

CHAPTER 3 – CIVIL AIR PATROL HONOR GUARD UNIFORM

3-1. General. This chapter prescribes the standardized uniform worn by Civil Air Patrol honor guards. This uniform is approved for wear during honor guard duties and performances only. Only those items described in this chapter may be worn. Items such as blue ascots with BDU, boots with the service dress uniform, swords, “Smokie Bear” hats, etc., are not permitted. National Cadet Competition drill teams, color guards, or other CAP special teams will not wear this uniform. The honor guard uniform consists of the service dress uniform coat with epaulets and slacks/trousers, male service cap with cadet officer cap device, white ascot with Honor Guard patch, metallic silver shoulder cord, white pistol belt, white gloves, and a brown non-operating parade rifle with white leather sling. Helmets or helmet liners will not be used. Either the old or new style of service dress may be worn; however, all members of an honor guard should be in the same style, if possible. Bayonets, swords, or sabers will not be used under any circumstances. This uniform is authorized for year-round wear. The colors element flag bearers will wear white flag slings instead of white pistol belts. The guards will wear pistol belts. See Table 3-1 for specific uniform requirements.

3-2. Wear Instructions and Grooming Standards. Since this uniform is a specialized uniform worn in a specific way, wearing instructions and grooming standards are included in this chapter. Honor guard members may find it beneficial to have two service dress uniforms, one for everyday CAP wear and one for honor guard performances, and two pair of low quarter shoes, one pair with the Honor Guard taps and one without. See Table 3-2 for specific wear and grooming instructions.

3-3. Use of Air Force Honor Guard Uniforms or Equipment. The use of Air Force Honor Guard uniforms or equipment is prohibited. This includes base honor guards, The Air Force Honor Guard (based at Bolling AFB, DC), and USAF Honor Guard uniforms purchased or procured by any means.



Service Dress Honor Guard Uniform



Blue Short Sleeve Honor Guard Uniform

NOTES:

1. Worn same as Men's and Women's service dress uniform as shown in Figures 2-2 and 2-10.
EXCEPTION: Ribbons must be worn on light-blue AF-style shirt when worn as outer garment.
2. Shoulder Cord: Silver, Army-style, worn on left shoulder next to shoulder seam.
3. Pistol Belt: White, 2 1/16-inch wide, with nickel-plated buckle and keepers.
4. Gloves: White parade gloves.
5. Ascot: White with Honor Guard patch centered 3 1/2 inches below neckband.
6. Headgear: Male service cap with cadet officer cap device and rear chinstrap.
7. Parade Rifle: Brown with white leather sling, non-operating.

Figure 3-1. Men's and Women's Honor Guard Uniform (Cadets Only)

Table 3-1. Civil Air Patrol Honor Guard Uniform		
L I N E	Item	Description/Material
1	Coat	Standard blue service uniform coat with or without epaulets will be worn. Either style may be worn; however, all members of the team should be the same, if possible. Coat and slacks/trousers will match in shade and material. All appropriate insignia will be worn.
2	Slacks and Trousers	Standard slacks/trousers matching the coat. Female team members will wear slacks. Slacks/trousers will be worn without the blue belt while performing.
3	White Pistol Belt and Buckle	A 2 1/16-inch white pistol belt with nickel-plated large buckle and keepers. All members except flag bearers will wear the belt.
4	Headgear	All members will wear male service cap with cadet officer cap device; in addition to the front chinstrap, a functional rear chinstrap with buckle will be worn. When performing, the rear chinstrap will be placed under the member's chin. This is a safety factor.
5	Gloves	White parade gloves will be worn when performing. Non-slip palm is recommended.
6	Shirt and Blouse	Blue short sleeve shirt or blouse (tuck-in style) without tie/tab may be worn when conditions are too hot for the wear of the service dress uniform coat. All appropriate insignia will be worn. Flag bearers will wear the blue service belt.
7	Socks	All members will wear plain, black socks.
8	Footwear	Low quarter (double or triple-soled authorized); high gloss or poromeric with metal horseshoe taps on heels only.
9	Outergarments	All-weather coat or overcoat may be worn. The lightweight jacket may be worn to and from performances to prevent the service coat being wrinkled in travel.
10	Ascot	White ascot with Honor Guard patch centered 3 1/2 inches below the bottom edge of the neckband.
11	Shoulder Cord	Metallic silver shoulder cord with solid cord across the top and pinned underneath will be worn on top of the epaulet, if present, at the shoulder seam. Shoulder cord should be pinned at the top, front and back to keep cord in place during performances.
12	Parade Rifle	Brown with white leather sling, molded polystyrene, and non-operating. Wood rifles will break during the various rifle movements. BAYONETS WILL NOT BE USED.

