

Saint Paul Composite Squadron

Civil Air Patrol

New Cadet Uniform Acquisition Guide

Revised 26 June 2018

Civil Air Patrol uniform requirements are defined by CAP Manual M39-1, which can be found here:

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/publications/indexes-regulations-and-manuals-1700/>

Your new cadet package from National Headquarters will include materials that provide guidance for how badges, tapes, and insignia are to be worn on the uniforms. The “New Cadet Guide” available online at https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/static/media/cms/New_Cadet_Guide_2017_web_only_D57D3675E51E9.pdf can provide guidance for patch, device, badge and tape placement if you haven’t yet received the new cadet package.

There are three uniforms worn by the cadets of the squadron:

- Blues (Service Uniform, Class B)
- Utility (ABU or BDU)
- Physical Training (PT)

Utility Uniforms (ABU, BDU)

CAP cadets may wear either the Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) or the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU). The ABU is the recently introduced uniform option; the BDU is being phased out with a mandatory phase-out date of 15 June 2021.

The squadron’s policy is that cadets may wear either uniform type when any “utility” type uniform is specified; mention of “ABU” or “BDU” as the uniform of the day does not exclude the other utility uniform type, it merely denotes a “utility” uniform instead of a PT or Blues uniform.

Care must be taken by the cadet to ensure that whichever uniform type they wear, that they wear it properly with the correct accessories and insignia. No mixing and matching of type-specific accessories is permitted.

Further, the changes on 15 June 2016 introduced a new name tape and CAP tape color/shade for the insignia that goes above the top pockets on the ABU shirt. This is a dark blue material, instead of the “ultramarine” bright blue previously worn on the BDU shirt. While the ultramarine tapes may still be worn on BDUs through 2021, the new dark blue shade can be worn on either ABUs or BDUs. Because this is the new universal color that can go with either utility uniform type, and because the ultramarine name tapes are no longer available from Vanguard, new cadets should procure their name and CAP tapes in the new dark blue shade, even if the BDU they are provided with already has ultramarine CAP tapes sewn on. The numbers provided below are for the new dark blue shade. Ultramarine insignia scavenged from old uniforms cannot be worn with the ABU uniform.

For the ABU or BDU uniform, the cadet is responsible for providing the following:

- Appropriate underwear/black boot socks (wool or wicking synthetic blend socks, avoid cotton)
- Squadron T-shirt or appropriate blank T-shirt for ABU/BDU
- ABU/BDU pants & shirt/coat
- Belt
- Black combat boots
- Name tape
- CAP tape
- Patrol cap
- Wing patch

BDU Distinctive Accessories

Black Squadron T-shirt: Wear a plain black T-shirt until you purchase a squadron T-shirt. Squadron T-shirts are available at squadron meetings (inventory permitting) and are \$15 for cotton and \$20 for performance/polyester style.

BDU Shirt: The squadron has a supply of BDU shirts that have been donated by cadets, senior members, and squadron supporters. If the squadron has an available article that fits the cadet appropriately, the cadet may be issued the article, to be returned when no longer required by the cadet. If the cadet needs or wishes to purchase a new BDU shirt, they are available from a variety of sources. BDUs must be in standard Woodland Camouflage.

BDU Pants: The squadron has a supply of BDU pants that have been donated by cadets, senior members, and squadron supporters. If the squadron has an available article that fits the cadet appropriately, the cadet may be issued the article, to be returned when no longer required by the cadet. If the cadet needs or wishes to purchase new BDUs, they are available from a variety of sources. BDUs must be in standard Woodland camouflage.

BDU Patrol Cap: available from a variety of sources including (www.tacticalgear.com) for \$4.99. Do not buy any versions with ear flaps.

Web Belt: May be blue or black, woven cotton web, solid or woven elastic belt with black metal tip end and plain (open faced) black buckle. A black, one-piece rigger style, nylon, web belt (1-3/4" wide) may be worn in place of cotton blue/black belt. Blue cotton belt, item #[2500510](#), \$11.15. Black rigger belt option, item #[2510600](#), \$9.90.

