DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available on the Maxwell Publications and Forms Management Office AF Portal Web page for downloading.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: HQ AFROTC/DOS Certified by: HQ AFROTC/DO (Col David W. Knight)
Supersedes AFI36-2903_AFROTCSUP, 15 May 2015 Pages: 24

AFI 36-2903, 18 July 2011, incorporating Change 4, 28 May 2015 and through AFGM2017-01 (9 February 2017), is supplemented as follows:

This supplement implements AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel. Users must read this supplement in conjunction with implemented publications. It establishes Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) policy regarding the wear of Air Force uniform items and personal appearance standards of cadets. Refer recommended changes and/or corrections to this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication, through your chain of command. Supplements to this publication are not allowed. Request for waivers must be processed through command channels to the publication OPR for consideration. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS). The provisions of this supplement apply to all AFROTC senior units, to include cadets. The use of the name or mark of any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity, or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Air Force.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The following items were changed. Removed the 25% tattoo coverage rule and size limitations to chest, back, arms, and legs per USAF guidance issued on 12 January 2017 and effective 1 February 2017. Added information on women’s semi-formal uniform options to chapter 4. Added changes to wear of Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) cap in chapter 5. Added authorization for cadets selected
for Battlefield Airmen AFSCs to wear berets to chapter 6. Added authorization for anodized medals to Chapter 12.

1.2.5. Alteration and Exchange. Cadets will not alter any uniform item without prior approval from the uniform custodian. Basic hemming and normal alterations necessary for regular wear are allowed. Custom tailoring of uniforms is not allowed.

1.3.3. Military Aircraft. Cadets will wear ABU or Flight Duty Uniform (FDU) while traveling aboard military aircraft between military installations. Detachment commanders (Det/CC) may authorize wear of civilian clothes if uniforms have not been issued.

1.3.4. Commercial Aircraft. Cadets will not wear the AFROTC uniform while traveling aboard commercial aircraft unless specifically directed to do so.

1.4.4. When NOT to wear the AFROTC Uniform. Det/CCs will restrict uniform wear by any cadet who does not meet AFROTC weight or body fat standards or when any cadet does not portray a proper military image while in uniform.

1.5.4. (Added) Authorized Uniform Items. Uniform items not listed in this instruction but authorized for wear per AFI 36-2903 may be authorized for cadets if purchased at their own expense. However, detachment cadre should not encourage or discourage cadets to use personal funds to purchase items not covered in this instruction. Cadets must ensure they are wearing the uniform item properly, including the wear of cadet rank insignia. Questions concerning proper wear of uniform items not listed in this instruction can be addressed to afrotc.dos@us.af.mil.

1.5.4.1. (Added) Maternity Uniform. AFROTC/DOS will purchase maternity uniforms for wear by cadets with approval from the Det/CC. Det/CCs may waive uniform wear for pregnant cadets during the timeframe they are unable to wear the regular uniform if the cadet does not procure a maternity uniform.

1.5.4.2. (Added) Detachment T-shirts. Detachments may design a T-shirt for local wear at the detachment to be worn with the ABU and FDU. T-shirts will be desert sand (tan) in color. T-shirts may contain emblems to be worn on the left side of chest, not to exceed 5 inches in diameter. No artwork or writing will be placed on the back of the T-shirt. No Issue-in-Kind (IIK) funds may be used for purchase of detachment T-shirts.

1.5.4.3. (Added) Wear of Morale Shirts. Det/CCs may authorize cadets to wear a standardized color undershirt (only one color per detachment; individual purchase only, not unit funded). Det/CCs may prescribe unit designation emblems, not to exceed 5 inches in diameter, in cloth or silk screen, worn on the left side of the chest.

1.5.4.4. (Added) Cadet Rank. See Figure 1.1.
1.5.4.4.1. (Added) Cloth shoulder marks will be used on the epaulets of the service dress jacket, long-sleeved and short-sleeved shirts/blouses, and the sweater. The epaulets are inserted into the cloth shoulder marks and buttoned. The bottom edge of the cloth shoulder mark must be as close as possible to the upper seam of the sleeve.

