

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND**



AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 36-2903

**AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND
Supplement 1**

14 FEBRUARY 1997

Personnel

**DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL**

"HOLDOVER"

"The basic publication has changed; impact on supplemental information is under review by the OPR. Users should follow supplemental information that remains unaffected."

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This revision incorporates requirements, information, and procedures formerly in AFMC Supplement 1 to AFR 35-10 dated 1 Jul 92. It describes minimum standards of personal appearance of Air Force members in uniform and standards of civilian dress and appearance. It deletes the following items which have been incorporated into the basic Air Force Instruction (AFI): The wear of beepers or communications devices, the elimination of wearing patches with the Aircrew Style Name Patch, guidance on rolling Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) sleeves, deletion of two-line name tags except as prescribed in the basic AFI, and all references to blue fatigues.

Table 1.1. Authority to authorize the wear of functional clothing with service uniforms is delegated to

installation commanders. Provide wear instructions in the local base supplement.

Table 1.1. (Added) Military personnel assigned full-time duties in recreation centers and sports facilities are authorized the option to wear civilian clothing while performing military duties in connection with their assignment. This does not authorize deviation from AFI 36-2903 uniform standards where military duties are involved; i.e., commanders call or military formations. The Air Force will transition to standard clothing for personnel performing these duties, and the standard clothing will be mandatory when available. Until then, the Services Officer must define, in writing, the type (blazer, trousers, shorts, shirts, coveralls, etc.) and style limitations of authorized civilian clothing, for installation commander approval, and make sure the Military Personnel Flight (MPF) Personal Affairs Office gets copies of correspondence approving civilian clothing for Services personnel to include in the base supplement to AFI 36-2903. In all cases, the outer civilian garment will contain identification, a nametag that identifies the individual's name and grade. When outdoors, members will wear the same cap approved for wear with BDUs. On duty, military personnel will wear the specified civilian dress or they will be in the proper military uniform. The nametag and clothing will be standardized by facility. Members must still adhere to the grooming standards listed in AFI 36-2903.

Table 1.1. (Added) Military members assigned full-time duties in health and wellness centers (HAWC) are authorized the option to wear civilian-style clothing while performing duties within the HAWC and mobile wellness centers. This does not authorize deviations from AFI 36-2903 uniform standards where military duties are involved; i.e., commanders call, meetings outside the HAWC, or other military formations. Wear outside the HAWC will generally be limited to short administrative runs or participation in fitness activities. The HAWC director/health promotion manager (HPM) must define, in writing, the type (Polo shirt, shorts, jackets, warm-up suit, hat, etc.) and style limitations (color, location of HAWC logo, etc.) of authorized civilian clothing. The HPM will obtain the installation commander's approval of HAWC uniforms and provide a copy to the MPF Personal Affairs Office to be included in the base supplement to AFI 36-2903. In all cases, HAWC personnel must wear a nametag that identifies name and grade. The nametag and clothing will be standardized by facility. When outdoors, members will wear the same cap approved for wear with BDUs. Members must still adhere to the grooming standards listed in AFI 36-2903.

Table 1.1. (Added) With the exception of the gortex parka, the decision to prescribe the wear of grade insignia, unit emblems, etc. on organizational or functional clothing is delegated to the installation commander. Metal rank insignia must be worn centered on the front tab of the gortex parka. **Exception:** Members who perform aircraft maintenance or other duties where the metal grade insignia presents a safety hazard are exempt from wearing grade insignia. Enlisted personnel will wear non-subdued metal grade insignia on the parka. Officers must wear the subdued metal grade insignia. The subdued metal insignia is mandatory for enlisted personnel when it becomes available through supply channels. Organizational commanders who issue and authorize the wear of the gortex parka are responsible for issuing the rank insignia.

Table 1.1. (Added) AFMC security police bicycle patrols will wear the uniforms prescribed in [Attachment 2](#).

Table 1.3., Note 5 (Added). The wear of civilian clothing while performing military duties is strictly prohibited on AFMC bases unless approved in this supplement or unless special circumstances warrant; i.e., physical training, selected facility self help projects, etc. Allowing the wear of civilian clothing in exchange for a monetary donation as a means of raising funds for any cause is also prohibited.

