

## CHAPTER 5 – AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

**5-1. Wear of Awards and Decorations.** Awards and decorations prescribed by CAPR 39-3, *Award of CAP Medals, Ribbons, and Certificates*, will be worn only by CAP members for whom they have been authorized and only on those uniforms outlined below. Figure 5-1 outlines the proper arrangement and placement on service uniforms. Ribbons and medals will not be worn on the utility uniform, field uniform, CAP blazer (exception one miniature medal may be worn on the semiformal blazer uniform), battle dress uniform, flight suits, and in no case will they be worn on the overcoat, raincoat, all-weather coat, or lightweight blue jacket.

**5-2. When Awards and Decorations are Worn.** Ribbons are mandatory with the USAF service dress and the semiformal uniforms. They are optional with all other service uniforms and the aviator shirt. No military awards or decorations may be worn on the aviator shirt. NOTE: All ribbons and devices worn by senior members must fall below the top notch of the collar on the service coat or the bottom tip of the collar of AF-style shirts/blouses worn as outer garments. Miniature medals are mandatory with the mess dress uniform (men and women). One miniature medal may be worn on the semiformal blazer uniform.

**5-3. Order of Precedence.** The order of precedence for cadet ribbons is shown in Table 5-1. The order of precedence for senior member ribbons is shown in Table 5-2. The ribbon with the highest precedence will be placed nearest to the lapel on the top row; other ribbons will follow in the proper order of precedence from right to left. The numbers on the ribbons in Figure 5-1 show the order of arrangement.

**5-4. Military Service Awards.** Military service ribbons may be worn on the CAP AF-style uniform provided they were awarded in writing by competent military authority. Awards of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard will be worn in the order prescribed by the awarding service, subject to the following: In all cases of relative priority, Air Force awards will take precedence. See Table 5-3. Awards for wars, campaigns, expeditions etc., will be worn in chronological sequence.

**a.** Three JROTC/ROTC ribbons awarded by military departments may be worn following all other ribbons (except foreign ribbons) while the member concerned is participating in the JROTC/ROTC program. When the member is no longer participating in the JROTC/ROTC program, JROTC/ROTC ribbons will be removed.

**b.** Foreign decorations are so many and so varied, the number and combinations that may be worn will not be prescribed; however, good taste and judgment should prevail. Only those decorations that have been duly approved by Congress for acceptance and wear by the individual may be worn.

**5-5. Shoulder Cords.** Shoulder cords may be worn by cadets only to denote special honor positions or may be authorized by the wing commander for special purpose activities (see Table 1-4). Not more than one shoulder cord will be worn at one time, and it will be worn on the left shoulder (Figure 5-2). Shoulder cords may be worn by cadets at all times. Shoulder cords will be worn along the shoulder seam and fastened from the underneath, inside the shirt.

**5-6. Miniature Medals.** Miniature medals are authorized for all US military decorations and service medals except for the Medal of Honor. Miniature medals are authorized for all CAP decorations and are required on the mess dress uniform and one medal may be worn on the semiformal blazer uniform. Medals will be arranged as prescribed by Figure 5-7 with the medal of the highest precedence nearest the lapel on the top row from right to left. The order of precedence for the medals is the same as for the ribbons.

