ringing generator.

The printed label on this case indicates that it was manufactured under a 1974 contract.



The field telephone can be tucked inside the carrying bag for transportation.

# M60 Machine Gun

After WW2, the U.S. Army, impressed by the qualities of the German MG42 machine gun, began developing a new weapon that resulted in 1957 with the adoption of the M60 machine gun.

The M60 was used as an automatic squad weapon in Vietnam. The gunner had the gun, while a server carried a spare barrel and ammunition. The remaining members of the squad carried additional ammunition in boxes of a hundred linked cartridges or in bandoliers worn around the torso. With its M122 tripod, the M60 was also used to create a defensive perimeter; it was also used on armored vehicles, cars, and trucks. Huey helicopters carried the M60D version used by door gunners, and dual systems were fixed on each side of the gunships.

Soldiers working with the M60 nicknamed it "the pig" because of its weight and dimensions, but appreciated its firepower. The importance of the M60 became clear in the battle for Landing Zone (LZ) X-Ray in November 1965 – the first significant contact between U.S. troops and North Vietnamese forces – in which 450 soldiers from the reinforced 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion/7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry were surrounded for three days by 2,000 North Vietnamese soldiers in the la Drang Valley, near the Chu Pong hills. Lt. Col. Harold G. Moore (1 Battalion/7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry) recounted in his memoirs how the proper performance of their M60 machine gun teams prevented numerous assaults to their weak defense lines.

*"The pig" weighed a minimum of 15 pounds more than the M16 and also had the added weight of several hundred rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition.*

**real size**



*An M60 machine gun team ready to open fire somewhere during the Vietnam war.*

# Sewing and Toiletries

During the Vietnam War, soldiers needed personal toiletries and cleaning supplies to maintain the proper appearance of the man in uniform. There

were no such items manufactured specifically for the military, but commercially produced personal products could be purchased in the PX or other military establishments. In Vietnam, civilian shops and stalls offered the American soldier many international brands for his personal needs.



*Sewing kit of a soldier. In Vietnam, even the tiniest alteration was handled with ease by the many Vietnamese tailors who abounded in the barracks.*



*Toiletry kit in a leather case. These travel sets were adequate for a soldier's life in Vietnam.*



*Various toiletries from the sixties, common among the troops in Vietnam.*



Name-brand beer was not unknown in Vietnam. In the 1960s, the typical way to open a beer can was to make two holes in the lid with whatever was at hand. This system was still used even after the appearance of cans with a pull tab.

The tools of a smoker:  
American cigarettes,  
matches, and lighters.



Gas lighters were preferred by the troops. Such lighters were immortalized in newspaper photographs of soldiers torching the huts of peasants who were suspected of supporting the Vietcong. These lighters were often engraved with humorous messages about war.

