

**AFEHRI File 19-21**

**Research Materials/Source Documents  
UNIFORMS**

**FILE TITLE: Background Material on the History of the AF Uniform**

**Reviewed by:**

**AFEHRI Representative** G.R. Akin date 29 DEC 97

**EPC Representative** Frank Malt date \_\_\_\_\_

**Scanner Operator** Sunny Fildes date 24 Nov 98

**APPROVED BY:** Gary R. Akin

**GARY R. AKIN, CMSgt, USAF**

**Director**

**Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute**

## SUMMARY

4\* The idea of adopting a distinctive uniform for the Air Force was a matter of concern for many years. General Lauris Norstad felt that an attractive uniform would stimulate morale and be an aid in personnel recruiting. Mr. Stuart Symington, Secretary of the Air Force stated:

24 Airmen are neither soldiers, sailors nor marines, and it is inappropriate that they should be required to wear the uniform of one of the other services. Airmen need and are entitled to that feeling of pride of organization which is engendered by the wearing of a distinctive uniform, whether it be Army, Navy or high school band.

7 The first steps toward adopting a new uniform were taken by the AMC in 1945. Michaels, Stern and Company designed and presented a uniform for Air Force approval. However, the program was dropped before any uniform procurement was initiated.

1 In January 1946 General William E. Hall submitted a study of the proposed distinctive uniform to the chief of staff of the Air Force. The study indicated that the original concept of a uniform was to dress military personnel in clothes individual to an organization. The study also mentioned that a uniform should be so designed that it could be worn with pride. In the past, enlisted men had complained of the appearance of their uniform. In view of this complaint, General H. Griswold<sup>X</sup> proposed that consideration be given to soliciting the opinion of enlisted men. However, General Griswold cautioned  
3 that enlisted men's and officers' uniforms should not be identical.

---

\* See document file.

3 The basic uniform requirements were to be submitted to men's  
4 tailoring specialists, and the best available clothing designers  
(handwritten) in the country consulted. Accordingly, seven of the most out-  
6 standing clothing designers were invited to attend a uniform  
conference on 29 September 1947 at the National Defense Building.  
At the request of Mr. Stuart Symington, Secretary of the Air Force,  
several designers presented models on 3 November 1947.

Among the features of the uniforms presented were double-  
breasted coats and pants without rear pockets. In the matter of  
color, agreement was reached that a blue shade, uxbridge 1683,  
should be adopted for the new uniform. All present also agreed on  
buttons of oxidized silver incorporating the Air Force seal. Mr.  
Prespowich, representing American Woolen Mills, suggested that  
7 gabardine should not be considered inasmuch as it was in short supply.

During the second uniform presentation, General Hoyt Vandenberg,  
Chief of Staff of the Air Force, mentioned that the overcoat did not  
match the blouse and trousers. He was advised that it was impossible  
to dye the material of the overcoat the same as the worsted material  
used in the blouse and trousers. There was a choice of a green or  
red shade of blue. The green shaded material was chosen because  
19 it was more pleasing to the eye.

When it became certain that the Air Force planned to adopt a  
new uniform, Mr. Symington gave considerable thought to the fact  
that the Quartermaster had ordered a large amount of olive drab  
material for future use, and some action should be taken to dye the  
12 finished wool Air Force Blue instead of Shade OD 33. Of the  
4,000,000 yards of olive drab material on order, the Air Force

share was approximately 36 per cent of 1,450,000 yards. The Quartermaster General informed the Air Force that no action had been taken to cancel or change any outstanding contracts.

11

*Hand*

A conference was held in the office of Mr. Symington in October 1947. Mr. Symington impressed the officers of the Quartermaster Corps with the fact that the Air Force was their customer in the matter of uniform procurement. Some officers received the impression that the Secretary of Air Force was not completely satisfied with the efforts of the Quartermaster Corps to procure a new uniform for the Air Force.

9

Mr. Symington, in a memorandum to Mr. Kenneth Royall, Secretary of the Army, requested that the Quartermaster make the maximum amount of 18 ounce serge available in the new blue shade. The memorandum also stated the Secretary of Air Force would appreciate an early indication that the Quartermaster had taken action to modify the contracts. Mr. Symington felt the cost of modifying the contracts would cost less than 25 cents per yard and that Fiscal Year 1948 funds might be used to accomplish the operation. Colonel Baker of the Quartermaster requested authority from the Bureau of Budget to change the undyed 18 ounce serge material to blue. The Bureau of Budget informed Colonel Baker that no fast action could be expected. While the Bureau of Budget considered the proposal, \$17,000,000 worth of unwanted olive drab material was produced. Mr. Symington advised the President that each day of delay caused 100,000 yards of unneeded olive drab material to be made.

12

16

22 The Quartermaster was in an awkward position. It certainly could not stop buying olive drab material for the Air Force because such a step would create an unsafe minimum inventory in case of emergency. Even normal supply operation would be open to criticism for maintaining too short a lead time for uniform procurement. The Quartermaster did not have the authority to use funds to buy the blue material. Congressman Scrivner from Kansas constantly reminded the Quartermaster that it had better not buy any blue cloth without Congressional approval.

23, 18B In order to have funds to proceed with the uniform program, President Truman in 1948 transmitted to Congress Supplemental Estimates of Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1948. The purpose of submitting the estimate to Congress at this time was to get the uniform program under way prior to the beginning of Fiscal Year 1949.

On 25 February 1948 hearings were held by the Congressional Subcommittee on Supplemental Appropriations. At the hearings, Congressmen raised three main objections to appropriating money for a new Air Force uniform:

- (1) The services should have a single uniform in order to unify the military establishments.
- (2) There would be additional costs in changing to a new uniform.
- (3) That the present uniform worn by the Air Force would be wasted.

Mr. Zuckert, Under Secretary of the Air Force, answered the first Congressional objection.

We feel separate uniforms were in no way contrary to the purposes of unification of the military services. The wearing of a different uniform will not prevent military personnel from thinking in terms of the over all military establishment.

General Edwin Rawlings answered the second and third Congressional objections when he stated that the cost of the uniform change would be \$8 per man or a total of \$2,500,000 for the entire Air Forces. General Rawlings further stated that no uniforms would be thrown away. The current uniforms would be used until worn out, and the Air Force would continue to wear the Army-type uniform until the new uniforms were available. The uniforms that were not used by the Air Force would be used by the Army. General Middleswart of the Office of Quartermaster General confirmed General Rawlings' statement.

Following the testimony, the supplemental appropriation bill, of which the uniform funds were a part, came to a vote. Mr. Scrivner asked that the part of the bill which requested money for the new uniform be stricken out.

Mr. Engle, Congressman from Michigan, demanded a vote on Mr. Scrivner's amendment to cut uniform appropriations. The majority voted for deleting funds for the Air Force. This vote stopped Quartermaster plans to immediately obligate funds for a new uniform.

23  
18

Wool Industry

During the period from 1946 to 1949 there was a tight situation in the woolen industry, and the wool trade magazine, The American Wool and Cotton Reporter, printed a misleading article concerning the purchase of materials by the Air Force. The article stated the Air Force had on order 4,125,000 yards of material and expected to order an additional 1,041,000 yards.

The Quartermaster requested the Air Force Public Information Office to advise The American Wool and Cotton Reporter of the true situation. The Quartermaster was concerned lest the textile market think that there would be additional procurement, which might possibly result in increased prices.

Another problem the Air Force encountered because of the tight situation in the woolen industry was the ease with which some "woolen jobbers" might dispose of off-shade material to officers' tailors. Word reached the Air Force Headquarters that one "jobber" had offered rejected shade 84 material, as standard Air Force Blue serge. It was felt, however, that a more appropriate time should be awaited to publish a booklet of approved samples, since Congressional approval to purchase blue material was still lacking.

2nd Round in Congress

Mr. Symington, in a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense, suggested that if the Secretary of Defense and the President desired a single uniform for all services a board should be appointed that would determine such a uniform.

17

20, 20B

25

*not used  
for  
report*

22 While Mr. Symington was attempting to learn the opinions of the Secretary of Defense and the President in regard to uniforms, an effort was made to find the attitude of the Congress in regard to uniform appropriations. Mr. Scrivner, who opposed the original appropriation, warned that there was not likely to be any change in Congressional attitude.

23, 24 The Air Force believed the reason for the failure of uniform appropriations in early 1948 was the desire of Congressmen and others to have a single uniform for all military services. Therefore, Mr. Symington advised Mr. Fred M. Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee that there was little likelihood that a single uniform would be adopted by the services. He said that each service was different and should have a distinctive uniform to keep up its esprit de corps.

Regarding the Congressional objection to the manner in which the olive drab uniforms would be disposed of, General Edwin Rawlings contacted Mr. Robert L. F. Sikes, a member of the Subcommittee of the Armed Services House Appropriations Committee. General Rawlings reemphasized that none of the olive drab uniforms would be wasted. When Mr. Sikes requested a written statement, General Rawlings complied stating:

The Air Force will integrate the new blue uniform into our program on a gradual basis so that by approximately September, Calendar year 1950, each airman will have in his possession one complete new uniform. Initially the new uniform will only be worn for off duty wear [and] special functions with the OD still to be utilized for work formation . . . as the program develops, the old uniforms that are worn



out will be replaced with blue instead of OD . . . The Department of Army will cooperate with the Air Force by utilizing Air Force excess OD stocks.

Between the first and second time the uniform bill went to Congress, the Air Force found that the cost required to issue a complete uniform had risen sharply. The unit price per man was now \$144.42, whereas it had been estimated at \$109.70 a year before. Too, credits lost from the undyed serge material in 1947 considerably increased the cost. It was also found that the cost of the proposed uniform would be \$89,000,000 while the budget and credits on textiles from the Army gave credits of only around \$83,000,000. The difference would be absorbed in the Army and USAF program for Fiscal Year 1950.

The Quartermaster General and his staff promised to follow the new uniform program energetically. In 1949 a staff study was made for the Air Force uniform program by the Quartermaster General. Unfortunately, the Quartermaster had not within recent years had any experience in changing the uniform of a large group of military personnel.

*why not more heady?*

Although the Quartermaster Corps had had considerable experience in equipping large groups of military personnel with one or more new items, many problems presented themselves. It was found that supply, even when liberally provided, does not always meet the demand. There were also problems of extended pipe lines and distribution difficulties which were not helped by a general lack of supply discipline.

In the matter of how the supply was to be handled, the Air Force and the Army agreed that the Quartermaster Corps was to be primarily a purchase and storage agency for the USAF. The Quartermaster was to assist primarily in initiating the program.

31 Mr. Symington requested in January 1949 that the Quartermaster begin procurement operations immediately. At the same time, the AMC was advised of its new responsibilities. It would have control of all individual clothing and equipage funds and control the distribution, storage, and issue of new uniforms at depot and base levels for supplies. The AMC was further charged with furnishing general supply requirements, shipping schedules, and returning all unused Army type items of clothing and equipage to the Quartermaster.

28, 33

Concerning the return of the olive drab uniforms to the Army, final agreement was not reached until early 1951. The agreement stated that all excess Army-type clothing in Air Force possession would be transferred to the Department of the Army. This left the Air Force with only enough olive drab to supply Army troops attached to the Air Force. Headquarters, USAF and the Quartermaster General decided that all subsequent transfers between the Departments of the Air Force and Army would be on a local reimbursement basis. Stock transfers in the continental United States would be on the basis of purchase requests. In an effort to achieve a more coordinated uniform program, in June 1950 the AMC undertook responsibility for the development of all uniform clothing and completion of specifications and patterns. However, the Quartermaster Corps performed all actual procurement, and any problems

41

that might arise between development and procurement would be carried on directly between the AMC and the Quartermaster Corps.

In the matter of design, one of the most important projects was the combat uniform, which was made of a cotton sateen material. The uniform itself consisted of an inner shirt, an outer jacket and trousers. The color was the new sage green which looked grey to the average man. This uniform was approved 11 April 1951 by the Chief of Staff in accordance with changes recommended by the Far East Air Force. When the blue uniform was issued to the Air Force, a system of monetary clothing allowances was set up. This system gave airmen necessary funds to procure uniform clothing through clothing sales stores established by the Air Force.

With the cash derived from sales to the airmen, Supply Division, AMC, would (1) procure textiles; (2) provide for fabrication; (3) pay first destination transportation expenses; and (4) replenish the stock of clothing in depots and clothing stores for subsequent resale to airmen as needed.

In the establishment of the clothing fund there were many problems to be solved. The first was deciding which items to incorporate under the stock fund, as there were many items common to individual and organizational equipment. Decisions on these items were subsequently reached at the AMC and Headquarters, USAF.

Next, the problem arose as to the amounts of each item the Air Force had in its possession. There were on order undelivered textiles purchased with funds from the previous year. Many of

these textiles were in transit from the prime manufacturer to the Quartermaster's warehouse, and from Quartermaster and fabricator to Air Force bases with and without clothing stores. This condition presented a difficult task in preparing an inventory of all items.

The main problem which faced the AMC Comptroller was the development of an effective, over-all accounting procedure for the stock fund. Strict control had to be kept over the following:

- (1) Purchasing within the limit of the allotment from Headquarters, USAF.
- (2) Control of the monetary value of textiles utilized in the fabrication of the uniform items and in accord with pricing for the garments.
- (3) Payment of obligations against the stock fund from a centrally located point in order to take advantage of purchase discounts.
- (4) Provision of an accounting entry to indicate variance between the purchase price and the authorized selling price of inventory carrying value.
- (5) Provision of an adequate system for recording the various types of sales to airmen.
- (6) Provision of a standard form for reporting the over-all operation of procurement, finance, stores, and warehouse.

To meet these needs an accounting system was devised in approximately 30 days by the AMC and presented to the Deputy Chief of Staff,

Comptroller, USAF, for review and acceptance. However, the Comptroller did not accept the proposed procedure, as he felt it was inadequate for the accounting problems involved.

*what time the system?*

Mr. Henry Basset and Lt. Col. Thomas Syrme were assigned by Headquarters, USAF to develop a comprehensive accounting system. The system was then utilized for a period of three months, during which time it was amended by some 30 book messages plus an equal number of correspondence changes to the manual.

A new manual was created and put into operation 1 September 1950. After one month's operation this manual was found to be inadequate, primarily due to the buildup of the Air Force and problems that were encountered in the first month's operation. However, the AMC conducted operations under this manual, amending it as the need arose until a new manual could be developed. At a world-wide conference held in January 1951, of all clothing sales store operators, suggestions were made for the revision of the manual. As a result, the new manual was placed in operation 1 April 1951. A revised manual was placed in operation on 1 July 1951, the beginning of Fiscal Year 1952. This manual has been judged adequate to operate the clothing stores on a business-like basis, and to maintain the financial integrity of the store fund. The manual was also considered adequate to cover all procurement transactions. However, minor changes of an internal nature have been constantly made to improve the efficiency of the accounting in the clothing sales stores and in the general office of the Stock Clothing Fund at Headquarters, AMC.

The monetary clothing allowance system is more efficient than the old system for several reasons. First, it permits procurement of items based on sales tariffs rather than on tariffs designed by Quartermaster Corps or college groups, which are predicated upon a fixed number of people and the sizes they represent. Procurement is now being performed in the same way as does any retail clothing outlet in commercial practice. Secondly, inasmuch as the capital of the stock fund is fixed, this operation is not subject to Congressional appropriations. This means purchases are based on need and are made 12 months a year, and cannot be delayed by failure of Congress to pass an appropriation measure on time. Third, the stock fund can buy when prices are lowest rather than at the end of the fiscal year. Fourth, a uniform was provided for all Air Force personnel standard as to quality, shade, and fit, which heretofore was not possible or probable under the inkind issue basis.

Incentive was provided for the enlisted man to take proper care of his clothing, inasmuch as proper care saved the airman money from his cash allowance, which in turn was the same as a bonus.

*very plain  
conclusion*

*cf. [unclear] [unclear]*

Feb 19 31-5

26

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR  
DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*uniform file  
Part I  
10-1/p*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

30 January 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL CHAUNCEY

SUBJECT: Air Force Uniform

1. The attached R & Rs and study were prepared in this office with a view towards designing a distinctive uniform for the autonomous Air Force. The ideas suggested are principally from the Personnel standpoint as regards morale, etc. of individuals in the Air Force. It was contemplated that the study would be approved by you and turned over to AC/AS-4 to apply their professional knowledge to our ideas. The R & R to AC/AS-4 directs that office to make up sample uniforms along the lines suggested for further consideration by the Air Staff.

2. It is not considered desirable for the Air Force to get too deeply involved in any overall Army uniform now. It is strongly recommended that the Air Force express themselves as desiring a distinctive uniform for all members of the Air Force, including ASWAAFs. This point is considered essential for morale within the membership of the Air Force.

3. The attached sketches were made up from the ideas suggested in our study. It is realized that there will be considerable controversy over many of the features and too, that professional knowledge applied to the actual formation of the uniforms will necessitate certain changes. The sketches are primarily for the purpose of giving life to the word pictures. It is believed that any controversy on minor points should be avoided until the sample uniforms are submitted to the Air Staff.

*John F. [unclear]  
[unclear]*

*William E. Hall*

WILLIAM E. HALL  
Brigadier General, USA  
Deputy AC/AS-1



*Note: The enlisted personnel here for discussion of personnel policies accepted the ideas of this paper practically 100%.*

2.

2.4

Jul 15 1946

3-1

Uniform file  
B-10

9-1/2pp HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES 24

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

TALLY NO.	
FILE NO.	

SUBJECT: Proposed Air Force Uniform

TO: Asst Chief of Air Staff - 1

DATE 2 MAY 1946

FROM: Asst Chief of Air Staff - 3

COMMENT NO. 2  
Major Stryker/vml/74811

1. This office has reviewed the attached copy of staff study on Proposed Air Force Uniform and considers it most desirable to establish an attractive Air Force uniform, regardless of the autonomous status of the Air Force, because of the functional requirements of Air Force uniforms.
2. Air Force uniforms tied to Army standard requirements have never been functionally sound. It is believed feasible to design a uniform which is functional and attractive as well.
3. In addition to the principles put forth in the attached staff study, the following principles are recommended: "The Air Force uniform should be practical and comfortable for all flying, including wearing under flying clothing of all types, yet should present a neat appearance when returning to post duty, or when going off the post, so as to obviate the necessity for carrying other uniforms on flights."
4. This office does not entirely agree with the principles of the attached staff study with regards to colors. It is believed that camouflage is of only minor importance to the Air Force uniform. The principles of heat absorption and heat reflection will be violated if the same color is used for the winter and summer uniform. The winter uniform should be dark and the summer uniform should be light. It is believed that there is no objection to two colors, or even two styles, since we would be reducing considerably from the present multiple styles and colors. It is also recommended that consideration be given to a uniform color of blue-gray, similar to the R.A.F. or the Luftwaffe, which appears to ideally combine attractiveness and practicability.
5. This office does not concur in Paragraph 8 a. of the attached study in that no distinction should be made between summer and winter uniforms except in the difference of fabric weight. It is believed that a summer uniform should be designed so that it may be washable in hot damp weather.
6. This office non-concurs with Paragraph 11 a. (2) in that insignia of rank should be placed on shoulder loops of the duty jacket or on the shirt when worn without the jacket. The insignia proposed for summer uniforms and duty uniforms follows the R.A.F. type which appears sloppy and unmilitary. Washable detachable loop insignia cannot be slipped over starched or unstarched shoulder loops without causing them to bulge. It is recommended that small metal insignia, pinned on each side of the collar of the shirt, and insignia of rank on the sleeve of the duty jacket, are much neater and more military in appearance.
7. With reference to Paragraph 12, Other Necessities, it is recommended that the shirt worn with dress or duty uniform be of a different but harmonizing color, or that the shirt be several shades lighter than the uniform, the tie to be a darker

3-1



HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES 25  
**ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

TALLY NO.	
FILE NO.	

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Air Force Uniform.

**TO:** Asst. Chief of Air Staff-1

**DATE** 1 MAY 1946

**FROM:** Asst. Chief of Air Staff-3

**COMMENT No.** 2  
**CONTINUED**

and/or harmonizing color with the uniform. The same applies to the color of the socks.

8. With reference to Paragraph 12 f., Overcoat, the present dress trench coat which is being considered as a pattern for the overcoat is not warm enough for some areas even with a liner installed and consideration of this fact should be given in designing an all-purpose overcoat.

9. It is recommended that consideration be given to soliciting the opinion from a cross-section of enlisted personnel concerning style, material, color, and other factors for all uniforms.

10. It is recommended that another approach to the problem be considered - that is, the submission of basic requirements to uniform and men's tailoring specialists along with the request that they make complete studies considering all factors of practicality and appearance.

11. Consideration should be given to the probability of military personnel wearing civilian clothing during off-duty hours as a factor in reducing the number of different types of uniforms proposed in the study, particularly the "dress" type. Every effort should be made to combine the dress and duty uniforms for if this is not done there will inevitably be a mixture of the two types, both on and off the post.

12. It is believed that if officers continue to purchase uniforms on the market the result will be a variety of non-regulation colors. It is believed that cloth manufacture should be more strictly controlled or that approved cloth be issued to tailors by the Quartermaster.

13. It is recommended that we not allow the present wave of "gripes" by enlisted men to color our judgment to the extent that officers' and enlisted mens' uniforms become absolutely identical. Color and cut should be controlled, but officers should continue to buy uniforms of the best tailoring and material that they can afford. Good enlisted men respect officers of superior appearance, and esprit de corps is fostered when officers take care and pride in their uniforms. It must not be forgotten that enlisted men, for various reasons, want to be able to identify their officers and at a distance.

- Incl: n/c
- AFRPO Maxwell AFCCP Co. Ladd Deale H. H. H. H.
- AFREP Ball
- AFCTG Q. L. L. L. AFCCM Col. J. J. J. J.
- AFCCP W. W. W. W. AFACO L. L. L. L.
- AFRNG W. W. W. W.

*Francis H. Griswold*  
 FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD  
 Brigadier General, U.S.A.  
 Deputy Asst. Chief of Air Staff-3

3-2

3-2

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1948

Quartermaster Service, Army

STATEMENTS OF EUGENE M. ZUCKERT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
OF THE AIR FORCE; GENERAL H. S. VANDENBERG, VICE-CHIEF OF  
STAFF, U. S. AIR FORCE; LT. GEN. E. W. RAWLINGS, COMPTROLLER,  
USAF; LT. GEN. I. EDWARDS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL  
AND ADMINISTRATION; MAJ. GEN. L. P. WRITTEN, DIRECTOR,  
MAINTENANCE SUPPLY AND SERVICES; MAJ. GEN. W. H. MIDDLESWAIT,  
ASSISTANT TO THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL; COLONEL A. L. MARSHALL,  
CHIEF, FISCAL DIVISION, OCMO; L. COL. J. E. BAKER, CHIEF,  
CLOTHING & EQUIPAGE BRANCH, OCMO

Clothing and Equipage

The Chairman. We have before us an item, for an additional amount for Clothing and Equipage, \$26,670,000. What have you to say about that?

General Statement

Mr. Zuckert. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Mr. Symington, the Secretary of the Air Force, I would like to express his

18B1

18-B-1

regret at not being able to be here to speak in support of

this item.

I have a statement which he would have read, which I shall read to the committee, if you wish.

The Chairman. You may proceed.

Mr. Zuckert.

We believe it is essential to the morale and esprit de corps of the Air Force that we provide a distinctive type of uniform for our military personnel.

It is an incontestable fact, borne out by centuries of military experience, that a soldier's or sailor's uniform has much to do with his morale and efficiency. There is a sound reason for this. The uniform is the outward symbol of the organization, its traditions, its aims, and of the spirit within the man that responds to these things. The desire that all humans have to belong to an organization and to make that organization a thing of pride, reached its ultimate expression in the military services. One important purpose of the uniform is to identify the individual to himself, to his fellows, and to outsiders as a part of a particular organization. A very important appeal to young men considering a military career is the right and privilege of wearing the uniform.

18-B-2

When the National Security Act of 1947 was under consideration in Congress, the question of a separate Air Force uniform arose. The

1802

matter of total merger and one uniform was discussed and rejected by the Congress as being too drastic. The Congress recognized that the services have different functions and different organizations, and for those reasons it was decided to preserve their integrity and operating autonomy, so as to insure the retention of those intangibles of esprit de corps and morale so essential to military service. A distinctive uniform for the Air Force can, therefore, be considered as a logical move toward implementing the intent of the law.

New uniforms will have a most constructive psychological effect on the Air Force. It will be their very own symbol, and will have immediate desirable effects in discipline, courtesy and morale.

We feel a separate uniform for the Air Force is in no way contrary to the aims and purposes of the unification of the military services. The wearing of a different uniform will not prevent military personnel from thinking in terms of the overall National Defense Establishment.

We feel the sooner the uniform can be provided and worn by enlisted men and officers, the better it will be for American Air Power.

The request we are presenting to you is for funds to finance the program.

1803

18-B-3

for enlisted personnel.

Officers will also wear the new uniform but will bear the cost themselves. The proposed new uniform for enlisted personnel will be identical with that of officers with the necessary exception of identifying rank insignia.

Careful studies during the past few months have resulted in the final selection of material and designs. To hold costs to a minimum, due consideration was given to the greatest possible continued use by the Air Force of those Army items in stock or under procurement which can be used without affecting the appearance of the distinctive uniform.

The plan further provides that the present Army-type uniform will be retained and used until worn out.

Although this supplemental request is for \$26,670,000, this represents an advance in funds which is required to finance the program now. Substantially all of these funds would be required in the normal course of events if the present uniform were retained. The final net additional cost to the taxpayer because of the distinctive uniform will not exceed \$2,500,000, which is about eight dollars per enlisted man.

18-B-4

18-B-4

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT:

Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

TO: Chief of Air Staff

DATE:

FROM: AC/AS-1

COMMENTS:  
Col. Briggance

1. Attached for your approval is study (Tab A) describing a proposed distinctive Air Force uniform.
2. Attached for your signature is proposed R & R to AC/AS-4, (Tab B) directing that materials, etc. be procured and tested and that sample uniforms be made for inspection by the Air Staff. Study (Tab A herewith) is intended to be approved by R & R (Tab B) when the latter is forwarded to AC/AS-4.
3. Recommend approval for planning purposes of suggestions in Tab A and action as suggested herein.