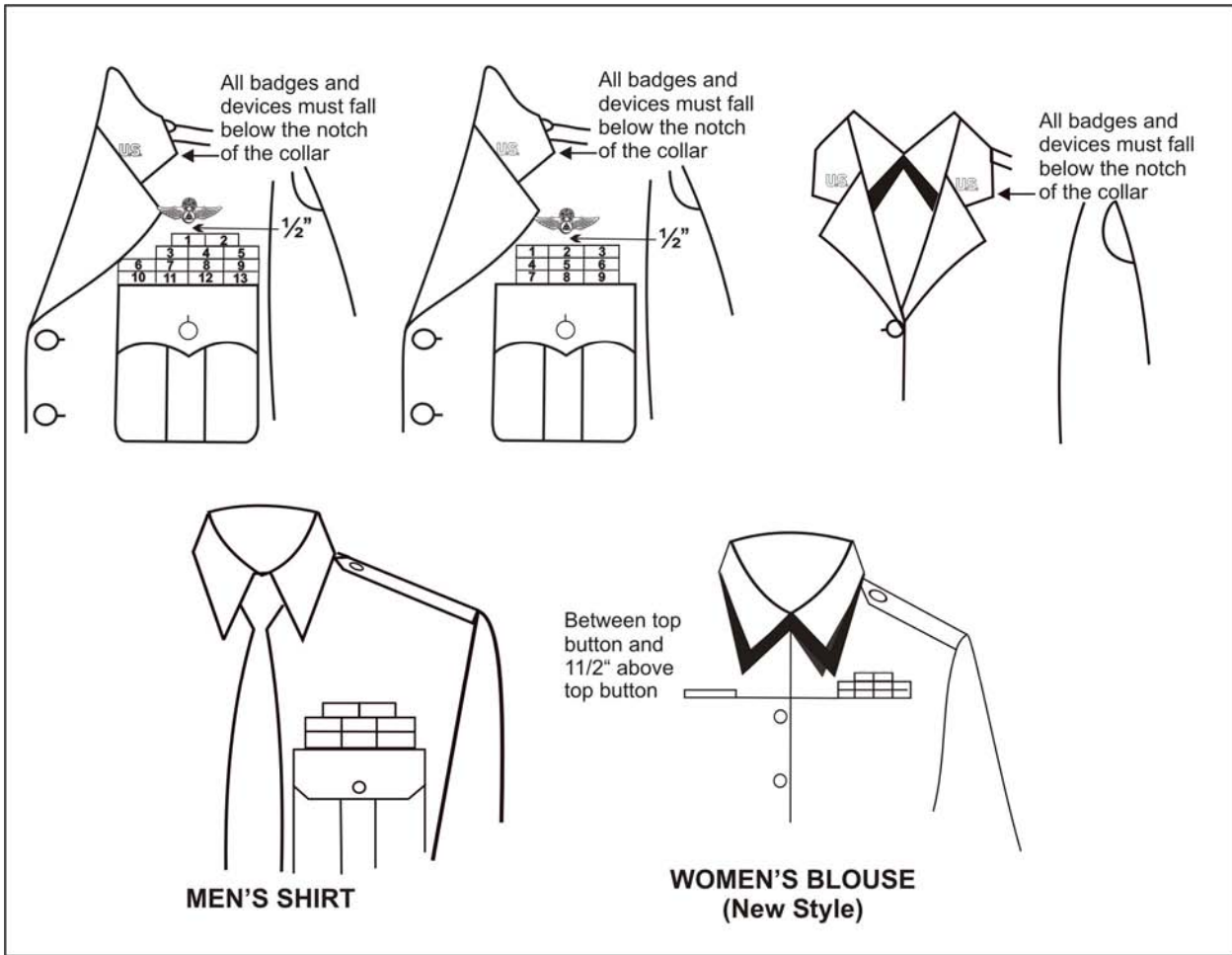


Figure 5-1. Arrangement and Placement of Ribbons

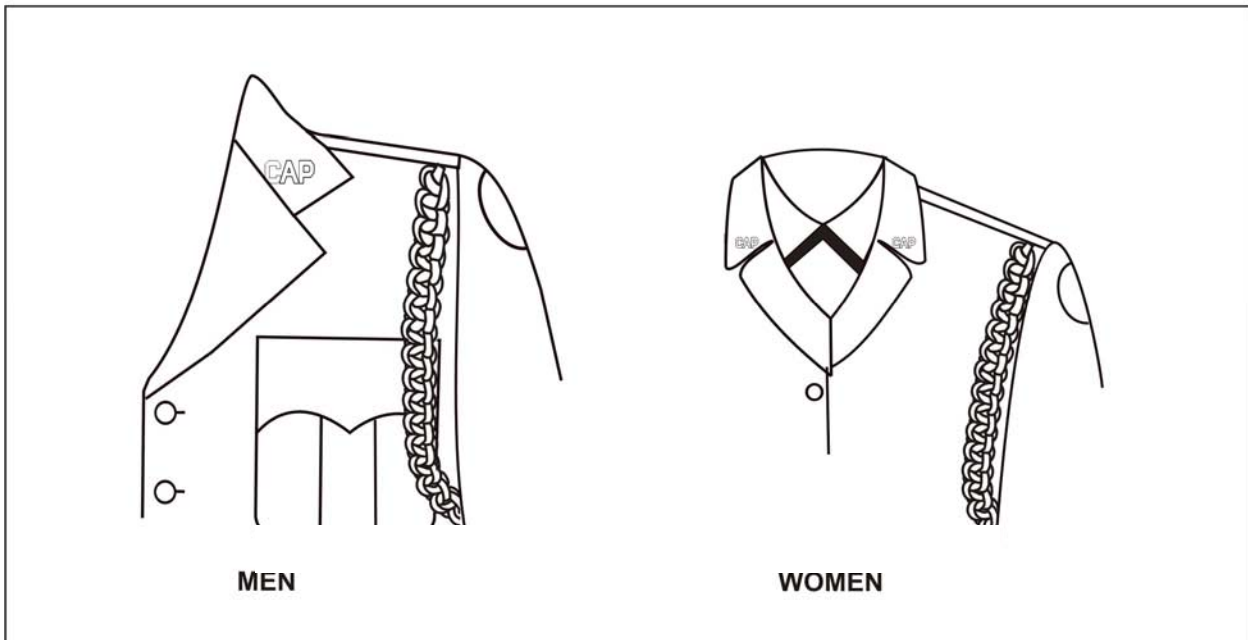


Figure 5-2. Shoulder Cords

<b>Table 5-1. Cadet Ribbons - Order of Precedence</b>		
1 U.S. Military Decorations (Worn in order of precedence)	2. Silver Medal of Valor	3. Bronze Medal of Valor
4. Distinguished Service Medal	5. Exceptional Service Award	6. Meritorious Service Award
7. Commander's Commendation Award	8. Certificate of Recognition for Life Saving	9. Unit Citation Award
10. Spaatz Award	11. Eaker Award	12. Earhart Award
13. Mitchell Award	14. Armstrong Achievement	15. Goddard Achievement
16. Doolittle Achievement	17. Lindbergh Achievement	18. Rickenbacker Achievement
19. Wright Brothers Award	20. Mary Feik Achievement	21. Arnold Achievement
22. Curry Achievement	23. Air Force Association Award to Unit Cadet of the Year	24. Air Force Sergeants Association Award to Unit Cadet NCO of the Year
25. VFW Award for Unit Cadet Officer of the Year	26. VFW Award for Unit Cadet NCO of the year	27. Red Service Ribbon
28. Rescue "Find" Ribbon	29. Search and Rescue Ribbon	30. Disaster Relief Ribbon
31. Community Service Ribbon	32. IACE Ribbon	33. National Drill Competition Ribbon
34. National Color Guard Competition Ribbon	35. Cadet Advisory Council Ribbon	36. Cadet Special Activities Ribbon
37. Encampment Ribbon	38. Cadet Recruiter Ribbon	39. JROTC/ROTC Ribbons (Worn ONLY while participating in an active JROTC/ROTC program. A maximum of 3 JROTC/ROTC ribbons may be worn)