Figure 2.9., Note 4. (Optional) Delegated to the installation commander.

Figure 2.10., Note 2. Officers may wear bright nonsubdued grade insignia while in garrison.

Figure 2.11., Note 5, Table 2.2, Line 7, Camouflage Pattern BDU Jacket, and Table 2.4, Line 10, Camouflage Pattern BDU Jacket. (Added) When the BDU shirt or field jacket is configured with sewn on name and US Air Force tapes, attach badges as prescribed/authorized in Chapter 5 of AFI 36-2903. When available, attach the subdued AFMC command emblem on the right breast pocket (mandatory for all AFMC personnel by 1 Oct 97). Center between the left and right edges, and the bottom of the flap and the bottom of the pocket. Attach a subdued unit emblem on the left breast pocket when an approved badge (SP, Fire Protection, Missile, etc.) is not worn on this pocket. Center between the left and right edges, and the bottom of the flap and the bottom of the pocket. Installation commanders will specify which level of unit emblem will be worn; i.e., center, wing, group, or squadron. Publish guidance regarding which unit patch is worn by each assigned organization in the base supplement to AFI 36-2903 Unit commanders will fund the purchase of unit patches (for enlisted personnel). Personnel assigned to HQ AFMC staff will not wear unit patches. Patches will not be worn over the right pocket above the name tape. Morale patches are not authorized for wear. Morale patches include, but are not limited to specialty patches such as Prime Beef, Prime Rib, Response Force, etc., or competition patches such as Gunsmoke, William Tell, Giant Sword, etc. Nor are recognition patches such as the Hennessy, Daedalian, Journeyman, or the various technician awards authorized. Patches will be sewn on the uniform and will not be affixed with Velcro or Velcro fasteners. A field jacket with aircrew style name patch may be worn with BDUs configured with name/US Air Force tapes and organizational patches. Likewise, a field jacket configured with name/US Air Force tapes and organizational patches may be worn with BDUs configured with an aircrew style name patch. Members are highly encouraged to use sewn on name tapes, US Air Force tapes, badges, and organizational patches when they replace BDUs once these accouterments become available; however, wear is not mandatory until 1 Oct 97. Members may continue to wear BDUs configured with sewn on tapes without organizational patches or BDUs with aircrew style name patches and rank insignia until 30 Sep 97.

Figure 2.27., Note 4. (Optional) Delegated to the installation commander.

Table 2.2., Line 6, Organizational Baseball Cap. Approved organizational baseball-style caps, with or without meshed back, may be worn. Wear only woodland pattern with black lettering or a black or dark blue cap with colored lettering/numerals of choice (units must conform to this policy by 1 Apr 98). Caps may contain both organizational lettering, numbering, and badge or emblem in compliance with AFI 36-2903. A list of authorized unit baseball caps will be included as an attachment to the local base supplement (include the authorized squadron or unit, cap color, numerals, letters, emblems, and their color). Numerals and letters on the cap will identify the squadron or unit, maximum of 2 inches in height, and be worn on the front of the cap centered above the bill. Rank insignia is optional for officers as long as insignia is visible on the BDU shirt/field jacket or other authorized outer garment. Caps will be clean, in good repair, and will not be altered from their natural form (creasing, rolling of bill, and so forth).

Exception:

Combat Arms and Training Maintenance (CATM) personnel may wear a red cap with white or black lettering on the front.

Table 2.2., Line 11, Undergarments. Air Force members are authorized to wear either the v-neck, u-neck, or crew-neck brown undershirts with the BDU. Undershirts may be athletic style, sleeveless, or t-shirt style. Additionally, the wear of black t-shirts; brown, black, or cream colored thermal undershirts;

and black turtleneck shirts with BDUs is authorized. Unit emblems/logos may be worn on BDU and Flight Dress Uniform (FDU) t-shirts (black t-shirt only) at installation commander option. Approved emblems must be included in the local base supplement and conform to the requirements of AFI 36-2903 (worn on the left side, not to exceed 5 inches in diameter). Making wear of t-shirts with unit emblems mandatory or using Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds to issue logo t-shirts is discouraged. When wear is optional, booster clubs or similar organizations may sell t-shirts to support unit fund raising projects.

