



Civil Air Patrol Uniform Guidance

Prepared for members of Forsyth County Cadet Squadron

The Airman Battle Uniform is worn several times per month to cadet meetings, on aerospace or emergency services trainings and as appropriate for additional activities. It is to be worn properly and inspection ready at all times. The Uniform of the Day (UOD) will be noted on the squadron calendar on each event information page.

The **Civil Air Patrol Manual 39-1** and the memo, *CAP Transition to the Airman Battle Uniform*, are the most up-to-date and complete source of uniform information, as updated by National Headquarters. This guidance is written to aid new members in the basics of uniform wear and is not an extensive or complete source. Be sure to review the CAPM 39-1 occasionally throughout your CAP career to ensure you are properly wearing your uniform.

YOUR UNIFORM is a visual representation of your commitment to the Core Values.

Because uniforms are unique — only CAP cadets wear the CAP cadet uniform — they are a source of pride. Wearing the uniform is part of your leadership training. The uniform helps you develop self-discipline, personal responsibility, and self-respect. Whenever you wear the uniform, you represent not just yourself but also all of CAP and the U.S. Air Force, so wear the uniform with pride.

Ten Tips for Looking Sharp in Uniform

1. Keep your insignia in a special place at home.
2. Prepare your uniform the night before you wear it.
3. Trim loose strings from buttons, pockets, and belt loops.
4. Use spray starch when ironing your blues (do not use starch on the ABUs).
5. Obtain “[enforcers](#)” or put cardboard behind your ribbons.
6. Check your appearance in a full-length mirror.
7. Keep a small cloth with you to dust your shoes and brass.
8. Check your gig-line upon exiting a car or restroom.
9. Avoid leaning against anything while in uniform.
10. Ask your wingman to double-check your uniform, and return the favor.

ABUs purchased through Army Air Force Exchange Stores (AAFES) Military Clothing Sales Stores (MCSS) or Vanguard Military Supply (vanguardmil.com) are certified as fully compliant with all specifications. If personnel choose to purchase from non-AAFES suppliers, the uniform must be fully compliant. Females may wear the male version of the ABU. CAP members may wear either the 50% cotton/50% nylon ABU or the 100% cotton ABU but coat and trousers should match materials.

BEFORE ACCESSING A MILITARY BASE, please note the following:

Georgia Wing members have been given access to Dobbins Air Reserve Base (ARB) under special request and we are asked to abide by the following guidelines:

- Members must have official CAP ID cards (not the temporary kind you print from eServices) and all adults must have government-issued photo ID, ie. driver's license.
- Please follow the base speed limit of 25 MPH.
- You are only authorized to visit the clothing sales in the base exchange; you cannot purchase non-uniform items.
- If a cadet is being driven on base by an adult, Dobbins ARB asks that you not bring the whole family with you. This should be a limited access with just parent and cadet, if possible.
- No weapons are allowed on base and your vehicle and person is subject to search at any time on base so leave weapons at home please.

Do not be surprised if other bases do not allow you access. After 9/11, our access is slowly being re-earned. Please help CAP by being well-behaved guests.

For purchasing uniform items, please review the separate purchasing guide given to cadets in the blue folder on the second visit.

Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) Wear and Placement

ABU Coat (Shirt). The ABU coat with button fastenings and an **Air Force digitized tiger stripe** print (this can be verified on the DOD tag sewn into the garment). The bottom of the ABU coat will rest at the hips. Pockets will be secured and items stowed in pockets will not be visible except pens stowed in the pen pocket on the sleeve.

When the sleeves are rolled, cuffs will remain visible and the sleeve will rest at, or within 1 inch of the forearm when the arm is bent at a 90-degree angle.



Airman Battle Uniform (ABUs)

Replacing BDUs

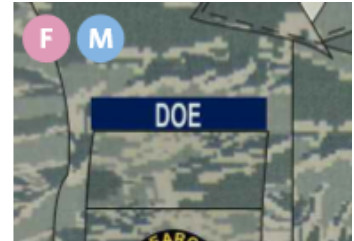




Cadet Enlisted Rank Insignia: Cadet NCOs and Airmen wear metal insignia on both sides of the collar. Insignia is placed 1 inch from and parallel to the front of the collar and centered between the outside of the collar and the inside collar crease.

Nametapes. Nametapes will be light silver block lettering on dark blue cloth. Fold the tape under and match the pocket width when sewing on. Use matching dark blue thread.

The last name nametape will be worn immediately above the upper ABU pocket on the wearer’s right directly touching the top of the pocket as shown.