Incls

- Tab A - Memo for C/AS, subj; Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform
- Tab B - R&R to AC/AS-4, same subj.

WILLIAM S. SHAW  
Brigadier General  
Deputy AC/AS-1

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

*uniform file*  
*Book I*  
*5-711 pp*

[29 Jan. 1946]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF

SUBJECT: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

PROBLEM

1. To prescribe policies applicable to the fashioning of a distinctive uniform for the Air Forces.

ASSUMPTION

2. That the Air Force will be established as a coordinate member of a single Department of Armed Forces, and, as such, will have its own distinctive uniform.

DISCUSSION

3. Detailed inquiry into the problem of creating an attractive career for enlisted men in the Postwar Air Force has made it apparent that a matter of importance is the provision for a uniform so designed and tailored that it will be worn not only properly and proudly but voluntarily. It must not be one that a man will wear only under compulsion. The present uniform, although made of excellent material, is not tailored or designed so that it is always smart in appearance, and enlisted men are prone to complain that it is of poorer appearance than the officer's uniform.

4. In considering a uniform for members of a military establishment, it appears highly desirable for all members, both officer and enlisted personnel, to wear the same uniform with differences in status indicated only through distinctive insignia. It is firmly believed that one of the morale problems which has always faced our armed forces has been the fact that officers were permitted to wear a uniform so entirely different from that of the enlisted men that a severe class line was drawn. As modern developments of warfare have integrated the enlisted men and officers more and more, that class line has proved to be a much greater problem. To aggravate the situation further, exigencies of war and undesirable practices have permitted officers to deviate from a prescribed uniform to the point where officers have been designing their own



uniform file  
Bald I  
5-3/11 pp

11

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

uniforms and the name "uniform" has lost much of its meaning.

5. It is believed that the above stated problems can be overcome by restoring the "uniform" to its original concept--that is to dress military personnel in clothes that are distinctive to their organization--to the end that each man within a force is recognizable by his dress and that that dress is truly uniform throughout the establishment. The position or rank of each individual can be recognized by prescribed accessories to the distinctive dress of his organization.

6. Recognizing the fact that, under present laws, an officer is required to purchase his own uniform while an enlisted man is issued all articles of duty clothing, a uniform common to all members of an organization must be so designed that civilian tailors will be able to duplicate the color, material, and style specifications. An alternate to this requirement would be to change existing laws to provide issue of uniforms to officers as well as enlisted men. This, however, is believed unnecessary if proper choice of color, style and material is made.

7. Color--There are several requirements which must be considered in making a choice of color for a uniform.

a. Primarily the color must be practical. It should be one that does not show dirt easily and one which is possible of manufacture without a complicated dyeing procedure.

b. The color must be of a type that is easy to duplicate in order that the uniform of all personnel will be exactly the same shade.

c. It must be a fast color that will not fade or deteriorate to any noticeable degree due to repeated cleaning and wear or due to age or climatic conditions.

d. It must be a color that is pleasing to the eye and does not cause a person who must wear it often to tire of it.

e. The chosen color must meet military requirements for camouflage to a degree consistent with practicality and good taste. It is also desirable that the color be different from presently accepted uniforms of other armed forces.

f. Considering the above stated requirements, there are several colors that are recommended to be tested. They are, in order of desirable priority:



uniform file  
Bancroft I  
5-4/11 pp

12

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

- (1) \*Dark Gray (Gun-metal) (Approximately No. 112 in Webster's Color Chart)
- (2) \*Medium Brunswick Green (Approximately No. 65 in Webster's Color Chart)
- (3) \*Cocoa (Approximately No. 121 in Webster's Color Chart)
- (4) \*Sapphire Blue (Approximately No. 86 in Webster's Color Chart)

\*NOTE: Names of colors taken from Webster's Color Chart. These are approximate colors.

8. Types--The next problem that poses itself regarding uniforms is the determination of types of uniforms required. At the present time, war exigencies and a loose interpretation of uniform regulations have resulted in a multitude of uniform styles and types. It is believed that, in the interests of economy and to keep the idea of uniformity apparent, it is advisable to limit the number of types of uniform authorized to a bare minimum, consistent with practicality. This paper, therefore, will deal only with so-called "work" and "dress" uniforms. The question of formal wear is considered outside the scope of this study.

a. No distinction is to be made between a summer and a winter uniform. Different weight fabrics should definitely be provided for but the design and color of all uniforms will be such that light and heavy weight clothing will be the same in appearance. In each case the trousers and blouse or jacket will be of the same material and color. It will thus be possible to permit the wearing of either the so-called "summer" or "winter" uniform at the option of the individual.

b. "Dress" Uniform for ordinary wear--This uniform should be of smart appearance, suitable for wear on all ordinary occasions. It should be styled comfortably to permit the wearer complete freedom, yet be simple and durable.

c. "Duty" Uniform--This uniform should be of a type suitable for working in offices or performing duties on the post. It should be of the same material as the "dress" uniform yet have as its chief objective the assurance of comfort for the wearer while at the same time maintaining a neat appearance.

d. "Fatigue" Uniform--The fatigue uniform will be that adopted as standard for the Armed Forces, both as to color and

1-4

1-4

uniform file  
Book I  
5-5/11 pp

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

material and will not be considered further here. Mechanics uniforms will conform, if possible, to articles used in the other Armed Forces.

9. Style—The next problem presenting itself is that of styles for the various uniforms. The styles must be limited by smart appearance, practicality, simplicity and good taste.

a. "Dress" Uniform—This uniform should consist of a blouse and trousers in a neat, comfortable, practical style. The blouse should be of a type most suitable to the greatest number of individuals to the extent consistent with other requirements. There seems to be considerable difference of opinion as to whether this should be double breasted or single breasted style.

- (1) Double breasted proponents claim the following advantages:
  - (a) The wearer will have a greater tendency to keep the blouse buttoned because of the uncomfortable hang of a double breasted coat when open.
  - (b) Properly tailored, a double breasted coat gives the wearer smoother lines and permits greater opportunity to effect the illusion of slimmer hips and broader shoulders.
  - (c) A protruding stomach is more readily hidden.
- (2) Defenders of the single breasted blouse claim:
  - (a) There is greater economy of material.
  - (b) The illusion of greater height and smooth conformation is obtained as easily if not easier with proper tailoring.
- (3) In any event, certain principles will apply to either. Uniforms of both styles should be made up for ultimate decision.
  - (a) The coat would be well fitted with no flaring skirt.
  - (b) The only outside pockets would be hidden side pockets with only a flap showing - the pockets to be bellows type, expanding to the inside. There should be two inner

*uniform file*  
*Bank I*  
*5-6/11/47*

14

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

breast pockets for utility use.

- (c) For neater all around appearance and greater utility, the use of double side vents is recommended in preference to a single vent in the center of the rear of the coat.
- (d) The blouse should have free action shoulders and a back without pleats or belt. It should hang neatly and gracefully without appearing sloppy. No shoulder straps or epaulettes would be used.
- (e) The trousers should be of a neat, military cut with a medium high waist, in order that they may be worn with the jacket of the duty uniform. The waist should be tailored for wear with suspenders or belt. There should be no pleats or cuffs.
- (f) A full lining is recommended for the blouse.
- (g) The use of stitching across each breast about eight (8) inches down from the shoulder line to be used as a base line for ribbons and wings is recommended.

b. "Duty" Uniform--This uniform should be of a style particularly designed for comfort.

- (1) The blouse should be a single breasted battle jacket type, preferably of the style which is slightly full at the waist giving a blouse effect so that the wearer, when sitting down, will not have a gap between the trousers and the jacket. It is recommended that a style similar to the present quartermaster jacket, field, wool, OD be adopted except for the waist band which should provide for some internal adjustment such as an elastic band across the rear in order to give the blouse effect.
- (2) The cuffs of the jacket should be of the adjustable type with concealed button.
- (3) The jacket should have a zipper front with a fly covering the zipper.

uniform file  
Book I  
5-7/1184

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

- (4) Shoulder loops will be provided on the jacket in such a form that the rank insignia may be presented in as neat and practical manner as possible.
- (5) The pockets should be hidden with only the flap visible.
- (6) The trousers should be exactly the same as those worn with the "dress" uniform in order that they may be interchangeable. It is repeated that the trousers should be medium high waisted to better guard against a gap between the trousers and jacket when in a sitting position.
- (7) A full lining for the jacket is recommended.

10. Material--The materials for the uniform must be determined through individual study by an agency thoroughly familiar with the professional aspects of the problem. However, general stipulations can be made. The material should be:

- a. Hard enough to hold a good press.
- b. Durable enough to wear well under adverse conditions.
- c. Able to take and hold a fast color.
- d. Adaptable to good tailoring in different styles.
- e. Easily procured in large quantities.

There must be at least two weights of materials, since winter and summer uniforms will be identical except for weight.

11. Insignia--Completion of the uniform demands a consideration of insignia and other accessories. It is recommended strongly that insignia and accessories of all types be limited to an absolute minimum. It appears desirable that all personnel be identified with their major organization by their uniform. Rank designation, badge of aeronautical rating and awards ribbons will be the only authorized additions to the uniform. To keep the esprit de corps of the Air Force at top level, it is desirable that all personnel be permitted to wear the same uniform with only the necessary military command requirements causing differentiation between individuals.

*Uniform file*  
*Book F*  
*5-2/11/47*      *1.6*

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

a. Officers:

(1) Officers dress uniform will carry insignia of rank on each sleeve. This insignia should be in the form of distinctive stripes the same as now used by the Navy for its six grades of line officers and five grades of flag officers. The only departure from the Navy system will be in the color of these insignia stripes which should be uniformly black or black edged with some harmonizing color for ease in recognition. In the case of professional officers such as Chaplains, Medical Officers, and Air Judge Advocate Officers, there will be a small device centered on the outside of each sleeve a short distance above the top rank stripe which will identify the wearer's major duty within the Air Force.

(2) Officers duty uniform will carry insignia of rank (and duty designation where applicable) on each shoulder using the same system of stripes as employed for the dress uniform, except in appropriately reduced size. Shoulder loops provided on the duty jacket will be utilized for this purpose.

(a) When the shirt is worn without blouse or jacket, insignia of rank will be placed on shoulder loops of the shirt in a manner similar to the duty jacket.

b. Warrant officers will wear insignia on both dress and duty uniforms in the same manner as prescribed for officers. The grades of warrant officers will be recognized by very narrow stripes, approximately one third the width of the officers stripes, except in the case of the highest grade warrant officer who will wear one broad stripe similar to the officer stripes but with transverse markings for identification. The lowest grade warrant officer will wear one stripe with one stripe added for each progressive grade until the top grade is reached. The stripes will be of the same material and color as the officers stripes.

c. Enlisted personnel - dress and duty uniform--Insignia of enlisted grade will be worn on both sleeves. The present

uniform file  
Book I  
5-9/11 pp

17

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

system of chevrons will be used through the adopted grades.

- (1) Chevrons denoting grade will be broader than at present. The chevron, when in position, should cover half the circumference of the sleeve and will be worn on the upper arm.
- (2) When the shirt is worn without blouse or jacket insignia of rank will be placed on the sleeves of the shirt in the same manner as the blouse or jacket.
- (3) Insignia [material] will be of the same material and color as officers insignia.

d. Service bars and all other distinctive insignia currently authorized for wear on the sleeve - except insignia of rank - should in the case of both officers and enlisted men be dispensed with and the act or service for which authorized be indicated by some ribbon or addition thereto. For instance, show enlisted man's service by some device on the ribbon of the good conduct medal.

e. Aviation badges, awards, etc. will be worn as prescribed in current regulations.

12. Other Necessities--Certain other necessities for a uniform must be considered along with the basic uniform.

a. Headgear:

- (1) It is recommended that the basic headgear be a cap similar in style to the present garrison cap. The cap should be of the same material and color as the basic uniform, with the present rank insignia (for officers) and officer, enlisted men's braid as are presently used.
- (2) An alternate cap similar to the present service cap--made of a suitable material in a color the same as the basic uniform should be devised. A suitable cap device should be adopted. Regulations should be definite as to the wearing of this cap to discourage any attempt to destroy the neat and military appearance of the uniform by deforming the headgear.

*uniform file*  
*Book I*  
*6-10/11 pp* 18

Memo for the Chief of Air Staff, Subj: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

b. Shoes—Shoes should be of a standard civilian style in a color suitable for the color uniform chosen. (In the case of the recommended dark gray uniform, black shoes should be worn.) The shoes should be plain toed, with both high and low cut styles to be issued enlisted personnel.

c. Shirts—The only shirt authorized for wear with either the "dress" or "duty" uniform should be one the same color as the uniform and made on the same pattern as the presently authorized shirt. Material would be wool or cotton at the wearer's choice.

d. Ties—The regulation tie is recommended to be one which will match the shirt and uniform in adopted color. Any material meeting standards of practicality is acceptable.

e. Socks—Socks authorized for wear with the uniform should match it in color. Any desired material could be used.

f. Overcoat—The authorized overcoat would be patterned after the present commonly used dress trench coat. Coat would be provided with a removable liner with sleeves. The color would match that accepted for the basic uniform and any appropriate material, preferably one that could be showerproofed, could be used. Insignia of officers rank would be worn on the shoulder, utilizing shoulder loops, and in the case of enlisted men, on the sleeve in the same manner as prescribed for the uniform.

g. Buttons—Buttons on the duty uniform will be concealed, therefore may be plain. Buttons on the overcoat should be plain and of a matching color. Exposed buttons on the dress uniform should be of a matching color and of plastic or other material which would permit the cap device mentioned in paragraph 12 a (2) above to be incorporated.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the uniform suggestions outlined above be accepted for planning purposes.

*William E. Hall*

WILLIAM E. HALL  
Brigadier General, USA  
Deputy AC/AS-1

*uniform file*  
*Book I*  
*5-11/17*

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES 19

# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

TALLY NO.	
FILE NO.	

SUBJECT: Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform

TO: AC/AS-4

DATE

FROM: Chief of Air Staff

COMMENT No. 1  
Col Wrigglesworth/lh/74131

1. Attached is a copy of a study on a proposed distinctive Air Force uniform, prepared by AC/AS-1. The policies laid down in this study are approved for planning purposes.

2. It is desired that you arrange for the procurement and testing of various materials, in the suggested colors, meeting the required specifications and/or such additional specifications as you may deem necessary. It is further desired that sample uniforms be made in the styles recommended, from such material as proves to be most acceptable and that these uniforms be submitted to the Air Staff for consideration.

3. It is requested that this project be given as high a priority as practicable, consistent with your other commitments.

Incl

Tab A -- Memo for C/AS, subj; Proposed Distinctive Air Force Uniform



HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE  
**ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

SUBJECT: Proposed Air Force Uniform.

TO: Asst. Chief of Air Staff-1

DATE: 3 May

FROM: Asst. Chief of Air Staff-3

COMMENT No. 2  
 CONTINUED

and/or harmonizing color with the uniform. The same applies to the color of the socks.

8. With reference to Paragraph 12 f., Overcoat, the present dress trench coat which is being considered as a pattern for the overcoat is not warm enough for some areas even with a liner installed and consideration of this fact should be given in designing an all-purpose overcoat.

9. It is recommended that consideration be given to soliciting the opinion from a cross-section of enlisted personnel concerning style, material, color, and other factors for all uniforms.

10. It is recommended that another approach to the problem be considered - that is, the submission of basic requirements to uniform and men's tailoring specialists along with the request that they make complete studies considering all factors of practicality and appearance.

11. Consideration should be given to the probability of military personnel wearing civilian clothing during off-duty hours as a factor in reducing the number of different types of uniforms proposed in the study, particularly the "dress" type. Every effort should be made to combine the dress and duty uniforms for if this is not done there will inevitably be a mixture of the two types, both on and off the post.

12. It is believed that if officers continue to purchase uniforms on the market the result will be a variety of non-regulation colors. It is believed that cloth manufacture should be more strictly controlled or that approved cloth be issued to tailors by the Quartermaster.

13. It is recommended that we not allow the present wave of "gripes" by enlisted men to color our judgment to the extent that officers' and enlisted mens' uniforms become absolutely identical. Color and cut should be controlled, but officers should continue to buy uniforms of the best tailoring and material that they can afford. Good enlisted men respect officers of superior appearance, and esprit de corps is fostered when officer take care and pride in their uniforms. It must not be forgotten that enlisted men, for various reasons, want to be able to identify their officers and at a distance.

Incl: n/c

AFREQ Marshall AFCON Co. Ladd, Poole, H. H. H. H.  
 AFREP Bell  
 AFCTG Q. L. Brown AFCCM Col. J. J. Mankie  
 AFCON W. J. J. AFACO Col. Pacheco  
 AFRNG W. J. J.

*Francis H. Griswold*  
 FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD  
 Brigadier General, U.S.A.  
 Deputy Asst. Chief of Air Staff-3

uniform file, 10/1/62  
7-1/2 pt

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Air Force Uniform.

**TO:** AC/AS-1

**FROM:** AC/AS-5, Special Planning Division

**DATE:**

**COMMENT:** Col Alan/ins/73496

1. Before selecting a specific uniform this office believes that we should submit the job of design and color to professionals in the uniform field. The new uniform will probably receive considerable publicity. If it is attractive, it will stimulate recruiting, morale, and in general a favorable public consciousness of the Air Forces. Therefore, let us reduce the possibilities of mistake by hiring the best talent available to assist us in this important matter.
2. Re Par. 2b of covering R&R accompanying study: This office does not agree that the uniform should be conservative. It is suggested that the word "conservative" be replaced with the phrase "in good taste". A noticeable bit of color tastefully applied has always been attractive in a military outfit. In general, people like colorful uniforms unless they are carried to the extremes of theater doormen or musical-comedy generals.
3. Re Par. 2d of covering R&R accompanying study: While it is agreed that the types of uniforms should be held to a minimum, it is suggested that a tropical uniform consisting of shorts and short-sleeved open-neck shirt be added to the agenda. The British custom of wearing long socks with the shorts does not seem to be wise in connection with this uniform, detracting as it does from the otherwise complete comfort of the ensemble. Where protection against mosquitos or grass is required, this suggested uniform must, of course, give way to a proper outfit. However, we will have a large number of stations where shorts can be worn with safety and comfort.
4. Our more particular comments on proposed Memorandum for Chief of Air Staff are listed below by paragraph.
  - Re Par. 7. After establishing our general color requirements, as has been done, let us not specify the color itself but hire the best talent and give it free rein in the color field. Let us require many samples made up of many colors. Then to assist us in our choice, let us have live models right here in the Pentagon.
  - Re Par. 8. It is believed that all uniforms should be considered at this time including, along with duty and dress uniforms, formal and fatigue uniforms.
  - Re Par. 8a. Suggest weighty consideration be given to shorts and shirts with open necks and short sleeves for summer and tropical wear. The lack of such a uniform has long plagued the Army. Its desirability is admitted on every hand, yet little if anything appears to have been done about it.
  - Re Par. 8d. If there is to be a standard fatigue uniform for all the armed forces, our reference to this uniform in paragraph 8 is withdrawn.

H,

2-186

7-11 HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE  
ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: Proposed Air Force Uniform (Cont'd)

TO: AC/AS-1

FROM: AC/AS-5, Special Planning Division

Re Par. 9. Suggest that the word "simplicity" be stricken out.

Re Par. 9a. If the single-breasted blouse should be adopted, we recommend a cloth belt permanently attached to the blouse for the reason that a single-breasted blouse without a belt tends to present an informal, non-military appearance; for example, the present summer uniform blouse.

Re Par. 10. Here again we recommend consideration of shorts. The material should be washable.

Re Par. 11a (1). Opinion on the use of the Navy system of sleeve insignia is divided. Nevertheless, whatever system of insignia is finally selected, it is desired to point out again the advantages of not specifying color at this time, but permitting commercial companies to present us with uniforms in a wide variety of colors, including the colors of stripes if they are to be used.

Re Par. 11c (1). Suggest that chevrons, instead of being broader than at present, be smaller. A recent conference of representative non-commissioned officers made this recommendation.

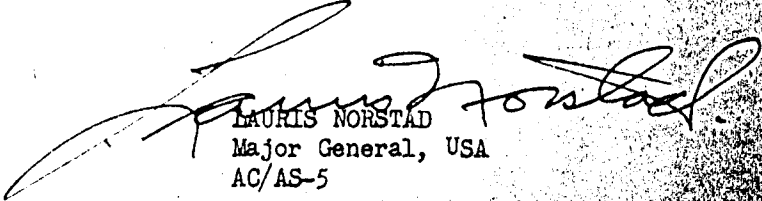
Re Par. 12a (2). Heartily concur in the necessity for discouraging any attempt to destroy the neat and military appearance of the uniform by deforming the headgear. Witness the absolutely unacceptable top pieces now worn by many of our officers. We should look upon our headgear not as something to fly in, but as something to wear on the station and in town.

Re Par. 12c. Suggest that the shirt be of the same color but a lighter shade than the uniform proper. In connection with the proposed uniform of shorts and short-sleeved shirt, something similar to the English bush jacket may evolve as desirable.

Re Par. 12d. The tie should be of a contrasting color with that of the shirt and the uniform, or should be of such a shade of the basic color that the maximum contrast is afforded.

Re Par. 12g. Suggest that buttons be left to the uniform designers.

1 Incl  
n/c

  
LAURIS NORSTAD  
Major General, USA  
AC/AS-5

H-2

4-27

*U.S. Info*

MINUTES OF MEETING

UNIFORM PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY

9 MARCH 1948

1030 HRS

ROOM 3E1022

NATIONAL DEFENSE BUILDING

*63*

General *Ray W. Vandenberg*  
 Lt. General *Lauris Norstad*  
 Lt. General *Idwal H. Edwards*  
 Lt. General *H. A. Craig*  
 Lt. General *Edwin W. Rawlings*  
 Maj. General *L. P. Whitten*  
 Maj. General *Hugh F. Knerr*  
 Maj. General *W. H. Middlewart*  
 Brig. Gen. *R. W. Burns*  
 Colonel *G. H. Dietz*

The meeting was opened at 1030 hours by Major General Whitten's opening address in which he outlined the various aspects of the new uniform on which decisions were to be reached. General Whitten presented a brief preview of the various uniforms which were to be displayed and outlined the points of each uniform on which decisions were desired.

1. Overcoat, Service (Officers and Enlisted Men)

a. Four sample service overcoats with oxidized silver buttons were shown and one sample service overcoat with gold buttons and officer's braid sewn on sleeve three inches from the end of the sleeve was shown. All the overcoats were made of uxbridge material. The only difference in the overcoats was in the relative softness and finish of the five models. It was pointed out by the quartermaster representatives that the harder finish a materiel had the longer would be the life of the garment.

General Vandenberg raised the point that the overcoat did not exactly match the blouse and trousers of the uniform. Advice from the manufacturers was forthcoming to the effect that it was not possible to dye the uxbridge material of the overcoat with the worsted material of the uniform and that in the process they had a choice of a green or red shade of blue. The overcoats in this display were on the greenish blend and therefore, looked better than did the redish blend. In other words, it created a pleasing contrast. It was brought out that the lining of these coats was whereas the lining of the present coat is cotton.

Discussion as to relative costs of the various garments revealed the following facts:

<u>Approximate Cost of Individual Overcoat</u>	<u>Approximate Cost of Entire Program</u>
Model A. \$35.54	12.1 million dollars
Model B. \$38.00	12.9 " "
Model C. \$38.00	12.9 " "
Model D. \$38.00	12.9 " "
Model E. \$41.88	14.5 " "

Decision was reached in favor of the garment modeled as "D".

*Reg A 3 Braid approved for officers*

19-2

19-2

II. Cap, Insignia (Officers) in conjunction with silver ornamentation.

- a. One uniform with coat, complete with all Air Force accessories in silver was shown.
- b. One uniform with coat, complete with all Air Force accessories in gold was shown.
- c. Decision was made in favor of silver ornamentation.
- d. Decision was made in favor of "bolts of lightning embroidery" for use on General Officer's dress cap. *with gold cap ornament*
- e. Decision was made to have present ornament, in silver, retained as the cap ornament for officer's cap.

III. Chevrons (Enlisted Men)

a. Patterns of chevrons were selected by the majority of personnel polled at Bolling Field. The enlisted cap ornament of oxidized silver within a circle was shown on a blue cap. 150 enlisted men of the first three grades were polled at Bolling Field and the chevrons and cap ornament shown were the preference of 55% of those polled.

b. The members of this meeting concurred with the results of the poll as taken at Bolling Field. *approved - Chevrons as sampled - selected by poll at B.F.*

IV. Presentation of a plan for authorizing the optional purchase and wear of the new uniform by both officers and enlisted men through commercial, as well as Post Exchange sources. *Enl cap ornament, 1 3/4" Superimposed on ring 1 3/4" diam*

a. Decision was made to the effect that new uniform may be worn at the option of the individual in the following instances:

- 1. When off duty.
- 2. On duty, when serving with troops not under arms.

b. It will be late in the fall of 1949 before each enlisted man will have an issue of one complete uniform. In general it seems to be agreed to issue the new uniform to the enlisted men by geographical areas. It was further agreed that officers might start to wear the new uniform in the fall of 1948. It is estimated that it will take 385 days before it will be possible to procure the necessary material, run tests, and get into full production. It will be approximately 13 months before it will be possible to get all officers one uniform, and it will be 10 months before a sufficient supply of material will be available. The cost of a two piece uniform will run approximately \$53.00

Question arose as to who would underwrite the cost of the new uniform to be stocked in Post Exchanges. It was stated that the manufacturers would underwrite the cost but the Post Exchanges would have to underwrite the RISK.

Question was brought up as to whether or not Post Exchanges should be granted exclusive rights on supplying the new uniform to the troops. Advice was given that federal statutes require that a Q. M. Sales Store must make available uniforms for sale to officers, but there are only limited numbers of Q. M. Sales Stores available. No guarantee of exclusive rights of supply to the officers could be given to the Post Exchanges, but in general Q. M. would equip the troops first and the officers next.

