

CHAPTER 5 – WORKING AND UTILITY UNIFORMS

5.1. USAF-style Utility Uniforms. Utility uniforms are specifically designed to be worn in a field or working environment that involves physical exertion. Field uniform wear is generally restricted to CAP meeting and activities with a field or training focus but may be worn away from activities for short convenience stops and when eating at restaurants where people wear comparable civilian attire. Do not wear field uniforms to eat in restaurants where most diners wear business attire or at establishments that operate primarily to serve alcohol. Do not starch or hot press shoulder patches. Light ironing and center creasing of NCO chevrons is authorized; however, repeated hot pressing or heavy ironing will accelerate the overall wear of the fabric. Females may wear the male version of any of the field uniforms.

5.1.1. Men's and Women's Airman's Battle Uniform (ABU) (Figure 5.2).

5.1.1.1. ABU Coat (Shirt, Long Sleeve). The ABU coat with button fastenings and an Air Force digitized tiger stripe print. The bottom of the ABU coat will rest at the hips. Pockets will be secured and items stowed in pockets will not be visible except pens stowed in the pen pocket on the sleeve. The top button of the ABU coat will not be fastened; however, all other buttons will be secured at all times. Commanders may authorize sleeves to be rolled up on the ABU coat; however, the cuffs will remain visible and the sleeve will rest at, or within 1 inch of, the forearm when the arm is bent at a 90-degree angle. Regardless as to whether the sleeves are rolled up or unrolled, the cuffs will remain visible at all times. The ABU coat may be removed in immediate work area as determined appropriate by local leadership; however, the ABU coat will be worn while interacting with customers/clients. When ABU coat is removed, t-shirt (as outlined below) will be worn. All accoutrements with the exception of the nametapes, CAP tapes, grade insignia, aviation badge, and chaplains badge remain optional for wear.

5.1.1.1.1. Grade Insignia.

5.1.1.1.1.1. Officer Grade Insignia. Officers will wear light silver, or for 2nd Lt and Majors gold, embroidered rank insignia on dark blue cloth. General Officer rank will be centered, perpendicular to, and begin 1 inch from the bottom of the collar. General officers will wear 1-inch stars; General Officers unable to wear 1-inch stars will wear $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stars. Colonel grade will be centered, perpendicular to, and 1 inch from the bottom of the collar. Colonel grade insignia is worn with the eagle's beak facing forward. Lieutenant Colonel and Major's grade will be centered 1 inch from the bottom of the collar with the stem parallel to the ground and pointing away from the wearer's neck. The long end of the Lieutenant and Captain bars will be centered 1 inch from the bottom of the collar. All insignia will have $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of blue showing at the widest and tallest point of insignia.

5.1.1.1.1.2. NCO Grade Insignia. NCOs will wear grade on the sleeves, either 4-inch or 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch full color silver on dark blue chevrons. Chevrons will be centered on the outer arm halfway between the elbow and shoulder seam, when bent at a 90-degree angle. If sleeves are rolled up, chevrons do not need to be fully visible; however, rank must be distinguishable.

5.1.1.1.1.3. Cadet Officer Grade Insignia. Cadet Officers center regular size, full color insignia light silver on dark blue embroidered cloth sewn on the collar one inch from the front of the collar and centered. All light silver on dark blue insignia will have $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of blue showing at the widest and tallest point of the insignia. Cadet Colonels and Cadet Captains may wear miniature, embroidered insignia. All insignia will have $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of blue showing at the widest and tallest point of insignia.

5.1.1.1.1.4. Cadet Enlisted Grade Insignia. Cadet NCOs and Airmen wear metal chevrons on both sides of the collar. Insignia is 1 inch from and parallel to the front of the collar and centered. Cadet Airmen Basic wear no collar insignia.