Name Tape: Order from Vanguard, item #[CAP6402](#), \$4.50

CAP tape: Order from Vanguard, item #[CAP6403](#), \$1.60 (*Suggestion: if you plan on attending Encampment, order two of these*)

Wing Patch: Order from Vanguard, item #[CAP0637V](#), \$2.40 (*Suggestion: if you plan on attending Encampment, order two of these*)

Black Combat Boots: Black, with or without safety toe; must have a plain rounded toe or rounded capped toe with or without perforated seam; zipper or elastic inserts ("Jungle" style) are optional; no designs.

Highly polished, high gloss, or patent leather. 8" is the nominal style measurement. Many options with many price-points are available. [Vanguard's boots](#) are \$101.10. Sportsman's Guide in South St Paul has boots at all price points but some [for as low as \\$26](#). Gander Mountain and Cabela's carry higher-end boots; Gall's in St. Paul has a variety of styles and manufacturers in-stock. Websites with a variety of boots include www.lapolicgear.com and www.tacticalgear.com.

Optional: Squadron Patch may be worn on right top pocket of the BDU shirt. Squadron patches are available at the squadron meetings. First squadron patch for each squadron member is free; second and subsequent squadron patches are \$1 each (our cost) for squadron members.

Optional: Squadron baseball cap may be worn to squadron meetings and squadron activities. Squadron baseball caps are available at squadron meetings (inventory permitting) for \$10. Cadets should still purchase a BDU patrol cap (above) for use at Wing-level activities.

The BDU uniform is being phased out, with a mandatory phase-out date of 15 June, 2021. Cadets can wear the BDU until that date. Contrary to what some out-of-date CAP publications and online photos show, the Reversed US Flag Patch is no longer worn on the right sleeve of CAP BDUs.

ABU Distinctive Accessories

Desert Tan Squadron T-shirt: Wear a plain desert tan T-shirt until you purchase a squadron T-shirt. . Squadron T-shirts are available at squadron meetings (inventory permitting) and are \$15 for cotton and \$20 for performance/polyester style.

ABU Shirt: Order from Vanguard, Youth Size item #[CAP0991C](#), \$31.50. Adult Size item #[CAP0991F](#), \$40.00

ABU Pants: Order from Vanguard, Youth Size item #[CAP0991L](#), \$27.05. Adult Size Item #[CAP0991O](#), \$40.00 (note that's a letter "O" at the end of the item number, not a zero).

ABU Patrol Cap: Order from Vanguard, item #[CAP0991U](#), \$10.40.

Belt: Order from Vanguard, item #[2510700](#), \$9.90.

Name Tape: Order from Vanguard, item #[CAP6402](#), \$4.50

CAP tape: Order from Vanguard, item #[CAP6403](#), \$1.60 (*Suggestion: if you plan on attending Encampment, order two of these*)

Wing Patch: Order from Vanguard, item #[CAP0637V](#), \$2.40 (*Suggestion: if you plan on attending Encampment, order two of these*)

Black Combat Boots: Black, with or without safety toe; must have a plain rounded toe or rounded capped toe with or without perforated seam; zipper or elastic inserts ("Jungle" style) are optional; no designs.

Highly polished, high gloss, or patent leather. 8" is the nominal style measurement. Many options with many price-points are available. [Vanguard's boots](#) are \$101.10. Sportsman's Guide in South St Paul has boots at all price points but some [for as low as \\$26](#). Gander Mountain and Cabela's carry higher-end boots; Uniforms Unlimited in St. Paul has a variety of styles and manufacturers in-stock. Websites with a variety of boots include www.lapolicgear.com and www.tacticalgear.com.

ABU Pre-Sewn Option: For pricing on a ABU uniform package with all patches/insignia sewn for you (new rip-stop lightweight ABU coat and trousers, ABU patrol cap, tan ABU belt, with name tape/CAP tape/wing patch sewn on), contact Vinnie Brown at ABN Army Surplus in Sioux Falls, SD at vinnie@abnarmysurplus.com. Vinnie is a CAP member. The cost will be around \$150 plus shipping.

Optional: Squadron Patch may be worn on right top pocket of the ABU shirt. Squadron patches are available at the squadron meetings. First squadron patch for each squadron member is free; second and subsequent squadron patches are \$1 each (our cost) for squadron members.

Optional: Squadron baseball cap may be worn to squadron meetings and squadron activities. Squadron baseball caps are available at squadron meetings (inventory permitting) for \$10. Cadets should still purchase an ABU patrol cap (above) for use at Wing-level activities.

