

EIB: Striving to Become an Expert

OFFICE CHIEF OF INFANTRY

On 29 March 1944, LTG Lesley J. McNair pinned the first EIB onto Technical Sergeant Walter Bull's chest. Since then the EIB has been the gold standard of Infantry task proficiency, and thousands of Infantry Soldiers have earned and displayed it with pride. The EIB's guiding document is USAIS Pamphlet 350-6 which lays out the tasks and standards required for Infantry Soldiers to obtain the coveted EIB. Offering a unique blend of arduous physical fitness events coupled with individual tasks, USAIS PAM 350-6 aims to test Soldiers' physical and mental toughness, technical proficiency, and perseverance.

A Soldier who has earned the EIB gains credibility amongst seniors, peers, and subordinates. The skills and attributes required to successfully earn the badge represent dedication and proficiency to our craft. Proficiency often leads to increased performance, and solid performance instills confidence amongst our leaders of our future potential for increased responsibility.

Evaluation Board statistics show a clear indication that board members also display confidence of future potential for Infantry Soldiers who have earned the EIB. The table below, broken down by rank, displays the Fiscal Year 2021 Evaluation Board statistics of Soldiers who had earned the EIB.

The EIB is not a criterion for promotion; however, the statistics below show that those Infantry Soldiers who have earned the badge are evaluated at a significantly higher rate than their peers who have not. As Infantry Soldiers progress through their career, the percentage of Soldiers who have earned the badge increases substantially with each rank.

The EIB should be the primary goal for all Soldiers who have earned the Blue Cord. It shows dedication to the profession and significantly increases your potential for promotion. Although the EIB is unique to the Infantry Branch, it is not intended to detract from the vital role of other branches within our Army, but rather to serve as a symbol of tradition for Infantrymen who played a vital role in the defense of our nation's past, present, and future.

Soldiers Who Earned the EIB			
	Total Evaluated	Most Qualified	Top 20%
SSG	46%	98%	82%
SFC	85%	100%	98%
MSG	98%	99%	99%

Fiscal Year 2021 Evaluation Board Statistics