Wear of Awards, Insignia and Accoutrements on the Uniform

The United States Army is a uniformed service where discipline, esprit de corps and morale is judged by how the individual wears the uniform. Therefore, there are very precise regulations governing the wear of awards, insignia and accoutrements on the uniform. Army regulation 670-1 is the governing military publication. The following pages provide examples of insignia placement on Army uniforms since World War I.
World War II

Korean and Vietnam War Era

WW II Enlisted

World War II

Korean War

Officer uniform shown

Vietnam War

Enlisted uniform shown
Uniforms - Male Officer

Ribbons are centered 1/8" over the left breast pocket, normally three to a row; with no space or 1/8" between rows.

Combat and skill badges are worn 1/4" above ribbons or below top of pocket 1/2" apart.

Full size medals may be worn on blue uniform.

Identification badges are centered between the first and second button.

Up to three miniature class 1-5 combat or skill badges may be worn.

Regimental insignia worn on right lapel centered 1/2" below notch.

Miniature medals are centered 1/2" below notch.

Identification badges are centered between the first and second button.

Regimental insignia worn centered 1/8" above pocket or 1/4" above unit awards.

Unit awards are centered 1/8" above the right breast pocket.

Identification badges are centered on the pocket between the bottom of the pocket and the bottom of the pocket flap.

Overseas bars are centered on the bottom half of the right sleeve 1/4" above the braid.

Foreign badges are worn 1/8" above the right pocket or 1/4" above unit awards.


Black shoulder marks are 4" long while sweater marks are 3 1/4" long.

Regimental Crests are worn 1/8" above the right pocket or 1/4" above unit awards.

U.S. is worn 5/8" above lapel notch and parallel to the inside edge of the lapel.

Branch insignia is worn 1 1/4" below U.S. insignia. Align so center line of branch insignia bisects the center line of the U.S. and is parallel to the inside edge of the lapel.

Ribbons are centered 1/8" above the left breast pocket, normally three to a row; with no space or 1/8" between rows.

Combat and skill badges are worn 1/4" above ribbons or below top of pocket 1/2" apart.

Full size medals may be worn on blue uniform.

Identification badges are centered between the first and second button.

Up to three miniature class 1-5 combat or skill badges may be worn.

Regimental insignia worn on right lapel centered 1/2" below notch.

Miniature medals are centered 1/2" below notch.

Identification badges are centered between the first and second button.

Regimental insignia worn centered 1/8" above pocket or 1/4" above unit awards.

Unit awards are centered 1/8" above the right breast pocket.

Identification badges are centered on the pocket between the bottom of the pocket and the bottom of the pocket flap.

Overseas bars are centered on the bottom half of the right sleeve 1/4" above the braid.

Foreign badges are worn 1/8" above the right pocket or 1/4" above unit awards.


Black shoulder marks are 4" long while sweater marks are 3 1/4" long.

Regimental Crests are worn 1/8" above the right pocket or 1/4" above unit awards.

U.S. is worn 5/8" above lapel notch and parallel to the inside edge of the lapel.

Branch insignia is worn 1 1/4" below U.S. insignia. Align so center line of branch insignia bisects the center line of the U.S. and is parallel to the inside edge of the lapel.
Uniform - Female Officer

On the female blue uniform a single branch insignia is worn on the left lapel only 1" below the notch. Align parallel to the inside edge of the lapel. A single U.S. is worn on the right lapel aligned as the branch insignia.

Regimental insignia worn centered 1/2" above nameplate or 1/2" above unit awards or foreign badges on green and blue uniform.

Unit awards are centered 1/2" above nameplate.

Identification badges are centered across from the third button as shown.

Overseas bars are centered on the bottom half of the right sleeve, 1/4" above the braid.

Wear of foreign awards 1/2" above nameplate.

Women’s ribbons and badges are aligned with the plastic nameplate. The plate is adjusted to individual figure differences. The nameplate is centered horizontally on the right side between one and two inches above the top button of the coat. Individual service ribbons are aligned parallel to the bottom of the name plate.

Combat and skill badges are worn 1/4" above ribbons or below 1/2" apart.

Ribbons are centered as shown, normally three to a row; with no space or 1/8" between rows.

