

LESSON 2



The Military Uniform and Appearance Standards



Quick Write

List the first three things you think of when you see a person in a uniform.



Learn About

- uniform wear and history
- uniform wear, restrictions, and standards
- uniforms used within special teams
- cadet appearance and grooming standards
- military pay grades and rank insignia

"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader

Uniform Wear and History

People wear uniforms to show they belong to an organization. Members of sports teams, marching bands, and people in a variety of jobs—from the ambulance driver and the doctor to the termite inspector and the airline pilot—wear distinctive garb to show they are part of a team, a profession, or an organization.

When we see someone in uniform, we identify that person with an organization and its reason for being—its mission. The ambulance driver and the doctor represent health care; the termite inspector makes us think of pest control; the airline pilot signifies travel by air.

Every organization has **standards**, or *widely recognized and expected levels of value or measurement* that we expect from people in uniform, whether they are involved in sports, medicine, or transport. We expect our doctor to treat our ills competently, and the airline pilot to get us to our destination on time and safely.

As a cadet, your uniform represents standards and values that have evolved over many centuries.

Uniform Wear

What is the first image that flashes into your mind when you think of someone in the military? Like most people, you probably pictured a person in uniform. The military uniform is more than just clothes. It is the public symbol of the nation's defense forces. It represents a long and honorable tradition of devotion to duty in the service of one's country. Therefore, the uniform should be worn proudly and—equally important—it should be worn properly.



Vocabulary

- standards
- uniform
- citizenship
- bulk
- insignia

How you wear the uniform reflects upon the nation's military—the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. As a Junior ROTC (JROTC) cadet, you will often be in the public eye. This means that you and your fellow cadets must maintain a high standard of dress and personal appearance while wearing the uniform. The key elements are neatness, cleanliness, safety, and military image.

History of the Military Uniform

The English word *uniform* comes from a combination of two Latin words, *unus* and *forma*, which means “one form.” The word **uniform** means *a distinctive mode of dress*. In ancient times, the Roman togas provided a unique dress code. The toga is a loose outer garment worn by Romans appearing in public to show their status as citizens. **Citizenship** is *the status of a person loyal to a nation, entitled to its rights and protection, while also assuming some responsibilities for service to the nation*.

The toga came in several styles. The *toga candida* was a white garment worn only by candidates for public office. The *toga palmata* was a fancy toga worn to ceremonial affairs. The *toga praetexta*, a white toga with a purple border, was worn only by emperors. The *toga sordida* was worn by mourners. Those who were not citizens typically wore a shorter garment, the *tunic*.

Military dress in ancient times acquired a certain degree of sameness, but in a much different sense from modern military uniforms. In Greece, Athenian and Spartan soldiers dressed according to their position in military formations during the Peloponnesian War in the 5th century B.C. The Greek heavy infantryman wore a helmet, breastplate, and armor covering his legs below the knee. He also carried a shield and sword. The light-foot soldier wore no armor and carried a lighter shield and a spear. These were military uniforms in the sense that all soldiers looked alike. To this extent, therefore, we assign the origin of the military uniform to an early date in Western civilization.



The toga, worn here by a Roman, served as a badge of coveted Roman citizenship.

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In ancient Greece, uniforms varied based on a soldier's position in military formations.

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During the 15th and 16th centuries in Europe, national armies, wearing standardized uniforms, came into being. In the 17th century, during the Great Rebellion in England (1642–1646), the English Parliament decided to raise and support an army. The English uniform was red, with different colored facings for different regiments. These regiments were named by their facing's colors: blue, red, orange, etc.

The uniform styles were really just a version of civilian dress. The uniform had an ample coat, waistcoat, knickers, stockings, and shoes or, in the case of cavalry, boots. Colors and standards were used to identify units. Wealthy leaders dressed the troops who served under them in distinctive and colorful uniforms.



Early European uniform style and civilian dress.

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From this start, the military uniform evolved. During this gradual process, uniforms ranged from very ornamented to very drab. Some claim that the more colorful the uniform, the more uncomfortable the soldier. High, tight collars, tight trousers, and boots that restricted knee action looked fancy, but they weren't good in action.