The “Civil Air Patrol” nametape will be worn directly above the upper ABU pocket on the wearer’s left.

Left Sleeve. The Georgia Wing patch will be sewn to the coat on the left sleeve ½ inch below the shoulder seam and centered on the sleeve.



Right Breast Pocket. The GA-160 Squadron patch will be worn sewn centered on the lower portion of the right breast pocket between left and right edges and bottom of flap and the bottom of the pocket of the ABU shirt.

T-Shirt. A standard Desert Tan short or long sleeved t-shirt will be worn under the ABU coat. Our squadron shirt is allowed and this color is the only one allowed. In cold weather, thermal undergarments may be desert sand, white or cream colored and are authorized for wear as weather conditions warrant and should be worn under the t-shirt. T-shirts will not have pockets and all must be tucked into the trousers.

Belt. The Air Force-style standard Desert Tan belt will be worn.





Trousers. Trousers will be with button fastenings and an **Air Force digitized tiger stripe** print (this can be verified on the DOD tag sewn into the garment). The trouser waistband will rest on the member's waist. Pockets will be secured and items stowed in pockets will not be visible except pens stowed in the pen pocket.

Tucking the ABU trouser into the boot is optional. Whether tucked in or bloused, the trousers must be evenly bloused (gathered and draped loosely) over the top of the combat boot and must present a bloused appearance.



Footwear. You will wear black combat boots. Please purchase only boots with a **real leather upper** that can be shined. You can find inexpensive versions at Academy Sporting Goods but please be sure they do not have a man-made upper that can't be shined. Shining your boots is a part of your learning self-discipline and pride in the proper wear of the uniform.



Bates brand is preferred as they will last longer

Headgear. The ABU cap is the only authorized headgear with this uniform. Headgear will be worn outdoors at all times, unless in a designated "no hat" area.



Hair Wear and Grooming.

Guidance for the wear of hair for members is taken from Chapter 3 of the Civil Air Patrol Manual 39-1. All cadets must meet USAF-style grooming standards regardless of which uniform combination they wear. Hair will be clean, well-groomed, present a professional appearance and allow proper wear of

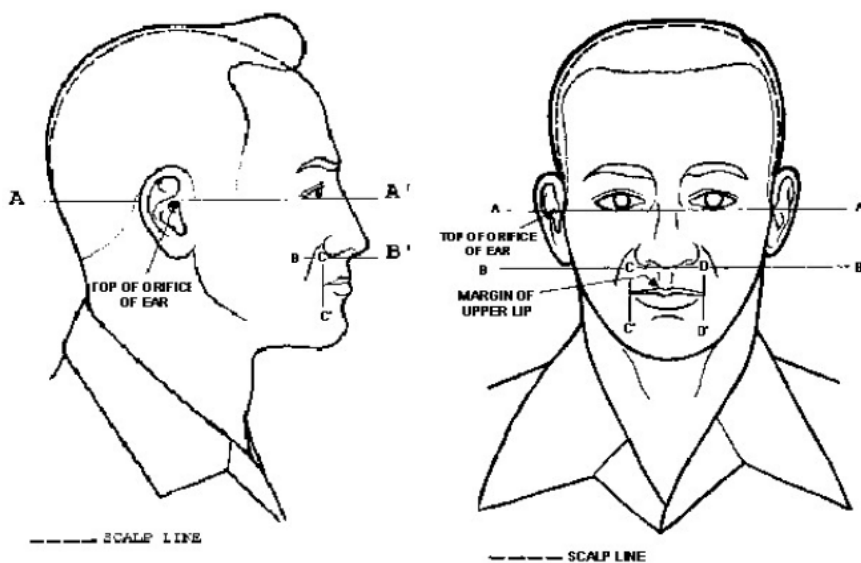
headgear. Hair will not contain excessive amounts of grooming aids (e.g. gel, mousse, pomade, and moisturizer), appear lopsided, or touch either eyebrow. Hair color, highlights, and frosting will not be faddish and will be natural looking hair color for human beings, similar to the individual's hair color (e.g. black, brunette, blond, natural red, and grey).

With the exception of earrings for women, all members are prohibited from attaching, affixing, or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue, tooth/teeth, eye brows, lips, or any exposed body part (includes visible through the uniform or clothing).