Table 2.2. Line 12, Patches. Patches will be sewn on.

Table 2.2. Line 13, Other. Approval to prescribe other functional clothing worn with BDUs or service whites and authorized by TA 016 is delegated to the installation commander and will be included in the local supplement.

Table 2.4., Line 9, Organizational Baseball Cap. Approved organizational baseball-style caps, with or without meshed back, may be worn. Wear only woodland pattern with black lettering or a black or dark blue cap with colored lettering/numerals of choice (units must conform to this policy by 1 Apr 98). Caps may contain both organizational lettering, numbering, and badge or emblem in compliance with AFI 36-2903. A list of authorized unit baseball caps will be included as an attachment to the local base supplement (include the authorized squadron or unit, cap color, numerals, letters, emblems, and their color). Numerals and letters on the cap will identify the squadron or unit, maximum of 2 inches in height, and be worn on the front of the cap centered above the bill. Rank insignia is optional for officers as long as insignia is visible on the BDU shirt/field jacket or other authorized outer garment. Caps will be clean, in good repair, and will not be altered from their natural form (creasing, rolling of bill, and so forth).

Exceptions:

Combat Arms and Training Maintenance (CATM) personnel may wear a red cap with white or black lettering on the front.

Table 2.4., Line 14, Undershirt. Air Force members are authorized to wear either the v-neck, u-neck, or crew-neck brown undershirts with the BDU. Undershirts may be athletic style, sleeveless, or t-shirt style. Additionally, the wear of black t-shirts; brown, black, or cream colored thermal undershirts; and black turtleneck shirts with BDUs is authorized. Unit emblems/logos may be worn on BDU and Flight Dress Uniform (FDU) t-shirts (black t-shirt only) at installation commander option. Approved emblems must be included in the local base supplements and conform to the requirements of AFI 36-2903 (worn on the left side, not to exceed five inches in diameter). Making wear of t-shirts with unit emblems mandatory or using O&M funds to issue logo t-shirts is discouraged. When wear is optional, booster clubs or similar organizations may sell t-shirts to support unit fund raising projects.

Table 2.4., Line 15, Patches. Patches will be sewn on.

Table 2.4., Line 16, Other. Approval to prescribe other functional clothing worn with BDUs or service whites and authorized by TA 016 is delegated to the installation commander and will be included in their local supplement.

Table 2.7., Note 3. (Added). The outdoor work area is defined as the immediate area where the actual work is being performed.

Table 2.7., Note 4. (Added) Installation commanders will specify in their base supplements where head-gear may be removed (flight line, mobile units, motor vehicle maintenance compounds, CE shops, etc.). Optional no hat areas should be designated for mission or safety reasons only, not for convenience.

3.1. **Organizational Items.** As a minimum, installation commanders will provide wear instructions in the base supplement to AFI 36-2903 for at least the following:

Stocking (Navy watch) cap

Coveralls

Flight jacket or short parka by nonflying personnel such as pole climbers (aircrew-style name patch will be affixed on the left side of the jacket)

Parkas

Olive green sweater or sleeping shirt

Reflective tape, jackets, arm bands

Protective hair/head coverings (wearing these head coverings is authorized only when work is being performed which requires the protection from the elements of work (paint, oil, grease, sprays, and so forth)

3.1.2. Installation commanders will prescribe other functional clothing in base supplements. Functional clothing is issued and worn for specific duties. A change of duty assignment may indicate these clothing items are no longer authorized for wear by the member. Desert BDUs will not be worn as a day-to-day uniform. Flight Dress Uniforms (FDU) and jackets are worn as prescribed in [Attachment 1](#) to this supplement.

Table 3.2. (Added) Installation commanders may prescribe and fund as uniform items/organizational equipment certain optional items for Base Honor Guard members including: garment bag, standard travel/clothing bag, or other mission-related accessories displaying distinctive identification. The discretion to expend appropriated funds to acquire such items is limited to satisfying honor guard mission requirements. Use of such items by honor guard members must be restricted to official travel for Honor Guard functions and participation in Base-sanctioned community activities or public events. This authority may not be used to purchase premium or incentive items intended for personal use. Organizational issue items in serviceable condition must be turned in for reuse at the conclusion of the honor guard assignment. A list of prescribed items must appear in the Base supplement to AFI 36-2903.