Uniform Wear, Restrictions, and Standards

JROTC cadets generally wear the same uniform—the standard Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard service uniform—as that worn by their parent military service. Cadets are expected to honor the uniform—to wear it properly and with pride. The uniform is an important and distinctive aspect of JROTC. Whenever you wear the uniform—during indoor and outdoor training periods, at cadet social functions, and during base visits—you represent the corps. How you wear the uniform exposes you to praise or criticism from fellow cadets, fellow students, and society at large.

Restrictions

Certain restrictions apply to wearing the military uniform. For example, cadets may *not* wear the uniform while hitchhiking, in student demonstrations, for crowd control, political events, or for any other inappropriate activity. (However, JROTC cadets may wear the uniform while acting as ushers, parking lot attendants, runners, etc., at the discretion of the instructor staff.)

Federal law bars military personnel from engaging in any form of public political activity—such as attending rallies and political speeches or passing out political flyers—while in uniform. In addition, military personnel are prohibited from publicly supporting a particular candidate, party, or political issue when it is clear to others that they are members of the US military. The intent of the law is to avoid the perception that any military official supports one political cause, candidate, or party over another.

The role of the military requires absolute obedience to direction from elected civilian leaders, so public perception regarding the allegiance of military members is critical.

Nevertheless, members of the military are also citizens who are actively encouraged to vote and participate in the processes of the governing of a democratic nation. They are allowed to place political bumper stickers on their own vehicles and/or signs on their private property. They can participate in political events as long as they are *not* in uniform and do *not* identify themselves as military members. Since JROTC cadets wear a form of the US Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard uniform, they should also follow this standard while in uniform.



Cadets in standard service uniforms.

Clockwise, from top left: Courtesy of US Air Force photo/Greg L. Davis/Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System; Chief Petty Officer Rudy Patten/Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System; US Air Force photo/Greg L. Davis/Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System; Michael Wetzell/US Air Force JROTC; Lance Cpl. Nana Danssaappiah/Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System

Federal laws also forbid those in military uniform from participating in other public demonstrations where it might be implied that the military service supports a particular cause. Engaging in an activity that might imply endorsement by one of the services of a commercial interest or engaging in private employment while in uniform is also banned.

In addition, no item of the JROTC uniform may be worn by members of groups that sponsor a JROTC program. Cadet auxiliary societies, for example, may not create a special uniform that includes any item of the JROTC uniform. This includes school faculty, parent support groups, and sponsors other than JROTC instructors.

Dos and Don'ts for Wearing the Various Service Uniforms

Here are a few general dos and don'ts about wearing the JROTC uniform.

Dos

- Wear the standard service uniform properly and with pride.
- Wear the uniform on the day established by the instructor staff.
- Wear the uniform at other times specified by the instructor staff.
- Wear the uniform when you fly on military aircraft.
- Wear the uniform when you participate in a color guard or on a drill team.
- Keep your shoes polished and shined, including the heels and edges of soles.
- Make sure your shoes are appropriate for the activity as specified by each service JROTC unit. Safety is the major concern.
- Ensure that badges, insignia, belt buckles, and other metallic devices are clean and free of scratches and corrosion.
- Keep ribbons clean and replace them when they become worn, frayed, or faded.
- If your JROTC unit is at a military academy, wear the distinctive uniform required by the school for special occasions or ceremonies.

Don'ts

- Do not wear the uniform with other clothing.
- Do not lend your uniform to anyone who is not a member of the JROTC program.
- Do not allow articles such as wallets, pencils, pens, watch/wallet chains, checkbooks, handkerchiefs, and combs to be visible. You may allow parts of pens and pencils to be exposed when you carry them in the left shirt pocket or pen pocket of the Airman Battle Uniform (ABU).
- Do not wear earphones or headphones while in uniform, unless required.
- Do not carry pagers or cell phones, unless required. (If required, they must be clipped to the waistband or purse or be carried in the left hand when not in use.)

Uniform Standards

All JROTC programs have the same general uniform standards. Most JROTC units have published information on the cadet uniform and how to wear it, based on directives, handbooks, instructions, or regulations issued by a particular service. In this section, we explain the uniform standards that apply to Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) cadets.

For the AFJROTC, the standards for the uniform are in three instructions: AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*; Air Force Junior ROTC Instruction (AFJROTCI) 36-2001, *Air Force Junior ROTC Operations*; and the *AFJROTC Operational Supplement*. These three publications provide complete details on fitting standards and wearing instructions for the uniform and personal grooming requirements for AFJROTC cadets. The *AFJROTC Operational Supplement* and AFJROTCI 36-2001 include diagrams of uniforms for both female and male cadets. AFJROTC cadets can find all three of these publications online at the AFJROTC website. You can download or copy them for unit use.