1.5.4.4.2. (Added) Metallic rank is worn on the lightweight blue jacket and all-weather coat. Rank will be centered on both epaulets 5/8ths-inch from the shoulder seam. Professional Officer Course (POC) cadets will wear metallic black and silver cadet officer rank insignia with the silver stripe(s) parallel to the shoulder seam. General Military Course (GMC) cadets will wear metallic blue and silver rank insignia with the point toward the neck.

1.5.4.4.3. (Added) Hard Shoulder Boards with appropriate silver stripes will be worn on the Mess Dress. Hard shoulder boards will be purchased at the expense of the cadet. If detachments have
hard shoulder boards available, they can be issued to cadets for wear with the mess dress uniform. Cadets should contact the uniform custodian for commercial sourcing.

1.5.4.4.4. (Added) Metallic Rank is worn on the ABU. POC cadets will center rank on the left and right collar, one inch from the front of the collar, with the silver stripe(s) perpendicular to the front of the collar. GMC cadets will center rank on the left and right collar with the long edge of the insignia parallel to and one inch from the front edge of the collar (see Figure 1.2.).

**Figure 1.2. (Added) Cadet Insignia on ABU Collar.**

![POC GMC Insignia on ABU Collar](image)

1.5.4.4.5. (Added) Rank is not worn on the cold-weather parka, FDU, or flight jacket. Det/CCs may, at their discretion, mandate the wear of rank on the sage green fleece and the All-Purpose Environmental Clothing System (APECS). If not mandated, wear on the sage green fleece and APECS is optional. If worn on the sage green fleece, rank must be worn pinned, centered, on the Velcro patch located above the name-tape on the right side of the sage green fleece. When worn on the APECS, the rank pin will be centered on the APECS rank tab. GMC rank will have the chevrons pointing upwards. POC rank pins will have the bars oriented horizontally.

1.5.4.4.6. (Added) Cadet Rank at Field Training (FT). Cadets will wear the rank of Cadet Third Class (C/3C) while participating in FT.

1.5.4.4.7. (Added) Cadet Rank at Special Programs or Practical Military Training (PMT). GMC cadets will wear the rank of Cadet Third Class (C/3C) while participating in any Special Program or PMT between the AS 100 – AS 200 years and between the AS 200 – AS 300 years. POC cadets will wear the last rank held at the detachment when participating in Special Programs or PMT.

1.5.4.4.8. (Added) Cadet Training Assistants (CTA) will wear Cadet Colonel (C/Col) rank insignia while at FT.

1.5.4.5. (Added) Exceptions. GMC cadets may not wear the items listed below. Only POC cadets may wear the following items which are purchased at their own expense:

1.5.4.5.1. (Added) Corfam shoes/Corfam pumps.
1.5.4.5.2. (Added) Service caps. If worn for other than Color/Honor Guard or Drill Team purposes, wear the same insignia as active duty officers. Insignia must be purchased at the expense of the cadet.

1.5.4.5.3. (Added) Semi-Form Fitting Blouse (Long or Short-Sleeved).

1.5.4.5.4. (Added) Shade 1625 trousers/slacks.

1.6. (Added) General Cadet Uniform Wear. Cadets will wear an authorized military uniform for at least one full day per school week, regardless of length of school week, during their attendance at Leadership Lab (LLAB), and for PMT as directed by the Det/CC. Wear of the uniform for AFROTC academic classes on other school days is at the Det/CC’s discretion.

1.6.1. (Added) Uniform Wear Off Campus. Uniform wear in off-campus facilities should be comparable to that of clothing worn by civilians in the establishment. ABU is the appropriate uniform if civilians are dressed in casual attire. Blues are appropriate if civilians will be in business casual attire. Service dress is appropriate if the event is coat and tie. Mess dress or equivalent is appropriate for black tie evening attire.

1.6.1.1. (Added) ABU and FDU. Cadets may wear the ABU or FDU off-campus to dine in local establishments frequented by civilian workers wearing work clothing comparable to the ABU or FDU, regardless of whether or not the establishment offers waiter and waitress service. Cadets are cautioned to select a dining establishment that satisfies these criteria. If the dress code of the establishment, whether written or unwritten, is of more formal dress, the ABU or FDU will not be worn in the establishment. Cadets will not wear these uniforms to off-campus establishments to do extended shopping, dining, socializing or to take part in any form of entertainment. However, short convenience stops are authorized in the ABU or FDU. Det/CCs may set a more specific policy on specific local establishments acceptable for ABU or FDU wear.

