

Quick Facts on the Army's Excellence in Competition Program

❖ The Excellence in Competition Program, commonly referred to as simply EIC, is part of the Army's Small Arms Competition Program. Implemented in 1884 by General Phillip Henry Sheridan, the Army EIC program was established to recognize top marksmanship performers throughout the Army. Although the program has evolved many times during its 130 year history, the basic tenants on which the program was founded still exist today.

The EIC program was created to accomplish the following objectives:

- Improve marksmanship training techniques
- Improve weapons and ammunition capabilities
- Promote and increase marksmanship training interest
- Raise the standards of proficiency with the Service Rifle and Service Pistol
- Provide an opportunity to excel
- Recognize preeminent marksmanship skills through competition
- Establish a broad base of qualified marksmanship instructors

❖ The EIC program encompasses both rifle and pistol marksmanship disciplines, and recognizes top performing Soldiers during competition. Soldiers may compete in up to four (4) EIC competitions annually per weapons system; 4 EIC matches with rifle, and another 4 with the pistol. The top 10% of highest scoring competitors in an EIC event are awarded credit points; these points are commonly referred to as LEG points, or simply LEGS. Upon receipt of their first LEG points, using either the rifle or pistol, the Soldier is awarded the Bronze EIC Badge for the respective discipline they competed in (rifle or pistol). Soldiers who continue to compete and earn EIC credits will be awarded their Silver EIC Badge upon earning a total of twenty (20) EIC credit points, and will ultimately earn their Distinguished Badge (either rifle or pistol) after earning 30 or more points.

❖ There are three different tiers to EIC competitions; with each level offering a higher degree of difficulty. Tier 1 matches are considered the lowest level of EIC competition, and are often conducted at the battalion level. Soldier may only earn points from a Tier 1 match one time only. All subsequent matches must be from Tier 2 or 3. Tier 2 events include a larger field of competition, and are conducted at the MACOM level. Any non-Army EIC matches are also considered a Tier 2 event. Tier 3 events, the highest level of EIC competition, include events such as the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship (All-Army), the National Guard's Winston P. Wilson Championships, the Inter-service Rifle and Pistol Championships, and the National Matches that are conducted in Camp Perry, OH annually. Competitors MUST earn at least one "LEG" at a Tier 3 event before they will be awarded their Distinguished Marksmanship Badge.

❖ Additional information on the Army's Competitive Marksmanship and Excellence in Competition programs can be found in AR 350-66, dated 27 August 2012. For any questions relating to either of these programs, or if you are interested in conducting an EIC match at your unit, please contact Mr. Roscoe Castle, the USAMU Program Coordinator at (706) 545-4276 or roscoe.j.castle.civ@mail.mil.

Excellence in Competition Badges

❖ Photos of the Army's various Excellence in Competition badges are listed below and are authorized for wear on the Army Service Uniform per AR 670-1. EIC badges are considered to be the most prestigious marksmanship badges within the Army, and take precedence over normal marksmanship proficiency awards (Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman).

U.S. Army Excellence-In-Competition Pistol Shot Badges



U.S. Army Excellence-In-Competition Rifleman Badges



Distinguished Rifleman

Distinguished Pistol Shot