<b>Table 5-2. Senior Ribbons - Order of Precedence</b>		
1. US Military Decorations (Worn in order of precedence)	2. Silver Medal of Valor	3. Bronze Medal of Valor
4. Distinguished Service Medal	5. Exceptional Service Award	6. Meritorious Service Award
7. Commander's Commendation Award	8. Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving Award	9. Unit Citation Award
10. Gill Robb Wilson Award (Level V)	11. National Commander's Citation (Earned prior to 1 Jan 78)	12. Paul E. Garber Award (Level IV)
13. Grover Loening Award (Level III)	14. Leadership Award (Specialty Training)	15. Membership Award (Level I)
16. A. Scott Crossfield Award	17. Brig Gen Chuck Yeager Award	18. Falcon Award (Earned prior to 1 Jul 79) or highest cadet achievement ribbon earned
19. Command Service Ribbon	20. Red Service Ribbon	21. Search "Find" Ribbon
22. Air Search and Rescue Ribbon	23. Counterdrug Ribbon	24. Disaster Relief Ribbon
25. Cadet Orientation Pilot Ribbon	26. IACE Ribbon	27. National Drill Team Competition Ribbon
28. National Cadet Color Guard Competition Ribbon	29. National Cadet Special Activities Ribbon	30. Encampment Ribbon
31. Senior Recruiter Ribbon	32. War Time Service Ribbon	33. ROTC Ribbons
34. Coastal Patrol	35. Liaison Patrol	36. Tow-Target & Tracking
37. Courier	38. Forest Patrol	39. Missing Aircraft
40. World War II Service	41. Foreign Decorations	