1.6.2. (Added) Uniform of the Day and Leadership Lab (LLAB). The Det/CC may direct cadets to wear specific uniform combinations depending on the LLAB activity of the day. The service dress uniform must be worn at LLAB at least once per month.

1.6.3. (Added) Military Institutions. At institutions classified as Senior Military Colleges (SMC) where distinctive types of uniforms are required, AFROTC cadets will wear the uniform prescribed in institutional directives. Special attention must be paid to ensuring cadets at these institutions are trained on proper wear of the Air Force uniform prior to participation in Field Training and commissioning.

1.6.4. (Added) Field Training Uniforms. FT uniform requirements differ slightly from detachment requirements. FT uniform requirements checklist can be found in the Field Training Manual.


2.14.1. (Added) Detachments will not issue a uniform to a student until all application requirements are complete and the student is currently eligible or will be eligible (as can be reasonably ascertained) for the planned semester of membership.
2.14.2. (Added) Participating students will not be issued a uniform until authorized by the Det/CCs to participate in LLAB and/or Physical Training (PT). The Det/CC will counsel authorized participating students.

3.4. **Tattoos/Brands/Body Markings.** Det/CCs have the responsibility to approve or disapprove tattoos for applicants and cadets IAW the policy memo AFPM 2017-36-01 and any subsequent guidance in AFI 36-2903. Det/CCs will provide documentation via AF Form 4428 for any cadet with unauthorized or inappropriate tattoos stating that the cadet has been counseled on AFROTC and Air Force requirements and has begun removal of the aforementioned tattoos.

3.4.1.1. Cadets with inappropriate tattoos anywhere on the body (to include those that are obscene or advocate sexual, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, or that are prejudicial to good order and discipline and bring discredit upon the Air Force) must be in the process of removing these tattoos at their own expense before attending Field Training.

4.15. **(Added) Dress Uniform Wear.**

4.15.1. (Added) Service Dress Uniform. The service dress uniform is the official uniform for AFROTC training. It is issued to all cadets upon entry into the AFROTC program, as authorized by AFROTCI 23-1001. The service dress uniform consists of the shade 1620 service dress coat, trousers, long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirts/blouses, tie/tie tab, as well as other required accoutrements (name tag, rank insignia, ribbons, badges, etc.).

4.15.1.1. (Added) Silver Name Tags. POC cadets wear the silver service dress name tag on the service dress jacket. GMC cadets wear no service dress name tag.

4.15.1.2. (Added) Shoulder Cords. In the short-sleeve blues or long-sleeve blues combination, authorized shoulder cords are optional. In the service dress uniform, authorized cords are mandatory.

4.15.1.3. (Added) Braids. Braids will not be worn on the shade 1620 service dress coat. If a braid was previously sewn on, it does not need to be removed, but ensure the jacket is only issued to contracted cadets if at all possible. Remove from inventory through sale or rotation. Braids received with purchase of the service jacket will be retained and will be issued to commissioning cadets if the uniform is purchased. It may then be sewn on prior to commissioning at the commissioning cadet’s expense.

4.15.1.4. (Added) Headgear. Cadets will wear the officer flight cap with diamond braid (male or female) with the service dress uniform. Cadets will be issued “Prop & Wings” flight cap insignia (Figure 4.15) upon satisfactory completion of FT.

4.15.1.4.1. (Added) POC cadets are authorized to wear gold/silver combination “Prop & Wings” (gold wings and silver propeller) if a relative was a member of the Army Air Corps, if a parent has at least 20 years of military service, if a parent died in the line of duty, or if a parent participated in active combat as a member of any U.S. military service. The gold/silver “Prop and Wings” is Vanguard Part # 3680101. Insignia must be purchased at the expense of the cadet.
4.15.2. (Added) Semi-Formal or Mess Dress Uniform. Cadets will wear the semi-formal dress uniform or mess dress uniform when participating in AFROTC-related military ball/dining out. Headgear will not be worn with the semi-formal or mess dress uniform. Cadets will not wear civilian clothing—evening gowns, dresses, suits—to their own military ball/dining out. When the costs associated with wear of the semi-formal dress uniform are prohibitive, the Det/CC may give authorization for local wear of the service dress uniform at formal social functions.