It is your responsibility to maintain all uniform items in a clean and orderly condition during the school year and when you turn your uniform in. Just as the person on active duty, you are also obligated to wear the uniform properly and proudly. In doing so, you uphold the dignity of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, your unit, your fellow cadets, and yourself.

With practice and attention to detail, all the dos and don'ts about the proper wear and care of the uniform and personal appearance will become almost automatic. You should be proud of the uniform and the way it looks. A smart appearance is important, not only in drill practice, but also in performing various school activities and attending military functions.



Male and female Air Force cadets in standard service dress uniforms.

Courtesy of Michael Wetzell/US Air Force JROTC

Standard Cadet Uniform

The AFJROTC male service dress uniform consists of the dark blue service coat and trousers, light blue long sleeve shirt, and dark blue tie. The female service dress uniform consists of the dark blue service coat with slacks or skirt, light blue blouse, and tie tab. In both cases, the coat will be form fitted, meaning that it must not be tight in the shoulders, chest, and underarms. The sleeve length should extend to one-quarter inch from the heel of the thumb when the arms are hanging naturally at the sides. The bottom of the coat should extend 3 to 3¹/₂ inches below the top of the thigh.

The trousers for males must be trim-fitted with no bunching at the waist or bagging at the seat. Slacks for female cadets should fit naturally over the hips, with no bunching, sagging, or bagging at the seat. The trousers or slacks should rest on the top of the shoe with a slight break in the crease. The backs of the trousers or slacks should be seven-eighths inch longer than the front. The proper length of the trousers or slacks can be determined while standing at attention.



The cadet uniform identifies you as a future leader in your community and the nation. By being active in your unit's community projects and other activities, you'll find that it will open doors to new opportunities, new friends, and new self-confidence.

Uniforms Used Within Special Teams

With the appropriate approval, color guards, honor guards, sabre teams, and drill teams may wear additional uniform items or wear distinctive, yet conservative, uniform of military style. Greater latitude will be permitted in the design of open competition drill team uniforms where the intent is to allow maximum flexibility and freedom of movement in executing complex drill routines; however, these uniforms must reflect the proper military image. Units using this style of uniform may be expected to have their regulation uniform or a second, more conservative military style uniform for the inspection and regulation drill requirements found in most drill meets. Ascots are authorized for wear at the discretion of the instructor staff.

Except for shoulder cords, these items or uniforms are worn only when performing as a member of a specialized group. AFJROTCI 36-2001 provides procedures for obtaining and controlling cadet uniforms.



If your uniform does not fit properly, talk to your instructor staff. Do not wait until someone else calls attention to it. Check the appearance of your uniform in a mirror. Remember that how you look influences others.

Cadet Appearance and Grooming Standards

When you wear the uniform, you are responsible for presenting a neat, clean, and professional military image. Appearance and grooming standards help cadets present the image of disciplined individuals who can be relied upon to do the job they are called on to do. A professional military image has no room for the extreme, the unusual, or the faddish. The standards for wearing the uniform consist of four elements: neatness, cleanliness, safety, and military image. The first three are absolute, objective criteria for the efficiency, health, and well-being of the force. The fourth standard, military image, is also a very important aspect of military appearance. People, both military and civilian, draw conclusions as to the military effectiveness of the Air Force by how they perceive those in uniform.

The uniform standards in AFI 36-2903 are influenced to some extent by military tradition, and they reflect the image the Air Force desires to project to the civilian community. The basic concept of the Air Force uniform is a plain but distinctive dress, with an absolute minimum number of badges, insignia, and devices authorized for wear.

Additional Uniform and Appearance Rules

Here are some additional guidelines about uniform and appearance.

Jewelry

While in uniform, you may wear a wristwatch and rings, but no more than three rings total for both hands at any one time. You may wear one wrist bracelet if it is neat and conservative; however, ankle bracelets are not allowed. Furthermore, the bracelet must not detract from the military image, must not be wider than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, may be gold or silver, and must not subject anyone to potential injury. Bracelets supporting a cause, philosophy, individual, or group are not allowed. You may not wear ornaments on your head or around your neck that are visible while in uniform.

