

The gold of the shield is the color for Armor. The fleurs-de-lis symbolize the organization's Normandy and Northern France campaigns. The chevron "in point embowed" recalls the Battle of the Bulge, the Ardennes-Alsace campaign. The key, symbolic of the Rhineland campaign, emphasizes its important successes. It represents the "Key to Victory" in Europe. The battle-axe, a favorite Teutonic weapon and heraldic charge throughout the entire medieval period, signifies the Central Europe campaign. The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 81st Medium Tank Battalion April 18, 1953. It was amended to correct the spelling of the Latin motto April 19, 1954. The insignia was redesignated for the 81st Armor Regiment on Jan. 31, 1962.