4.15.2.1. (Added) Civilian clothing is only authorized for wear if the cadet is participating as a guest at another service’s military ball/dining out, or if the cadet falls into a category which does not authorize them to wear the uniform (see paragraphs 1.4.4 and 2.14).

4.15.2.2. (Added) Mess Dress Wear. Costs associated with wear of the mess dress uniform are paid by the cadet. Wear of the mess dress uniform will be IAW AFI 36-2903. POC cadets will wear silver sleeve braid. GMC cadets will not wear silver sleeve braid. Braid received with purchase of the mess dress should be retained by the cadet for wear as POC cadet and upon commissioning.

5.1.7.1. (Added) ABU Headgear. Cadets will wear the ABU cap with the ABU. No insignia will be worn on the ABU cap. Blocking of the cap is authorized.

6.1.5.1. Lightweight Blue Jacket. AS 400 cadets and extended cadets are authorized to wear the embroidered USAF logo on the lightweight blue jacket.

6.1.16. Cold-Weather Parka and Sage Green Fleece. The ABU name tape and U.S. Air Force tape will not be worn on the parka. The ABU name tape and U.S. Air Force name tape are optional on the fleece.

6.2.5.2. (Added) Cadet Wear of Beret. Only cadets categorized as Air Liaison Officer (ALO), Combat Rescue Officer (CRO), and Special Tactics Officer (STO) may wear the navy blue beret with the service dress, blues, and ABU. The “Prop and Wings” insignia will be worn in the center of the stiffener, ¼ inch above and parallel to the headband. Cadets may purchase the navy blue beret at their own expense. The navy blue beret is Vanguard Part # CAP96029.
8.2.4. (Added) Cadet Wear of FDUs. Only cadets categorized as Pilot, Combat Systems Officer (CSO), Air Battle Manager (ABM), Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Officer, and Missile Officer may be issued FDUs.

8.2.4.1. (Added) Authorized cadets may wear FDUs in lieu of ABUs unless training requirements or the Det/CC dictate otherwise. Cadets will wear ABUs if FDUs are unavailable.

8.2.4.2. (Added) Submit orders for FDUs in the WINGS Uniform Tracking System.

8.2.4.3. (Added) Events Authorized for Wear of FDUs.

8.2.4.3.1. (Added) AFROTC Flight Orientation Program (FOP). If available in the inventory, FDUs may be worn by cadets participating in the AFROTC FOP during the duration of their flight only. FDUs must be issued immediately before and returned immediately after the training. Wear of the Aircrew Style Name Patch (ASNP) is not required for wear by cadets participating in AFROTC FOP when worn for single flights and returned to inventory. If FDUs are not available in the inventory, cadets will wear ABUs for AFROTC FOP participation. If cadets have not been issued ABUs and combat boots, the service uniform will be worn.

8.2.4.4. (Added) Recruiting. All cadets are required to wear blues for recruiting events.

8.4.5.1. (Added) Name Tag. FDUs will be configured with the cloth Aircrew Style Name Patch (ASNP). The ASNP will be configured with text lines justified to the left and right (see Figure 8.6) and cadet badge centered above name line. The first line will read: FIRST NAME MI. LAST NAME (no nicknames allowed). The second line will read: CADET AFROTC (justify CADET to the left and AFROTC to the right). NOTE: Do not replace an ASNP solely because it does not meet the provisions of paragraphs 8.4.5.1-8.4.5.1.2, but ensure any new ASNPs meet these requirements.

8.4.5.1.1. (Added) Cadets authorized wear of FDUs who have earned the Parachutist Badge (whether through the USAFA Freefall program, Army Airborne Training, or other prior service qualifications) may have them placed on their ASNP, centered between the Cadet Aeronautical Badge (if applicable) and above the name line. Cadets who wish to have this added to an existing patch must do so at their own expense.

8.4.5.1.2. (Added) ASNPs using custom colors (e.g., school colors) may be worn if approved by the Det/CC. No distinctive school markings are authorized. ASNPs will have two contrasting colors: one color for the background, and a contrasting color for the rim and embroidery. The
Det/CC will determine which colors are to be used and shall be consistent throughout the detachment for all cadets wearing ASNPs.