**NOTES:**

1. CAP Wartime Service Ribbons (Coastal Patrol, Liaison Patrol, Tow-Target & Tracking, Courier, Forest Patrol, and Missing Aircraft) must have been earned between February 1942 and July 1945.
2. ROTC Ribbons are worn ONLY while participating in an active ROTC program.
3. World War II Service Ribbon is for cadets and senior members that served during the period 7 December 1941 through 2 September 1945.

<b>Table 5-3. Order of Precedence for Wear of US Military Awards and Decorations on the CAP AF-style Uniform (all are worn above the CAP ribbons)</b>		
1. Medal of Honor	2. Air Force Cross	3. Distinguished Service Cross
4. Navy Cross	5. Defense Distinguished Service Medal	6. Distinguished Service Medal
7. Silver Star	8. Defense Superior Service Medal	9. Legion of Merit
10. Distinguished Flying Cross	11. Airman's Medal	12. Soldier's Medal
13. Navy-Marine Corps Medal	14. Coast Guard Medal	15. Bronze Star Medal
16. Purple Heart	17. Defense Meritorious Service Medal	18. Meritorious Service Medal
19. Air Medal	20. Aerial Achievement Medal	21. Joint Service Commendation Medal
22. Air Force Commendation Medal	23. Army Commendation Medal	24. Navy Commendation Medal
25. Coast Guard Commendation Medal	26. Joint Service Achievement Medal	27. Air Force Achievement Medal
28. Army Achievement Medal	29. Navy Achievement Medal	30. Combat Action Ribbon
31. Distinguished/Presidential Unit Citation	32. Navy Presidential Unit Citation	33. Joint Meritorious Unit Citation
34. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	35. Air Force Organizational Excellence Award	36. Prisoner of War Medal
37. Valorous Unit Award	38. Navy Unit Commendation	39. Coast Guard Unit Commendation
40. Meritorious Unit Commendation (USA/USN/CG)	41. Navy "E" Ribbon	42. United States Nonmilitary Decorations
43. Combat Readiness Medal	44. Air Force Good Conduct Medal	45. Good Conduct Medal
46. Navy Good Conduct Medal	47. Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal	48. Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal
49. Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal	50. Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal	51. Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal
52. Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal	53. Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medal	54. Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon
55. Air Force Recognition Ribbon	56. China Service Medal	57. American Defense Service Medal
58. Women's Army Corps Service Medal	59. WWII Theater Campaign Medals	60. World War II Victory Medal

<b>Table 5-3. Order of Precedence for Wear of US Military Awards and Decorations on the CAP Uniform (all are worn above the CAP ribbons)</b>		
61. Occupation Medal (Navy/Army)	62. Medal for Humane Action	63. National Defense Service Medal
64. Korean Service Medal	65. Antarctica Service Medal	66. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
67. Vietnam Service Medal	68. Southeast Asia Service Medal	69. Armed Forces Service Medal
70. Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal	71. Humanitarian Service Medal	72. Air Force Overseas Ribbon
73. Army Overseas Ribbon	74. Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (Navy/Marine)	75. Coast Guard Special Operations Service
76. Coast Guard Sea Service	77. AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon	78. Reserve Medals (Armed Forces/Navy and Marine Corps)
79. NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon	80. Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon	81. USAF BMT Honor Graduate Ribbon
82. Coast Guard Reserve Honor Graduate Ribbon	83. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon	84. Navy Pistol Shot Medal
85. Air Force Training Ribbon	86. Army Service Ribbon	87. Philippine Defense Ribbon
88. Philippine Liberation Ribbon	89. Philippine Independence Ribbon	90. Merchant Marine Combat Bar
91. Merchant Marine War Zone	92. Foreign Decoration	93. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
94. Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation	95. Other Foreign Unit Citations	96. United Nations Service Medal
97. United Nations Medal	98. NATO Medal	99. Multilateral Organization Awards
100. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal	101. Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)	102. Kuwaiti Kuwait Liberation Medal
103. Foreign Service Medals		