Table 3.2., Note 1. Uniform will only be worn in the performance of official duties. Wear to boards, etc., when not performing official duties is prohibited.

Table 3.4., Note 6. The Elite Guard uniform for AFMC consists of the following:

Light blue shirt (long/short sleeve seasonal)

White ascot (winter/fall)

Beret with MAJCOM crest

Bloused boots with white laces

Black belt without MAJCOM crest

SP blue jacket

Inclement weather gear as required

Table 3.4, Note 7. Security Police personnel above group level may wear the security police shield and blue beret with all authorized uniform combinations.

7.1.1. Proposals for uniform changes must be thoroughly staffed at the local level and contain a coordinated evaluation from affected base activities. They will not be forwarded to HQ AFMC/DPAQM with an endorsement such as "Recommend Approval" or "Forwarded for Your Action." The MPF must review previous Air Force Uniform Board (AFUB) decisions to make sure duplicate proposals are not submitted.

7.1.2. The AFMC Uniform Board consists of representatives from HQ AFMC/DP/SP/DO/SV/LG, and the Senior Enlisted Advisor. Functional advisors and selected personnel from base-level may also be asked to provide field input. They will meet as required, or at the call of the board president. HQ AFMC/DPAQM conducts board proceedings and announces results.

7.2. Base Supplements must be approved by HQ AFMC/DPAQM prior to being published. Drafts with AF Form 673 are sent to HQ AFMC/DPAQM, 4375 Chidlaw Rd, Suite 6, Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5006.

Attachment 1

AFMC FLIGHT DRESS UNIFORM (FDU)

A1.1. General. The FDU will be worn with the sleeves extended full length (not pushed up) and all zippers closed. When not flying, the Velcro portion of the sleeves may be unfastened and tucked under the sleeve the width of the Velcro fastener.

A1.1.1. The FDU may be worn off-base under the same restrictions as the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) (see Table 2.6. of the basic instruction).

A1.1.2. The FDU is authorized for wear by personnel assigned to a position identified with an Aircrew Position Identifier (API) and those personnel currently on active aeronautical orders to perform specific official tasks in accordance with AFI 11-401.

A1.2. Flight Jacket. Either the Nomex or the leather A-2 flying jacket may be worn with the FDU. Jackets are required to be zipped at least halfway. Sleeves will be worn full length (not pushed up). See basic instruction, Table 3.6, Authorized Individuals, for additional wear instructions. Nomex flight jackets may not be worn with service uniforms.

A1.3. Headgear. Not required while involved in or around aircraft operations.

A1.3.1. Flight Cap. Same requirements as listed in Tables 2.1, line 11, and Table 2.3, line 15, of the basic instruction for service uniforms.

A1.3.2. Knit Type Ski Cap. May be authorized by the installation commander during cold weather. Colors restricted to black or dark blue. When worn, the flight jacket must also be worn.

A1.4. Accouterments. May be either standard (full color) or subdued. However, standard and subdued will not be mixed; e.g., all standard emblems and standard cloth name patch or all subdued emblems and subdued cloth name patch. Leather name patch may be worn with either combination.

A1.4.1. Velcro Fasteners. Sage green Velcro fasteners will be attached as follows: A 2 x 4-inch rectangular piece will be centered on the left breast pocket of the FDU/Nomex jacket for placement of the name patch. A silhouette shape of the AFMC Command Emblem or 3 ¼ x 3 ¼-inch (approx.) square piece will be centered over the right breast pocket of the FDU/Nomex jacket.

A1.4.2. Rank Insignia. Officers will wear subdued cloth grade insignia on each shoulder approximately 5/8 inch from the shoulder seam. Placement and size of general officers stars will be in accordance with Figure 2.12. in the basic instruction.