**Figure 8.6. (Added) Aircrew Style Name Patch (ASNP) Configurations (Cloth; Example is Combat Systems Officer).**

8.4.6.1. (Added) Right Breast Pocket. The AFROTC patch (cadet version with light blue background) will be worn on the right breast pocket of the FDU between the diagonal pocket zipper and the main zipper.

8.4.7.1. (Added) Left Sleeve. The U.S. Flag patch will be worn on the left sleeve. Cadets will not wear the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) patch.

8.4.8.1. (Added) Right Sleeve. A detachment patch, if available, may be worn on the right sleeve.

8.4.9.3. (Added) No other patches, badges, or accoutrements will be worn on the FDU. All patches must be attached to the FDU by the use of Velcro. Do not sew any patches on the FDU.

8.4.9.3.1. (Added) FDUs will not be worn unless all required patches and insignia are available. This includes the AFROTC patch, the U.S. Flag Patch, and the ASNP. **EXCEPTION:** Per paragraph 8.2.4.4.1, the ASNP is not required for wear by cadets participating in AFROTC FOP when worn for single flights and returned to inventory.

8.4.10.1. (Added) Neckwear. Detachment scarves are authorized but may not be purchased with IIK funds. The Det/CC will determine the color of scarves and be consistent with university colors.

8.5.1. AFROTC does not provide flight jackets for wear, therefore, cadets may wear APECS for outdoor use only. **EXCEPTION:** If serviceable Air Force authorized Nomex flight jackets are available in the detachment inventory from non-AFROTC sources, they may be issued to cadets for wear. Flight jackets will not be worn unless all required patches and insignia are available. This includes the AFROTC patch, the U.S. flag patch, and the ASNP (additional ASNPs must be purchased at the expense of the cadet). Do not use IIK funds to purchase flight jackets.

8.6.4. (Added) Headgear. Cadets will wear the diamond braided officer flight cap with the FDU. POC cadets will wear the “Prop and Wings” insignia. The flight cap will be stored in the lower cargo pocket on the leg when not worn.

8.9.2. (Added) FDUs will be worn with authorized sage green combat boots.
10.2.1.5. Cadet Aeronautical, Space and Cyberspace Badges.

10.2.1.5.1. (Added) Cadet Pilot Badge. There are two versions of the cadet pilot badge authorized for wear with the cadet uniform. Cadets who meet one of the following criteria are authorized to wear the Cadet Pilot Badge. (NOTE: Cadets who meet two or more of the criteria listed below are authorized to wear the Cadet Senior Pilot Badge [pilot wings with a star]).

10.2.1.5.1.1. (Added) Flown solo through private means, CAP, or another solo flight program. Documentation must be provided to detachment cadre to prove solo qualification.

10.2.1.5.1.2. (Added) Successfully completed the USAFA Soaring program.

10.2.1.5.1.3. (Added) Categorized as pilot.

10.2.1.5.1.4. (Added) Cadets will not wear cadet pilot wings with a star and wreath.

10.2.1.5.2. (Added) Cadet Combat Systems Officer (CSO) Badge. Cadets who are categorized as CSO will wear the Cadet CSO Badge or Cadet Senior CSO Badge as appropriate.

10.2.1.5.2.1. (Added) Cadets who have previously earned the Cadet Pilot Badge (solo flight or USAFA Soaring program) and are categorized as CSO, wear the Cadet Senior CSO Badge in lieu of the Cadet Senior Pilot Badge.

10.2.1.5.2.2. (Added) Cadets will not wear cadet CSO wings with a star and wreath.

10.2.1.5.3. (Added) Cadet Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Badge. Cadets who are categorized as RPA officers will wear the RPA badge.

10.2.1.5.4. (Added) Cadet Air Battle Manager (ABM) Badge. Cadets who are categorized as ABM will wear the Cadet ABM Badge.

10.2.1.5.5. (Added) Cadet Space and Missile Badge. Cadets who are categorized as Space and Missile officers will wear the Cadet Space and Missile Badge.

10.2.1.5.5.1. (Added) Cadets will not wear cadet space and missile badge with a star and wreath.

10.2.1.5.6. (Added) Cadet Cyber Badge. Cadets who are categorized as Cyber officers will wear the Cadet Basic Cyber Badge.

10.2.1.5.6.1. (Added) Cadets who also completed a summer program at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), the Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE)-Cyber Security Boot Camp or the Information Assurance Internship Program may wear the Cadet Senior Cyber Badge.