Female members may wear cosmetics; however, if worn, they will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) and in good taste. If worn by females, nail polish will be a single color that does not distinctly contrast with the female member's complexion, detract from the uniform, or be extreme colors. Some examples of extreme colors include, but are not limited to, purple, gold, blue, black, bright (fire engine) red and fluorescent colors. Do not apply designs to nails or apply two-tone or multi-tone colors; however, white-tip French manicures are authorized. Fingernails must not be excessive in length and must be clean and well-groomed.

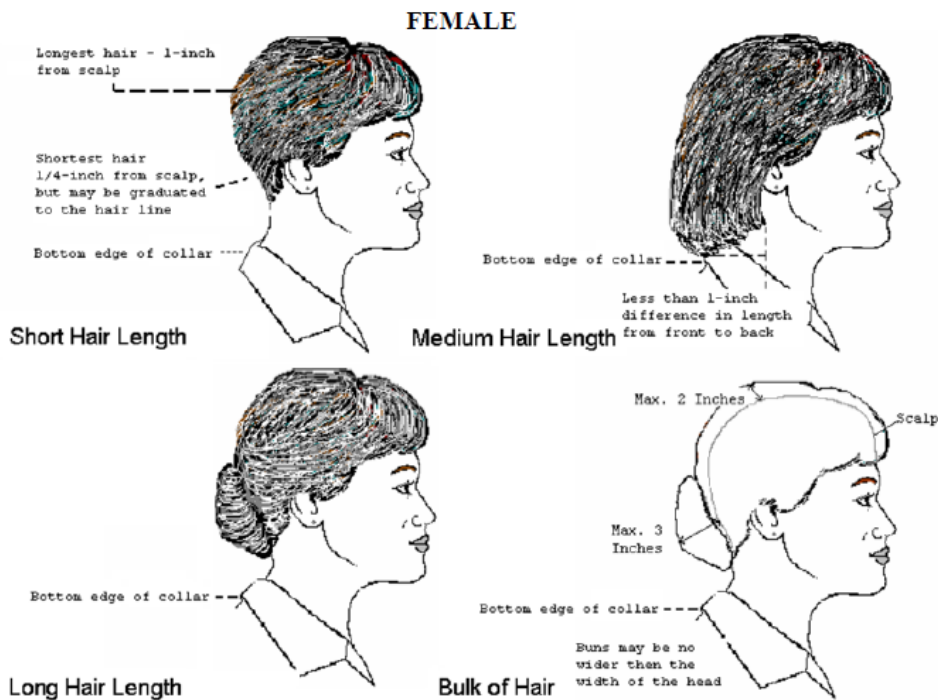
Male Hair. Male hair will have a tapered appearance on both sides and the back of the head and will conform to the natural shape of the head. Hair on the back of the neck will not touch the collar of the shirt and **can not touch the ears** at any point. **This may require touch ups more often** than before membership (we encourage parents to invest in a small Wahl hair clipper to clean up hair in between cuts). If worn, sideburns will be straight and even width (not flared), and will not extend below the bottom of the orifice of the ear opening. Sideburns will end in a clean-shaven horizontal line. Male members may have mustaches; however they will be conservative and will not extend downward beyond the lip line of the upper lip or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from both corners of the mouth. Beards are not authorized.

MALE



Note, the male image above notes the top of the ear orifice. However, the standard is that sideburns may not extend below the bottom of the ear orifice per paragraph 3.2.2.1

Female Hair. Minimum length is one inch to a maximum bulk of three inches from scalp. Hair may begin to gradually taper from one inch in length to ¼ inch in length approximately three inches from the hairline (no shaved heads, flat tops, etc.). Hair will end above the bottom edge of the collar with the member standing in the position of attention. Except in the physical training uniform (PTU), hair lengths that would be below the bottom edge of the collar will be pinned-up with no loose ends. Hair will not touch either eyebrow, to include an invisible line drawn across eyebrows and parallel to the ground. If worn, hairpins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes must match the hair color (i.e., blonde, brunette, natural red, black, grey), but hair must still comply with bulk and appearance standards. Ornaments are not authorized (i.e., ribbons, beads, jeweled pins). Scrunches are not authorized.



Additional Wear Guidance

ABUs may be worn off base for short convenience stops and when eating at restaurants where people wear comparable civilian attire. Do not wear ABUs off base to eat in restaurants where most diners wear business attire or at establishments that operate primarily to serve alcohol.

Sources:

CAP Manual 39-1, Civil Air Patrol Uniform Manual

CAP Transition to the Airman Battle Uniform (ABU), 4 May 2016

Civil Air Patrol New Cadet Guide

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/newcadet/wearing-the-uniform>

<http://mcguire.njwg.cap.gov/uniforms/abu-placement>