Discussion arose as to the poor tailoring of the present enlisted man's uniform as against the tailor-made uniforms of the officers and it was pointed out that in the past only low grade manufacturers could be interested in bidding on the business of supplying army uniforms. At present Q. M. is trying to interest such manufacturers as Hart Schaffner and Marks etc in bidding on this business. It is doubtful if these higher type manufacturers can be interested in bidding on this business due to the approaching Easter Season, and the high backlog of civilian demand for their services.

V. Summer Uniform, Cotton Khaki

a. One enlisted man modeled the complete cotton khaki uniform with silver U. S. insignia on collar and the approved cap ornament for enlisted men; with blue necktie; khaki cap cover with oxidized silver buttons and russet visor; russet shoes; tan socks; and belt, shade 33, with oxidized silver buckle. General disfavor was expressed for this uniform.

b. Decision was reached that for the year 1948 the uniform, as presently worn, will be continued. It would be late in the fall before the khaki enlisted men's uniform with accessories could be issued. *no change.*

c. In connection with this uniform the question of issuing a bush jacket as a replacement for the present khaki shirt came up. One model of this jacket was shown and General Vandenberg asked to have tests made at Eglin Field to develop a suitable top outer garment for summer issue to the troops.

d. Presentation of Suntan tropical worsted uniform for optional wear and purchase by officers and enlisted men.

(1) One uniform coat of Army design with gold buttons and accessories; khaki poplin shirt; tropical worsted cap cover with gold buttons; russet shoes; russet cap visor; gold cap ornament; tan socks; web belt; khaki color with satin finish nickel silver belt buckle and blue necktie was shown.

(2) One uniform, coat of Air Force design with silver buttons and accessories; blue poplin shirt; tropical worsted cap cover with oxidized silver buttons; russet shoes; russet cap visor; silver cap ornament; *blue* socks; web belt, khaki color with satin finish nickel silver belt buckle and blue necktie. *blue*

*Approved*  
*1949*

(3) Decision was made in favor of the present uniform complete with silver accessories.

c. General Edwards brought up the question of the present uniform to all the troops, but was advised that there was no material manufactured to make such an issue.

#### VI. Discussion on the Interim Uniform.

a. Discussion was mainly concerned with changing the accessories of the present army uniform to serve as the interim uniform. One uniform was displayed with gold buttons and one with silver buttons, both of air force design.

b. Decision was made to continue to use the present army uniform with the addition of gold air force design buttons, as the interim uniform <sup>optional</sup> <sub>with using a Prop -</sub>

#### VII. Proposed draft of instructions to all Commands on plans for the new uniform.

a. It was agreed to issue an Air Force Letter to all commands containing instructions concerning the new uniform. Approximate time necessary to issue this letter would be two weeks.

#### VIII. Status of Uniform Regulations

a. A uniform regulation is to follow the issuance of the Air Force letter which will instruct USAF personnel as to the ~~policy~~ policy and length of time that certain items of the Army uniform can be worn by Air Force personnel. This, of course, will all have to be coordinated with the procurement of the new U.S.A.F. uniform items.

b. General Edwards raised the point that the graduating classes of Maxwell Field, and West Point should be among the first to be equipped with the new uniform.

AIR  
CADET  
TRAINING  
CENTER



ATTACHMENT 3  
7-17-51-3  
7

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

30 September 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

SUBJECT: Air Force Uniform Programs

1. This study on the various means, methods and costs of providing the Air Force with a new distinctive uniform was undertaken in accordance with verbal instructions given at the Budget Advisory Committee presentation of a proposed austerity budget for Fiscal Year 1950 in the Office of the Chief of Staff on 27 September 1948.

2. In the consideration of the new Air Force uniform budget for Fiscal Year 1950, it is desirable to begin by reviewing the original uniform program presented to Congress in Fiscal Year 1948 to obtain a supplemental appropriation and compare that with the present proposed programs.

3. FISCAL YEAR 1948 PROGRAM ✓

a. This program required an initial outlay of approximately \$54,000,000 based on a strength of 341,000 enlisted men, to provide the desired uniform items for initial issue, full stock levels and turn-over requirements (Tab A). With the exception of the cap frame, cap cover and shoes, low-qtr, black, a full Table of Allowance issue would be made to each airman. The cost of the uniform to be issued to each airman was estimated to be \$109.70.

b. In the Fiscal Year 1948, the Air Force did not have an autonomous budget; therefore, the stock level computations for Army depot stocks and Air Force station stock levels were not shown separately. The same applies to the turn-over factors. For the Fiscal Year 1950, these computations were made separately as Air Force and Army requirements and so reflected in the respective budgets.

c. The credits itemized in the 1948 program, amounting to \$27,753,500 (Tab A), represented a favorable situation existing in the Quartermaster General's supply position. At that time, undelivered serge yardage could have been converted to the extent of \$16,912,500 in credits. For the present program, the supply position of the Quartermaster General is materially changed with the result that no credits will be granted by the Quartermaster General at this time. This has been brought about, according to the views of the Quartermaster General,

24-i

24-1

because the OD clothing in the possession of airmen is completely utilized before replacement, and OD clothing is returned to the Army for credit.

k. The disadvantages of this program are:

(1) The amount of advance funds required to initiate the program creates a false impression that it is an additional and unusual cost to the taxpayer.

#### 5. MINIMUM ISSUE PROGRAM

a. This is a program whereby a minimum of items of the blue uniform will be issued initially to airmen on or about 1 July 1950. The balance of the items not initially issued will be procured and available for issue during the subsequent Fiscal Years 1951 and 1952.

b. Based upon a strength of 441,215 as of 30 June 1950, this program requires an initial advance allotment of funds in the amount of approximately \$23,000,000, of which \$18,200,000 will be reflected in the Air Force budget and, approximately \$4,800,000 for depot level and intramilitary stocks will be reflected in the Army budget (Tab C1). From these initial minimum funds advanced, the Shade 84 program increases progressively each year to a complete Table of Allowance issue during the Fiscal Year 1953 together with full station, depot and pipeline stock level requirements. Concurrently with this increase in the Shade 84 program, the Shade 33 program decreases until final expiration in the Fiscal Year 1952. It will be noted that no out-of-pocket cost will accrue to the taxpayer in this program inasmuch as the \$23,000,000 representing the cost of initial issue requirements for the Shade 84 uniform items will be recovered in the Fiscal Years 1951 through 1954 (Tab C5).

c. In the Fiscal Year 1950 budget, provisions will be made for funds to enable the issue of the following uniform items on or about 1 July 1950 to all airmen:

- 1 Belt, web, waist, blue
- 1 Cover, cap, service, wool, #84
- 1 Jacket, wool, service #84
- 2 Neckties, tropical worsted, wool, service #83
- 2 Shirts, poplin #84
- 3 pr Socks, cotton, black
- 1 pr Trousers, wool, service #84

d. During the first year, the following items required to complete the full uniform program would not be procured in Shade 84:

- 1 Belt, web, waist, blue
- 1 Cover, cap, service, wool, #84
- 2 Shirts, poplin #84
- 2 pr Trousers, wool, service #84
- 1 Coat, wool, service #84

1 Frame, cap, service, black  
1 pr Shoes, low quarter, black  
1 Overcoat, service #84

e. Included in the budget estimate for the Fiscal Year 1951 will be funds in the amount of \$46,359,000 in the Air Force budget and \$13,822,000 in the Army budget (Tab C2). In addition there will be a requirement for \$21,293,000 in the Air Force budget for Shade 33 items for turn-over and replacement (Tab C3).

f. Instead of including the OD overcoat in the Air Force OD program for the Fiscal Year 1951, procurement could be made of the Shade 84 coat. This would reduce the Air Force OD budget to \$9,770,000 from \$21,293,000, but would increase the Shade 84 program \$11,523,000. This would result probably in the necessity of some men having to wear a Shade 84 coat with a Shade 33 uniform. However, this situation will result at whatever time the Shade 84 overcoat is introduced on a replacement basis such as provided in this program.

g. During January 1951, the following additional articles will be available for issue:

1 Coat, wool, service #84  
1 Frame, cap, service, black  
1 pr Shoes, low quarter, black

h. The airmen will continue to be short during this year the following Shade 84 items:

1 Belt, web, waist, blue  
1 Cover, cap, service, wool #84  
2 Shirts, poplin #84  
2 pr Trousers, wool, service #84  
1 Overcoat, service #84

i. It should be understood that during the Fiscal Year 1951, the Air Force will continue to use items of the OD uniform as well as items of the blue uniform. During this period, new inductees will be given a partial issue of both the OD and the blue uniform. This is necessary in order that all Air Force troops can be turned out in the same type uniform. Not until Fiscal Year 1952 will full Table of Allowances for a blue uniform be issued to new inductees and be available for all personnel.

j. Commencing in the Fiscal Year 1952, replacements, as well as initial issues, for either OD or blue items, will be made in Shade 84. However, it is probable that most airmen will have their full allowance in the Fiscal Year 1953.

k. Included in the budget estimates for the Fiscal Year 1950 will be funds in the amount of \$65,849,000 in the Air Force budget and \$10,900,000 in the Army budget (Tab C4). There will be no procurement of OD items in this Fiscal Year.

l. In April 1952, it will be possible to issue a complete allowance of the blue uniform consisting of:

- 2 Belts, web, waist, blue
- 2 Covers, cap, service, wool #84
- 1 Jacket, wool, service, blue
- 2 Neckties, tropical worsted, wool, service #83
- 4 Shirts, poplin #84
- 3 pr Socks, cotton, black
- 3 pr Trousers, wool, service #84
- 1 Coat, wool, service #84
- 1 Frame, cap, service, black
- 1 pr Shoes, low quarter, black
- 1 Overcoat, service #84

m. The items in addition to the original issue will be issued as replacement items in order to fully utilize articles of OD clothing and effect a savings through reduced maintenance on the Shade 84 program.

n. For the Fiscal Year 1950, the amounts in the columns "PC&S Stock Levels", "Depot Levels" and "Stock-in-Transit" are required necessary to establish the 60 day post, camp and station operating level within the Air Force and the 75 day depot operating level for the Army. In the Fiscal Years 1951 and 1952, the amounts indicated in these columns represent requirement increments necessary to establish the proper stock levels and do not represent the inventory of stocks on hand at stations and depots.

o. It is estimated that the original funds advanced will be recovered through Fiscal Years 1951 and 1952 by reductions in maintenance of clothing in use and the return of unused OD stocks to the Army for credit (Tab C5).

p. Under this program, even the initial issue will not include all items of the approved Air Force uniform. For example, no initial procurement will be made in Fiscal Year 1950 of the black cap frames, black shoes, or the overcoat. Thus, enlisted personnel, when wearing the Air Force uniform will be wearing tan shoes and a cap with a tan visor. This condition will continue until the Quartermaster General can alter existing contracts or make new contracts to purchase black shoes and cap frames out of regularly appropriated funds. The Army OD overcoat will be the only overcoat available until Fiscal Year 1952.

q. It is probable that older men in the Air Force will not

Res by AF Res 5-2  
1 Oct 53

ATTACHMENT 6  
7611-21-5  
AFL 39-25  
1-2

AIR FORCE LETTER )  
NO. 39-25 )

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 23 AUGUST 1948

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

USAF Enlisted Insignia

~~Effective until 23 February 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.~~  
Effective until 23 February 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.

Policy . . . . .	Paragraph 1
Items Authorized . . . . .	2

1. Policy. Enlisted men will continue to wear insignia items currently issued until new insignia authorized below are available at a particular Air Force base or installation in quantities sufficient for a complete issue to all enlisted men at that activity. Issue of the new insignia will then be made.

2. Items Authorized. New items of insignia authorized for enlisted men are as follows:

a. Buttons - Gold color metal, circular and slightly convex, with raised rim, the Great Seal of the Department of the Air Force in clear relief against a horizontally-lined background; 45 ligne (1-1/8") for overcoat, 36 ligne (9/10") and 25 ligne (5/8") for coat and cap. (See figure 1.)

b. Cap Insignia - The Coat of Arms of the United States, in gold color metal, slightly convex, enclosed within a 1-3/4" diameter circle. (See figure 2.)

c. Chevrons - Four inches (4") in width, in silver gray on a dark blue, embroidered background forming an edging around and between each chevron as follows:

- (1) Master Sergeant and First Sergeant - Three chevrons, inverted, centered on a pierced star, and three wing-type arcs inverted beneath star.
- (2) Technical Sergeant - Three chevrons, inverted, centered on a pierced star, and two wing-type arcs inverted beneath star.
- (3) Staff Sergeant - Three chevrons, inverted, centered on a pierced star, and one wing-type arc inverted beneath star.
- (4) Sergeant - Three chevrons, inverted, centered on a pierced star.
- (5) Corporal - Two chevrons, inverted, centered on a pierced star.
- (6) Private First Class - One chevron, inverted, centered on a pierced star.

Chevrons will be worn on the coat, jacket, shirt when worn without coat, and on work clothing. They will be worn on the outer half of both sleeves, midway between elbow and top of the sleeve. (See figures 3 and 3A.)

d. Insignia, Collar, and Lapel:

- (1) Insignia worn on collar and lapel of service coat and jacket will be gold color metal and will consist of:
  - (a) Letters, "U.S.," enclosed within a one-inch (1") circle. (See figure 4A.)
  - (b) Air Force wing and propeller enclosed within a one-inch (1") diameter circle. (See figure 4B.)

- (2) When shirt is worn without service coat, metal insignia will be worn on collar as follows:
- (a) Right side, one inch (1") from end, the "U.S.," as prescribed in (1)(a) above. (See figure 5.)
  - (b) Left side, one inch (1") from end, the Air Force wing and propeller, as prescribed in (1)(b) above. (See figure 5.)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

OFFICIAL:

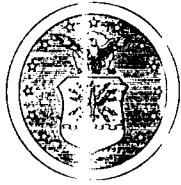
L. L. JUDGE  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

3 Attachments:

- 1. Figures 1 - 3
- 2. Figure 3A
- 3. Figures 4 - 5

DISTRIBUTION:

D;G



45



36

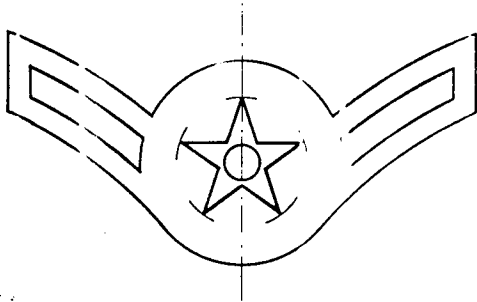


25

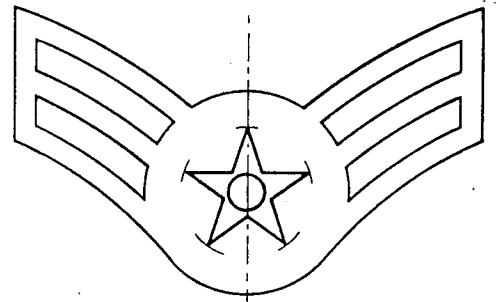
FIGURE 1 - BUTTONS



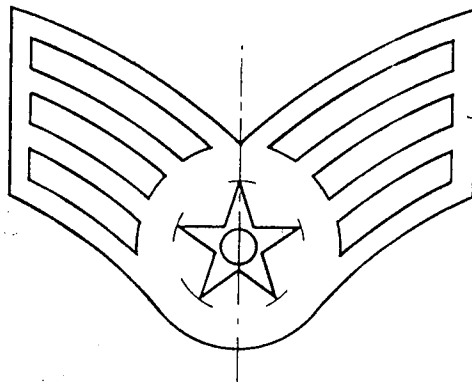
FIGURE 2 - CAP INSIGNIA



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

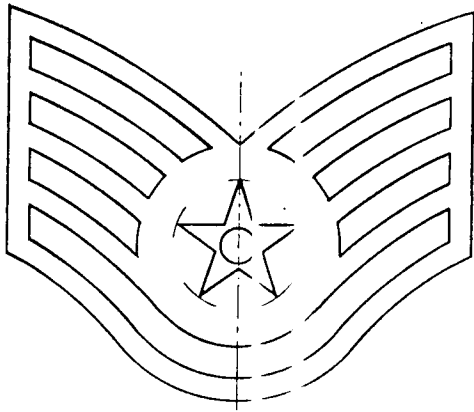


CORPORAL

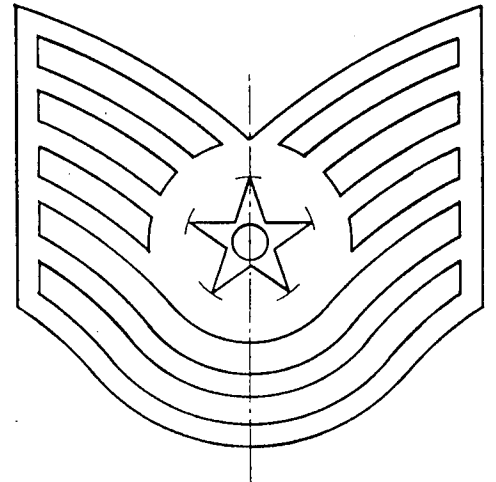


SERGEANT

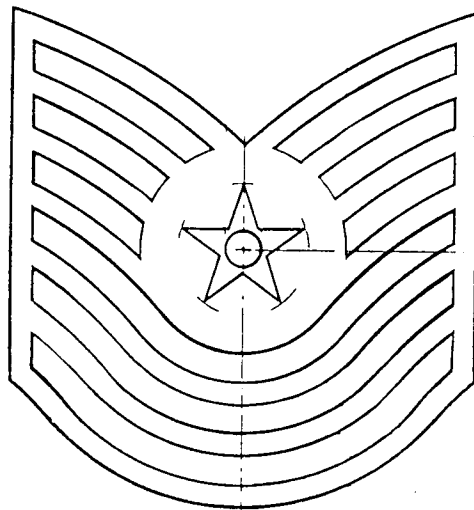
FIGURE 3 - CHEVRONS



STAFF SERGEANT



TECHNICAL SERGEANT



FIRST AND MASTER SERGEANT

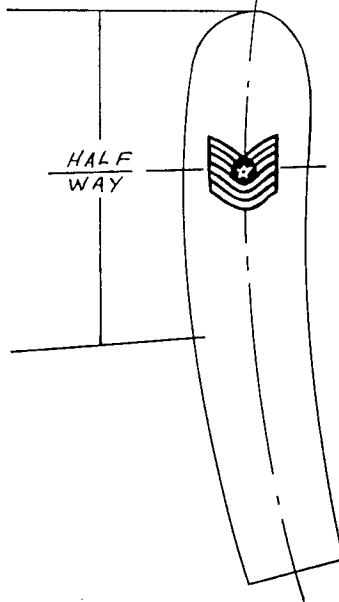
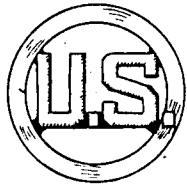
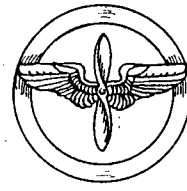


FIGURE 3A-CHEVRONS





A



B

FIGURE 4 - COLLAR AND LAPEL INSIGNIA

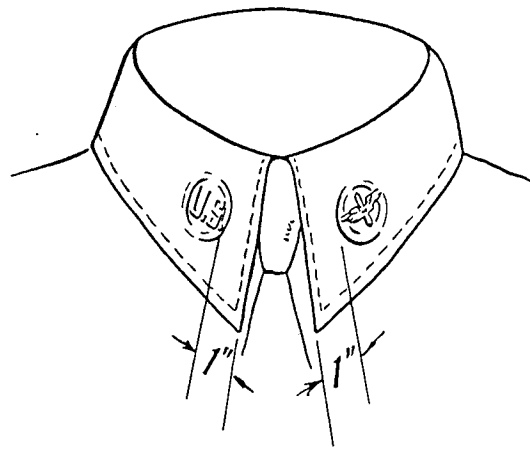
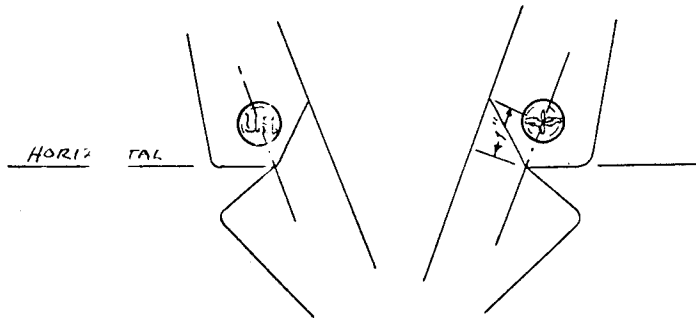


FIGURE 5 - WEARING

Rev by AF Reg 5-4, 1 Dec 53  
Amended by 35-413  
35-513

ATTACHMENT 5  
AFL 35-4  
1-2

AFR FORCE LETTER )  
NO. 35-4 )

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 1 SEPTEMBER 1948

MILITARY PERSONNEL

USAF Uniforms for Male Personnel

~~(Effective until 1 March 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.)~~

	Paragraph
General . . . . .	1
Prescribed Items of the Uniform . . . . .	2
The Prescribed Uniform . . . . .	3
Procurement . . . . .	4
Wearing of the Uniform . . . . .	5
Uniform Items Not Authorized for Wear after 1 July 1951 . . . . .	6

1. General. The following major items of uniform are prescribed for wear by officers and enlisted men of the Air Force. So much of AR 600-35, 31 March 1944, including Changes 3 and 9, AR 600-40, 31 March 1944, as amended, and Table of Allowances 21, 7 August 1947, as amended that are not in conflict with this directive will apply. Items that are now authorized for wear, but will no longer be authorized after 1 July 1951, are indicated in paragraph 6 for the information and guidance of officers who are considering the purchase of additional uniforms. The items listed in paragraph 6 may be worn, except in formation, until 1 July 1951. Commanders may require officers to possess items of the uniform marked "required" in paragraph 2. Commanders will not require officers or enlisted men to possess articles of uniform marked "optional" in paragraph 2. Articles of clothing and insignia purchased from Exchanges or commercial concerns will conform to approved specifications. Officers or enlisted men desiring to have uniforms individually tailored should insure that the tailor uses the complete specification for each item of uniform. Specifications covering all items of the uniform are available at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot.

2. Prescribed Items of the Uniform:

a. Coat, Winter:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Required):

- (a) Material - Wool, elastique, 14 1/2 to 19 ounces, inclusive, olive drab, Army shade No. 51 (green).
- (b) General Description - A single-breasted collar and lapel coat; lining, if desired, to be of a matching color. To fit easy over the chest and shoulders and to be fitted slightly at the waist to conform to the figure. The back to be plain. Buttoned down the front with four buttons equally spaced, the three top buttons to be large regulation coat buttons and the bottom button to be a plain, four-hole, 36-ligne button of bone, plastic, or other suitable material of a color closely approximating that of the coat. The crossing of the lapels will be approximately 1-3/4" above the top button. A matching cloth belt, 1-3/4" in width, having a mitered end and equipped with a 1-3/4" tongueless bar buckle with rounded corners, raised polished rims, and horizontally-lined background of gold color metal, 1/4" in width. The belt may be either fully detachable or sewed down around the waistline at the option of the individual. When the belt is detachable, provision will be made for two 9/16" cloth belt loops placed at the side seams, sewed on so that they will not mar the coat if removed for a sewed-on belt. The belt will cover the horizontal seam at the waistline, and the buckle will be centered over the bottom button of the coat when buttoned. The mitered end of the belt will pass through the buckle to the left, extend not more than 3" beyond the buckle, and may be held in place by a cloth keeper 9/16" in width.

1. Lapel - The top line of the lapel to be horizontal and the peak to extend approximately 5/8" beyond the collar line prolonged. The opening notch between the collar and lapel to be approximately 1-3/4" in depth, separated approximately 1/8" on the end.
2. Pockets - There will be four outside pockets, two upper and two lower, covered with flaps, buttoned with small regulation coat buttons at the center and placed so that the upper lines are horizontal. The two upper pockets to be patch pockets slightly rounded at the lower corners with a box plait 1-1/2" in width on the vertical center line. The flaps to be rounded slightly at the corners and reaching to a slight point at the center; corners may be secured by snap fasteners. The flap buttons to be on line with the top button of coat. The two lower pockets to be hung inside the body of the skirt, covered by flaps with the lower corners slightly rounded and the lower edge horizontal. The pockets to be attached to the body of the skirt only at the mouth. The top lines of the lower pocket flaps to be placed slightly below the belt. The pockets will be of suitable size according to the size of the coat.
3. Shoulder Loops - On each shoulder a loop of same material as the coat, let in at the sleeve head seam and reaching well beneath the collar, buttoning at the collar edge with a small regulation coat button. Loops to be about 2-1/2" in width at lower end and 1-1/2" in width at collar edge and cross-stitched down to shoulder for a distance of about 2" from lower end.
4. Skirt - The skirt to be full with a slight flare, to extend below the crotch, according to the height of the wearer, with a slit in the back extending from the waistline to the bottom of the skirt following the back seam with an underlap of approximately 3". The front overlapping left edge of coat to be cut with a pronounced flare to the right from the bottom button to the bottom of the skirt, so as to appear straight from the lapel opening to the bottom of the coat and to remain overlapped not less than 3-1/2" when wearer is in a standing position, the fullness necessary to accomplish this result being over the hips.
5. Ornamentation - A band of olive-drab braid, Army shade No. 53, 1/2" in width on each sleeve, the lower edge 3" from end of sleeve.

(2) Enlisted Men: Not authorized.

b. Coat, Summer:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Required):

- (a) Material - Tropical worsted or gabardine, Army shade No. 61 (khaki shade).
- (b) General Description - A single-breasted, semiformal-fitting sack coat, extending to crotch, with no pronounced flare or waistline seam. To fit easily over the chest and shoulders and to be fitted slightly at the waist to conform to the figure. The left front to appear straight from top button to bottom of front; buttoned down the front with four, large, regulation coat buttons equally spaced. Sufficient flare to be on the right front in order to remain well underlapped.
  1. Back - A vent in the back to extend from immediately below waistline to bottom, following the back seam and with an underlap of approximately 2-1/2".
  2. Lapel - The opening between collar end and lapel not to exceed 1/2". The lapels to be semipatched, not wider than 1/2" more than the collar end, and the top edge to be horizontal.