Physical Training, or “PT”

For the PT uniform, the cadet is responsible for providing:

- Appropriate underwear and white athletic socks (wicking, non-cotton style socks recommended).
- Black athletic shorts with minimal logo that reach at least mid- thigh or longer.
- Squadron T-shirt, plain black T-shirt, or a T-shirt issued at a CAP activity (Encampment, DDR, CyberPatriot, MLA, NCSA, etc).
- Running or training shoes appropriate for running and exercising.

Additional information and limitations on PT uniform:

- Compression shirts/shorts may be worn under but not in place of the athletic T- shirts and shorts.
- Sweatpants and sweatshirts are acceptable to wear over the PT uniform if temperature warrants.
- No tight-fitting yoga pants.
- No shredded, see-through, or cut-off clothing.
- No inappropriate logos, advertising or graphics (alcohol, tobacco, MMA, WWE, etc.).
- Reflective striping is acceptable.

This uniform is occasionally worn at squadron functions (PT meetings, mid-summer-heat, etc.) but is also required for many Wing Level overnight activities (Encampment, Minnesota Leadership Academy, etc.).

Blues (Service Uniform, Class B)

Voucher

When a cadet promotes to C/Amn (their first promotion), they will receive a \$100 voucher for Vanguard in an email from National HQ, applicable towards the cost of their blues uniform items. Note that as of Nov 6 2016, the retail cost from Vanguard of the cadet blues uniform and all required insignia is approximately \$175, including shoes.

To reduce the cost of uniforms for cadets and parents, and to maximize use of the available vouchers, St Paul Composite Squadron has developed the “**Blues Appendix**” document to assist cadets with ordering their blues uniforms. See the end of this document for Blues Appendix.

Squadron Inventory

To request a blues shirt, trousers, or flight cap from squadron stocks, use this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/QeYFrINv1iE3lfA3>

If you have questions about sizing or ordering online, we can help you do this at a squadron meeting – check with one of the Deputy Commander for Cadets.

For the blues uniform, the cadet is also responsible for providing the following: appropriate underwear, black socks, V-neck white undershirt, and shoes.

Shoes

Shoes will be low quarter, oxford-style, lace-up with a plain rounded toe or a plain rounded-capped toe. Soles will not exceed 1/2 inch in thickness and the heel will not exceed one inch in height (measured from the inside front of the heel). Shoes will be smooth or scotch-grained leather or manmade material. Shoes will be shined; high gloss or patent finish is optional. Females have additional shoe options.

Leather shoes can be purchased from most department stores for \$30-\$50. Patent leather shoes can be purchased from Vanguard (#[CAP2800NM](#); \$44.95), or used poromeric shoes can be purchased from SAVVI at Burnsville Center (\$20-\$30). As an additional option, highly polished black combat boots (as worn with the BDU uniform) may be worn with the Service Uniform in place of low- quarter shoes.

All price estimates are from vendor websites and are subject to change without notice

Blues Appendix

After earning your Curry Achievement, you will receive an email containing a voucher for Vanguard to purchase your blue uniform. Along with the voucher will be a link to an order form that looks like this:

<https://cap.vanguardmil.com/>

CAP CURRY ORDER FORM

Congratulations on your Curry Achievement! You have earned \$100 for your uniform.

Choose your items from the list below and select your size where applicable. You will receive a credit of up to \$100 and any remaining balance can be paid with a credit card. **You can purchase no more than 1 of any item.*

	Air Force Belt: Blue Elastic with Mirror Buckle and Tip - female CCP2500550	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$8.95
	Air Force Belt: Blue Elastic with Mirror Finish Buckle and Tip CCP2500505	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$8.95
	Civil Air Patrol Cadet Grade Insignia: Airman - chevron CCP0646L	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$6.15
	Civil Air Patrol Cap Device: Cadet Enlisted - Flight CCP0748A	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$6.00
	Civil Air Patrol Flight Cap: Airman - female CCP1015J	Select Size ▾	\$17.00
	Civil Air Patrol Name Plate: Cadet CCP0599M	<input type="text" value="Enter Last Name"/>	\$3.50

