

THE PROPER WEAR AND DISPLAY OF CIVIL AIR PATROL RIBBONS

Ribbons denote a member's personal and professional accomplishments in the Civil Air Patrol cadet or senior member program. The proper wear of ribbons on the various CAP uniform is essential to presenting a professional appearance. This document is provided for reference only; consult the latest CAP regulations and policy letters for current guidance.

GENERAL RULES

- Ribbons, when worn, must be clean and not frayed.
- Wear is MANDATORY on Air Force-style and CAP distinctive blue service dress jacket, optional when wearing the Air Force-style light blue shirt or white aviator shirt (either blue or gray combination) as an outer garment.
- Wear ONLY CAP ribbons on the gray corporate uniform. You may wear military ribbons along with CAP ribbons on the blue corporate uniform.
- Wear ribbons in the correct order of precedence.
- When wearing the Air Force-style or the CAP blue corporate uniform, military ribbons are worn before any CAP ribbons. Follow the respective military services' order of precedence. Military ribbons must be properly documented in writing, such as a DD Form 214 or 215, and must have been earned under honorable conditions.
- When wearing military ribbons on the Air Force-style or CAP blue corporate uniform, Air Force ribbons take precedence over ribbons from other services.
- Senior members may wear all or some of their earned ribbons (a practice known as 'short stacking'). Cadets must wear all ribbons earned.
- If a member of an ROTC or Junior ROTC component, a maximum of three ribbons may be worn after all military or CAP ribbons. Follow the correct order of precedence for these ribbons. Remove all ROTC/Junior ROTC ribbons if no longer participating in these programs.
- Plastic-coated ribbons are no longer authorized for wear – **all ribbons must be cloth.**

DEVICES ON RIBBONS

When multiples of the same award or other special conditions apply, devices are attached on the ribbon.

Wear a maximum of four devices on each ribbon, except where noted in CAP Regulation 39-3. Place silver devices to the wearer's right of bronze devices. Replace the bronze devices with a silver device after receipt of the fifth bronze device.

If all authorized devices do not fit on a single ribbon, wear a second ribbon. Wear a minimum of three devices on the first ribbon before wearing a second ribbon. When wearing the second ribbon, place after the initial ribbon. It counts for one award. When future awards reduce devices to a single ribbon, remove the second ribbon.

There are two methods of affixing devices on ribbons: a separate device or single-constructed device (two or more devices manufactured together). When affixing separate devices to the ribbon, space devices equally. If using a single-constructed device, center it. If using single-constructed devices on one ribbon, use it on all ribbons. *EXCEPTION:* Mix single-constructed devices with separate devices if the combination of devices authorized is not available as a single-constructed device. In this event, place the devices close to one another so they give the appearance of a single-constructed device as long as the devices are the same; i.e., bronze triangular clasp and silver triangular clasp.

Wear ribbons awarded by military services with the appropriate device that service authorized.

RECOMMENDED APPLICATION OF DEVICES TO RIBBONS

Ribbon devices include small prongs that are pushed through the ribbon. Almost all ribbons include a thin metal strip with a slot behind the ribbon. However, be very careful when pushing devices through the ribbon

bar – they can easily damage ribbons. A VERY small cut using a hobby knife can help in inserting the device(s) on the ribbon. Once the device is placed, bend the prongs flat to the back of the ribbon using needle nose pliers.

One may also attach devices to the ribbon by cutting off the prongs flush with the device and gluing them with a VERY SMALL amount of white glue or cyanoacrylate 'super glue'. If using 'super glue', use ONLY the thick or 'gel' type; the thin type is VERY difficult to control in application and will damage the ribbon and device. Do not use any 'super glue' accelerators, as this may cause undesirable fogging of any glue residue and damage the ribbon.