Female cadets in uniform may wear earrings if the earrings are conservative and kept within sensible limits. For example, you may wear one small spherical (diamond, gold, white pearl, or silver) pierced or clip earring on each earlobe. The earring worn in each earlobe must match. Earrings should fit tightly without extending below the earlobes, unless they are clip earrings.

Male cadets in uniform may not wear earrings.

Eyeglasses or Sunglasses

If you wear glasses, they must not have any ornaments on the frames or lenses. Eyeglass lenses that are conservative, clear, slightly tinted, or have photosensitive lenses may be worn in uniform while indoors or while in military formation. When outdoors and in uniform, sunglasses and eyeglasses must have lenses and frames that are conservative; faddish or mirrored lenses are prohibited. Sunglasses are not allowed while in a military formation. Neither eyeglasses nor sunglasses can be worn around the neck or on top of the head while in uniform.

Tattoos or Brands

Whether you are in or out of uniform, tattoos or brands anywhere on the body are not allowed if they are obscene or if they advocate sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination. Tattoos or brands that might harm good order and discipline or bring discredit upon the Air Force are also barred, whether you are in or out of uniform. Excessive tattoos or brands, even though they do not violate the prohibitions in the above paragraph, will not be exposed or visible (including visible through the uniform) while in uniform. Excessive is defined as any tattoo or brands that exceed one-quarter of the exposed body part, and those above the collarbone and readily visible when wearing an open collar uniform.

Body Piercing and Other Attachments to Body Parts

Cadets in uniform are not allowed to attach or display objects, articles, jewelry, or ornamentation to or through the ear (except as mentioned previously), nose, tongue, or any exposed body part (including anything that might be visible through the uniform).

Specific Female Cadet Guidelines

Here are some specific guidelines for female cadets.

Hair

Hair will end above the bottom of the collar edge and any side of an invisible line drawn parallel to the ground. Your hairstyle must be conservative—no extreme or faddish styles are allowed. Hair color must complement the cadet's skin tone and result in natural, human hair colors such as brown, blonde, brunette, natural red, black, or gray. It should also look professional and allow you to wear uniform headgear in the proper manner, so your hair must not be too full or too high on the head. Bangs will not touch either eyebrow while in uniform. In addition, your hairstyle shouldn't need many grooming aids. If you use pins, combs, barrettes, or similar items, they must be plain, similar in color to your hair, and modest in size. Wigs or hairpieces must also conform to these guidelines.



An example of a proper hair style for a female cadet in uniform.

Courtesy of Michael Wetzell/US Air Force JROTC

Skirts

The length of your skirt may not vary beyond the top and bottom of the kneecap. Your skirt should fit smoothly, hang naturally, and not excessively tight. You must wear hosiery with the skirt. Choose a sheer nylon in a neutral, dark brown, black, off-black, or dark blue shade that complements the uniform and your skin tone.

Specific Male Cadet Guidelines

Here are some specific guidelines for male cadets.

Hair

Keep your hair clean, neat, and trimmed. It must not contain large amounts of grooming aids such as greasy creams, oils, and sprays that remain visible in the hair. When your hair is groomed, it should not touch your ears or eyebrows, and only the closely cut or shaved hair on the back of your neck should touch the collar. Your hair should not exceed 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in bulk regardless of the length. **Bulk** is the distance that the hair projects from the scalp when groomed (as opposed to length of the hair).

The bulk and length of your hair must not interfere with wearing any Air Force headgear properly, and it must not protrude below the front band of the headgear. Your hair must have a tapered appearance on both sides and back, both with and without headgear. A tapered appearance means that, when viewed from any angle, the outline of the hair on the side and back will generally match the shape of the head, curving inward to the end point.

Your hair may not contain or have attached to it any visible foreign items. If you dye your hair, it must look natural. You may not dye your hair an unusual color or one that contrasts with your natural coloring. You may have sideburns if they are neatly trimmed and tapered in the same manner as your haircut. Sideburns must be straight and of even width (not flared) and end in a clean-shaven horizontal line. They may not extend below the lowest part of the outer ear opening. No extreme or faddish hairstyles are allowed.



A close-up of accouterments placed on a male cadet uniform.