3. Pockets - Four outside pockets, two upper and two lower, of suitable size according to size of coat. Each pocket covered with a flap, pointed at corners and center, buttoned at center with a small, regulation coat button, and placed with upper edges in a prolonged horizontal line.
    - a. Upper - The two upper pockets to be patch pockets, slightly rounded at lower corners, with box plait 1-1/2" in width on the vertical center line. The flap buttons to be on a line with the top button of coat. Lower corners of top pocket flaps to be snap-fastened.
    - b. Lower - The two lower pockets to be hung inside the coat with the opening in the body below natural waistline.
  4. Shoulder Loops - On each shoulder a loop, let in at the sleeve head seam and reaching well under collar. Upper end pointed and buttoned to coat with a small, regulation coat button. Loops to be about 2-1/2" in width at lower end and 1-1/2" in width at collar edge, and cross-stitched down to shoulder for a distance of about 2" from lower end.
  5. Ornamentation - A band of khaki color braid, Army shade No. 5, 1/2" in width on each sleeve, the lower edge 3" from end of sleeve.
- (2) Enlisted Men - Optional for purchase. Same as for officers less sleeve braid.

c. Jacket, Winter:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Optional):

(a) Material:

1. Serge, 18 ounces, olive-drab, Army shade No. 33.
2. Wool elastique, 14 1/2 to 19 ounces, Army shade No. 51 (green).

(b) General Description - A single-breasted, fly-front jacket, with lapel and convertible collar; lining to be of a matching color. To fit easily over the chest and shoulders with sufficient fullness, and to be fitted at the waist to conform to the figure. The back to be bloused and in one piece. A waist band of approximately 2" in width with rounded end with button and snap fastener closure and buttoned down the front with four, 30-ligne buttons of plastic of a color closely approximating the material of the jacket. The crossing of the lapels will be approximately 1-3/4" above the top button. Waist band to be adjustable by means of side button hole tabs and buttons.

1. Lapel - The opening notch between collar and lapel to be approximately 2-1/4" in depth, separated approximately 1-1/4" on the end. The left lapel to be equipped on underside with a tab having a buttonhole for closure with a button placed on right side on body of jacket under lapel.
2. Pockets - Two upper, box-plaited patch pockets covered with shaped flaps with concealed buttonhole tabs with button closure. Upper lines of pockets to be horizontal. Two inside hanging pockets.
3. Shoulder Loops - On each shoulder a loop of same material as the jacket let in at the sleeve head seam and reaching to approximately 2" beneath the collar, tacked at upper end beneath the collar. Loops to be about 2-1/2" in width at lower end and 1-1/2" in width at collar edge and cross-stitched down to shoulder for a distance of about 2" from lower end.

4. Sleeves - Two-piece sleeve finished with a bander cuff approximately  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " in width with vertical opening approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " in length from end of cuff and with a mitered end extensor approximately 1" in length and equipped with two buttons approximately 2" apart for cuff adjustment.

(2) Enlisted Men - Serge, Army shade No. 33, as issued.

d. Jacket, Summer:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Optional):

(a) Material - Tropical worsted or gabardine, Army shade No. 61 (khaki shade).

(b) General Description - Same as Jacket, Winter.

(2) Enlisted Men - Optional for purchase.

e. Trousers, Winter:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:

(a) Material:

1. Serge, 18 ounces, olive-drab, Army shade No. 33 (optional).

2. Wool, elastique,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  to 19 ounces, inclusive, Army shade No. 54 (pink) (required).

(b) General Description - Of adopted standard, cut on the lines of civilian trousers, without cuffs and without pleats.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

f. Trousers, Summer:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:

(a) Material:

1. Cotton khaki, 8.2 ounces, Army shade No. 1 (optional).

2. Tropical worsted or gabardine, Army shade No. 61 (khaki shade) (required).

(b) General Description - Of adopted standard, cut on the lines of civilian trousers, without cuffs and without pleats.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued. Tropical worsted or gabardine, same as for officers (optional for purchase).

g. Shirts, Winter:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Optional):

(a) Material - Wool, plain, or twill weave shirting, 10- $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces.

(b) Color:

1. Adopted standard olive-drab, Army shade No. 33.

2. Substitute standard olive-drab, Army shade Nos. 31 and 50.

(c) General Description - Of adopted pattern, stand-up and fall collar, with six front closures and one neckband button of plastic, of a color closely approximating the material of the shirt. Two breast pockets with flaps buttoned with same size and color shirt buttons. On each shoulder a loop of same material as the shirt, let in at the sleeve head seam and reaching to the edge of the collar, buttoning at the upper end with a small, regulation shirt button. Loops about 2" in width at lower end and 1-1/2" in width at collar end and cross-stitched down to shoulder for a distance of 2" from lower end.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

h. Shirt, Summer:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:

(a) Material:

1. Cotton khaki, 8.2 ounces, Army shade No. 1 (optional).
2. Tropical worsted or gabardine, Army shade No. 61 (khaki shade) (required).
3. Cotton khaki, broadcloth or poplin, Army shade No. 1 (required).

(b) General Description - Same as shirt, winter, except shirt, broadcloth or poplin, may be of commercial pattern.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued. Tropical worsted or gabardine as authorized for officers (optional for purchase).

i. Cap, Service, Winter:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Required):

(a) Material:

1. Wool, elastique, olive-drab, Army shade No. 51 (green), or
2. Fur felt, brown.

(b) General Description - Of adopted design about 11-1/4" from front to rear and 10-1/2" from side to side, based on size 7-1/8, stiffened in front by springs and falling without stiffening to the rear; two eyelets 1/2" from the welt seam and about 3/4" on each side of side seam of quarters. Top to be stiffened at rim with grommet and cloth on top of crown to be slack. The grommet used to stiffen the rim will be flat 3/16" in width (measurements of crown above to be made with grommet in position in cap), inside of top to have a waterproof material cut to the size of the crown. Front spring stiffening may be omitted, and grommet may be removed. Top of visor of Army russet leather lined with embossed green hatters' leather, waterproofed. Greatest width of visor about 2-3/16" and slope from vertical about 55°. Chin strap of Army russet leather, 3/4" in width and 9-1/2" in length fastened at each end of visor with small, regulation USAF cap button. A band of braid, olive-drab, shade No. 53, about 1-7/8" in width around entire cap.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

j. Cap, Service, Summer:(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:(a) Material:

1. Tropical worsted or gabardine, Army shade No. 61 (required).
2. Cotton khaki, 8. ounce, Army shade No. 1 (optional).

(b) General Description - Same as cap, service, winter, with a band of braid, khaki shade No. 5, about 1-7/8" in width around entire cap, instead of the olive-drab shade No. 53.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued. Tropical worsted or gabardine as authorized for officers (optional purchase).

k. Cap, Garrison, Winter (Flight Cap):(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Optional):(a) Material:

1. Serge, 18 ounce, olive-drab, Army shade No. 33.
2. Wool elastique, olive-drab, Army shade No. 51 (green).

(b) General Description - A standard adopted design with curtain and with a cord edge braid.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

l. Cap, Garrison, Summer (Flight Cap):(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Optional):(a) Material:

1. Cotton khaki, 8.2 ounce, Army shade No. 1.
2. Tropical worsted or gabardine, Army shade No. 61.

(b) General Description - Same as cap, garrison, winter.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued. Tropical worsted or gabardine, same as for officers, less officer braid (optional purchase).

m. Necktie:(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:

(a) Material - Cotton, mohair, khaki, Army shade No. 5.

(b) General Description - Of adopted four-in-hand type.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

n. Shoes:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers - Plain, commercial pattern, high or low quarter, russet leather.

(2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

o. Overcoats:

- (1) Officers and Warrant Officers - Overcoats, long and short and/or Trenchcoats as currently authorized in AR 600-35.
- (2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

p. Raincoats:

- (1) Officers - In accordance with AR 600-35.
- (2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

q. Gloves:

- (1) Officers - In accordance with AR 600-35.
- (2) Enlisted Men - As issued.

r. Sun Helmets. To be issued to enlisted men and authorized for purchase and wear by officers, in accordance with Table of Allowances 21 (Clothing and Equipment), for wear in the tropics, semi-tropics, and temperate zone 1.

s. Blue Dress and White Dress Uniforms. See AR 600-38, 17 August 1938.

t. Insignia:

- (1) Officers - No change except that USAF gold buttons will replace Army gold buttons where applicable. Replacement will be made on a station basis when available. (Required)
- (2) Warrant Officers - Authorized to wear insignia identical to that prescribed for USAF commissioned officers. Rank insignia will remain as currently prescribed.
- (3) Enlisted Men - New USAF cap insignia, U.S. collar insignia, wing and propeller, chevrons, and gold buttons, as authorized by AFL 39-25.
- (4) Miniature officer rank insignia is optional for wear on shirt when worn as outer garment.

3. The Prescribed Uniforms:

a. Winter, Service:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:

- (a) Shirt and trousers, wool, OD, shade No. 33, cap, service, brown fur felt, or garrison, shade No. 33.
- (b) Jacket and trousers, wool, OD, shade No. 33; shirt, shade No. 33, or shirt, cotton, broadcloth or poplin, shade No. 1; cap, service, brown fur felt, or shade No. 33, or garrison, shade No. 33 or shade No. 51.
- (c) Jacket, shade No. 51 (green); trousers, shade No. 54 (pink); shirt, cotton, broadcloth or poplin, shade No. 1; cap, service, brown fur felt, or shade No. 51, or garrison, shade No. 51. Trousers, shade No. 51 (green) may be worn in place of "pink" until 1 July 1951.

(2) Enlisted Men:

- (a) Same as (1)(a) above, except for cap, service, brown fur felt, or
- (b) Same as (1)(b) above, except for cap, service, brown fur felt.



- (3) The necktie, shade No. 5, is worn with all winter service uniforms.
- (4) Overcoat, raincoat, flying, or fatigue clothing may be worn with winter service uniforms when appropriate.

b. Winter, Semi-dress:

- (1) Officers and Warrant Officers - Coat, shade No. 51 (green); trousers, shade No. 54 (pink); shirt, cotton, broadcloth or poplin, shade No. 1; cap, service, brown fur felt, or shade No. 51, or cap, garrison, shade No. 51.
- (2) Enlisted Men - Jacket and trousers, shade No. 33; shirt, cotton, broadcloth or poplin, shade No. 1; cap, service, or garrison, shade No. 33.
- (3) The necktie, shade No. 5, is worn with above uniforms.
- (4) Overcoat or raincoat when appropriate.

c. Winter, Dress:

- (1) Officers and Warrant Officers:
  - (a) Same as semi-dress, except cap, garrison, may not be worn, or (See AR 600-38.)
  - (b) Blue dress, or
  - (c) Blue mess, or
  - (d) Special evening dress.
- (2) Enlisted Men - Same as semi-dress, except cap, garrison, may not be worn.

d. Summer, Service:

- (1) Officers and Warrant Officers:
  - (a) Shirt, trousers, and cap, service or garrison, all cotton khaki, 8.2 ounce, shade No. 1, or
  - (b) Shirt, trousers, and cap, service or garrison, all tropical worsted or gabardine, or
  - (c) Jacket and trousers, tropical worsted or gabardine; shirt, either tropical worsted, gabardine, or cotton, broadcloth or poplin; cap, service or garrison, tropical worsted or gabardine.
- (2) Enlisted Men:
  - (a) Same as (1)(a) above, or
  - (b) Same as (1)(b) above.
- (3) The necktie, shade No. 5, is worn with the above uniforms.
- (4) Raincoat, flying, or fatigue clothing is worn with summer service uniforms when appropriate.

e. Summer, Semi-dress:

- (1) Officers and Warrant Officers - Coat and trousers, tropical worsted or gabardine; shirt, cotton, broadcloth, or poplin; cap, service or garrison, tropical worsted or gabardine.

(2) Enlisted Men:

(a) Same as summer, service, or

(b) Same as (1)(a) above (optional purchase only).

(3) The necktie, shade No. 5, is worn with the above uniform.

(4) Raincoat is worn with summer, semi-dress uniforms when appropriate.

f. Summer, Dress:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:

(a) Same as semi-dress, except cap, garrison, may not be worn, or

(b) White dress, or )

) See AR 600-38.

(c) White mess. )

(2) Enlisted Men - Not authorized.

4. Procurement:

a. Supply to enlisted men of items of uniform listed herein, but not currently issued, will be effected in accordance with instructions to be issued by The Quartermaster General. No requisition will be submitted, pending receipt of these instructions.

b. In overseas areas, authority to purchase and wear optional items of the uniform by enlisted men is subject to the discretion of theater or local commanders.

5. Wearing of the Uniform. When on duty, either the service, the semi-dress, or dress uniforms prescribed herein may be worn, consistent with the duties being performed and subject to the directives of the local commander. Deviations from the different prescribed uniforms are not authorized, with the exception that where climatic conditions warrant, the necktie need not be worn when the shirt is worn as the outer garment, if so directed by the local commander. The wearing of a mixture of tropical worsted or gabardine with cotton items of outer clothing or a mixture of shade No. 33 and shade No. 51 items is not authorized. Tropical sun helmets may be worn in tropical, semi-tropics, and temperate zone 1, if authorized by commanders. When the uniform is worn in an off-duty status during the evening or on social occasions, normally either the semi-dress or dress uniforms will be worn.

6. Uniform Items Not Authorized for Wear after 1 July 1951:

a. Coat, wool, other than shade No. 51 (green) (except dress uniforms).

b. Jacket, wool, or shades and style other than shade No. 33 and shade No. 51, prescribed herein.

c. Shirt, wool, other than shade No. 33 (shade Nos. 31 and 50 are currently authorized (Notes)).

AFL 35-4

6

*See AF 35-413*  
~~d. Trousers, wool, shade No. 51 (green).~~

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

OFFICIAL:

L. L. JUDGE  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

D;G

CHANGE

*Res by AF Reg 5-2  
1 Oct 50*

\*AFL 35-4A  
2

AIR FORCE LETTER )  
NO. 35-4A )

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 27 APRIL 1949

MILITARY PERSONNEL

USAF Uniforms for Male Personnel

*extended by AF Reg 5-4 on 13 Feb 50 AF Reg 5-2C, 13 Feb 50*  
~~(Effective until 1 March 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.)~~

AFL 35-4, 1 September 1948, is changed as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

2. Prescribed Items of the Uniform:

\* \* \* \* \*

i. Cap, Service, Winter:

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Required)

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) General Description - Of adopted design about 11-1/4" from front to rear and 10-1/2" from side to side, based on a size 7-1/8, stiffened in front by springs and falling without stiffening to the rear; two eyelets 1/2" from the welt seam and about 3/4" on each side of side seam of quarters. Top to be stiffened at rim with grommet and cloth on top of crown to be slack. The grommet used to stiffen the rim may be flat, 3/16" in width, or the soft, rolled cloth, or the sponge rubber type (measurements of crown above to be made with grommet in position in cap); inside of top to have a waterproof material cut to the size of the crown. The wearing of the cap, without the front spring stiffening and the grommet in place, will not be permitted. Top of visor of Army russet leather lined with embossed green hatters' leather, waterproofed. Greatest width of visor about 2-3/16" and slope from vertical about 55°. Chin strap of Army russet leather, 3/4" in width and 9-1/2" in length, fastened at each end of visor with small, regulation, USAF cap button. A band of braid, olive-drab, shade No. 53, about 1-7/8" in width around entire cap.

\* \* \* \* \*

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

OFFICIAL:

L. L. JUDGE  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

D; G

\*This Letter has been coordinated with and approved by the Chief, National Guard Bureau as being applicable to the Air National Guard.

CHANGE

AFL 35-4B  
6

AIR FORCE LETTER }  
NO. 35-4B }

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 1 MARCH 1951

987

**MILITARY PERSONNEL**

**USAF Uniforms for Male Personnel**

(Expiration date extended until further notice, AFR 5-2C, 1 February 1950.)

AFL 35-4, 1 September 1948, is changed as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

**6. Delete.**

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

K. E. THIEBAUD  
Colonel, USAF  
Acting Air Adjutant General

JOYNT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

DISTRIBUTION:

D;G

Handwritten initials: C/K

AIR FORCE LETTER  
No. 35-47

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 22 NOVEMBER 1948

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Wearing of the Air Force Uniforms

*Revised by AFM 5-48, 13 Dec 50 AFM 5-20, 13 Dec 50*  
Effective until 12 May 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.

C/S

	Paragraph
Purpose .....	1
General .....	2
Types of Uniforms .....	3
Insignia .....	4
Decorations, Service Medals, and Badges .....	5
Accessories and Miscellaneous Items .....	6

1. Purpose. This Letter prescribes the requirements for the wearing of the Air Force uniforms, insignia, decorations, service medals, and badges.

2. General:

a. Air Force military personnel will wear the prescribed uniform at all places of duty during duty hours. Local commanders will designate the type of uniform in accordance with climatic and functional requirements.

b. Certain ceremonies and social functions which require military personnel attendance may occur after duty hours and away from places of duty. On such occasions Air Force military personnel will wear the uniform suitable to the occasion.

3. Types of Uniforms. Items of uniform clothing and dress are described individually in AF Ls 35-4 and 35-48.

a. Service Uniform. The service uniform is the seasonal, standard uniform for normal duty hours. When the shirt is worn as an outer garment, the necktie will be tucked inside between the first and second visible buttons. Likewise, when conditions of climate warrant, local commanders may permit the omission of the necktie, and the shirt may be worn open at the neck.

b. Dress and Semidress Uniforms. Dress uniforms, blue and white, dress, and semi-dress uniforms may be worn at functions of a formal nature or on social occasions where civilian evening dress is appropriate.

c. Mess Uniforms. Mess uniforms, blue and white, may be worn under similar, but more formal conditions than those described for wearing dress uniforms.

d. Evening Dress Uniform. The evening dress uniform is authorized for wear at State and diplomatic functions. It will not be worn except at functions which in civilian life require the wearing of formal evening attire.

e. Work Uniform. Where conditions of work warrant or in the interests of efficiency or economy, commanding officers may authorize the wearing of work uniforms.

f. Other Clothing. Accepted civilian clothing, such as sports wear, may be worn for purposes of participating in athletic and recreational activities.

4. Insignia. All Air Force military personnel will wear identifying USAF insignia prescribed as follows:

\*This Letter supersedes AFL 35-81, 24 October 1947.

a. Headgear Insignia:

- (1) Service cap insignia will be worn on the front center of the cap.
- (2) Garrison cap insignia (of grade for officers and warrant officers, distinctive for enlisted men) will be worn on the left side of the section, centered in the front quarter.

b. Collar and Lapel Insignia:

- (1) Collar and Lapel Insignia for the Coat and Jacket. Collar and lapel insignia for the coat and jacket will be centered symmetrically on each side of the collar and on each lapel, with the design aligned horizontally one-half inch (1/2") above and one-half inch (1/2") below the notch.
  - (a) General officers - Only the insignia, "U.S.," on both sides of the coat and jacket collar.
  - (b) Officers and warrant officers - The "U.S." insignia, on both sides of the collar, and the Air Force or appropriate aide insignia on both lapels.
  - (c) Enlisted men - Only the collar insignia, with the "U.S." on the right and the Air Force insignia on the left.
- (2) Collar Insignia for Shirt. Collar insignia for the shirt when worn as an outer garment is prescribed for wear with the design horizontally aligned as follows:
  - (a) General officers - Insignia of grade on both sides, each centered one inch (1") from the vertical edge of the tab, star pointing up.
  - (b) Officers and warrant officers - Insignia of grade pointing up, centered and one inch (1") from the vertical edge of the right tab. Eagles will be worn with the beak to the front, leaves will be star down, and bars will be parallel lengthwise to the vertical edge of the collar tab. Air Force or appropriate aide insignia will be worn on the left tab, one inch (1") from the vertical edge.
  - (c) Enlisted men - Insignia, "U.S.," on the right and Air Force insignia on the left, each centered one inch (1") from the tab.
- (3) Collar insignia will not be worn on the shirt when the coat or jacket is the outer garment.

c. Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. Shoulder patches worn on the coat, jacket, or shirt will be centered one-half inch (1/2") below the uppermost sleeve and shoulder seam. Current assignment patch will be worn on the left shoulder and the patch of oversea war assignment may be worn on the right sleeve in the same comparable position.

d. Shoulder Loop Insignia. On each shoulder loop, officer's coat, jacket, overcoat, and raincoat, insignia of grade will be worn as follows:

- (1) General officers - Star or stars, points toward collar, centered and equidistant along the loop.
- (2) Colonel - Eagle, head up, beak to the front, centered on loop, talons of eagle five-eighths inch (5/8") from sleeve end of loop.
- (3) Lieutenant colonel and major - Oak leaf, point up, centered on loop, stem of leaf five-eighths inch (5/8") from sleeve end of loop.
- (4) Company grade and warrant officers - Bar centered on loop, parallel to and five-eighths inch (5/8") from sleeve end of loop.

e. Distinctive Insignia, Distinctive organizational insignia when authorized will be worn by officers (except general officers), warrant officer and enlisted men, centered on each shoulder top of the coat or jacket with the design's bottom toward the shoulder midway along the loop.

f. Chevrons, Chevrons will be worn centered outward on each sleeve, midway between the elbow and the shoulder.

g. Sleeve Braid, General officers' overcoats will bear one- and one-quarter inches (1 1/4") and one-half inch (1/2") of black braid, one- and one-half inches (1 1/2") apart, two inches (2") from the end of the sleeve.

h. Miscellaneous Insignia:

- (1) Brassard indicating a special duty status, such as airdrome officer, officer of the day, air police, recruiting duty, and others will be worn on the left sleeve just above the elbow. Brassards of black crepe, four inches (4") wide may be worn in the same manner by individuals to indicate family mourning in addition to occasions, such as funerals when directed by local commanders.
- (2) Miniature insignia of grade for officers is authorized for optional wear on the shirt when worn as the outer garment. Such insignia will be worn in the same manner as the larger type.
- (3) Aiguillettes are prescribed for wear by aides, air attaches, as authorized, and members of honor ceremonies on special occasions. Aides to the President and members honor ceremonies wear aiguillettes on the right shoulder and arm. Other aides and attaches wear appropriate aiguillettes on the left shoulder and arm.
- (4) *Annexed to AFM 35-471*  
Identification tags will be worn by each member of the Force at all times and may be removed temporarily only as the necessities of personal hygiene may require; one tag to suspend from the neck underneath the clothing by a twenty-five inch (25") noncorrosive, nontoxic, and heat-resistant material looped to form a necklace, and the second tag fastened to the necklace below the first tag by a two- and one-half inch (2 1/2") extension of material similar to necklace. The embossed tags will be issued to each member of the Air Force as soon as practicable, after entry into service.

5. Decorations, Service Medals, and Badges, Authorized decorations, service medals, and badges are parts of the uniform and when worn will conform to established rules of position and precedence. Complete medals (ribbons with pendants) may be prescribed for wear at ceremonies of a very formal nature as directed by local commanders. Miniature replicas of medals and badges and miniature ribbons are authorized for optional wear on the evening dress, mess, and blue or white dress uniforms. Decorations, service medals, and badges worn in any form, unless otherwise specified, will be arranged in symmetrically balanced rows affording the neatest appearance. Medals are worn on the overcoat, raincoat, or work clothes.

a. Decorations:

- (1) United States military decorations have precedence as follows: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Emblem, and Meritorious Unit Emblem.
- (2) The Medal of Honor, being prescribed for wear at the neck, is placed over any other decorations similarly worn.
- (3) The Distinguished Unit Emblem is worn by itself, centered just above the right pocket of the coat, jacket, or shirt.
- (4) The Meritorious Unit Emblem is worn on the right sleeve of the coat, jacket, or shirt, centered outward just above the braid or cuff.



b. Service Medals:

- (1) United States military service medals are worn in the order in which earned by the individual. The Chronological order of these service medals is as follows: Good Conduct, World War I Victory, Army of Occupation of Germany, American Defense Service, Women's Army Corps, American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, World War II Victory, and Army of Occupation.
- (2) Service ribbons authorized by the United States, but awarded by the Philippine Government will follow American service medals and will be worn in the order in which earned: Philippine Defense, Philippine Liberation, and Philippine Independence.

c. Army and Navy Awards. Authorized decorations and service medals other than those listed herein which have been awarded by the Army, Navy, or Coast Guard take precedence just after (to the left of) their counterparts or in accordance with the regulations of the issuing service. The Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) will be worn as prescribed for the Distinguished Unit Emblem or to the left of it making a centered row.

d. Badges. Badges in general have no order of precedence among themselves, but when worn, follow certain rules or position.

- (1) The Air Force aviation badge will be worn centered above the topmost row of decorations, service medals, or ribbons. Not more than one Air Force or United States aviation badge of any type will be worn at one time.
- (2) Air Forces badges of qualification (marksmanship) and proficiency (technicians) will be worn singly or in symmetrical rows centered just below the last line of decorations, service medals, or ribbons.
- (3) Other badges awarded by the armed forces of the United States will be worn as prescribed by the conferring authority and in general conformance with the intent of paragraph 5.

e. Other Awards:

- (1) Authorized foreign decorations, when worn, follow in continuation of the last row of United States decorations, service medals, or ribbons. If the foreign award is a neck decoration, it is worn underneath the Medal of Honor and, if a breast order, below any United States awards. Foreign decorations are generally worn in order of date of receipt unless there is more than one from the same country. In this case, they are placed together according to their own precedence, taking the position due the one of earliest receipt.
- (2) Authorized foreign badges may be worn centered above the position of the Distinguished Unit Emblem on the right upper pocket of the coat, jacket, or shirt. Not more than one foreign badge of any sort will be worn at one time.
- (3) State National Guard medals or ribbons may be worn by members thereof, provided that they are not in the active military service of the United States. The order of precedence is prescribed as after the last foreign decoration.
- (4) Badges of patriotic organizations may be worn on the uniform only as appropriate at functions of such organizations.
- (5) No foreign or similar award may be worn unless a United States military decoration, service medal, badge, or ribbon is also worn.
- (6) Fourrageres, such as the French and Belgian, and the Netherlands Orange Lanyard, when authorized, may be worn on the left shoulder.

f. Wound Chevrons. Wound chevrons formerly awarded by the United States for wounds received in World War I will not be worn if a Purple Heart medal has replaced such award. Authorized wound stripes or similar devices awarded by foreign powers will be worn as nearly as possible in accordance with the regulation of the country concerned.

g. Oversea Service Stripes and Service Bars. Service stripes and oversea service bars are worn centered outward on the left sleeve of the coat, jacket, or shirt, four inches (4") from the end of the sleeve. Oversea service bars are positioned above service stripes.

