



The UNTDA Badge



The UNTD, as a distinct naval program, at no time had an official Badge.

RCN Commissioned Ships, and Commissioned Shore Establishments, including the NRDs, did not themselves have Official Badges until the fall of 1948, and at that time, all of them were in a "Circular" Frame. The RN had Official Badges dating from 1919 and a variety of Frame-shapes were used, Circular of course (Battleships & Battle Cruisers), but also Shield (Destroyers), Pentagonal (Cruisers) and Offset-square (All other vessel types and shore establishments, including Subs, Aircraft Carriers, Schools etc). In 1940 the RN converted all Commissioned Vessel Badges to Circular, leaving Pentagonal for RFA vessels and the Offset-square for shore establishments. This is the current condition there.

The current Official UNTDA Badge, which is the original unofficial UNTD Offset-square version, first appeared in drawings in the early 1950s. No doubt a result of RN influences over the years, as all "School" Badges would have still had that shape. By the 1960s, the UNTD Badge was usually represented in a Circular Frame. It appeared as such in the later Yearbooks and certain plaster/plaque badges produced in that era were also circular.

At some point, and I don't know when or by whom, the Offset-square shape was used for the first batch of UNTDA Lapel Pins, Ties and Blazer Badges, and of course still is. We have always used it in our documentation and of course still do. I have though, seen UNTDA ties with the Circular Badge shape.

To be a bit pedantic and purest, but still hopefully short of anal-retentive, the correct term is "Badge" vs "Crest", the latter having a specific heraldic meaning which doesn't apply to us, or it is used colloquially, to refer to anything sewn onto the pocket of a blazer, which of course could just as easily be a "Ship's Badge".

"Diamond" as a shape-name, is also incorrect for our current Badge. A Diamond has a height greater than its width, whereas an Offset-square has equal height and width. Rotate your Blazer Badge 90 degrees and it becomes obvious that it is a Square. All of the angles in our Badge shape are 90 degrees, whereas in a Diamond, none are. In purely heraldic terms though, a Lozenge can be a classic Diamond-shape or Offset-Square. The Ship's Badge for HMS DIAMOND for instance, shows what is clearly a diamond-shape as its main device.

Having said all that, I have always personally preferred an Offset-square shape, as it immediately identifies our origin as being pre-1948. All of the post-Unification NavRes Officer Cadet programs, up to the late-1980s, used a Circular Shape, whenever they did depict a Badge of some sort.

As to the "Leaf-colour", at the bottom of Official RCN Badges, they are now all Gold, but were in early pre-Official days, Green, as ours is now. RCSCC Badges, which are Official, use "Red" Leaves.

The hi-res drawing of the UNTDA Badge that we now use, was drawn for us by Ed Buscall of Brentwood Bay, BC, back in 2010, as part of a much larger project on his part.

Click on the Badge pictures at the top of the page, to view/download the hi-res drawings of both of our Badge shapes.