Courtesy of Michael Wetzel/US Air Force JROTC

Military Pay Grades and Rank Insignia

Members of the Air Force perform duties that reflect their skill and pay grade. This also applies to AFJROTC cadets. The higher the rank or grade, the more responsibility cadets are given. In turn, cadets are expected to perform their duties in accordance with this increased responsibility.

An **insignia** is a badge or mark of office or honor. Rank insignia identify the rank of each member of the armed forces. In each of the armed forces, the pay grade system is broken down into two categories: officer grades and enlisted grades. Below, we will first review the Air Force pay grade system and follow with the Air Force JROTC rank insignia. (See Figures 1.6 and 1.7 for military officer and enlisted grade system.)

US Military Insignia of Grade

Officers

Figure 1.6 shows the military pay grade abbreviation for each commissioned officer title. The subdued insignia worn on the ABU is made of cloth. Gold appears as brown and silver appears as dark blue.

Proper methods of address when speaking to officers are:

- “Lieutenant” for a second lieutenant and a first lieutenant.
- “Colonel” for either a lieutenant colonel or a colonel.
- “General” for all general officers.

Use full titles for official written correspondence.

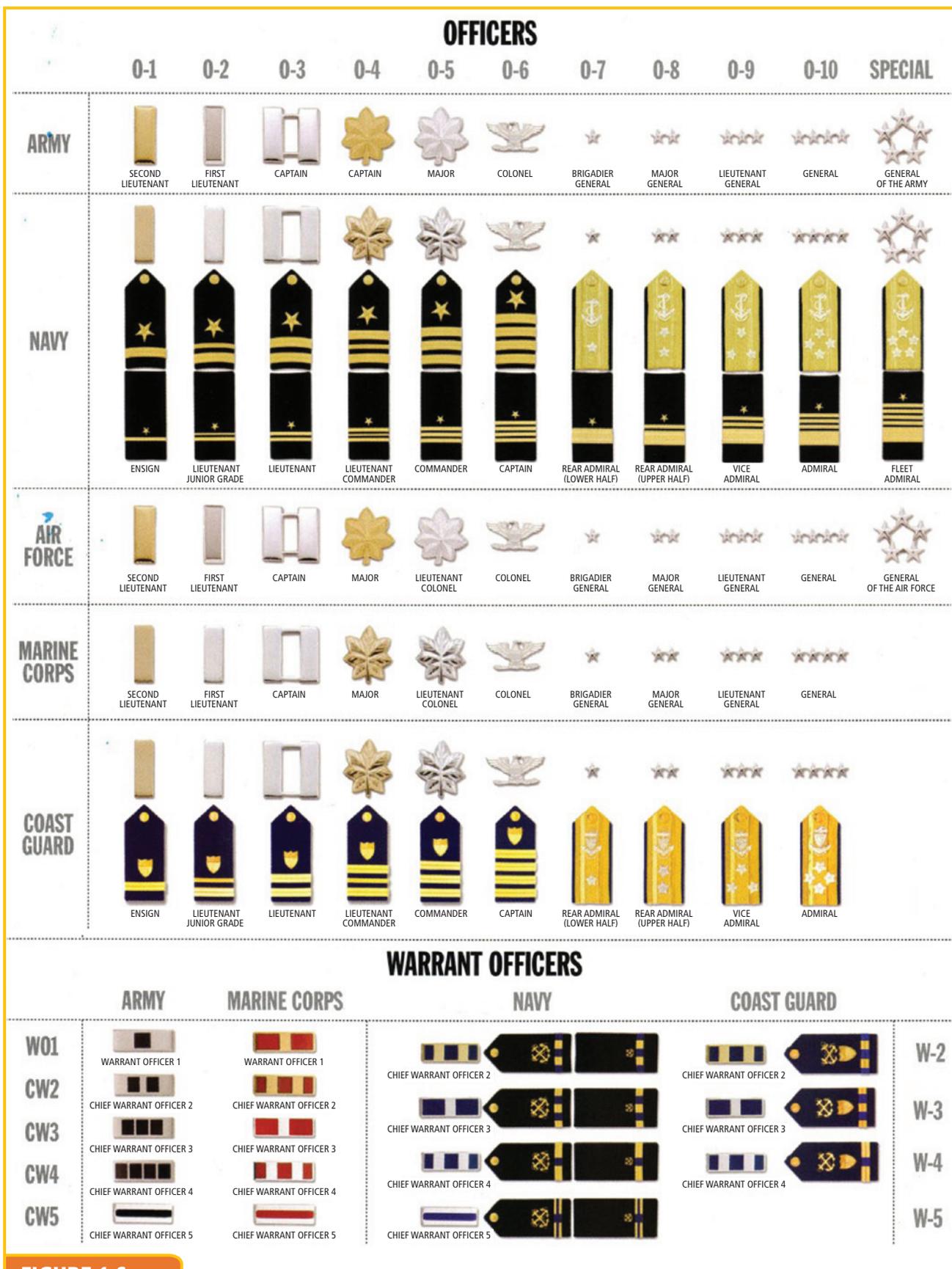


FIGURE 1.6

US Military Officer Grades and Ranks

Enlisted

Enlisted ranks are subdivided into two categories: noncommissioned officer (NCO) and Airman ranks. NCOs are Airmen serving in the ranks of staff sergeant through chief master sergeant. NCOs play such an important role in enlisted leadership that there are five distinct military rank insignia to identify them. (See Figure 1.7.)

Noncommissioned Officers. The NCO chevron has changed a great deal since the Continental Army, when a brightly colored ribbon tied around the arm identified NCOs. Through the years, the American NCO's chevron has varied in design and has been worn in different locations. It has been worn not only above the elbow, as it is today, but also below the elbow. The inverted and curved chevron of today's Air Force is distinct from that of the NCOs and petty officers of other branches of the US Armed Forces.

The background of AF chevrons for NCOs is blue, and the stripes are silver with a silver star in the center. The subdued insignia worn on the ABU uniform consists of dark blue stripes on a green background with a dark blue star. (The pay grade is always one number higher than the number of stripes worn.)

First sergeants wear a diamond device above the star on their chevrons. The diamond device stands for a job position only. First sergeants may hold the rank of master sergeant, senior master sergeant, or chief master sergeant.

These top senior NCOs hold a position of trust and responsibility as the link between the commander and unit personnel. As this vital link, the first sergeant must make sure all enlisted personnel know their commander's policies. He or she also represents the interests of enlisted personnel to the commander. The first sergeant promotes the welfare, morale, and health of enlisted personnel by working with base agencies on special issues. The first sergeant helps the commander maintain discipline and standards of conduct. He or she also provides professional guidance on matters of leadership, military justice, and customs and courtesies.