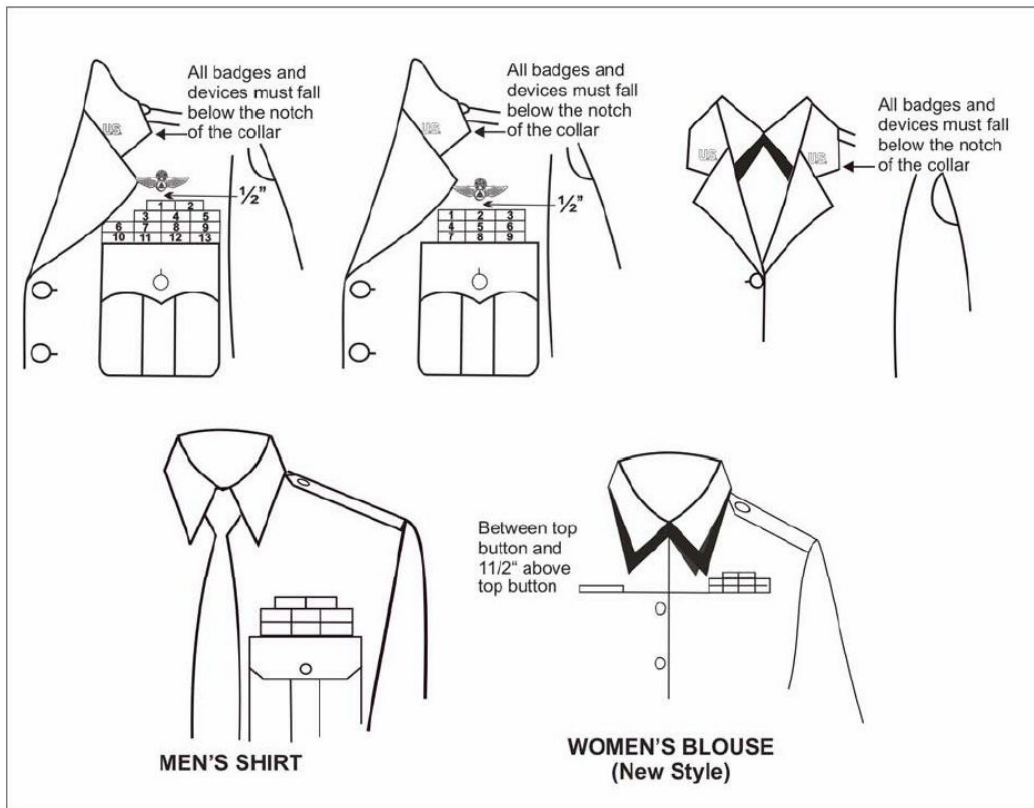
One may also elect to purchase and wear 'UltraThin' ribbon racks; because of their expense it is recommended that senior members and cadets shouldn't wear them unless they are reasonably certain they won't expect to earn any further decorations and awards for at least six months to a year.

PLACEMENT AND ARRANGEMENT OF RIBBONS ON THE UNIFORM

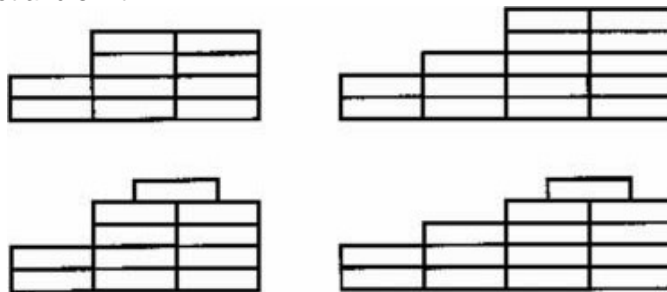
Note: The Air Force (and CAP) do not space ribbon rows 1/8" apart, as is the custom in the Army and the Marine Corps. The following table contains rules for arrangement of ribbons:

R	A	B	C	D	E
U		and the service coat is worn and the lapel			
L					
E	If the number of ribbons authorized is	covers portions of the ribbons	does not cover portion of the ribbons	and the size of ribbons worn is	then see notes and wear ribbons in
1	1, 2, 3, or 4		X	regular	a single row.
2	4 thru 8	X			multiples of 3 or 4, centering any remaining ribbons on the top row.
3	4 thru 9		X		
4	7 thru 9	X			multiples of 3 or 4 in 2 bottom rows; but to prevent coat lapel from covering ribbons, each row thereafter may contain less than 3, with top row centered over the row immediately below.
5	10 or more		X		multiples of 3 or 4, with any remaining ribbons centered over the row immediately below.
6	10 or more	X			multiples of 3 or 4 in at least the 2 bottom rows; but to prevent coat lapel from covering ribbons, each additional row may contain less than 3 or 4 or less, with top row centered over the row immediately below.