6. Accessories and Miscellaneous Items:

a. Climatic Accessories. Seasonal and climatic accessories to the uniform, such as mufflers, gloves, sweaters, socks, and overshoes, which are visible as outer garments, may be worn, provided that they are either articles of issue or generally conform to the color and texture of the uniform.

b. Belts. Belts, when exposed, will be of plain web material to match the color of the uniform. Belt buckles will be of issue type or gold color metal without ornamentation. Suspenders will not be worn exposed.

c. Jewelry. Items of jewelry, such as watch and key chains, tie clips, and collar pins will not be worn visibly. All jewelry and ornamentation other than prescribed will be kept to a minimum. Studs and cuff links authorized only with the evening dress and mess uniforms should be of plain gold color and design.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

OFFICIAL:

JOHN J. JUDGE  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

D

CHANGE

AIR FORCE LETTER )  
NO. 35-47A )

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 19 MAY 1949

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Wearing of the Air Force Uniforms

*Extended by AFM 5-10, 15 Feb 50, AFM 5-10, 15 Feb 50*  
(Effective until 22 May 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.)

AFL 35-47, 22 November 1948, is changed as follows:

4. Insignia. All Air Force military personnel will wear identifying USAF insignia prescribed as follows:

h. Miscellaneous Insignia:

(4) All male military personnel of the Air Force will be required to wear identification tags only when in the field, when engaged in field training, when travelling in aircraft, or when outside the Continental limits of the United States; one tag to be suspended from the neck by a 25-inch, noncorrosive, nontoxic, and heat resistant material, looped to form a necklace, and the second tag fastened to the necklace below the first tag by a 2 1/2-inch extension of material similar to the necklace. These tags are a part of the uniform and will be worn habitually, suspended from the neck, under the clothing, and may be removed only temporarily as the necessities of personal hygiene may require. Inspections for completeness will be required only when in the field, on field training, at "full" field inspections, and when outside the Continental limits of the United States, when appropriate. The embossed tags will be issued to each member of the Air Force as soon as practicable after entry into service.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

OFFICIAL:  
JUDGE  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

(1)

AUTHORITY LIBRARY COPY  
REC'D 22 December 1952  
CHANGE

\*AFL 35-47A  
4

AIR FORCE LETTER  
NO. 35-47A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 25 NOVEMBER 1952

**MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Wearing of the Air Force Uniforms  
(Extended by AFCAG 21075, 8 February 1950)

AFL 35-47, 22 November 1948, is changed as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*  
4. **Insignia.** All Air Force military personnel will wear identifying USAF insignia prescribed as follows:

h. *Miscellaneous Insignia:*

\* \* \* \* \*  
(4) Wearing of identification tags is prescribed in AFR 35-14.  
\* \* \* \* \*

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

K. E. THIEBAUD  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

DISTRIBUTION:  
D

*Rec'd by AF Reg 5-22  
9-1-52*

AIR FORCE LETTER )  
NO 35-46

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 8 APRIL 1949

MILITARY PERSONNEL

The New Air Force Uniforms for Male Personnel

*Effective until 1 September 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.*

General .....	Paragraph 1
Wearing .....	2
Distribution Plan .....	3
Prescribed Items of Uniform .....	4
Prescribed Uniforms .....	5
Insignia and Badges .....	6

1. General.

a. The new Air Force blue uniforms, shade #84, winter, and the new summer uniforms, as approved by the Secretary of the Air Force, are under procurement and may be purchased and worn immediately by officers, warrant officers, and airmen. The new uniforms will be worn in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2, this Letter. Distribution of the new blue uniforms will be made to activities as soon as stocks are available; however, general issue to airmen is expected on or about 1 September 1950. Officers and warrant officers now on active duty who are in need of service or semi-dress uniforms, and newly-commissioned officers and warrant officers entering on extended active duty subsequent to date of this publication, are advised to purchase uniforms, winter and summer, of the new type.

b. On or after 1 September 1950, the new uniforms as prescribed herein, are authorized for wear at all times, by airmen, regardless of station or assignment. Initial issue of the Army-type uniforms will cease on or about the above-mentioned date, provided that all practicable usable stock has been declared economically unserviceable through fair wear and tear by that date. The provisions of AFLs 35-4 and 35-47, will govern the wear of the Army-type interim uniforms and will run concurrently with this publication. All military personnel of the Air Force are authorized to wear existing Army-type clothing until 1 July 1952; thereafter, the new Air Force uniforms as prescribed herein will be required for wear by officers, warrant officers, and airmen.

c. It is the responsibility of the individual purchasing articles of uniform from commercial outlets to ascertain that articles conform in quality, design, and color to the approved samples and specifications established by the Department of the Air Force. The wearing of articles of uniform as prescribed herein made from nonstandard materials is not permitted. It is the responsibility of the local commander to see that each member of his command is properly fitted.

d. Standard specifications for all items will be distributed to all Air Force bases and activities. Additional copies when required may be obtained from the Commanding General, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, ATTENTION: QM Specifications and Quality Control Branch, Research and Development Laboratories, 2800 South 20th Street, Philadelphia 45, Pennsylvania.

2. Wearing of the Uniform:

a. General:

(1) Air Force military personnel will wear the prescribed service uniform at all places of duty during duty hours, except when otherwise specifically authorized by the Department of the Air Force. Local commanders will designate the type of uniform in accordance with climatic and functional requirements. During the period in which both the Army-type and the new Air Force uniforms are authorized for wear, local commanders will arrange the participants at ceremonial formations, such as reviews, parades, and honor escorts, to present the most uniform appearance possible to attain within commands and units.

b. Types of Uniforms:

- (1) Service. The service uniform is the seasonal, standard uniform for normal duty hours. When the shirt is worn as an outer garment, the necktie will be tucked in between the second and third shirt button. When conditions of climate warrant, local commanders may permit the omission of the necktie and the shirt may be worn open at the neck.
- (2) Semidress and Dress. Semidress and dress uniforms may be worn at functions of a formal nature or on occasions where civilian evening dress is appropriate.
- (3) Special Evening Dress. The special evening dress uniform is the authorized uniform for wear at State and diplomatic functions. It will not be worn except at functions which in civilian life require the wearing of formal evening attire.
- (4) Work Uniform. Where conditions of work warrant, or in the interest of efficiency or economy, commanding officers may authorize the wearing of work uniforms.
- (5) Other Clothing. Civilian clothing may be worn by military personnel while in off-duty status. Accepted civilian clothing, such as sportswear, may be worn for purposes of participating in athletic and recreational activities.
- (6) Sun Helmets: Tropical sun helmets may be worn in tropical, semitropical, and Temperate Zone 1, if authorized by local commanders.

*- Amended by 35-46 B*  
*C.d.s. f. added by 35-46 B*

3. Distribution Plan. The Air Materiel Command is charged with computation of requirements and preparation and implementation of the supply plan for the issue of uniforms to airmen. For personnel desiring to purchase the insignia, shade #84 cloth, or complete uniforms, the following information with estimated dates is furnished:

- a. Quartermaster Sales Stores. Quartermaster sales stores will have the insignia, shade #84 cloth, and complete uniforms after world-wide issue has been completed.
- b. Army and Air Force Exchange Services. Army and Air Force exchange services will have insignia and shade #84 cloth by May 1949, and complete uniforms by September 1949.
- c. Commercial Facilities. Commercial facilities will have insignia by April 1949, and shade #84 cloth and complete uniforms by May 1949.

4. Prescribed Items of Uniform:

- a. Uniform, Service and Semidress, Winter (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen):
  - (1) Belt, web, waist (Spec. No. 6-105B) - Dark blue, shade #89, webbing 1-1/4" wide, equipped with buckle, nickel silver, satin finish.
  - (2) Buckle, belt, waist (Spec. No. 29-109A) - Nickel silver, satin finish, solid front.
  - (3) Buttons (Spec. No. 34-7E) (Figure 1)<sup>2</sup> - Oxidized silver, of suitable composition and weight, circular and slightly convex with raised rim, the Great Seal of the Department of the Air Force in clear relief against a horizontally-lined background. To be in 45 ligne (1-1/8"), 36 ligne (9/10"), and 25 ligne (5/8") sizes with long or short shank as required.
    - (a) Cap - 25 ligne screw type.
    - (b) Coat - 36 ligne for large and 25 ligne for small, with long or short shank as required.
    - (c) Overcoat - 45 ligne for large and 25 ligne for small, with long or short shank as required.

(d) Miscellaneous - Jacket cuff buttons and concealed buttons will be dark blue bone of standard size and specification.

(4) Cap, Service (Figure 2)

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers

*Amended by 35-46A*  
 1. Description - Of adopted design, 10-5/8" from front to rear and 10-3/4" from side to side, based on size 7-1/8 cap, stiffened in front by a spring approximately 1-1/2" wide and falling without stiffening to the rear; two eyelets approximately 1/2" up from the band braid and approximately 3/4" on each side of side seam of quarters. All quarters to be approximately 2" at front, side and rear, sewed to a band not exceeding 2" in width. Top to be shaped at rim of crown with a soft rolled grommet of cloth or sponge rubber, approximately 3/4" in diameter and inside of top of crown to have a waterproof material cut to size of crown. Top of visor to be of stiffened black leather lined with embossed green hatters' leather, waterproofed, or of waterproofed flexible black leather. Greatest width of visor about 2-3/16" and slope from vertical about 55°. Chin strap of black leather 5/8" to 3/4" in width, fastened at each end of visor with a small, regulation USAF cap button. A band of ribbed braid, shade #95, approximately 1-3/4" in width around entire cap.

2. Material

a. Wool, serge, 15 or 18 oz, shade #84.

b. Gabardine, flat weave, 13 oz, shade #84.

*C. As issued by 35-46A*  
 (b) Airmen - As issued. (The issue cap will be identical to above in design.)  
*A revised by 35-46A*

NOTE: Wearing of the cap, without the soft rolled grommet and front spring stiffening, will not be tolerated.

*(C) Amended by 35-46A*  
 (5) Coat (Spec. No. 8-173) (Figure 3):

(a) Description - A four-button, single breasted, one-half lined coat, made with a collar and notched lapels, neck, front, and under arm darts, and two-piece back with vent.

*See AF Letter 35-25*  
 (b) Material - Wool serge, 18 oz., 15 oz., and 13 oz. flat weave gabardine, blue shade #84.

(c) Buttons - 36 ligne for large, 25 ligne for small.

(d) Pockets - Finished with two regulation, top-pleated, patch pockets, two lower patch bellows pockets, all with sewed on flaps to button and one inside breast pocket.

(e) Shoulder Loop - Of same material as garment, to button with standard 25 ligne, oxidized silver buttons.

(f) Ornamentation - Sleeve braid, dark blue, shade #95, three inches from end of each sleeve (officers and warrant officers only).

*Amended by 35-46A*  
 (6) Gloves. Pending development of standard gloves, officers, warrant officers, and airmen are authorized to wear, as optional purchase, gloves of gray color, commercial design. Existing types of gloves are authorized for wear when the olive-drab rain coat, field coat, or trench coat is worn.

*Amended by 35-46A*  
 (7) Jacket (Spec. No. 8-162B) (Figure 4):

(a) Description - A single-breasted, four-button, fly front jacket with a one-piece bloused back, fully lined, with banded bottom, and side vents to close with a button and buttonhole. Button on the inside left band to correspond to buttonhole in right band. Jacket to have shoulder loops, pleated, breast patch pockets with flaps and concealed buttonhole tabs, two inside hanging breast pockets, two-piece sleeves and cuffs furnished with buttons and buttonholes for closing sleeves around wrists.

(b) Material - Wool serge, 18 oz., 15 oz., and 13 oz. flat weave gabardine, shade #84.

(8) Necktie (Spec. No. 8-168) - Dark blue, shade #83, wool, fore-in-hand type.

*amended by 35-46A*  
(9) Overcoat (Spec. No. 8-174) (Figure 5):

(a) Description - The overcoat will be a three-button double-breasted model with convertible collar and two buttons under the collar for closing at the neck, fully lined, semiform-fitted at waist, with front and under arm darts, left vent stitched 1/2 inch and center back seam and side seams plain.

(b) Material - Wool velour, 28 oz., blue shade #85.

(c) Buttons - Standard USAF, 45 ligne, and 25 ligne, oxidized silver.

(d) Pockets - Two lower hanging pockets with flaps, with cargo pocket inside the right lower pocket, inside breast pocket on right side.

(e) Shoulder Loops - Shoulder loops of same material as garment, to button with 25 ligne, oxidized silver buttons.

(f) Ornamentation - (General Officers Only) - Sleeve braid on overcoat sleeve - dark blue, shade #95 to match trim braids, one band, 1-1/4" wide, placed with lower edge 2-1/2" above and parallel to end of sleeve and a band 1/2" wide placed with lower edge 1-1/2" above upper edge and parallel to other braid.

(10) Raincoat. Pending development of a standard raincoat, officers, warrant officers, and airmen are authorized to wear the following presently available articles: raincoat, olive-drab; outer shell of Army-type, olive-drab field coat; officers trench coat of Army or commercial design.

(11) Shirt (Spec. No. 6-241A) (Figure 6):

(a) Description - Semiform-fitting at waist, with two outside patch pockets with flaps to button, and a pencil pocket on the left-front under the patch pocket, made with a two-piece, quilted, stand-type collar.

(b) Material - Poplin, light blue, shade #120.

(12) Shoes:

*amended by 35-46A*  
(a) Officers and Warrant Officers - Black, plain toe, low quarter, low type III, or new Air Force field boot.

(b) Airmen - (Spec. No. 9-105) - As issued.

(13) Overshoes:

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers - Rubber, black, commercial pattern.

(b) Airmen - As issued.

(14) Socks:

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers - Black, plain, nonclocks.

(b) Airmen - As issued.

*amended by 35-46A*  
(15) Trousers (Spec. No. 8-175) (Figure 7):

(a) Description - Of adopted standard, cut on lines of civilian trousers, without cuffs.



1. Officers and Warrant Officers - Trousers may be pleated at waist.
2. Airmen - As issued.

- (16) *Added by 35-46A*  
 (b) Material - To match coat and jacket.

b. Uniform, Service and Semidress, Summer:

- (1) Belt, web, waist (Spec. No. 6-105B) - Same as winter, dark blue, shade #89. See 4a(1) above.
- (2) Buckle, belt, waist (Spec. No. 29-109A) - Same as winter. See 4a(2) above.
- (3) Buttons (Spec. No. 34-7E) (Figure 1):
  - (a) Material - Oxidized silver and bone or plastic in color to match cloth for special and concealed buttons.
  - (b) Description - Standard USAF, as authorized for winter uniform.

(4) Cap, Service (Figure 2):

- Amended by 35-46A*
- (a) Officers and Warrant Officers. Same as cap, service, winter, blue, shade #84 as prescribed in 4a(4) above.
  - (b) Airmen - Blue, shade #84, as issued.

(5) Coat, Service, Summer (Spec. No. 8-173) (Figure 3):

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers:

1. Description - Same pattern as coat, service, winter, with a band of khaki color braid, shade #5, 1/2" in width on each sleeve, the lower edge 3 inches from end of sleeve.
2. Material - Tropical worsted or gabardine, khaki color, shade #61.

(b) Airmen - Optional for purchase. Same as for officers less sleeve braid.

(6) Jacket, Service, Summer (Spec. No. 8-162B) (Figure 4):

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers:

1. Description - Same pattern as jacket, service, winter.
2. Material - Tropical worsted or gabardine, khaki color, shade #61.

(b) Airmen - Optional for purchase. Same pattern as authorized for officers.

(7) Necktie (Spec. No. 8-168):

(a) Description - Standard, fore-in-hand design.

(b) Material - Wool, blue, shade #83.

(8) Raincoat - Same as for winter in 4a(10) above.

(9) Shirt, Service Summer (Spec. No. 6-241A) (Figure 6):

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers:

1. Description - Same as shirt, winter, except shirt, broadcloth or poplin, may be of commercial pattern.

2. Material:

- a. Cotton khaki, 8.2 oz., shade #1 (optional).
- b. Tropical worsted or gabardine, shade #61 (khaki shade). (Required when worn as outside garment.) (Optional purchase.)
- c. Cotton khaki, broadcloth or poplin, shade #1, commercial type authorized for wear with coat or jacket.

(b) Airmen - As issued. Shirts as authorized for officers. (Optional for purchase.)

(10) Shoes (Spec. No. 9-105) - Officers and warrant officers: same as winter; airmen - black as issued.

(11) Socks:

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers - Same as winter, black.

(b) Airmen - As issued.

(12) Trousers (Spec. No. -175) (Figure 7):

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers:

1. Description Of adopted standard, cut on lines of civilian trousers, without cuffs. Pleats at waist are optional.

2. Material:

- a. Cotton khaki, 8.2 oz., shade #1 (optional).
- b. Tropical worsted or gabardine, shade #61, to match shirt, coat or jacket.

(b) Airmen - As issued. Tropical worsted or gabardine, without pleats, as authorized for officers. (Optional for purchase.)

5. Prescribed Uniforms:

a. Winter, Service (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen) (Required):

- (1) Jacket, trousers, cap, service, all blue, shade #84; shirt, poplin, blue shade #120, necktie, dark blue, shade #83; or
- (2) Coat, trousers, cap, service, all blue, shade #84; shirt, poplin, blue, shade #120, necktie, dark blue, shade #83.
- (3) The overcoat, raincoat, flying, or fatigue clothing may be worn when appropriate.

b. Winter, Semidress and Dress (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen) (Required):

- See AF 35-12A*
- (1) Coat, trousers, cap, service, all blue, shade #84; shirt, poplin, blue, shade #120, and necktie, dark blue, shade #83.
  - (2) The overcoat or raincoat may be worn with the winter semidress or dress uniform when appropriate.

c. Summer, Service (Required):

(1) Officers and Warrant Officers:

- (a) Shirt, trousers, all cotton khaki, 8.2 oz., shade #1; cap, service, shade #84, necktie, shade #83, belt, shade #89; or,
- (b) Shirt, trousers, all tropical worsted, or all gabardine, shade #61 (optional purchase); cap, service, shade #84, necktie, shade #83, belt, shade #89; or,
- (c) Jacket and trousers, tropical worsted or gabardine; shirt, cotton broadcloth or poplin, shade #61, (optional purchase); and cap, service, shade #84. Necktie, shade #83 dark blue, belt, dark blue, shade #89.

(2) Airmen:

- (a) Shirt, trousers, all cotton khaki, 8.2 oz., shade #1; cap, service, shade #84, necktie, shade #83, belt, shade #89, required (as issued).
- (b) Shirt, trousers, all tropical worsted, or all gabardine, shade #61 (optional purchase); cap service, shade #84, necktie, shade #83, belt, shade #89.
- (c) Jacket and trousers, tropical worsted or gabardine; shirt, cotton broadcloth or poplin, shade #61 (optional purchase) and cap, service, shade #84. Necktie, shade #83, dark blue, belt, dark blue, shade #89.

- (3) Raincoat, Flying, or Fatigue Clothing - may be worn when appropriate by officers, warrant officers, and airmen.

d. Summer, Semidress and Dress:

- (1) Officers and Warrant Officers (Required) - Coat and trousers, tropical worsted or gabardine, shade #61; cap, service, shade #84, shirt, cotton broadcloth or poplin, shade #1, necktie, shade #83, and belt, shade #89.

(2) Airmen - (Optional):

- (a) Same as summer, Service, or
- (b) Same as in 5d(1) above.

- (3) Raincoat is worn with summer, semidress, or dress uniform when appropriate.

e. Special Evening Dress Uniform - See AFR 35-12, 1 October 1948, including Change 35-12A, 3 January 1949.

*f. Added by AF 35-46 A*

6. Insignia, Decorations, Service Medals, and Badges:

- a. Insignia - Insignia in bullion or nylon embroidery is authorized for optional wear in lieu of all types of metal insignia.

(1) Cap (Figure 8):

- (a) Officers and Warrant Officers. The U.S. Coat of Arms, 2-3/8" in height, oxidized silver.
- (b) Airmen - The U.S. Coat of Arms, convex, pierced, within a beveled ring, 1-11/16" in diameter, oxidized silver.

(2) Collar (Coat and Jacket) (Figure 9):

- (a) Officers and Warrant Officers - The letters, "U.S." 7/16" in height, with beveled edges, oxidized silver.
- (b) Airmen - The letters, "U.S.," 7/16" in height, pierced, within a beveled ring 1" in diameter, oxidized silver.

(3) Distinctive Unit (Figure 10):

- (a) Headquarters USAF, Headquarters of Air Forces, Headquarters of Commands, and Headquarters of Wings - Metal, for wear on uniform, not to exceed 1" in height, of geometric design, other than coat of arms, as approved by the Secretary of the Air Force.
- (b) Groups, Operational (Figure 10A) - Metal, for wear on uniform, not to exceed 1" in height, group coat of arms, as approved by the Secretary of the Air Force.
- (c) Squadrons, Operational (Figure 10B) - Patch, 5" in diameter, replica of approved aircraft marking, for wear on left pocket of flight or field jacket.

(4) Oversea Chevrons and Bars (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen) (Optional Wear) (Figure 11):

(a) World War I Chevrons:

- 1. Winter - Silver, embroidered, 1" x 3/16", separated by 1/8", on blue shade #84 background.
- 2. Summer - Silver, embroidered, 1" x 3/16", separated by 1/8", on khaki background.

(b) World War II Bars:

- 1. Winter - Silver, embroidered, 1" x 3/16", separated by 1/8", on blue, shade #84, background.
- 2. Summer - Silver, embroidered, 1" x 3/16", separated by 1/8", on khaki background.

(5) Service Stripes, Diagonal (Airmen Only) (Optional Wear) (Figure 12):

- (a) Winter - Silver, embroidered, 1" x 3/16", separated by 1/8", on blue, shade #84, background.
- (b) Summer - Silver, embroidered, 1" x 3/16", separated by 1/8", on khaki background.

(6) Rank Insignia (Figure 13):

- (a) General Officers, Officers, and Warrant Officers - Each grade identical in design, size, and color to that now in use. Miniatures authorized for wear, on both sides of collar, on shirt when worn as outer garment.

- (b) Airmen - New Air Force chevrons, as prescribed in paragraph 2c, AFL 39-25, 23 August 1948.

(7) Sleeve:

- (a) Braid (General Officers) - Overcoat, as prescribed in 4a(9)(f) above.
- (b) Braid (General Officers, Officers, and Warrant Officers) - Service coat.
1. Winter - 1/2", dark blue, shade #95, standard weave.
  2. Summer - 1/2", khaki color, standard weave.
- (c) Shoulder Sleeve (Patches) (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen):
1. Left Shoulder - Current Assignment:
    - a. Numbered air forces.
    - b. Independent commands.
  2. Right Shoulder (Optional for Wear) - Unit of oversea war service.
    - a. Numbered air forces.
    - b. Oversea theater or command.

(8) Miscellaneous:

- (a) Brassards - 4" x 18", felt type cloth, as approved.
- (b) Aiguillettes - as approved for aides and attaches.
- (c) Identification Tags - as issued.

b. Decorations, Service Medals, and Badges - as prescribed in paragraph 5, AFL 35-47, 22 November 1948.

c. Wearing:

- (1) Insignia - All Air Force military personnel will wear identifying Air Force insignia as prescribed below:
- (a) Cap, Service (Figure 14) - On the front center of the cap.
- (b) Collar (Figure 15):
1. For Coat and Jacket - Centered symmetrically on each side of the collar, with the design aligned horizontally one-half inch (1/2") above the notch.
    - a. General Officers, Officers, and Warrant Officers - "U.S." on both sides of the coat and jacket collar.
    - b. Airmen - "U.S." in circle on both sides of the coat and jacket collar.
  2. For Shirt - Miniature insignia of rank is optional for wear. Collar insignia for the shirt when worn as an outer garment is prescribed for wear with the design horizontally aligned as follows:
    - a. General Officers - Insignia of grade on both sides, each centered one inch (1") from the vertical edge of the tab, star pointing up.