A chief master sergeant is addressed as "chief." All other sergeants are addressed as "sergeant," and Airmen in the Grades of E-1 through E-4 are addressed as "Airman." Full titles are used in official correspondence.

The highest position held by any enlisted personnel is Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF). The CMSAF acts as personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force, providing information about the welfare, effective use, and progress of the enlisted force. The rank insignia is a chevron of eight stripes with a wreath around the bottom and sides of the star and the Great Seal of the United States of America with two stars in the upper blue field (see Figure 1.7).



Current Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, James A. Cody.

Courtesy of the US Air Force

	ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE	MARINE CORPS	COAST GUARD
E-1	PRIVATE	AIRMAN/SEAMAN/FIREMAN/RECRUIT	AIRMAN BASIC	PRIVATE	AIRMAN/SEAMAN/FIREMAN/RECRUIT
E-2	 PRIVATE	 AIRMAN/SEAMAN/HOSPITALMAN/ DENTALMAN/CONSTRUCTIONMAN/ FIREMAN APPRENTICE	 AIRMAN	 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	 AIRMAN/SEAMAN/FIREMAN APPRENTICE
E-3	 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	 AIRMAN/SEAMAN/HOSPITALMAN/ DENTALMAN/CONSTRUCTIONMAN/ FIREMAN	 AIRMAN FIRST CLASS	 LANCE CORPORAL	 AIRMAN/SEAMAN/FIREMAN
E-4	  SPECIALIST CORPORAL	 PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS	 SENIOR AIRMAN	 CORPORAL	 PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS
E-5	 SERGEANT	 PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS	 STAFF SERGEANT	 SERGEANT	 PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS
E-6	 STAFF SERGEANT	 PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS	 TECHNICAL SERGEANT	 STAFF SERGEANT	 PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS
E-7	 SERGEANT FIRST CLASS	 CHIEF PETTY OFFICER	  MASTER SERGEANT FIRST SERGEANT	 GUNNERY SERGEANT	 CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
E-8	  MASTER SERGEANT FIRST SERGEANT	 SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER	  SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT FIRST SERGEANT	  MASTER SERGEANT FIRST SERGEANT	 SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
E-9	  SERGEANT MAJOR COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR	 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER	 CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT	  MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT SERGEANT MAJOR	 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
SPECIAL	 SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY	 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY	 CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE	 SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS	 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD

FIGURE 1.7

US Military Enlisted Grades and Ranks

The CMSAF position was created to add prestige to the NCO Corps. Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell announced the creation of this position on October 24, 1966. The first CMSAF was CMSgt Paul W. Airey. He was awarded the unique insignia with the wreath around the star in April 1967. Over the next decade, support for the office grew among both the senior Air Force leadership and the enlisted force. The creation of this office, as well as the appointment of command chief master sergeants and the granting of more responsibility to all senior NCOs, represented the Air Force's concrete recognition of the professionalism of its enlisted force, especially its NCOs.

Airmen. There are four Airman ranks:

1. Airman basic (AB)
2. Airman (Amn)
3. Airman first class (A1C)
4. Senior Airman (SrA)

An Airman basic (AB) doesn't wear any rank insignia. An Airman's rank insignia is a chevron of one silver stripe with a silver star in the middle. An A1C rank insignia is a chevron of two silver stripes with a silver star in the middle. The senior Airman rank insignia is a chevron of three silver stripes with a silver star in the middle. Pay grades for Airmen are: AB (E-1), Amn (E-2), A1C (E-3), and SrA (E-4). (See Figure 1.7 for Airmen military pay grade and rank insignia.)

Air Force JROTC Rank Insignia

Figure 1.8 shows Air Force JROTC cadet rank insignia. Please see your *AFJROTC Operational Supplement* for the insignias of the other military branches.

Officers

Table 1.1 describes the rank insignia for each cadet officer title. Rank insignia for military officers are very different from rank insignia for cadet officers.

Enlisted

A comparison of military insignia (Figure 1.7) and Air Force JROTC cadet rank insignia (Figure 1.8) shows only slight differences between enlisted ranks. The star inside the chevron for active duty personnel is replaced with a torch for cadets, and the chevron is pointed at the bottom. Cadets, like active duty personnel, may wear other insignia and badges, when authorized. Table 1.2 describes the rank insignia for each cadet enlisted title. Figure 1.9 shows other insignia (badges) for Air Force JROTC cadets. For current US Air Force Occupational and Duty Badges please refer to AFI 36-2903.



A close-up of accouterments placed on a female cadet uniform.

Courtesy of Michael Wetzell/US Air Force JROTC

AIR FORCE JROTC INSIGNIA

CADET OFFICER RANK



SECOND
LIEUTENANT



FIRST
LIEUTENANT



CAPTAIN



MAJOR



LIEUTENANT
COLONEL



COLONEL

CADET AIRMEN RANK

(NO RANK INSIGNIA)

AIRMAN
BASIC



AIRMAN



AIRMAN
FIRST CLASS



SENIOR
AIRMAN



STAFF
SERGEANT



TECHNICAL
SERGEANT



MASTER
SERGEANT



SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT



CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT

FIGURE 1.8

Air Force JROTC Cadet Rank Insignia

Courtesy of US Air Force JROTC

Table 1.1 Cadet Officer Rank Insignia

Title	Rank Insignia
Cadet Second Lieutenant (c/2d Lt)	Chevron of 1 inverted stripe
Cadet First Lieutenant (c/1st Lt)	Chevron of 2 inverted stripes
Cadet Captain (c/Capt)	Chevron of 3 inverted stripes
Cadet Major (c/Maj)	Chevron of 1 double-wide inverted stripe
Cadet Lieutenant Colonel (c/Lt Col)	Chevron of 2 inverted stripes; 1 double-wide, 1 regular
Cadet Colonel (c/Col)	Chevron of 3 inverted stripes; 1 double-wide, 2 regular