10.2.1.5.6.2. (Added) Cadets who completed a summer program, but are not categorized as cyber officers, may not wear any version of the Cyber Badge.

10.2.1.5.6.3. Cadets will not wear cadet Cyber Badge wings with a star and wreath.

10.4.19.1. (Added) Medical Insignia. Cadets wear the appropriate badge upon receiving an allocation in the Nurse or Pre-Health category.

11.5. Order of Precedence. See Figure 11.3 for order of precedence of AFROTC medals and ribbons.
Figure 11.3. (Added) AFROTC Ribbon Chart.
11.7.9.10.1. (Added) Bronze Star Device. The bronze star device is worn on the AFROTC Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (see Figure 11.10). Additionally, AFA Award winners selected as the region W. Randolph Lovelace Award winner will wear a bronze star device on the AFA Award medal and ribbon (see Figure 11.9).

11.7.9.10.2. (Added) Silver Star Device. The silver star device is worn on the Physical Fitness Ribbon (earned at FT or detachment; see Figure 11.6), the Field Training Distinguished Graduate ribbon (see Figure 11.7), and the national winner of the Outstanding Cadet Training Assistant (CTA) Award (see Figure 11.8). Additionally, the cadet selected as the AFA Outstanding Cadet of the Year will wear a silver star device on the AFA Award medal and ribbon (see Figure 11.9). Star devices are not worn on any other medal or ribbon.

11.7.9.11.1. (Added) Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC). Denotes a second or later award of the same ribbon. (See Figures 11.4, 11.5, and 11.6.) **EXAMPLE:** Ribbon equals one award. Ribbon with 1 bronze OLC equals 2 awards. Ribbon with 2 bronze OLC equals 3 awards.

11.7.9.11.2. (Added) Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. Denotes 5 bronze OLCs. When worn with bronze OLCs, silver OLCs are to the wearer’s right (toward the shirt buttons) (see Figure 11.5). **EXAMPLE:** Ribbon equals one award. Ribbon with 1 silver OLC equals 6 awards. Ribbon with 1 silver OLC and 1 bronze OLC equals 7 awards.

11.7.9.16. (Added) Devices awarded as part of an organizational award (Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement, American Legion Awards, Reserve Officers Association, Military Order of World Wars, etc.) will be worn centered on the ribbon. No more than one device may be worn, even if the recipient has earned the award more than once. If various levels of the award have been earned denoted by different devices, only the highest level award device will be worn.

**Figure 11.4.** (Added) Physical Fitness Ribbon with 1 Bronze OLC and 2 Bronze OLCs.

**Figure 11.5.** (Added) Ribbon with 1 Silver OLC; with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze OLC (Academic Honors Award).

**Figure 11.6.** (Added) Physical Fitness Ribbon with Silver Star and Oak Leave Clusters.

**Figure 11.7.** (Added) Field Training Distinguished Graduate (FTDG) Award.
12.7. (Added) AFROTC Cadets.

12.7.1. (Added) Wear of Medals. Members may wear medals earned as members of AFROTC, and medals earned on active duty (AFROTC will not provide active duty medals), in Civil Air Patrol (CAP), and in any service’s ROTC or JROTC program. Center medals horizontally midway between lapel and arm seam and vertically between the shoulder and top button (See Figure 12.2). Mixing of large size and miniature medals is not authorized. Most AFROTC medals are only available in large size. Medals earned on active duty take precedence over all AFROTC medals. Questions of precedence or other wear questions not answered in this instruction can be addressed to afrotc.dos@us.af.mil.

12.7.1.1. (Added) Anodized medals are authorized.

12.7.2. (Added) Cadet Additional Uniform Devices.

12.7.2.1. (Added) CTA Badge. The CTA badge (see Figure 12.1) will be worn upon successful completion of CTA duties. On the service dress jacket, the CTA badge will be worn on the right breast, centered ½ inch above the service dress name tag. If worn with the Arnold Air Society (AAS) Pin, place the AAS pin ½ inch above the CTA badge. On the long- or short-sleeved shirt/blouse, wear the CTA badge centered and ½ inch above the blue name tag.