- Amended by 35-46A*
- b. Officers and Warrant Officers - Insignia of grade pointing up, centered, and one inch (1") from the vertical edge of both tabs. Eagles will be worn with the back to the front, leaves will be stem down, and bars will be parallel lengthwise to the vertical edge of the collar tab. Appropriate aide insignia will be worn on the left tab, one inch (1") from the vertical edge, in lieu of one insignia of grade.
- c. Airmen - "U.S." within circle, on both sides, each centered one inch (1") from the tab.
- Amended by 35-46A*
- (c) Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (Figure 16) - Worn on the coat, jacket, or shirt, centered one-half inch (1/2") below the uppermost sleeve and shoulder seam. Current assignment patch will be worn on the left shoulder and the patch of oversea war assignment may be worn on the right sleeve in the same comparable position. The old Headquarters AAF patch will not be worn on the new type uniforms.
- (d) Shoulder Loop Insignia (Figure 17). On each shoulder loop, officer's coat, jacket, overcoat, and raincoat, insignia of grade will be worn as follows:
- (1) General Officers - Star or stars, points toward collar, centered and equidistant along the loop.
  - (2) Colonel - Eagle; head up, beak to the front, centered on loop, talons of eagle five-eighths inch (5/8") from sleeve end of loop.
  - (3) Lieutenant Colonel and Major - Oak leaf, point up, centered on loop, stem of leaf five-eighths inch (5/8") from sleeve end of loop.
  - (4) Company Grade and Warrant Officers - Bar centered on loop, parallel to and five-eighths inch (5/8") from sleeve end of loop.
- (e) Distinctive Unit Insignia (Figure 7). Distinctive organizational insignia, when authorized, will be worn by officers (except general officers), warrant officers, and airmen, centered on each shoulder loop of the coat or jacket with bottom of the design toward the shoulder midway along the loop.
- (f) Chevrons (Figure 18) - Chevrons of grade will be worn centered outward on each sleeve, midway between the elbow and the shoulder.
- (g) Sleeve Braid (Figure 19) - Will be worn by officers and warrant officers only.
- (h) Miscellaneous Insignia (Figure 20):
- (1) Brassard indicating a special duty status, such as airdrome officer, officer of the day, air police, recruiting duty, and others will be worn on the left sleeve just above the elbow. Brassards of black crepe, four inches (4") wide may be worn in the same manner by individuals to indicate family mourning in addition to occasions such as funerals, when directed by local commanders.
  - (2) Miniature insignia of grade for officers is authorized for optional wear on the shirt when worn as the outer garment. Such insignia will be worn in the same manner as the larger type.
  - (3) Aiguillettes are prescribed for wear by aides, air attaches, as authorized, and members of honor ceremonies on special occasions. Aides to the President and members of honor ceremonies wear aiguillettes on the right shoulder and arm. Other aides and attaches wear appropriate aiguillettes on the left shoulder and arm.

- (4) All male military personnel of the Air Force will be required to wear identification tags only when in the field, when engaged in field training, when travelling in aircraft, or when outside the Continental limits of the United States; one tag to be suspended from the neck by a 25-inch, noncorrosive, nontoxic, and heat resistant material, looped to form a necklace, and the second tag fastened to the necklace below the first tag by a 2-1/2 inch extension of material similar to the necklace. These tags are a part of the uniform and will be worn habitually, suspended from the neck, under the clothing, and may be removed only temporarily as the necessities of personal hygiene may require. Inspections for completeness will be required only when in the field, on field training, at "full" field inspections, and when outside the Continental limits of the United States, when appropriate. The embossed tags will be issued to each member of the Air Force as soon as practicable after entry into service.
- (i) Oversea Stripes and Service Bars (Figure 21). Service stripes and oversea service bars are worn centered outward on the left sleeve of the coat, jacket, or shirt, four inches (4") from the end of the sleeve. Oversea service bars are positioned above service stripes.
- (j) Jewelry. All jewelry and ornamentation other than prescribed will be kept to a minimum. Studs and cuff links, authorized only with the evening dress and mess uniforms, should be of plain gold color and design.
- (k) *added by 35-46A*
- (2) Decorations, Service Medals, and Badges - as prescribed in paragraph 5, AFL 3: 47, 22 November 1948.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

OFFICIAL:

L. L. JUDGE  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

1 Attachment:  
Figures 1-21

DISTRIBUTION:  
D



4



36

FIGURE 1 - BUTTONS



25

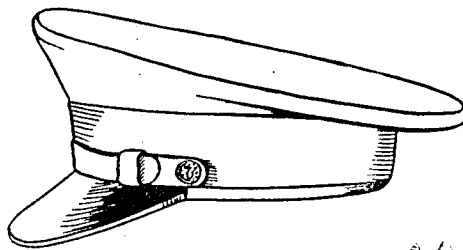
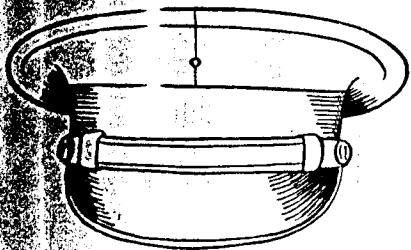
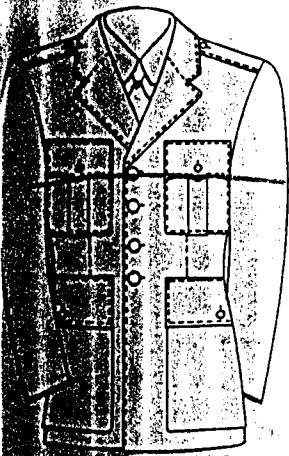


FIGURE 2 - CAP SERVICE

*See 35-461-70-21*



*See 35-461*

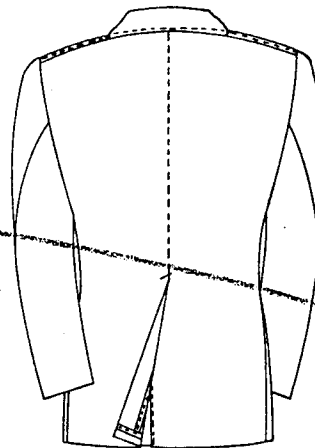
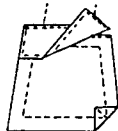
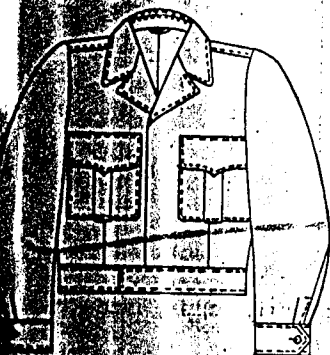


FIGURE 3 - COAT



*See 35-461*

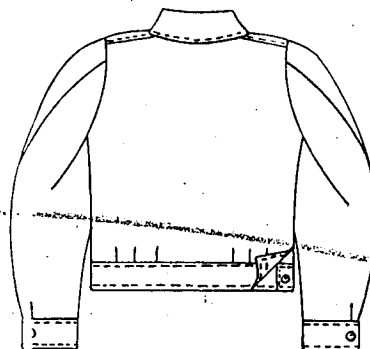
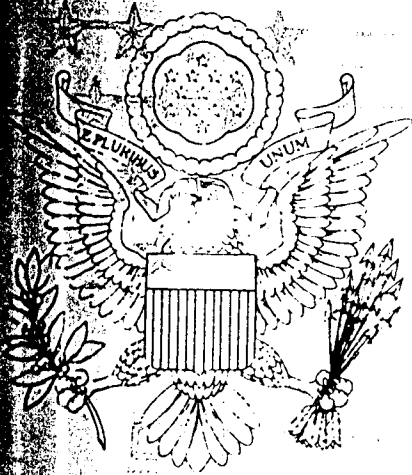


FIGURE 4 - JACKET





OFFICERS

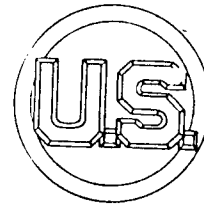


AIRMEN

FIGURE 8 - CAP INSIGNIA



OFFICERS



AIRMEN

FIGURE 9 - COLLAR INSIGNIA



FIGURE 10 - DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

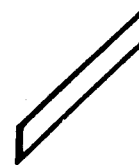
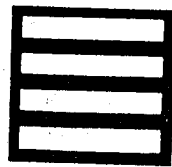


FIGURE 11 - OVERSEAS CHEVRONS & BARS

FIGURE 12 - SERVICE STRIPES

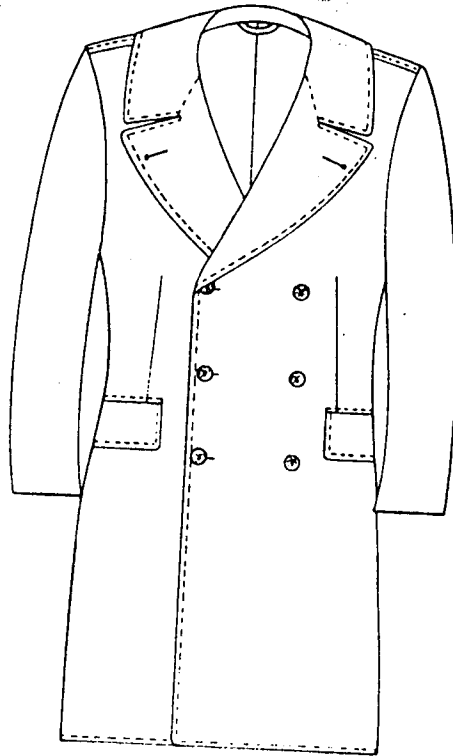


FIGURE 5 - OVERCOAT

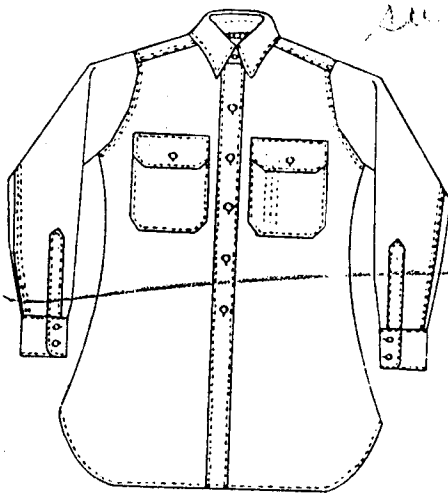


FIGURE 6 - SHIRT

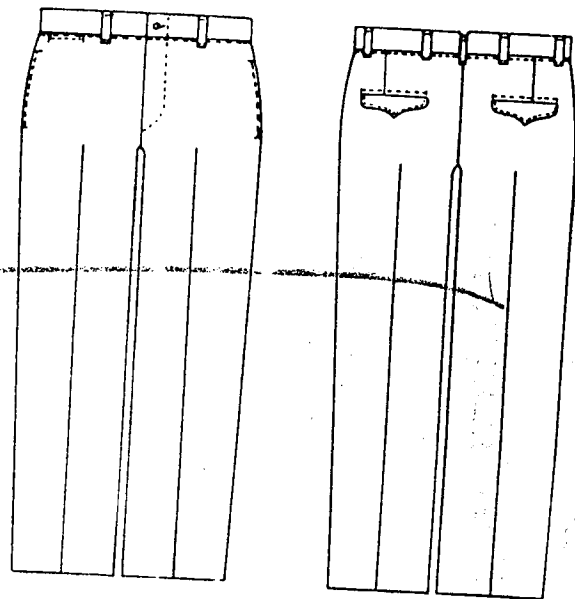


FIGURE 7 - TROUSERS

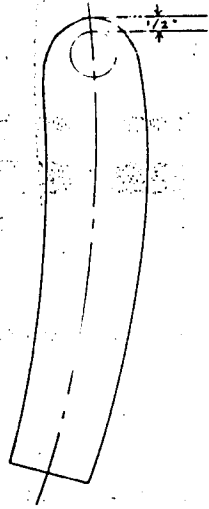


FIGURE 16- SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

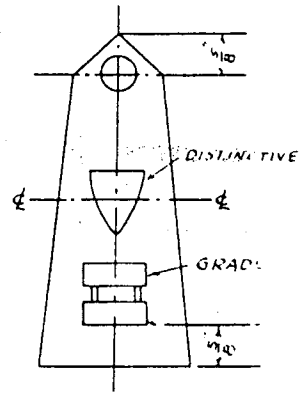
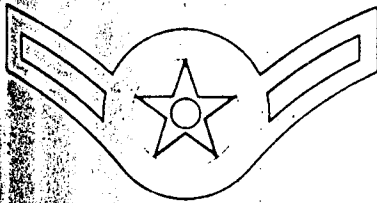
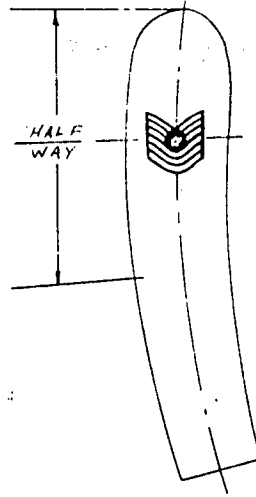
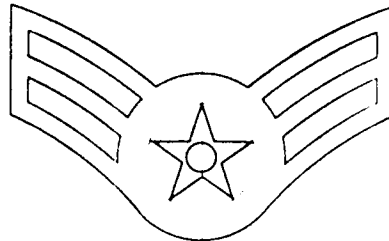


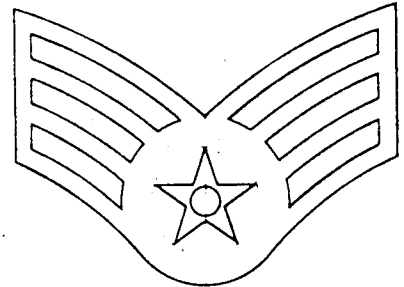
FIGURE 17- SHOULDER LOOP  
& DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA



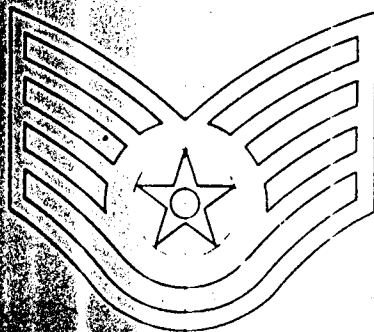
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS



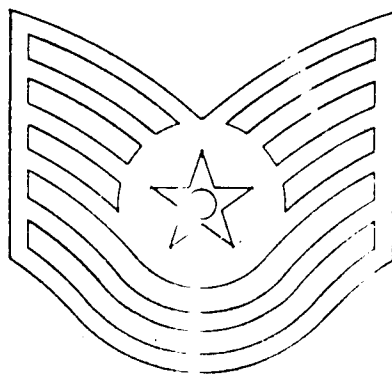
CORPORAL



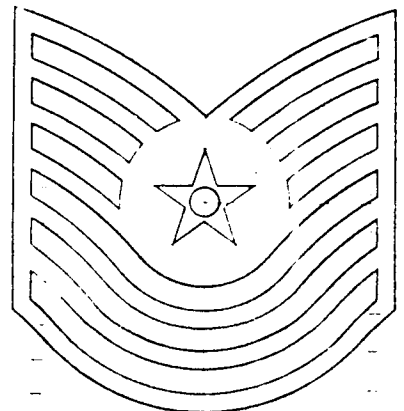
SERGEANT



STAFF SERGEANT



TECHNICAL SERGEANT



FIRST AND MASTER SERGEANT

FIGURE 18 CHEVRONS

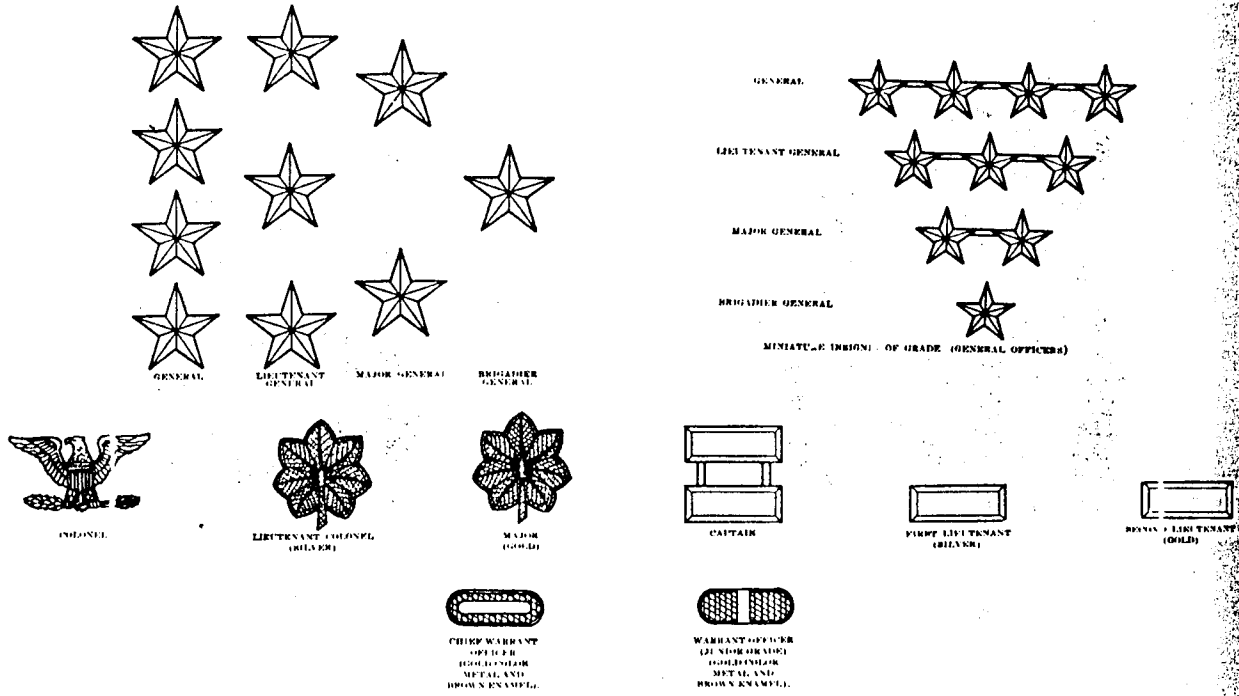


FIGURE 13 - RANK INSIGNIA

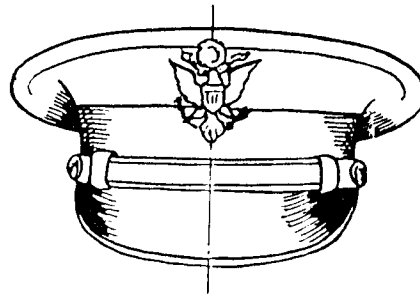
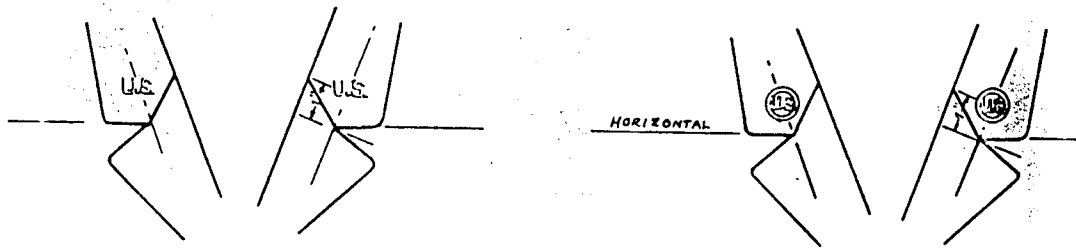
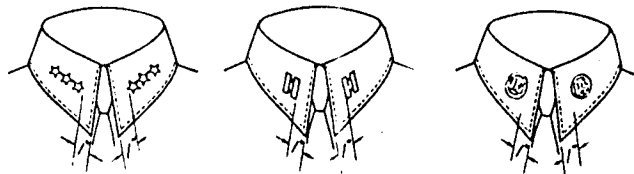


FIGURE 14 - WEARING-CAP INSIGNIA

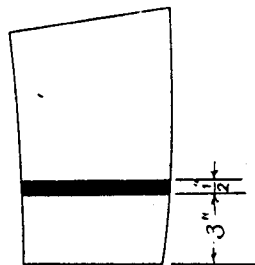


COAT & JACKET

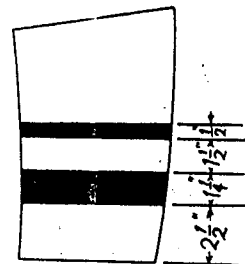


SHIRT  
FIGURE 15 - WEARING-COLLAR INSIGNIA

- See 35-46A  
15A



COAT



OVERCOAT - GENERAL OFFICERS

FIGURE 19-SLEEVE BRAID

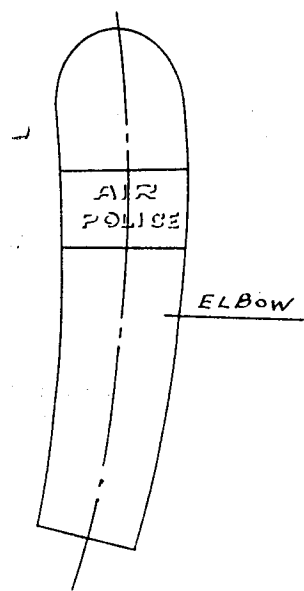


FIGURE 20- BRASSARDS

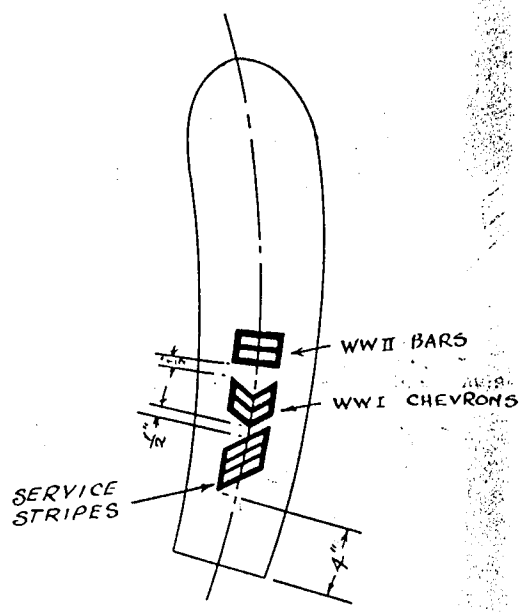


FIGURE 21 - OVERSEAS CHEVRONS & BARS AND SERVICE STRIPES

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| MR - Uniforms      | MR - Awards and Decorations                |
| MR - Belts         | MR - Badges                                |
| MR - Buttons       | MR - Distinctive Articles of Uniform       |
| MR - Caps          | MR - Insignia                              |
| M R - Coats        | MR - Insignia for Collar and Lapel of Coat |
| MR - Gloves        | MR - Insignia to denote wounds and service |
| MR - Field Jackets | MR - Insignia of rank and grade            |
| MR - Ties          | MR - Service Medals and Service Clasps     |
|                    | MR - Shirts                                |
|                    | MR - Shoes                                 |
|                    | MR - Trousers                              |

CHANGE

AIR FORCE LETTER )  
NO. 35-46A )

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 26 JULY 1949

AFL 35-46A  
4

MILITARY PERSONNEL

The New Air Force Uniforms for Male Personnel

*Attention Dept. AF Reg 5-2, 15 Aug 50*  
(Effective until 1 September 1950 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.)

AFL 35-46, 8 April 1949, is changed as follows:

4. Prescribed Items of Uniform:

a. Uniform, Service and Semidress, Winter (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen):

(1) Cap, Service (Spec. No. 8-183) (Figure 2):

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers:

1. Description - Of adopted design, stiffened in front by a reinforced support and falling without stiffening to the rear. One eyelet for cap insignia to be placed at center of front quarter, 5/8 inch up from top of braid. Top to be shaped at rim of crown with a soft rolled grommet of cloth or sponge rubber approximately 11/16 inch in diameter. Inside of top of crown to have a waterproof material cut to size of crown. Greatest width of visor to be 2-1/16 inch and slope from vertical about 45 degrees. Visor top and chin strap to be made of black, waterproofed shell cordovan or cowhide; visor bottom to be made of gray suede or of gray waterproof hatters' leather, semi-stiff. Chin strap, matching visor, to be 5/8 inch in width, fastened at each end of visor with a 25-line, regulation USAF cap button. A band of mohair ribbed braid, shade #95, 1-3/4 inches in width around entire cap.

2. Material:

c. Fur felt, blue, shade #84.

(b) General Officers (Figure 2a) - Identical to above in design, except that visor is to be covered with black broadcloth, embroidered with the USAF lightning, cloud and dart pattern in aluminum wire.

(c) Airmen - As issued. (The issue cap will be identical in design to (a) above.)

(5) Coat (Spec. No. 8-173A) (Figure 3):

(6) Gloves:

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers - Officers and warrant officers are authorized to wear, as optional purchase, gloves of gray color, commercial design. Existing types of gloves are authorized for wear when the olive-drab raincoat, field coat, or trench coat is worn.

50-252, AF

(b) Airmen - Black, wool insert.

(7) Jacket (Spec. No. 8-184) (Figure 4):

\* \* \* \* \*

(8) Overcoat (Spec. No. 8-181A) (Figure 5):

\* \* \* \* \*

(12) Shoes:

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers - Black, plain toe, low quarter, and/or black service shoe.

\* \* \* \* \*

(15) Trousers (Spec. No. 8-175A) (Figure 7):

\* \* \* \* \*

(16) Muffler - Black, wool.

b. Uniform, Service and Semidress, Summer:

\* \* \* \* \*

(4) Cap, Service (Figures 2 and 2a):

(a) General Officers. Same as cap, service, winter, blue, shade #84, as prescribed in a(4) above.

(b) Officers and Warrant Officers. Same as cap, service, winter, blue, shade #84, as prescribed in 4a(4) above.

(c) Airmen - Blue, shade #84, as issued.

\* \* \* \* \*

(9) Shirt, Service, Summer (Spec. No. 6-241A) (Figure 6):

(a) Officers and Warrant Officers:

1. Description - Same as shirt, winter, except shirt, broadcloth or poplin, may be of commercial pattern. Shoulder tabs will not be used on poplin shirts. All other shirts will be equipped with shoulder tabs.

2. Material:

\* \* \* \* \*

d. Cotton khaki, shade #1, 6 oz. or heavier. (Optional for wear as outer garment with tropical worsted trousers.)

\* \* \* \* \*

5. Prescribed Uniforms:

\* \* \* \* \*

4. Special Items of Equipment for Air Police - The following special items will be available after standardization has been completed:

- (1) White cap cover.
- (2) "Air Police" brassard.
- (3) Black leather trim items.
- (4) White gloves.
- (5) Black field boot (new type).
- (6) White rain hood.
- (7) Overcoat, field, long (Army type).

5. Insignia, Decorations, Service Medals, and Badges:

a. Insignia - Insignia in bullion or nylon embroidery is authorized for optional wear in lieu of metal rank insignia, collar insignia, and aviation badges.

\* \* \* \* \*

~~(7)~~ Sleeve:

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) Shoulder Sleeve (Patches) (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen):

1. Left Shoulder - Current Assignment:

- ~~a.~~ Numbered air forces.
- b. Major air commands.

