

CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING VETERANS ASSOCIATION



AIDE MEMOIRE

VETERAN'S DRESS CODE

AIM

1. The purpose of this instruction is to provide a standard dress code for veterans.

SCOPE

2. This instruction applies to all categories of veterans.

GENERAL

3. No person or organization should impose a strict dress code for veterans. Strict dress codes are largely unenforceable and impracticable. Many veterans belong to several organizations and know to use common sense to determine how to dress. This dress code is therefore a guide for veterans to use as applicable.
4. Civilians should never wear a veteran's uniform or salute. They are not veterans.

AUTHORITY

5. There is no single authority on how a veteran should dress. Moreover, nobody should ever tell a veteran how to dress. Veterans should be free to dress as they see fit subject to:
 - a) their service identity;
 - b) the association they belong to; and
 - c) the occasion they attend.

DRESS STANDARD

6. Canadian veterans closely follow the Commonwealth and British tradition in their choice of dress. This is similar to the continental European style.
7. There are two orders of dress, summer and winter.
 - a) Winter or "standard" dress includes all the items described for wear herein.
 - b) Summer dress is the same as standard dress except that the blazer is not worn and a short sleeved shirt is worn instead of a long sleeved shirt.
8. For ceremonials held in summer, standard dress should be worn with a short sleeved shirt underneath the blazer so that the blazer and tie may be removed after or before the ceremony for comfort in very hot weather.

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HEADRESS

9. Veterans may wear a beret, a wedge cap, balmorals, a peaked cap or some other type of headdress of various colours and designs according to their affiliation. Some Veterans wear the headdress of the international organizations with which they served such as the UN sky blue beret, the EU royal blue beret, the light green AU beret or the orange MFO beret. Veterans may wear their former unit or branch headdress such as the standard CF green, the Airborne Maroon, the Black for the armoured corps, the red for Military Police, the grey blue for the Air Force, and dark blue for the Navy and so on.

CAP INSIGNIA

10. Branch, unit, organization or association cap insignia are worn with all types and colour of headdress. Former UN, NATO, EU, MFO and AU Peacekeepers may also wear their international cap insignia with the appropriate headdress only. Unit insignia is not worn with the light blue, light green, orange or royal blue berets. Unit or branch insignia may be worn only with unit or branch headdress. The insignia of a veterans association may be worn with most types and colour of headdresses.

BLAZER

11. The standard blazer may be of any colour. Veterans may wear a unit or organization blazer such as the navy blue for Navy Veterans, light blue for Peacekeeping Veterans, olive green for Korea Veterans, red for RCMP Veterans, maroon for Airborne Veterans or even desert tan for Somalia, Gulf War and Afghanistan Veterans.

BLAZER INSIGIA

12. Insignia or badges are worn on the left breast pocket of the blazer. They may or may not be the same as the cap insignia. The choice of insignia worn on the blazer follows the same logic as the cap insignia. International insignia are not worn on the blazer.

TROUSERS, KILT OR SKIRT

13. Veterans usually wear grey trousers. Ladies may wear a grey skirt. The Kilt may also be worn by both sexes. The tartan design for the kilt is highly variable.

BELT & BUCKLE

14. The military style belt is usually worn with an insignia on the buckle. Members may wear the UN, NATO, unit, branch or association insignia on the belt buckle. The belt may be black or blue. First Nation veterans often wear a waist scarf.

NECK TIE, BOW TIE & NECK SCARF

15. Veterans may wear a unit or branch tie, an association tie, or some other formal neck tie such as the "poppy tie" with winter dress and the blazer. The bow tie may be black, dark blue or light blue and is usually worn only for gala affairs in the evening along with miniatures. Bow ties are not worn with summer dress short sleeve shirts. Some veterans may wear a neck scarf also called a "dickie" of organization, unit or branch colours with the summer shirt in lieu of the neck tie for summer dress. Neck scarves are not recommended with the winter dress long sleeved shirt or with the blazer.

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MILITARY STYLE SHIRT

16. The shirt may be long or short sleeved, depending on the season and the occasion. A military style shirt with epaulettes and breast pockets are the standard. The colour of the shirt is usually white but may be light blue for Air Force or UN Veterans.

NAME TAGS

17. A black or blue military style plastic nametag may be worn with the shirt and the blazer. Veterans may choose to inscribe their full name or only their last name. First name only nametags are not recommended. A name tag may include the position title and the name of the organization for elected and appointed officers if required. Such name tags may include an insignia.

SHOULDER SLIP-ONS

18. Slip-ons are worn on the shirt epaulettes. The slip-ons bear the letters of a veteran's association or simply the word "VETERAN". Some may bear the insignia of an association but never official unit insignia.

LAPEL PINS

19. Lapel pins may be worn centered on the tie or on the pocket flap of the shirt. They are most often worn on the blazer. This should be done with discretion and according to the occasion. Too many lapel pins disfigure the veteran's uniform. Lapel pins should be kept to a minimum, be appropriate for the occasion and not be out of date. A maximum of four lapel pins should be the standard.

POPPY

20. The poppy is worn on the left lapel of the blazer or the left shirt pocket flap on appropriate commemorative occasions such as commemorations and veteran's funerals. The poppy may be worn on such occasions at any time of the year. The poppy is not worn on the beret.

SERVICE DECORATIONS

21. Orders, decorations medals and service insignia are worn over the left breast above the pocket of the blazer "Navy style" so not to cover the blazer insignia. Only undress ribbons are worn with the shirt in summer or winter. Undress ribbons are not normally worn on the blazer. Miniatures may be worn for gala evenings with the blazer. Official foreign orders, decorations, medals and insignia such as the Sygman Rhee and the Liberation of Kuwait medals should be worn over the right breast only, never juxtaposed with service medals over the left breast. Private purchase and other unofficial decorations diminish the value of official service decorations. Private purchase medals or awards from veteran's service organizations should not be worn.

FOOTWEAR

22. Black socks and black footwear are normally worn. Ankle boots or shoes are the rule for men. Ladies should wear black low-heeled shoes and tan nylon stockings with the skirt. Appropriate leg attire is worn with the Kilt for both men and women.