<b>Table 5-4. Arrangement of Ribbons on Service Uniforms</b>			
<b>Rule</b>	<b>If the number of ribbons authorized is</b>	<b>and the coat lapel covers portions of the ribbons</b>	<b>then see note and wear ribbons in</b>
1	1, 2, or 3	No	A single row.
2	4 thru 6	Yes	Multiples of 3 or 4, centering any remaining ribbons on the top row.
3	4 thru 9	No	Multiples of 3 or 4, centering any remaining ribbons on the top row.
4	7 thru 9	Yes	Multiples of 3 or 4 in two bottom rows, but to prevent coat lapel from covering ribbons, each row thereafter may contain less than three, with top row centered over the row immediately below.
5	10 or more	No	Multiples of 3 or 4, with any remaining ribbons centered over the row immediately below.
6	10 or more	Yes	Multiples of 3 or 4 in at least the two bottom rows; to prevent coat lapel from covering ribbons, each additional row may contain less than three or four, with top row centered over the row immediately below.

**NOTES:**

1. Ribbons will always be placed on wearer's left with bottom row resting on, but not over, top edge of left welt or pocket. When worn in rows of three, ribbons will be centered above the pocket between the left and right pocket edges. Only to prevent the service coat lapel from covering the ribbons, additional rows of ribbons containing less than three may be aligned with the left ribbon edge. The top row of ribbons will be centered over the row immediately below. When worn in rows of four, left edge of the ribbons may be aligned with the left edge of the welt or pocket or centered above the left welt or pocket. Only to prevent the service coat lapel from covering the ribbons, additional row of ribbons containing less than four may be aligned with the left welt or pocket edge with the top row of ribbons centered over the row immediately below. There will be no space between the rows of ribbons.
2. Wear a maximum of four devices on each ribbon. Place silver devices to the wearer's right of bronze devices. Replace the bronze device with a silver device after receipt of the fifth bronze device.
3. If all authorized devices do not fit on a single ribbon, wear a second ribbon. Wear a minimum of three devices on the first ribbon before wearing a second ribbon. When wearing the second ribbon, place after the initial ribbon. It counts for one award. When future awards reduce device to a single ribbon, remove the second ribbon.

<b>Table 5-5. Arrangement of Miniature Medals by Rows (See NOTE)</b>											
<b>R U L E</b>	<b>If number of medals worn is</b>	<b>then the number of medals in each row is</b>									
		<b>with holding bar</b>				<b>with mounting bar (optional)</b>					
		Bottom	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Bottom	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
1	1 thru 5					1-4	1				
2	6	6				4	2				
3	7	7				4	3				
4	8	4	4			4	4				
5	9	5	4			4	4	1			
6	10	5	5			4	4	2			
7	11	6	5			4	4	3			
8	12	6	6			4	4	4			
9	13	7	6			4	4	4	1		
10	14	7	7			4	4	4	2		
11	15	5	5	5		4	4	4	3		
12	16	6	5	5		4	4	4	4		
13	17	6	6	5		4	4	4	4	1	
14	18	6	6	6		4	4	4	4	2	
15	19	7	6	6		4	4	4	4	3	
16	20	7	7	6		4	4	4	4	4	
17	21	7	7	7		4	4	4	4	4	1
18	22	6	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	2
19	23	6	6	6	5	4	4	4	4	4	3
20	24	6	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	4
21	25	7	6	6	6						
22	26	7	7	6	6						
23	27	7	7	7	6						
24	28	7	7	7	7						

**NOTE:** When fewer than five miniature medals are worn, all will be fully exposed. If more than four are worn on one row, each medal will equally overlap the medal to the left but the overlap will not exceed 50%; the medal nearest the lapel will be fully exposed. Upper rows will be placed to cover approximately 50% of the ribbon portion of the medals in the row below.