\* \* \* \* \*

c. Wearing:

(1) Insignia - All Air Force military personnel will wear identifying Air Force insignia as prescribed below:

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) Collar (Figure 15):

\* \* \* \* \*

2. For Shirt - Miniature insignia of rank is optional for wear. Collar insignia for the shirt when worn as an outer garment is prescribed for wear with the design horizontally aligned as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

3. Officers and Warrant Officers - Insignia of grade pointing up, centered, and one inch from the vertical edge of both tabs. Eagles will be worn with the beak to the front, leaves will be stem down, and bars will be parallel lengthwise to the vertical edge of the collar tab. Appropriate aide insignia will be worn on the left tab, one inch from the vertical edge, in lieu of one insignia of grade.

\* \* \* \* \*



(c) Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (Figure 16). Worn on the coat, jacket, or shirt, centered 1/2 inch below the uppermost sleeve and shoulder seam. (Current assignment patch will be worn on the left shoulder and the patch of oversea war assignment may be worn on the right sleeve in the same comparable position. The old Headquarters AAF patch will be worn only by major air commands having an arc tab and will not be worn on the new type uniforms by military personnel assigned to Headquarters USAF.

(c) Lapel Insignia. Appropriate aide-de-camp insignia will be worn on the lapels of the coat and/or jacket, centered 1-3/4 inches from the fold of the collar and the top of the insignia 5/8 inches below the notch.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

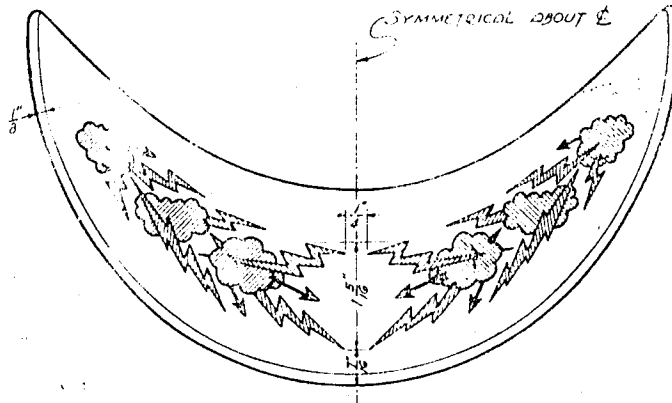
OFFICIAL:

L. L. JUDGE  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

1 Attachment:  
Figures 2a, 3, 4, 7, 15a (2 pages)

DISTRIBUTION:

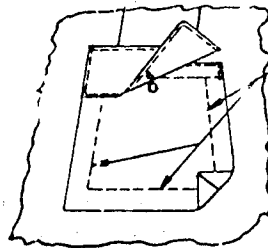
D



VISOR

GENERAL OFFICERS - U.S. AIR FORCE

FIGURE 2 - CAP SERVICE



STITCHING INDICATES  
JOINING OF BELLOWS  
TO FRONT

PATCH BELLOWS  
POCKET

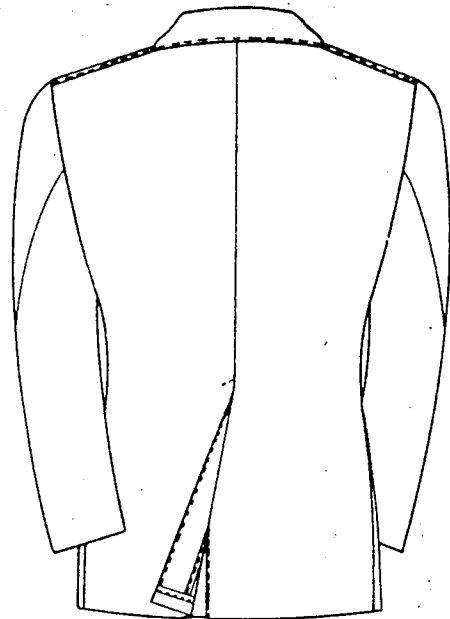
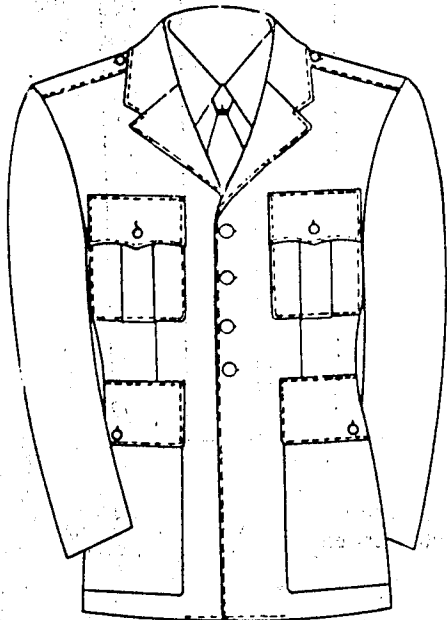


FIGURE 3 - COAT

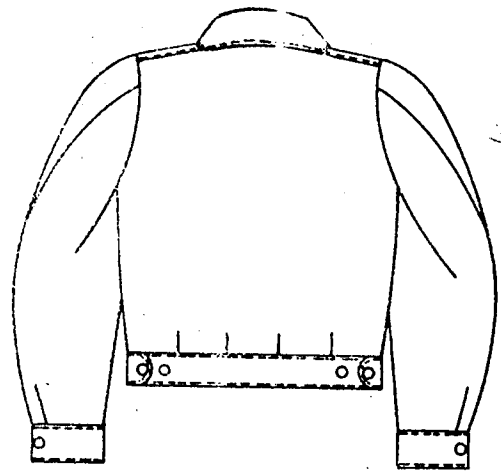
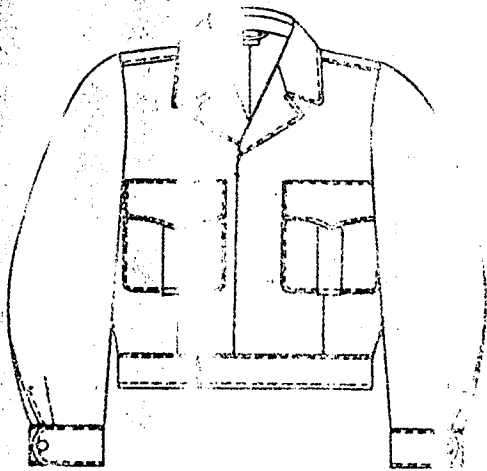
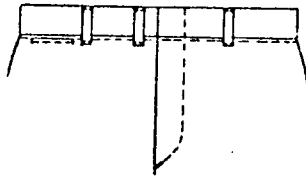
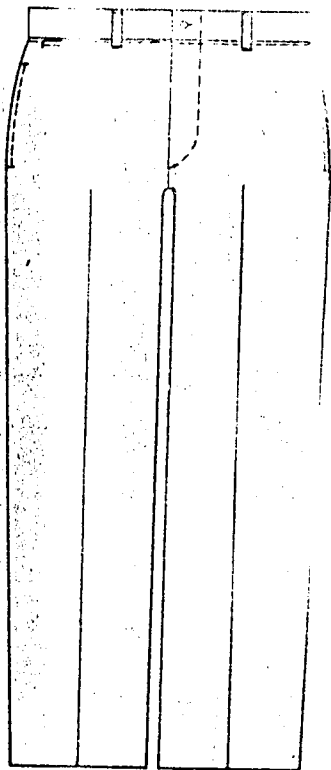
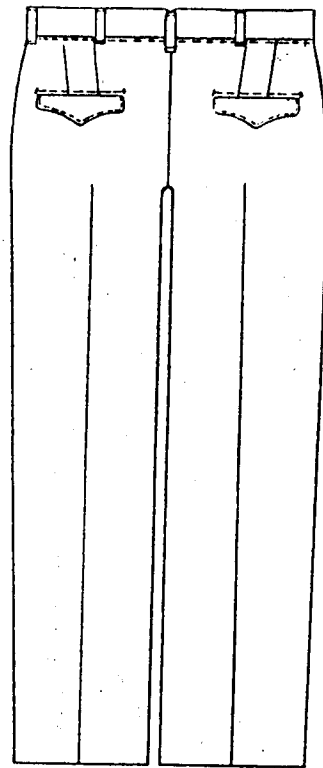


FIGURE 4- JACKET

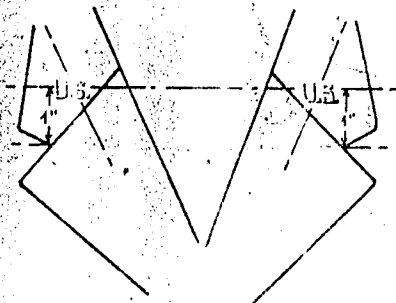


FOR WAIST 36 & UP  
& PORTLY SIZES

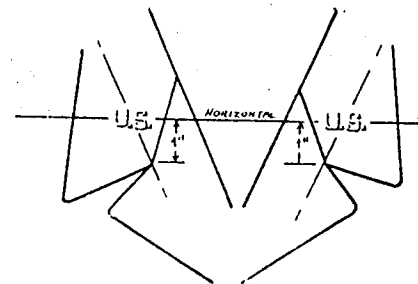


FLAP TURNED UP  
SHOWING CONCEALED  
BUTTONHOLE TAB

FIGURE 7- TROUSERS



COAT



JACKET

FIGURE 5a - WEARING COLLAR INSIGNIA

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM  
AUTHORITY SECTION

ATTACHMENT 11 ✓

AFM 35-10

*John...*

A I R F O R C E M A N U A L

*SIS by AFM 35-10  
12 JUN 61*

MILITARY PERSONNEL

# SERVICE AND DRESS UNIFORMS FOR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

5 MAY 1959

OFFICER	Initials
AUL	
Director	
Director	
Sgt. Adm./Sgt. Pst	
File Auth.	

POSTED  
JUN 8 1959  
AUL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

## Foreword

1. *Who Will Use This Manual.* This manual provides Air Force military personnel with instructions as to the proper wear of Air Force service and dress uniforms. It describes the various uniform items and insignia, and prescribes the manner in which they will be worn.

2. *How the Material Is Organized.* The manual is divided into five chapters. Chapter 1 explains the uniform policies and responsibilities and cites the law which prohibits the illegal wear, manufacture, sale, and possession of uniforms and insignia. Chapters 2 and 3 describe the uniform items for both male and female personnel, and explains how each item will be worn. Chapter 4 explains the various authorized uniform insignia and prescribes the manner in which they will be positioned on the uniforms. Chapter 5 provides information on the wearing of the uniform by reserve, retired, and separated personnel.

3. This manual implements DOD Directive 1348.6, 21 April 1953, which is not available from Headquarters USAF, except as indicated in paragraph 10, AFR 5-5, 1 October 1958.

4. *How To Submit Recommendations.* Recommendations for improving the uniform are invited. Submit comments to the Secretary, Permanent Air Force Uniform Board, Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

*This manual contains no copyright material.*

---

\* This manual supersedes AFM 35-10, 1 February 1956, including AFM 35-10A, 15 July 1957, and AFR 35-80, 12 May 1954.

listed in (2) above. Other combinations of this uniform and the optional sun helmet are *not* authorized, however.

b. *Winter Uniforms.* Winter uniforms will be worn by all Air Force personnel from 15 October through 30 April of each year.

## 6. Identical Local Instructions for Wear of Uniforms

When several Air Force activities are located in the same locality, commanders will adopt identical instructions for wear of uniforms.

## Section B. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### 7. Wear of Uniform in Foreign Countries

The uniform will not normally be worn by members of the Air Force when visiting a foreign country in an unofficial capacity. However, it may be worn when attending, by formal invitation, ceremonies or social functions at which the wear of the uniform is required by terms of the invitation or by the regulations or customs of the service. (Wear of civilian clothes when traveling through foreign countries is prescribed in AFR 34-25.)

### 8. Jackets

All summer and winter, standard and optional jackets, with the exception of the cotton summer service jacket, are to be phased out as items of the Air Force uniform for male personnel. The cut-off date, when established, will allow for an adequate wear-out period.

### 9. Wear of Uniform On and Off Base

Male officers will wear the uniform coat when the uniform is worn off base, in public places, or metropolitan areas after normal duty hours; or at social functions off base during duty hours. While on base in the performance of duty, en route to and from place of abode, and in the performance of official business off base during duty hours, officers may wear the other uniform combinations prescribed in this manual.

### 10. WAF Winter and Summer Uniform

The WAF winter service uniform, with coat, is authorized for optional wear by female personnel during and after duty hours

when the summer uniform is normally prescribed. During duty, the jacket may replace the coat. The tan summer uniform is authorized for optional wear by female personnel during and after duty hours.

### 11. Army Dress Uniforms

Army white dress and white mess uniforms may be worn by male officers in temperature zone I (tropical zone as defined in T/A 1-21) until 30 June 1959; Department of Army SR 600-32-11, as amended.

### 12. Army Khaki Summer Uniform

To provide an adequate wear-out period, the Army khaki (shirt and trousers) summer uniform is authorized for wear until September 1959, at which time it will be replaced by the cotton summer service uniform. Meanwhile, either the Army khaki summer or the Air Force cotton summer service uniforms may be worn. Items of the two uniforms will not be mixed.

### 13. Distinctive Clothing Items and Equipment

Distinctive items prescribed for wear by members of certain organizations, such as air police, bands and ceremonial uniforms, will be worn only when performing the special duties for which the organization was established.

### 14. Work Clothing

The wear of functional, organizational, utility, and special-purpose clothing is prescribed on the basis of specific duty requirements, such as aircrews, cooks, bakers,

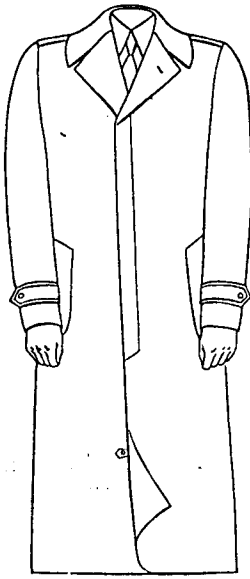


Figure 2. Raincoat, Winter and Summer.

(2) *Instructions for Proper Fit.*

(a) The service coat should always be fitted when the undergarment shirt and tie are worn.

(b) The coat is a semidrape model slightly suppressed at the waist and never formfitting.

(c) A well-fitted service coat will have ease in the shoulders, chest, and underarm.

(d) The sleeve should end one-quarter inch from the heel of the thumb when the arms are hanging naturally.

(e) The length of the coat is proportioned to the height of the figure. A standard guide is that the bottom of the coat

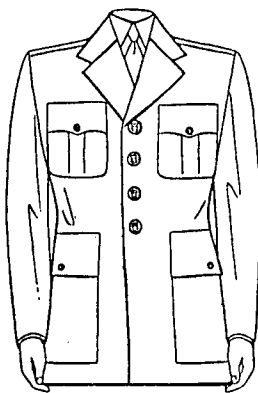


Figure 3. Coat, Winter and Summer.

should be fingertip length when arms hang naturally and hands are slightly cupped.

d. *Jackets.*

(1) *Standard Jacket, Winter.*

(a) *Description.* The standard jacket is a single-breasted fly-front model with a one-piece bloused back and pleated breast pockets. The material is all wool serge.

(b) *Instructions for Proper Fit.*

1. The service jacket should always be fitted when the undergarment shirt and tie is worn.

2. A well-fitted service jacket will have ease in the shoulders, chest and underarm.

3. The sleeve should end one-quarter inch from the heel of the thumb when the arms are hanging naturally.

4. The waistband of the jacket must fall on the waistline. The back of the jacket should blouse over approximately one-half of the width of the waistband.

5. To prevent gapping between the jacket and trousers, suspenders should be worn.

(2) *Cotton Summer Service Jacket.*

(a) *Description.* The cotton summer service jacket is a single-breasted coat length jacket with a convertible collar, four bellows-type pockets with pleated breast pockets and full belt. The fabric is cotton twill.

(b) *Instructions for Proper Fit.*

1. The cotton summer service jacket is semi-formfitting. A well-fitted jacket will have ease in the shoulders, chest and armholes.

2. The belt should fall at waistline and should be adjusted to permit air circulation. It should not be tightened to create puckering at the waistline.

3. The sleeve should end one-quarter inch above the heel of the thumb when arms are hanging naturally.

4. The length of the coat is proportioned to the height of figure. A standard guide is that the bottom of the coat should be finger-tip length when arms hang naturally and the hands are slightly cupped.

5. The back of the jacket should fall naturally over hips; the center vent (rear

opening from belt line to bottom of coat) should not be spread.

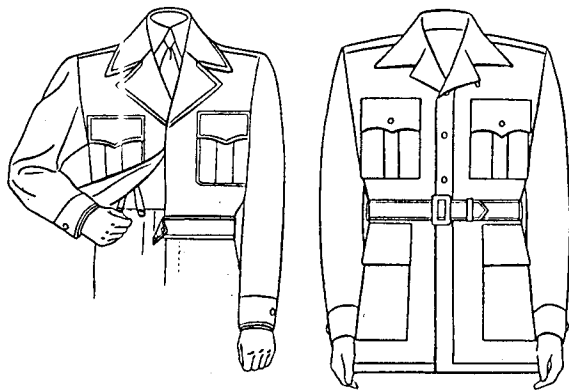
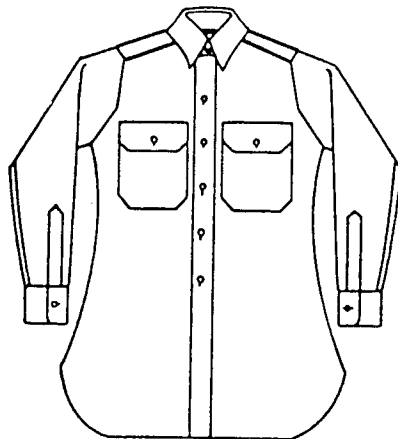
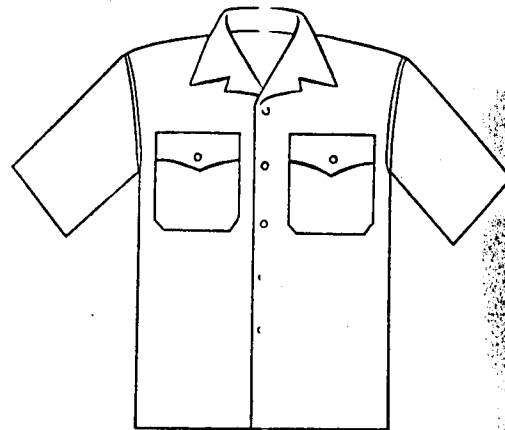


Figure 4. \*Standard Jacket. Cotton Summer Service Jacket.

\*Note: See paragraph 8, chapter 1, for phase-out of jacket.



LONG SLEEVE SHIRT



SHORT SLEEVE SHIRT

Figure 5. Outergarment Shirts.

f. *Trousers, Winter and Summer.*

(1) *Description.* Trousers are full cut, straight hanging, and cuffless. When pleats are worn, they may face either away from or toward the fly. Rear pocket tabs are no longer required on all trousers, but trousers with rear pocket tabs may continue to be worn until no longer serviceable.

(a) *Winter Trousers.* The material for the winter trousers is all wool serge.

(b) *Summer Trousers.* The material for summer service trousers is cotton twill. (Army khaki material is authorized until

e. *Summer Shirts.*

(1) *Short Sleeve Shirt.* A basket weave cotton shirt with square cut bottom. When the arm is bent at a 90° angle the sleeve should touch or approximately come within one inch of the inside of the forearm.

(2) *Army Khaki.* A cotton twill shirt of the two-pocket military type with shoulder loops (authorized until 30 September 1959.) It is a formfitting shirt with sleeve lengths that extend to the heel of the thumb when arms hang naturally. The old style cotton khaki shirt without shoulder loops may be worn by airmen until no longer serviceable but not beyond 30 September 1959.

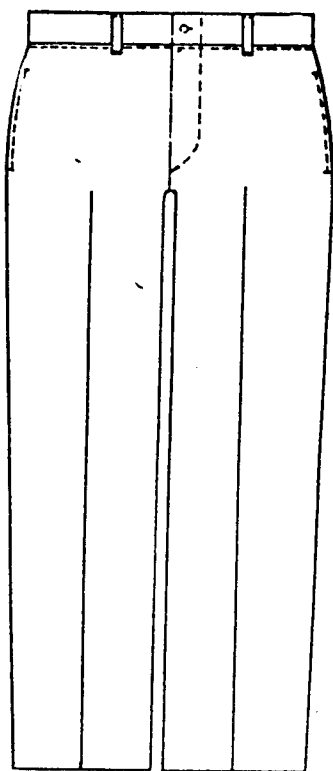
30 September 1959.) In addition, officers are required to have either tropical worsted or gabardine trousers to match the required service coat.

(2) *Instructions for Proper Fit.*

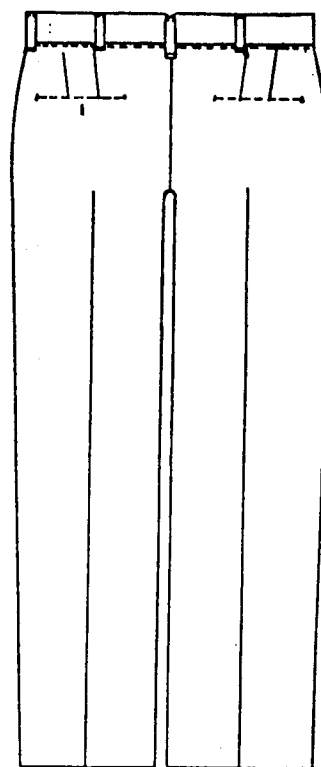
(a) Trousers should be trim-fitting without bunching at waist or bagging at seat.

(b) Prescribed length is without a break in the crease and with the bottom of the trousers barely resting on the shoe in front.



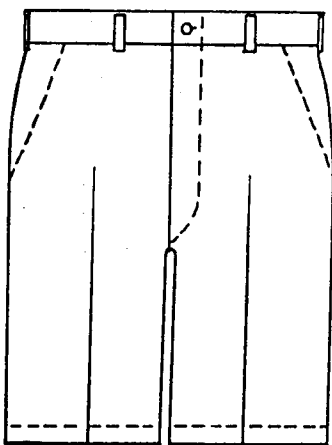


FRONT

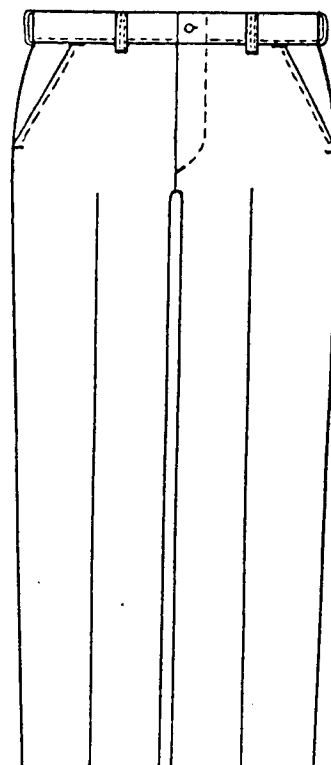


REAR

LONG TROUSERS  
WINTER SERVICE



COTTON SUMMER SERVICE SHORTS



SUMMER  
LONG  
TROUSERS

FRONT VIEW

Figure 6. Trousers, Winter and Summer, and Cotton Summer Service Shorts.

g. *Summer Service Shorts.*

(1) *Description.* The shorts are Bermuda length, full cut, straight hanging, without pleats and rear pocket tabs. The fabric is cotton twill.

(2) *Instructions for Proper Fit.*

(a) The shorts should be trim-fitting without bunching at the waist or bagging at the seat.

(b) Prescribed length, while standing, is for the bottom of the shorts to be approximately one inch above the kneecap.

### 30. Required Undergarment (Shirt)

a. *Winter.* The blue shirt worn under the winter coat or jacket is the one-pocket civilian type (no shoulder loops) of oxford cloth, with modified spread collar. The old style blue poplin shirt with two pockets may be worn until no longer serviceable. Sleeves should extend to the heel of the thumb, extending approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch beyond the coat or jacket sleeve.

b. *Summer.* Required for officers only. A poplin shirt in tan of the same cut and design and with modified spread collar. Sleeves should extend to the heel of the thumb, so as to extend approximately one-quarter inch beyond the sleeve of the coat or jacket.

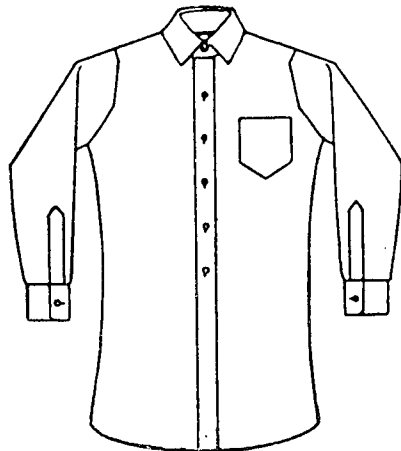


Figure 7. Under Garment Shirt.

### 31. Required Accessories

a. *Headgear.*

(1) *Service Cap.* The service cap is the

visor-type banded with dark blue,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch braid and a front chin strap of black leather. Material is wool serge, blue, for summer and winter. Caps are packaged with a metal packing grommet which must be removed before wearing. The wearing of the service cap without the soft rolled grommet is prohibited. A rear chin strap of black leather may be worn.

(2) *Flight Cap.* The flight cap is the oversea type with corded edge braid corresponding to grade (see paragraph 90 (2).) Material is wool serge, blue, for winter and summer.

(3) *Sun Helmet.* May be prescribed as "required" when issued as organizational equipment.

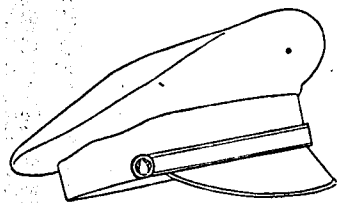
b. *Footwear.*

(1) *Shoes, Low Quarter.* Shoes are black, laced, smooth or scotch-grain leather, with plain or plain-capped toes, and without perforations, buckles, or straps. The wear of unusual footwear (such as cowboy boots, sandals, moccasins, and fancy shoes with extra thick soles or decorated welts) is prohibited. Uppers, except service shoes and combat boots, are not to exceed ankle-bone height.

(2) *Service Shoes.* Service shoes are black, laced, smooth cowhide leather with plain-capped toes.