Table 1.2 Cadet Enlisted Rank Insignia

Title	Rank Insignia
Cadet Airman Basic (c/AB)	None
Cadet Airman (c/Amn)	Pointed chevron of 1 stripe, with torch in the middle
Cadet Airman First Class (c/A1C)	Pointed chevron of 2 stripes, with torch in the middle
Cadet Senior Airman (c/SrA)	Pointed chevron of 3 stripes, with torch in the middle
Cadet Staff Sergeant (c/SSgt)	Pointed chevron of 4 stripes, with torch in the middle
Cadet Technical Sergeant (c/TSgt)	Pointed chevron of 5 stripes, with torch in the middle
Cadet Master Sergeant (c/MSgt)	Pointed chevron of 6 stripes, with 1 stripe inverted above the torch in the middle
Cadet Senior Master Sergeant (c/SMSgt)	Pointed chevron of 7 stripes, with 2 stripes inverted above the torch in the middle
Cadet Chief Master Sergeant (c/CMSgt)	Pointed chevron of 8 stripes, with 3 stripes inverted above the torch in the middle

AIR FORCE JROTC BADGES



OFFICER'S FLIGHT CAP AND BERET INSIGNIA



OFFICER'S SERVICE CAP



DISTINGUISHED AFJROTC CADET BADGE



GROUND SCHOOL BADGE



FLIGHT SOLO BADGE



FLIGHT CERTIFICATE BADGE



MODEL ROCKETRY BADGE



AWARENESS PRESENTATION TEAM BADGE



AEF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BADGE



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS BADGE



KITTY HAWK AIR SOCIETY BADGE



SHOULDER TABS



MARKSMANSHIP BADGE



EXPERT MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

FIGURE 1.9

US Air Force JROTC Badges

Courtesy of US Air Force JROTC

Ribbons

All ribbons should be in proper order based upon the AFJROTC ribbon chart located in the *AFJROTC Operational Supplement*. If a ribbon is awarded more than once, oak leaf clusters will be used to signify each additional award unless directed otherwise.

Order of Precedence. The lowest ribbon will be worn at the lowest left position, and the highest ribbon will be worn at the top right. Refer to the ribbon chart located in the LE 100 Companion Website for order of precedence and guidance for wearing ribbons.

The AFJROTC Patch

The **yellow arrow**, a timeless design that doesn't limit itself to airplanes or a particular period, is a stylized aircraft. The arrow points to the future, and depicts high technology, supporting the goal of aerospace education and careers in aerospace. Some active-duty units have adopted this design from AFJROTC.

The longstanding tradition of the **lamp**, which represents knowledge, lit with red flame, signifies that knowledge prevents one from traveling life's journeys in ignorance.

The **colors** of the emblem are secondary to the symbolism of the emblem. The colors of the Air Force, ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow, should appear in the design.



Courtesy of US Air Force JROTC

- The **blue** represents “the sky,” which is the primary theatre of Air Force operation.
- The Air Force **yellow** represents “the sun” and the excellence required of Air Force personnel.
- The **white** represents daylight, innocence, perfection, purity, truth, and wisdom.
- The **red** color represents the blood of life, boldness, courage, hardiness, liberty, magnanimity, passion, patriotism, sentiment, strength, valor, and zeal.

The **disc shape** is used because the AFJROTC organization is not a group or higher organization authorized its own flag. Flag-bearing organizations display their coat of arms on a modified heater-shaped shield.

 **CHECKPOINTS**

Lesson 2 Review

Using complete sentences, answer the following questions on a sheet of paper.

1. Why do people wear uniforms?
2. List two professions that you would associate with wearing a uniform.
3. What does wearing the military uniform represent?
4. What did Romans wear to indicate they were candidates for public office?
5. List two things that helped identify military units in the 17th century.
6. List three activities in which wearing the military uniform is not allowed.
7. List two activities where the military uniform is allowed to be worn.
8. How is a cell phone properly carried while in uniform?
9. Describe the special teams uniform.
10. If you wear a bracelet, what restrictions apply while in uniform?
11. When are sunglasses allowed to be worn?
12. Provide two examples of what natural hair coloring should look like.
13. If a ribbon is awarded more than once, what device is attached to the ribbon to indicate this?
14. What is the highest position held by any enlisted personnel in the US Air Force?
15. When wearing ribbons on your uniform, what is the order of precedence?
16. On the AFJROTC patch, what does the lamp represent?

APPLYING YOUR LEARNING

17. Review appearance and grooming standards from this lesson. Explain three standards you think are most important.