Table 3-2. Civil Air Patrol Honor Guard Uniform Wear Instructions and Grooming Standards.		
L I N E	Item	Instructions
1	Male Service Cap	<p>The male service cap is to be worn by all members of the Honor Guard. When the cap is not worn, it is to be carried under the left arm with crown (top) toward the arm and the visor to the front. When cap is to be placed on the head, place the thumb on one side of the cap above the visor, two fingers on the top above the insignia, and the remainder of the fingers on the other side above the visor. Do not touch the visor.</p> <p>Securing the black leather rear chin strap into the “up” position: (1) Unscrew the two chrome cap buttons holding the front chin strap in position; (2) Place the rear chin strap so that the strap buckle is to the right of center when viewed from the rear; (3) Screw the chrome cap buttons into place ensuring the wings are in the up position. During a performance, the rear chinstrap will be worn down under the chin.</p> <p>Whenever you wear the all-weather coat is worn for a ceremony, the blue rain cover must be worn over the service cap. Roll the rain cover underneath the back edges of the service cap to produce a snug fit and neat appearance. Rolling the rain cover should be done anytime you wear the service cap, regardless of performing in a ceremony or not.</p>
2	Service Dress Coat	<p>Iron the lapels of the coat down to ensure all buttons of the coat are displayed. When blousing (tucking) a service dress uniform coat, a minimum of two people should be used; the person being bloused (tucked) is the “blouse,” and the person blousing the member is the “blouser.” Adjust the web belt to fit very tightly around the waist. The web belt will rest between the second and third button of your uniform (new uniform) or third and fourth button (old uniform) parallel to the ground all around. The belt will initially feel tight but the discomfort will diminish over time. The “blousee” should hold the belt in the approximate position where the belt will be fastened with some slack being provided for the “blouser’s” hands. The “blouser” positions his/her hands along two side seams on the back of the coat. The “blouser” will pull the excess material from the front of the uniform and fold it underneath the two side seams with the edge of the fold toward the arms. When bloused, the entire uniform will appear neat, wrinkle-free, and without bunches. The “blousee” then fastens the belt in front and checks for comfort and appearance. The “blouser” re-checks the belt and places the two keepers two-finger widths from the nickel belt buckle on both sides of the buckle.</p>
3	Shirt	<p>When worn without the service dress coat, shirt is worn with all appropriate insignia. The pistol belt and shoulder cord is worn as with Service Dress coat. Shirt/blouse will be well ironed using sizing with sharp creases in both sleeves including the shoulder patch. Creases must be centered on the epaulet of the shirt/blouse. No other creases are authorized.</p>

Table 3-2. Civil Air Patrol Honor Guard Uniform Wear Instructions and Grooming Standards.		
L I N E	Item	Instructions
4	Shoulder Cord	The shoulder cord should fit snugly along the shoulder seam of the coat and pinned to the top of the epaulet, if present. <i>(TIP: Use two large safety pins to secure the shoulder cord from underneath the coat. One should be placed in the front of the coat near the opening of the armpit. The second, in the rear of the coat near the opening of the armpit.)</i>
5	Service Dress Slacks/Trousers	When sitting down in service dress slacks/trousers, be sure to roll the excess material located under the knees into a neat fold to prevent wrinkling. Female honor guard members will wear slacks. The trousers or slacks of the service dress uniform will not be bloused nor will leggings be worn.
6	Low Quarter Shoes	Leather low quarters are the shoe of choice, but high gloss or poromeric may be worn. The shoes will be clean and well shined. Use edge dressing on the soles and heels of the shoes. Tuck the bows on the shoestrings into the shoe. Horseshoe taps will be worn on the heel of the shoe. Small (approximately 2" x 1") rectangular metal plates (cheaters) will be worn centered on the inside heel edge. You may place rubber washers between the tap and the heel so that the tap protrudes about 1/2 inch as needed. Make sure the "cheaters" are rounded on all four sides so not to destroy the trousers. All members will wear black socks. White shoelaces will not be used.
7	White Pistol Belt	The white pistol belt, with nickel hardware and buckle, should be worn during the performance only. It is to be worn very tight (should be able to put only one finger between the belt and uniform) with the nickel keepers two fingers widths from the buckle on each side.
8	White Gloves	Worn with the top of the glove just above the wrist providing a neat appearance. It may become necessary to tape the gloves. If this becomes necessary, use only white first aid tape. Plastic-dotted non-slip palm white gloves are recommended. Do not add resin or any other substance to the glove, as this becomes a safety hazard by making the rifle very slippery. When not worn, fold with palm out, place under web belt so that top of gloves fold over the top of the belt. Gloves are to be removed from the hands after performance and placed under the belt.
9	Ascot	A white ascot with a center crease. The Honor Guard patch (creased) will be centered 1/2 inch from the bottom of the fold after folding the neckband over twice. The ascot will be pulled and pinned at the bottom through the center crease to the T-shirt with a safety pin. Also, pin the ascot on each side with additional safety pins. Secure the ascot behind the neck so you cannot place the little finger between the material and the back of the neck. Pin or tape with white tape, if necessary, to prevent the ends showing outside of the uniform coat. The use of shirt garters (attached to the ascot and the trousers/slacks) is permitted as long as they do not show or will not come undone during the performance.

Table 3-2. Civil Air Patrol Honor Guard Uniform Wear Instructions and Grooming Standards.		
L I N E	Item	Instructions
10	All-Weather Coat	The coat will be wrinkle free. The belt loops should be removed from the coat for blousing purposes.
11	Colors Element	Flag bearers wear flag slings instead of the white pistol belts. The flag sling shoulder straps will go under the epaulets. The trousers or slacks of the service dress uniform will not be bloused. Leggings, helmets, helmet liners, or white shoelaces will not be used.
12	Grooming Standards	All grooming standards will be met. The only jewelry accepted is small silver ball earrings (or none at all) for the females. Watches are not to be worn while in the honor guard uniform.