A1.4.3. Name Patch. Name patch is worn centered over the left breast pocket. Name patches will be 2 x 4-inches in size and may be silver embossed black leather, embroidered cloth in squadron colors, or subdued. Name (in block letters) and appropriate aerospace badges will be centered on the patch. Members have the option of wearing either one or two badges (aeronautical wings are mandatory). Wings will be approximately 2 ¾ x 5/8-inch in size unless two badges are worn, then they will be proportioned accordingly. Name patch must have the first name (full, abbreviated, or initial) and last name (middle initial optional); e.g., member may use "SAMUEL P. JONES," "SAMUEL JONES," "SAM JONES," "S.P. JONES" or "S. JONES". Standard Air Force abbreviated rank will be on the line below the name for enlisted aircrew members; e.g., CMSgt, TSgt, Amn, etc.) The installation commander will identify the color of the cloth and embroidering thread for each organization; i.e., squadron, group, wing, etc.) in the base supplement to AFI 36-2903.

A1.4.4. Organizational Emblems And Specialty Patches.

A1.4.4.1. Right Breast. A 3 x 3-inch AFMC patch will be centered and even with the name patch on the right breast of the FDU/Nomex jacket.

A1.4.4.2. Left Sleeve. The unit commander will authorize any emblem of the appropriate parent wing, group, or center to be worn on the Velcro. If there is no organizational or authorized specific emblem, the American flag emblem will be worn centered ½-inch below the shoulder seam. Subdued colored flags are not authorized. (OPTIONAL: Members may wear the USAF Test Pilot School Patch (graduate or instructor), Weapons School Patch, etc., upon completion of the school.)

A1.4.4.3. Right Sleeve. The unit emblem (squadron patch) will be worn as authorized by the installation commander. AFMC staff personnel may wear a directorate approved patch or the patch of the current or last unit attached to for flying.

A1.4.5. Neckwear. Installation commanders may authorize the wear of scarves in their base supplement. Scarves may be in distinctive unit (squadron or wing) colors. Scarves will not be worn around aircraft or when flying.

A1.4.6. Socks. White or black, will be plain without design or colored bands.

A1.4.7. Footwear. Authorized laced or belted black leather flight boots may be worn. Installation commander may authorize wear of jungle boots. Flight boots may have zipper inserts.

A1.4.8. Undergarments. Appropriate undergarments are mandatory. Undershirts without pockets may be v-neck, u-neck or crew-neck; athletic style, sleeveless or t-shirt style. Colors are limited to white, brown or black. Undershirts may be visible at the neck with the exception of white when wearing subdued patches. When wearing subdued patches, white undershirts will not be exposed at the neck except for thermal undershirts when authorized for wear. In addition, black long-sleeved turtleneck shirts may be worn.

A1.4.9. Other Standard Flight Clothing. Gloves, helmets and other flight clothing will be worn as prescribed in AFMCI 11-301 or other applicable directives.

Attachment 2**AFMC SECURITY POLICE BICYCLE UNIFORMS****Fair Weather Uniform:**

White or dark blue Polo-style shirts with aircrew style name tag on the upper left breast and 4 inch black (white shirt) or white (dark blue shirt) with "POLICE" lettering printed across the back.

Dark blue coaching type shorts with 6-8 inch inseam and padded seat.

Black cross trainer sneakers with all-white socks.

White bicycle safety helmet.

White, tan or black bicycle gloves.

Black frame safety glasses with interchangeable lenses for day and night riding or prescription glasses.

Inclement/Cold Weather Uniform:

Dark blue, waterproof gortex or ultrex, lined, zip-front jacket with 4 inch, white, SP shield screen printed on upper left breast, and 4 inch white reflective "POLICE" screen printed across the back.

Dark blue, waterproof gortex or ultrex pants with hip pockets, two side-leg cargo pockets and Velcro closures. Thermostat lycra, ankle-length pant liners, with padded seat.

Dark blue turtleneck, long-sleeve shirt, or the white/dark blue Polo-style shirt.

Black cross trainer sneakers with white socks.

White bicycle safety helmet.

White, tan or black bicycle gloves.

Black frame safety glasses with interchangeable lenses for day and night riding or prescription glasses.

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