12.7.2.2. (Added) Shoulder Cords. Cadets will wear shoulder cords on the left shoulder of the service uniform. Only one shoulder cord may be worn at a time. Shoulder cords should be worn grounded to the upper seam of the sleeve. When this is not practical, they may be worn attached to the button of the epaulet. The only shoulder cords authorized for wear are:

12.7.2.2.1. (Added) Arnold Air Society (AAS) or Silver Wings (SW).

12.7.2.2.2. (Added) Color/Honor Guard and Drill Team members may wear a white shoulder cord.
12.7.2.2.3. (Added) Scabbard and Blade.

12.7.2.2.4. (Added) Pershing Rifles.

12.7.2.3. (Added) Organizational Uniform Items.

12.7.2.3.1. (Added) No items from other activities, groups, or organizations may be worn on the cadet uniform, unless specifically authorized by other AFROTC Instructions.

12.7.2.3.2. (Added) Air Force and Non-Air Force Sponsored Military Activities. Shoulder cords, rank, shields, and other insignia denoting membership or office in other military activities, such as Arnold Air Society, Silver Wings, Pershing Rifles, and Scabbard and Blade, may be worn whenever the service uniform, semi-formal uniform, or mess dress uniform is worn. Ribbons, if authorized by AFROTCI 36-2011 (Table 15.1.), may be worn whenever the service uniform or semi-formal uniforms are worn. Wear of items denoting membership in student military activities and organizations must comply with the following requirements:

12.7.2.3.3. (Added) Arnold Air Society (AAS) and Silver Wings (SW). AAS members may wear the membership rank or candidate pin on the service uniform and mess dress uniform (rank pin takes the place of the candidate pin). AAS pin is worn centered ½ inch above the name plate or CTA badge on the shirt and service dress jacket. For GMC cadets wearing the AAS pin on the service dress jacket, it is worn centered on the right ½ inch above a line drawn from the bottom of the ribbons. The SW pin is not authorized for wear on the cadet uniform. AAS/SW ribbons authorized for wear are listed in precedence in (Figure 11.3.).

12.7.2.3.4. (Added) Pershing Rifles. Cadets who are members of Pershing Rifles may wear certain Pershing Rifles uniform items, including the Pershing Rifles Rank Shield.

12.7.2.3.4.1. (Added) Male cadets wear the Pershing Rifles Rank Shield centered on the left breast pocket of the service uniform. Wear 1½ inches below the top of the welt pocket on the service dress jacket, and 1½ inches below the bottom of the medals on the mess dress uniform. Center Pershing Rifles Rank Shield on the ribbons or medals.

12.7.2.3.4.2. (Added) Female cadets wear the Pershing Rifles Rank Shield centered ½ inch above the ribbons on the service uniform and ½ inch above the medals on the mess dress uniform. Wear 1½ inches below the top of the welt pocket on the service dress jacket. Center Pershing Rifles Rank Shield on the ribbons or medals.

12.7.2.3.4.3. (Added) The Pershing Rifle Membership Ribbon may be worn on the AFROTC cadet uniform in precedence as listed in (Figure 11.3.).

12.7.2.3.5. (Added) Scabbard and Blade. Cadets are authorized to wear the Scabbard and Blade Membership or Rank ribbon (rank ribbon takes the place of the membership ribbon) in precedence as listed in Figure 11.3.
12.7.3. (Added) Events Authorized for Uniform Wear. Cadets participating in detachment sanctioned Color Guards, Honor Guards, and Drill Teams may wear their uniforms while preparing for, performing, or coming from performing Color/Honor Guard or Drill Team duties. Military institutions retain the same exception to uniform wear as in paragraph 1.6.3.

12.7.3.1. (Added) Definitions. In order to ensure all detachments have the same understanding of what constitutes these organizations, the following definitions are provided.

12.7.3.1.1. (Added) Color Guard. Color Guards are small (typically 3-8 person) teams that form to carry the flags/colors and present them at such activities as sporting events, parades, and other formal ceremonies, such as military balls. These teams may also participate in Color Guard competitions at drill meets.

12.7.3.1.2. (Added) Honor Guard. Honor Guards are small (typically 3-8 person) teams that are very similar to Color Guards, except they may or may not carry flags. They are formed to honor something or someone, such as at funerals, veterans’ ceremonies, etc. This may include flag raising/lowering details.