Full size medals may be worn on blue uniform.


Up to three miniature class 1-5 combat or skill badges may be worn.

Regimental Crest are worn 1/4" above the nameplate or 1/2" above unit awards.

Black shoulder marks.

Regimental insignia worn on right lapel centered 1/2" below notch.

Miniature medals are centered 1/2" below notch.

Women’s ribbons and badges are aligned with the plastic nameplate. The plate is adjusted to individual figure differences. The nameplate is centered horizontally on the right side between one and two inches above the top button of the coat. Individual service ribbons are aligned parallel to the bottom of the name plate.

Combat and skill badges are worn 1/4" above ribbons or below 1/2" apart.

Ribbons are centered as shown, normally three to a row; with no space or 1/8" between rows.

Full size medals may be worn on blue uniform.

On the female blue uniform a single branch insignia is worn on the left lapel only 1" below the notch. Align parallel to the inside edge of the lapel. A single U.S. is worn on the right lapel aligned as the branch insignia.

Regimental insignia worn centered 1/2" above nameplate or 1/2" above unit awards or foreign badges on green and blue uniform.

Unit awards are centered 1/2" above nameplate.

Identification badges are centered across from the third button as shown.

Overseas bars are centered on the bottom half of the right sleeve, 1/4" above the braid.

Wear of foreign awards 1/2" above nameplate.

Women’s ribbons and badges are aligned with the plastic nameplate. The plate is adjusted to individual figure differences. The nameplate is centered horizontally on the right side between one and two inches above the top button of the coat. Individual service ribbons are aligned parallel to the bottom of the name plate.

Combat and skill badges are worn 1/4" above ribbons or below 1/2" apart.

Ribbons are centered as shown, normally three to a row; with no space or 1/8" between rows.

Full size medals may be worn on blue uniform.


Up to three miniature class 1-5 combat or skill badges may be worn.

Regimental Crest are worn 1/4" above the nameplate or 1/2" above unit awards.

Black shoulder marks.

Regimental insignia worn on right lapel centered 1/2" below notch.

Miniature medals are centered 1/2" below notch.
Uniform - Male Enlisted

US is worn 1" above the left lapel notch and parallel to the inside edge of the lapel. The branch insignia is worn on the right lapel using the same alignment.

DUI (crest) is centered between button outer edge and inside edge of rank insignia.

Combat and skill badges are worn 1/4" above ribbons or below top of pocket 1/2" apart.

Ribbons are centered 1/8" over the left breast pocket, normally three to a row; with no space or 1/8" between rows.

Rank is sewn on the sleeve halfway between the shoulder seam and the elbow.

Hashmarks are placed 4" above the bottom of the left sleeve centered on the sleeve.

Overseas bars are placed 4" above the bottom of the right sleeve centered on the sleeve.

Identification badges are centered on the pocket between the bottom of the pocket and the bottom of the pocket flap.

Unit awards are centered 1/8" above the right breast pocket.

Regimental insignia worn centered 1/8" above pocket or 1/4" above unit awards.

Pin on rank is centered 1" up from the collar points.

Full size medals may be worn on blue or white uniform.

Green shoulder marks obsolete as of September 1992.

Black shoulder marks are 4" long while sweater marks are 3 1/4" long.

Regimental insignia worn on right lapel centered 1/2" below notch.

Hashmarks are centered 1/2" above the bottom of the left sleeve.

Up to three miniature class 1-5 combat or skill badges may be worn.

Miniature medals are centered 1/2" below notch.

Blue Uniform

Old Blue Uniform

Mess Uniform
Women's ribbons and badges are aligned with the plastic nameplate. The plate is adjusted to individual figure differences. The nameplate is centered horizontally on the right side between one and two inches above the top button of the coat. Individual service ribbons are aligned parallel to the bottom of the nameplate.

Individual service ribbons are aligned parallel to the bottom of the nameplate.

Hashmarks are placed 4" above the bottom of the left sleeve centered on the sleeve.

Overseas bars are placed 4" above the bottom of right sleeve centered on the sleeve.

These rules apply to the Blue uniforms.

Green shoulder marks obsolete as of September 1992.