(3) *Combat Boots (not required for all personnel).* Combat boots are black, 11 inches in height, full-laced, cowhide leather with plain-capped toes. Personnel required to purchase and wear combat boots may wear the boots with the service uniform provided trousers are not tucked in. Exception may be made for air police and, when local conditions warrant, local commanders may authorize other personnel required to wear combat boots to wear them with trousers tucked in (see paragraph 13).

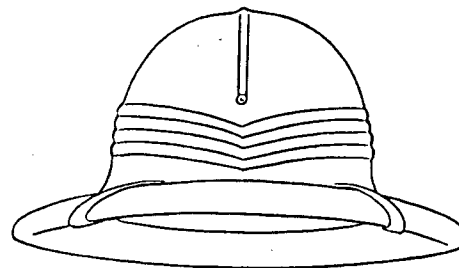
(4) *Socks and Stockings.* Socks are of black wool, worsted, cotton, synthetic, or silk, without decoration. Knee length stockings of cotton, no cuffs, with elastic tops are required for wear with the summer service shorts. They will match the color of the summer service uniform.



SERVICE CAP

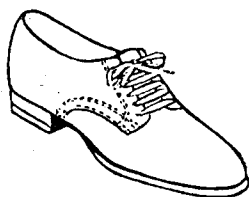


FLIGHT CAP

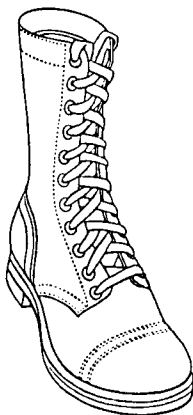


SUN HELMET

Figure 8. Headgear.



OXFORD SHOE



COMBAT BOOT



SERVICE

Figure 9. Footwear.

c. *Neckties, Winter and Summer.* The necktie for the service uniform is dark blue, four-in-hand, unlined and of all wool tropical worsted fabric without design or sheen. When prescribed for wear with an outer-garment shirt, the necktie will be tucked into the shirt between the upper second and third button. The tie will not be tucked into the shirt when the shirt is designated as an undergarment of an authorized uniform combination.

d. *Belt, Winter and Summer.* Blue, of web material with silver-color metal tip. Buckles are plain satin finish, nickel silver-color metal. The prescribed width of the belts is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The prescribed buckle is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and 2 inches long. The end of the belt will not extend beyond  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches of the buckle.

e. *Gloves.* Wool, gray.

f. *Service Cap Rain Covers.* The rain

cover for the service cap is made of the same material as the blue raincoat.

### 32. Optional Outergarments

#### a. *Topcoat, Winter and Summer.*

(1) *Description.* The topcoat is a belted, double-breasted military trench coat of water-repellent all-wool gabardine, barathra or elastique. It has a matching removable inner liner. The topcoat may be worn in lieu of the raincoat with either the summer or winter uniform.

#### (2) *Instructions for Proper Fit.*

(a) The topcoat should always be fitted when the service coat or jacket is worn. In addition, since it has a removable liner, the fit of the coat should be tried with the liner to assure proper fit.

(b) The fit of the shoulders should be sufficiently loose to accommodate the shoul-

ders of the service coat without binding at the armholes when the arms are moved.

(c) The sleeves should extend one-half inch beyond the service coat sleeve.

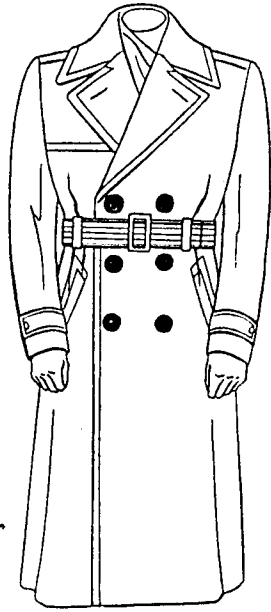


Figure 10. Topcoat, Winter and Summer.

(d) The bottom of the coat should extend to mid-calf.

b. Coats, Winter and Summer.

(1) Winter. Same as the required item (see figure 3) except that material may be of gabardine, barathea or elastique.

(2) Summer. Same as the required item for officers.

c. Jacket, Winter and Summer.

(1) Description. The optional jacket for winter (in blue) or summer (in tan) is a single-breasted, fly-front model with a zipper or button closure and a one-piece back. The jacket is made from the same materials as the optional coat, winter and summer. (See paragraph 8, chapter I, for phase-out of jackets).

(2) Instructions for Proper Fit. The fit of the optional jacket is the same as the standard jacket, except that its design permits blousing all the way around the waist (approximately one-half of the waist-band is covered).

d. Shirts. Long-Sleeve, Winter and Summer. The optional outer garment shirt is of

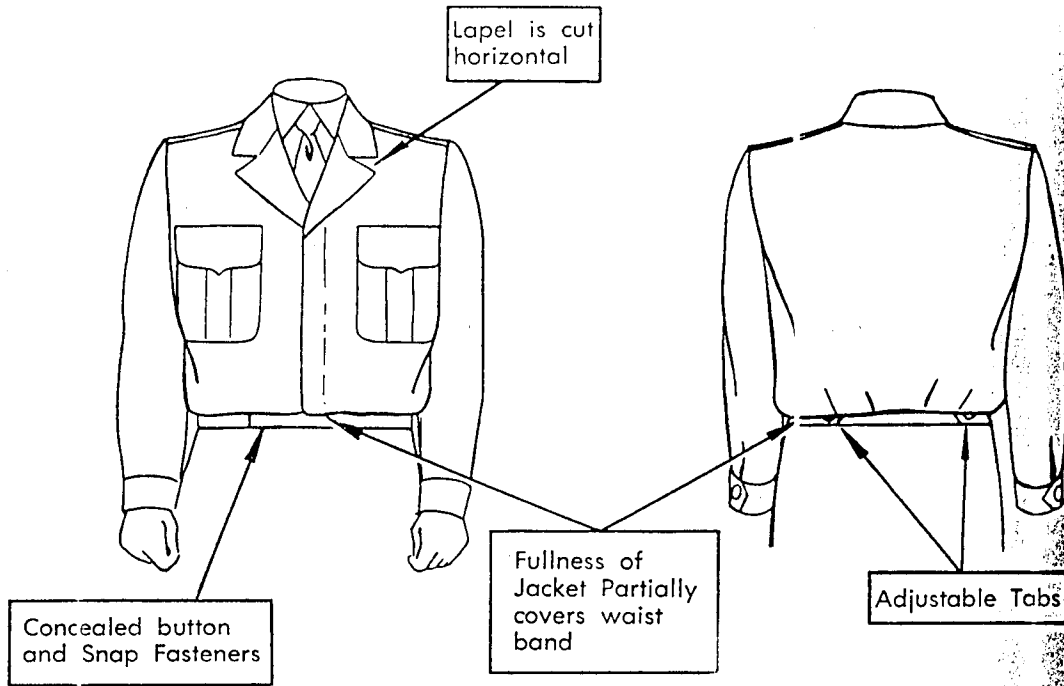


Figure 11. Optional Jacket, Winter and Summer.

the long-sleeve, two-pocket military type with shoulder loops (figure 5). The military creases may be worn only with these shirts and at the option of the wearer.

(1) *Winter*. The blue wool flannel winter shirt is authorized. It may be worn on base only.

(2) *Summer*. Only the tan tropical worsted or gabardine shirt of all wool, wool and synthetic, or blended synthetics, is authorized for wear with trousers of matching material. Cotton material shirts are not authorized for wear as outer garments with tan, tropical worsted or gabardine trousers.

e. *Trousers, Winter and Summer*.

(1) *Winter*. Same as the required item (figure 6) except that material may be gabardine, barathea or elastique.

(2) *Summer*. Same as the required item except that material is of tan tropical worsted or gabardine of all wool, wool and synthetic, or blended synthetics.

### 33. Optional Undergarment (Shirt)

a. The shirt worn under the coat or jacket is the one-pocket civilian type (no shoulder loops). (See figure 7.) Shirts made from synthetic fabrics in the approved shades, design, and weave are authorized.

(1) The wool flannel shirt may be worn in Temperature Zones V, VI, and VII (described in T/A 1-21).

(2) The tan poplin shirt is worn with the summer service coat and trouser uniform. It is manufactured in identical design to the oxford cloth shirt.

(3) French cuffs are optional on the blue oxford or summer service (undergarment) shirt. When worn, cuff links will be two 25-ligne USAF button facsimile; one (25-ligne) metal USAF button facsimile linked to a plain silver button; or one (25-ligne) USAF button or button facsimile mounted on a commercial silver cuff link post.

### 34. Optional Accessories

a. *Headgear*.

(1) *Lightweight Service Cap*. A light-

weight service cap of approved materials is authorized for optional wear; it will be of the same basic design as the required service cap except the head band will be of an open mesh construction to give clear firm openings through the band. A rear chin strap of black leather may be worn.

(2) *Service Cap*. Same design as required, of approved materials.

(3) *Flight Cap*. Same design as required, of approved materials. Tropical worsted is authorized for summer.

(4) *Sun Helmet*. A moulded pressed-fiber hat covered with a water-repellent cotton twill fabric.

b. *Belts*. Elastic or plastic materials, in blue.

c. *Gloves*. Knitted, cotton simplex gray, and gray grain or suede leather. Gloves, shell, black leather, which are part of the clothing allowance for airmen, are duty gloves for wear only on bases or installations when duty or climatic conditions require this additional protection. Gray wool gloves with or without leather on the palms and undersides of fingers may be worn with service or dress uniforms.

d. *Suspenders*. Plain solid-blue material. Worn underneath coat or jacket; not to be exposed at any time.

e. *Mufflers*. All-wool, flat-knit or tubular knit, gray, finished with or without napped surface, or gray cotton simplex; width not to exceed ten inches.

f. *Neckties*. Dark blue, four-in-hand lined or unlined; fabric all-wool, synthetic, or a blend of synthetic and wool fabrics in plain or twill weave without design or sheen.

g. *Combat Boot*. A plain toe, 10-inch high, combat-type boot may be worn provided trousers are not tucked in. (Not to be worn with the cotton summer service shorts). Extra thick soles, decorated welts, high heels or other unusual features such as may distinguish it from the authorized low quarter shoes are prohibited.

h. *Overshoes*. Black, low-quarter type, light-weight overshoes are authorized for optional wear with the Air Force uniform during inclement weather.

## Section B. HOW THE WINTER SERVICE UNIFORM IS WORN

(See appendix A for illustrations)

### 35. Accessories Worn With Authorized Combinations of Uniform Items

- a. *Headgear.* Service cap or flight cap, blue.
- b. *Tie.* Blue.
- c. *Belt.* Blue.
- d. *Shoes.* Black.
- e. *Socks.* Black.

### 36. Authorized Combinations of Required Uniform Items

Blue service coat or jacket with blue trousers and blue poplin or oxford cloth shirt.

### 37. Authorized Combinations of Optional Uniform Items

- a. Blue coat or jacket (gabardine, serge, barathea, or elastique) with matching trousers and blue poplin or oxford cloth shirt.
- b. In temperature zones V, VI, and VII (described in T/A 1-21) the wool flannel shirt may be substituted as an undergarment shirt with the items listed in (a) above.
- c. In all temperature zones, the wool flannel shirt may be worn, *on base only*, as an outergarment.
- d. The overcoat, topcoat, raincoat, and other winter accessories (e.g., gloves, mufflers, etc.) may be worn with any of the required or optional combinations.

## Section C. HOW THE SUMMER SERVICE UNIFORM IS WORN

(See appendix B for illustrations)

### 38. Accessories Worn With Authorized Combinations of Uniform Items

- a. *Headwear.* Blue service or flight cap. The sun helmet may be authorized by the local commander for optional wear; it will not be made mandatory unless it is issued as organizational equipment. The helmet will be worn only during daylight hours, except in tropical or semi-tropical zones (defined in T/A 1-21).
- b. *Tie.* Blue. (Worn with all uniform combinations except as otherwise indicated.)
- c. *Belt.* Blue.
- d. *Shoes.* Black.
- e. *Socks or Stockings.* Socks are of black wool, cotton, synthetic, or silk, without decoration. Knee length stockings of cotton, no cuffs, elastic tops to match summer service uniform, will be worn with the summer shorts. Top of the stockings will not be rolled; the stockings will be worn fully extended.

### 39. Authorized Combinations and Instructions for Wearing Required Uniform Items

- a. *Cotton Summer Service Uniform.*
  - (1) *Authorized Combinations.*
    - (a) Cotton summer service shorts and knee length stockings with either the short-sleeve shirt (without necktie) or the cotton summer service jacket.
    - (b) Long trousers, with either the short-sleeve shirt (without necktie) or the cotton summer service jacket.
    - (c) Long trousers, short-sleeve shirt (with necktie) and cotton summer service jacket. (See paragraph 99, on wearing insignia on shirt collar.)
  - (2) *Instructions for Wearing.*
    - (a) *On Base During Normal Duty Hours.* Any of the authorized combinations may be worn when in the performance of duty. Local commanders are authorized to prescribe deviations from this provision only when it is determined that a requirement exists which is in the best interest of the individual or the Air Force. Such determinations, however, should be tempered with

discretion and fully justified. Examples of valid justifications are: Unusual climatic conditions; preventive medicine controls (such as in mosquito-or tick-infested areas); formations and special ceremonies; and local customs or laws in oversea areas which preclude the wearing of short trousers or other uniform items.

(b) *On Base After Duty Hours.* When the uniform is worn on base after duty hours, the combinations authorized for wear will be prescribed by the installation commander.

(c) *Off Base During Normal Duty Hours.* Local commanders will prescribe the combinations of this uniform to be worn in the performance of duty or en route to and from duty. Where adequate messing facilities are not provided on an Air Force installation, the local commander may prescribe the combinations of this uniform which may be worn off base while eating the noon meal.

(d) *Off Base During Evening or After Duty Hours.* When the uniform is worn off

base during the evening or after duty hours, airmen will wear the long trousers and cotton summer service jacket combination. In addition, local commanders may prescribe the shirt and necktie (with the long trousers and cotton summer service jacket combination) for wear by airman in metropolitan areas and at social functions.

b. *Army Khaki Uniform.* Shirt and trouser combination is authorized for wear until 30 September 1959.

c. *Summer Coat and Trouser Uniform.* The summer-coat-and-trousers combination, of authorized materials, is required for officers only.

#### 40. Authorized Combinations of Optional Uniform Items

a. Tropical worsted shirt, coat, or jacket with matching trousers.

b. Gabardine shirt, coat, or jacket with matching trousers.

c. Cotton twill, poplin, or broadcloth shirt

Combination No.	Coat	Jacket	Trousers	Shirt
1			LONG Trousers, cotton summer service.	Outergarment cotton summer service shirt (short-sleeve) without necktie.
2			*SHORTS, cotton summer service.	Outergarment cotton summer service shirt (short-sleeve) without necktie.
3		Jacket, cotton summer service.	LONG Trousers, cotton summer service.	
4		Jacket, cotton summer service.	*SHORTS, cotton summer service.	
5		Jacket, cotton summer service.	LONG Trousers, cotton summer service.	Outergarment, short-sleeve shirt, tan (with necktie) worn under cotton summer service jacket.
6			Army khaki (auth until 30 Sep 1959).	Army khaki outergarment shirt, long-sleeve (auth until 30 Sep 1959).
7	Tan in approved materials.		Tan of matching materials.	Undergarment shirt, tan.
8		Tan in approved materials.	Tan of matching materials.	Undergarment shirt, tan.
9			Tan in approved materials.	Outergarment, long-sleeve shirt of matching materials.

\* NOTE: Knee-length stockings will be worn at all times with the short trousers.

Figure 12. Nine Authorized Combinations of Summer Uniform Items.

# Flight Log

## From Preceding Page

shirts and two pairs of black ribbed socks.

Supply problems compounded with the major personnel buildup of the services as the Korean War started, however, and issue did not start until Sept. 1 — and then only on the East Coast. By the end of the month, the first issue was completed.

That same year the design of the new uniform for Women in the Air Force was decided, with issue scheduled to begin in March 1951 for summer wear and September 1951 for winter items.

The July 7, 1951, issue of *Air Force Times* — which was almost as new as AF blue — announced that adequate stocks of male clothing were finally available after a Jan. 1 freeze on most purchases at clothing sale stores caused by rapid expansion of the force and textile industry strikes. WAF still faced a purchase ban.

As supplies of blues became more plentiful, issues moved west. By Oct. 1, 1951, the Far East Air Force was to start

issuing blues outside of the Korean combat area.

At about the same time, fatigues began to take on a new look. After a field test in Korea, an outfit consisting of sage-green pants, shirt, summer cap, winter cap and jacket was designated to replace the herringbone twill coveralls, field jacket and wool, pile-lined cap.

Olive drab continued to hang on until about 1955, although none was issued after July 1951. For summer wear, the Army khaki uniform stayed around until July 1959.

The new AF summer uniform was called Shade 505. Made of cotton, it would sometimes retain a well-pressed look for up to an hour, provided the wearer did not move around much. It included Bermuda shorts, knee-length socks and a "bush" jacket, as well as standard trousers — but no pith helmets. Without the shorts and jacket, this uniform was later replaced by Shade 1505, of about the same color but a slightly heavier material that would stay neat through a day's wear.

Another vestige of the Army Air Forces fell away from the uniform when a 1957 change to the uniform manual banned "patches" and extra sets of wings. Until then, members who has served with an AAF unit overseas during World War II could wear the insignia of that unit on their right sleeve at the shoulder. Also until then, wings earned from a foreign air force could be worn over the right pocket.

The ban on the two items was part of a continuing move

by the Air Force to simplify the uniform. An earlier move, for instance, had replaced "hash marks" on the sleeve with the AF Longevity Service Award ribbon. One simplification proposal that failed was removal of the "U.S." insignia from coat lapels. It met with a storm of protest and the insignia remains on uniforms today.

As the 1950s came to an end, another change in uniform regulations heralded the end of the "Ike," or "battle," jacket. The waist-length blue coat worn slightly bloused at the waist could no longer be worn after April 1964.

One uniform item that stayed around well after its official demise was the NCO academy shoulder loop. Made of light-blue felt or gabardine 1½ inches wide, it was worn by NCO academy graduates on the left epaulet of jackets or long-sleeved shirts. Originally approved in the mid-'50s only for Strategic Air Command members as a temporary means of publicizing and building interest in its academy program, the loops eventually spread to other command schools. Although officially banned by the uniform manual in 1958, they were still being worn until the ribbon recognizing academy graduates came into use about five years later.

The passing of another aspect of uniforms was mourned by no one: showdown inspections, in which members had to display all of their uniforms to inspectors. Held twice a year, they were eliminated in 1965. SAC proposed they be abolished as a regular inspection because they wasted time. Air Training Command continued them, however, and they still were in effect for members being transferred to show they had at least a basic issue of clothing.

At the same time, wash-and-wear became part of the clothing language as shirts of synthetic materials became authorized, although not immediately available. Officials at the AF Uniform Board predicted a wash-and-wear uniform may "eventually" be developed and authorized.

To the untrained eye, women's uniform changes over the years were minor. But in 1969 one occurred that anyone could spot: The blue beret was approved for all women as an eventual replacement for the flight cap, which returned in 1983.

The 1946 Army group "designing" the uniform for the Air Force, which was about to be created, made a number of recommendations: plain appearance, no bellows pockets on the blouse/jacket, same uniform for officers and enlisted, and so on. Some of the changes they recommended, such as a switch from Army olive drab to Air Force blue, were a long time coming. But 40 years later they have all arrived as the service matures.

What future changes will be, nobody at the uniform board can guess.

As an example of how difficult it is to predict the future, SMSgt. Stanley W. Haas, NCO in charge of the board, tells





can guess.

As an example of how difficult it is to predict the future, SMSgt. Stanley W. Haas, NCO in charge of the board, tells an anecdote that had its beginnings in 1913, when the Aeronautical Division was part of the Army Signal Corps.

Chief Signal Officer Brig. Gen. George P. Schriener sent to the Army chief of staff a memo which said, "It is believed that about 25 (military aviator) badges will be sufficient for some time to come."

Haas points out that little more than 30 years later, the number of aviator "badges" needed was 10,000 times the number ordered in 1913.

**Air Force Photos**

**Vestiges of the Army stayed with the new AF summer uniforms long after winter blues became standard. An airman third class (left) wore standard Army khaki with AF cap, tie, belt, shoes and insignia. Among the last signs of the Army to vanish from the AF "plain blue suit" were the hash marks on the blouse sleeve of the captain (seated) in the late 1940s while the airman basic shows the look of the "battle" or "Ike" jacket.**

SEPTEMBER 7, 1987 Air Force Times

# Remembered

By BRUCE CALLANDER

Three years after the Air Force became a separate service, thousands of World War II veterans were called back to active duty for what was being called the U.N. "police action" in Korea.

They returned to a world in transition. The independent air branch was a legal reality at last and was beginning to shape its own style. Still, the 40-year-old "brown-shoe" air force from which it had evolved was very much in evidence.

The old Army air fields had been redesignated Air Force bases, but they still had a distinctly Army look. The Air Force had adopted the blue uniform in January 1949, but it was just beginning to filter into supply channels.

New V-type grade insignia had been introduced for enlisted members, now known as "airmen." However, the titles for the lower grades still were Army (private, private first class and corporal). It would be 1952 before the new titles (airman basic, airman third class, etc.) would come in. That change eliminated the NCO grades of corporal and sergeant, now called airman second class and airman first class, and it went down hard with many airmen.

An earlier order, in late 1949, also ruffled the troops' feathers. In the Army Air Forces, they had been allowed to wear patches — the old Air Corps insignia on one shoulder and that of a numbered air force on the other — and metal unit insignia on their shoulder loops. Now such adornments were taboo. Soon others, such as hash marks and the wing-and-propeller lapel insignia, would disappear.

Almost from the beginning of military aviation, fliers were a maverick breed with a style of their own. If they could not win their independence as a service, they could demonstrate it in other ways, including the way they dressed.

In the days of the breezy, open-cockpit biplanes, they borrowed britches and boots from the cavalry. They picked up leather jackets where they could. Their helmets and goggles were like those worn by race drivers or motorcyclists. They topped the whole ensemble with silk scarves reminiscent of the knights wearing the tokens of their ladies.

Before standard flight gear was developed, any mixture of uniform and warm civilian clothing was acceptable. Benjamin D. Foulois often flew the first Army Wright Flyer in riding britches and a turtleneck sweater. In 1929, when Ira C. Eaker and Carl A. "Tooney" Spaatz made aerial refueling history in the "Question Mark," they wore plus-four golf knickers. Fliers in the tropics kept cool in British army shorts.

On the ground, the aircrews were supposed to conform to Army uniform regulations, but they still found ways to give their costumes distinctive touches and the Army often winked at the infractions.

Headgear was an example. The Army service cap had a stiff circular wire to keep the cloth top rigid. When aerial radios came



A World War II B-24 bomber crew (above) with the 8th Air Force poses in its regalia in England. And these World War I Army troops (left) were among the first at what is now Kelly AFB, Texas.

into use, crews removed the wires so they could clamp their headsets over the caps. The loose, floppy look became a trademark of the fliers. In World War II, it was known as the "50-mission crush" and crewmen laboriously processed their headgear to achieve it.

Unauthorized items crept into the wardrobe during that war, too. Crews headed for North Africa and Italy picked up gaucho boots in South America en route. Those in Britain acquired RAF boots and jackets when they could. Those in the South Pacific sported Aussie-style hats, T-shirts and shorts. The distinction between on- and off-duty wear blurred and the deliberately "raunchy" look became a standard of its own.

When things got too out of hand, the Army clamped down in the interest of good order and discipline. But when the short jacket favored by General Eisenhower gained official blessing, AAF members embraced it with religious fervor. They rushed to native tailors to have their blouses altered, often to their own design. The "Ike jacket," in an infinite variety of shades and styles, was the kind of informal garment air crewmen had been waiting for — and it was legal.

Not quite so legal but tolerated in the combat zones were the garish embroidered insignia that decorated both jackets and blouses. In most theaters, there were local seamstresses who could duplicate wings, patches, lapel insignia and even service ribbons in flashy metallic thread.

Light leather flying jackets also were dec-

orated, often with the same names and pin-up pictures painted on the noses of the planes. Strictly speaking, flight jackets were not to be worn off base, but in some overseas theaters it was hard to tell where the base ended and "town" began, so the rules often were bent.

Wise commanders seemed to understand that giving the troops a reasonable leeway in dress improved esprit de corps and actually improved performance.

Even when they went by the book, AAF officers cut a colorful figure. Their favorite uniform was the "pinks and greens" combination. The blouse or Ike jacket was dark forest green and the trousers a soft gray that had a slightly pinkish tone. Although the same combination was authorized for officers of all branches, the well-crushed service cap, Air Forces shoulder patch and silver wings made it distinctively air force.

Little wonder, then, that the veterans of the Army Air Forces who returned to the new Air Force lamented the introduction of the plain blue suit.

But it was not just the uniform that was different. Other facets of the brown-shoe air force were changing as well.

The matter of rank was a case in point. From the beginning, flying had played havoc with the Old Army's sense of pecking order. One of the earliest pilots, Vernon L. Burge, earned his wings in 1912 as a corporal. Thereafter, there always was a sprinkling of enlisted pilots in the force.

One of the earliest aerobatic teams, "Three Men on a Flying Trapeze," was led

when  
service  
Mos  
diers  
office  
for co  
cally.  
men  
comr  
bomb  
ten se  
eral  
more

Son  
with  
skyro  
little  
in les  
ly mi  
AAF  
and it  
On  
newe  
maste

In  
attrit  
ing. I  
share  
same  
comp  
own  
regar  
while  
serge  
both  
there

Mo  
recru  
who  
thing

The  
NCOs  
quick  
who  
geant

The  
the fi  
were  
But t  
moti  
stopp  
ple a

On  
again  
com  
Worl  
earn  
serge  
woul  
reple  
sition  
only  
crea

Th  
gone  
new  
lead  
shoe  
and

In  
out i  
The  
able  
into  
NCO  
assign  
in th