	Civil Air Patrol Ribbon: Curry - cadet CCP0609	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1.20
	Civil Air Patrol Uniform: Dress Shirt Overblouse - female CCP1017J	Select Size ▾	\$44.00
	Civil Air Patrol Uniform: Flight Cap: Airman - male CCP0994K	Select Size ▾	\$17.00
	Civil Air Patrol Uniform: Patent Leather Dress Shoes - Male A-28004	Select Size ▾	\$40.00
	Civil Air Patrol Uniform: Short Sleeve Dress Shirt - male CCP1001	Select Size ▾	\$44.00
	Civil Air Patrol Uniform: Skirt CCP3600J	Select Size ▾	\$50.00
	Civil Air Patrol Uniform: Slacks - female CCP3500J	Select Size ▾	\$50.00
	Civil Air Patrol Uniform: Trouser - male CCP0993A	Select Size ▾	\$55.00
	Ribbon Mounting Bar: Base Single Bar - brass CCP7720400	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1.65

Only one of each item is permitted to be ordered from this site. If multiple or replacement items are needed you'll need to order them from Vanguard. Item's are listed below with current/regular pricing as of Nov 16 2016.

ITEM#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	Price
CAP1001A	BLUE EPAULET SHIRT MALE	47.50
CAP1017	FEMALE BLUE OVERBLOUSE S/S	47.50
CAP0993B	AF BLUE TROUSERS MALE	59.40
CAP3500A	FEMALE BLUE SLACKS	54.00
CAP3600A	FEMALE BLUE SKIRT	54.00
CAP2800NM	SHOE DRESS OXFORD-POMERIC BLK	43.20
CAP0994K	MALE FLIGHT CAP AMN	19.45
CAP1015J	FEMALE FLIGHT CAP AIRMAN	19.45
2500505	AF BELT MALE BLU ELASTIC SILVER MIRROR BUCKLE/TIP	17.10
CAP0609	CURRY RIBBON	1.30
7712525	VANMOUNT METAL 1 (SINGLE RIBBON BASE BAR)	1.75
CAP0748A	CADET ENLISTED HAT DEVICE	6.50
CAP0599M	NAME PLATE BLUE (3-LINE) LAST NAME , ONLY	3.80

Cadets should confirm availability of blues trousers and/or shirts in their size at the squadron before ordering.

Cadets do not need to order the Airman Chevron. These are provided by the squadron.

Cadets may purchase the Curry Ribbon from the squadron for \$1.00, which includes a single ribbon base bar. As the cadet earns more ribbons, the base bar can be traded in for progressively larger units.

As noted in the uniform guide, there are other options for ordering shoes, including leather shoes that can be purchased at local department stores. Be sure that the toe is round and not squared!

Make sure that you are ordering the correct size using accurate neck and waist dimensions. Note that Blues uniforms tend to run small; we recommend ordering at least one full size larger in waist (+2") and +1" extra in neck size to ensure adequate fit.

<https://www.vanguardmil.com/pages/sizing-charts>

The voucher is valid for 90 days after issue, so cadets and their parents need to promptly order their blues in order to use the voucher.

Error Appendix: Common Uniform Mistakes by New Cadets

1. Name tapes, CAP tapes, and patches on ABU/BDU: wash them first so that any initial shrinkage occurs before they sewn on the uniform and cause puckering.
2. Name tapes and CAP tapes need to be folded over to match pocket length before being sewn, not cut-to-fit (cut edge can/will fray, folded edge stays neat). Recommend ironing the fold to help ensure it lays down when sewing the tape down.
3. Wing patch not ½” below shoulder seam on left BDU/ABU sleeve. ½” is the required measurement.
4. Boots not shined. Invest in a can of black shoe/boot polish when you buy your boots, and apply and buff repeatedly. Materials & technique vary by individual, but having a can of black polish is a universal starting point.
5. White crew neck undershirt worn with Class B blues shirt: must be V-neck, not crew neck.
6. Sock color with blues uniform: wear black socks, not white or other colors.
7. (Males) Hair touching ears or uniform collar. Hair must not touch ears or collar.
8. Mismatching T-shirts with utility uniforms: Sand/Tan T-shirt must be worn with ABUs; black T-shirt must be worn with BDUs.
9. 8-point covers: For the BDU patrol cap, the woodland camouflage hat should be round as viewed from the top, as previously worn by the Air Force and the Army. Navy and Marine Corps BDU caps (they refer to as “covers”) have the same woodland camouflage but have vertical stitching around the sides of the cap to give the edges of the top of the hat an angular/pointed appearance. CAP does not wear the 8-point style.