**GRUNT**



*1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces.*



*U.S. Army Security Agency.*



*1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade.*



*U.S. Army Engineer Command, Vietnam.*



*18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade.*



*20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade.*



*18<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade.*



*1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade.*



*U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command.*



*44<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade.*



*U.S. Army Health Services Command.*



*1<sup>st</sup> Logistical Command.*



*15<sup>th</sup> Support Brigade.*



*4<sup>th</sup> Transportation Command.*



*5<sup>th</sup> Transportation Command.*



*124<sup>th</sup> Transportation Command.*



*125<sup>th</sup> Transportation Command.*



*U.S. Army Combat Developments Command.*



*U.S. Army Material Command.*



*U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.*



*U.S. Army Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service.*



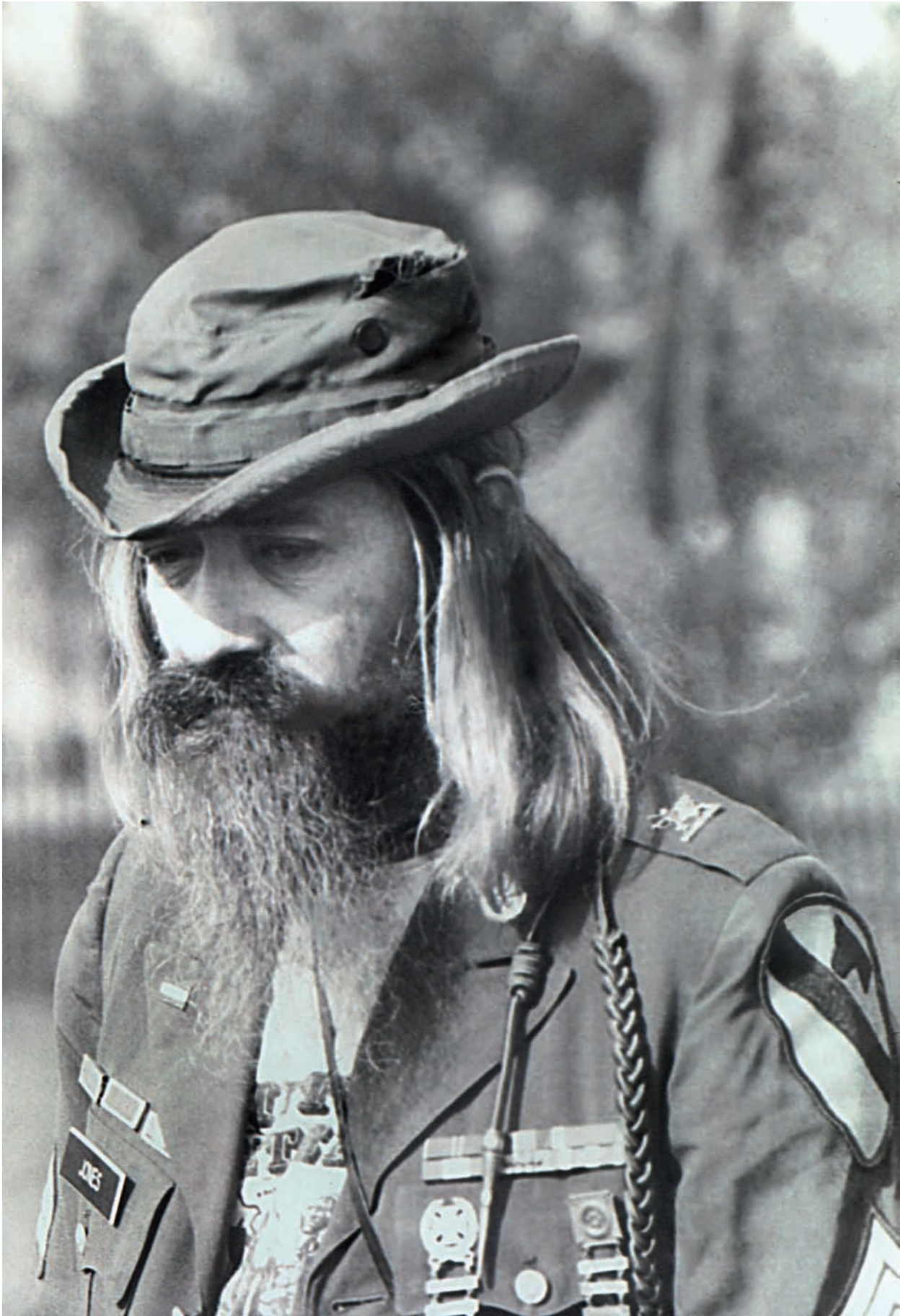
*1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. Approved for 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment, which was sent to Vietnam as a separate Armored Cavalry Squadron.*



*2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment was sent to Vietnam as a separate Armored Cavalry Squadron and was authorized to wear the division patch.*



*38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Company D, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry (Long Range Patrol) was the only unit of the National Guard that served in Vietnam. Although under the command of II Field Force, the company was authorized to wear the patch of the division.*



*A Vietnam veteran proudly wears his uniform some years after the war.*