12.7.3.1.3. (Added) Drill Team. Drill Teams are normally larger teams (though sometimes as small as a color/honor guard) that do not carry flags, except a flight guidon in some situations. They may drill with or without weapons. They are formed to perform for events such as parades or exhibitions, or to compete in Drill Team competitions at drill meets.
12.7.3.2. (Added) Color/Honor Guard members and Drill Team members will wear the following items as part of the Color/Honor Guard and Drill Team uniform. Detachments are not specifically funded for Color/Honor Guards or Drill Teams. If funding is available, purchase the following special items using IIK funds. Funding must come from available IIK funds, personal expense, or other legal sources of funding. Units must request approval from AFROTC/DOS prior to purchasing new uniform items under this paragraph. Variations to this uniform are not authorized unless approved by AFROTC/DOS. Color/Honor Guard and Drill Team uniforms will consist of the following:

12.7.3.2.1. (Added) The service dress uniform is worn by all members of the Color/Honor Guard or Drill Team.

12.7.3.2.2. (Added) USAF ceremonial service (wheel) cap with silver rimmed visor, silver front chin strap, and black rear chin strap. Wear the USAF Honor Guard “Wing and Star” service cap insignia. Female cadets participating in Color/Honor Guards or Drill Teams will wear the male service cap.

12.7.3.2.3. (Added) Single strand white shoulder cord.

12.7.3.2.4. (Added) USAF ceremonial web belt (blue with silver trim) with chrome buckle emblazoned with “Wing and Star” insignia.

12.7.3.2.5. (Added) White gloves. Detachments may purchase white gloves with grip face for better hold of weapons and flags.

12.7.3.2.6. (Added) Detachments may purchase white flag holders if needed.

12.7.3.2.7. (Added) If desired, Drill Teams may alter the service dress uniform to remove ribbons and badges to present a standardized appearance by all drill team members during competition. All other insignia must be worn. Color/Honor Guards will not alter the uniform in this manner.

12.7.3.3. (Added) Color/Honor Guard uniform items will be issued out on AF Form 538, Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, to the individual cadet and should be turned in when the cadet no longer participates as an active member of the Color/Honor Guard or Drill Team.
Figure 12.2. (Added) Sample various uniform configurations.
13.8. (Added) AFROTC Uniform Changes.

13.8.1. (Added) Make recommendations for changes to AFROTC cadet uniforms and insignia through Det/CCs and Region/CCs to AFROTC/DOS. AFROTC/DOS will staff uniform recommendations through AFROTC/DO to AFROTC/CC for a decision.
13.8.3. (Added) Waiver of Wear. The Det/CC may waive the requirement for cadet wear of the uniform when such wear could result in unnecessary damage to the uniform or present an unprofessional image.

TAMMY M. KNIERIM, Col, USAF
Commander
Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

10 U.S.C. § 1126, Gold star label button: eligibility and distribution, 7 January 2011

AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, 18 July 2011

AFI 36-2903_AETCSUP, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, 14 November 2014

AFROTCI 23-1001, AFROTC Logistics Procedures, 8 November 2017

AFROTCI 36-2011, Cadet Operations, 15 November 2017

AFROTCVA 36-2001, AFROTC Ribbon Chart, 24 July 2018

AFPM2017-36-01, Air Force Policy Memorandum for Appearance and Accession Standards Review, 9 January 2017

Adopted Forms

AF Form 538, Personal Clothing and Equipment Record

AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication

AF Form 4428, Tattoo/Brand/Body Marking Screening/Verification

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAS—Arnold Air Society

ABM—Air Battle Manager

ABU—Airman Battle Uniform

ACE—Advanced Course in Engineering

AFIT—Air Force Institute of Technology

ALO—Air Liaison Officer

APECS—All-Purpose Environmental Clothing System
ASNP—Aircrew Style Name Patch
CAP—Civil Air Patrol
CRO—Combat Rescue Officer
CSO—Combat Systems Officer
CTA—Cadet Training Assistant
FDU—Flight Duty Uniform
FOP—Flight Orientation Program
FT—Field Training
GMC—General Military Course
IIK—Issue-in-Kind
LLAB—Leadership Laboratory
PMT—Practical Military Training
POC—Professional Officer Course
PT—Physical Training
RPA—Remotely Piloted Aircraft
STO—Special Tactics Officer
SW—Silver Wings
USAFA—United States Air Force Academy