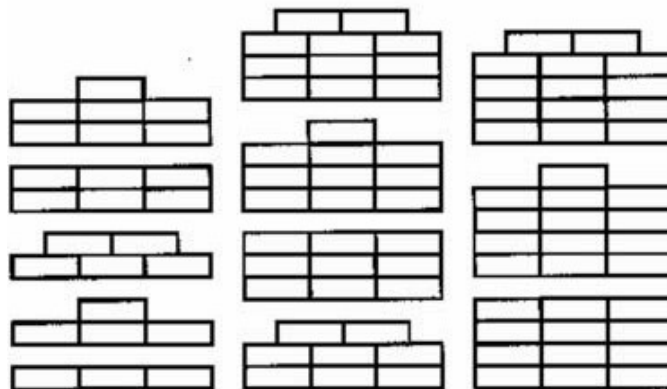
The illustration below from CAP Manual 39-1 shows placement of ribbons on the older Air Force-style service dress jacket that cadets may continue wearing. Senior members and cadets wearing the current Air Force-style service dress jacket or the blue CAP distinctive wear ribbons resting on, but not over the pocket of the jacket, centered between the left and right edge of the pocket.



The next illustration, from Air Force Instruction 36-2903 shows the most common arrangements for ribbons on the service dress jacket and shirt.



NOTE: Variations of ribbon placement when lapel of Air Force-style or blue CAP distinctive service dress jacket covers portions of ribbons.



NOTE: Variations of ribbon placement when lapel of service dress jacket does not cover portions of ribbons or when wearing ribbons on Air Force-style or CAP distinctive uniforms.

Certain CAP ribbons have special rules for display of devices on the corresponding ribbon, per CAP Regulation 39-3. This denotes specific criteria for which the awards were given and are described below.

Silver Medal of Valor: The Silver Medal of Valor ribbon is distinguished from the Bronze Medal of Valor ribbon by adding three silver stars in line with the ribbon. Stars denoting the Silver Medal of Valor are generally not worn on miniature or full size medal versions.

Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving: A silver star denotes a lifesaving action other than blood or organ donor transport.

Commander's Commendation Award: A silver star denotes award of the Commander's Commendation by the CAP National Commander. Any previous clasps worn on the Commander's Commendation Award after a National Commander's Commendation Award are worn with silver and bronze clasps to the wearer's left of the silver star device. See the illustration below for an example of the maximum combination of silver and bronze clasps worn on a single Commander's Commendation ribbon.



National Commander's Commendation Award with eight previous Commander's Commendation awards.

Gill Robb Wilson Award: A silver star denotes the recipient is a graduate of the Air War College; a bronze star denotes graduation from the Air Command and Staff College. Only the highest service school completion is displayed on the ribbon, not both.

Paul E. Garber Award: A bronze star denotes completion of Squadron Officer School.

General Benjamin O. Davis Leadership Award: A silver star denotes completion of requirements for a master rating in a senior member specialty track, while a bronze star denotes completion of requirements for a senior rating. Up to three silver stars may be affixed to the ribbon to denote each Master rating earned.

Cadet Milestone Awards: A silver star worn on the Billy Mitchell award ribbon denotes a graduate from the CAP Cadet Officer School. Former cadets who are now senior members may transfer the star device to the highest cadet milestone award earned.

Dr. Robert H. Goddard Achievement: A silver star is worn by those cadets who have earned the Billy Mitchell Award and completed the requirements for the CAP model rocketry program.

Command Service Ribbon: Bronze star denotes service as a group commander, silver star denotes service as a wing commander, gold star denotes service as a region commander, and two gold stars denote service as national commander. Only the highest level of service is worn on the ribbon.

Red Service Ribbon: One bronze triangular clasp is worn for every five years of service in Civil Air Patrol, to a maximum of three bronze clasps (15 years). At twenty years of service (and every five years thereafter), a silver numeric longevity device (20, 25, 30, etc.) replaces the bronze clasps.

Search 'Find' Ribbon: Bronze triangular clasp is worn for every single distress 'find' above the basic ribbon or 10 non-distress 'finds'. A silver triangular clasp is worn for multiples of 5 distress 'finds' or 50 non-distress 'finds'. A bronze propeller clasp is worn if the 'find' was made as a member of an aircrew (pilot, observer or mission scanner). Currently, there is no way to denote a distress 'find' from a non-distress find on the ribbon; considering that search and rescue 'finds' are much more difficult to obtain, multiple distress awards are few. It's safe to assume that a mixture of silver and bronze clasps on this ribbon would denote a large amount of non-distress 'finds'.

Air Search and Rescue Ribbon: Bronze triangular clasp awarded for every 10 actual search and rescue sorties above the basic ribbon. A silver triangular clasp is awarded after 50 sorties. When 10 sorties are performed as a member of an aircrew (pilot, observer or mission scanner), a bronze propeller device is worn. Only one propeller clasp is worn; additional sorties are denoted with clasps.



Search 'Find' Ribbon
(10 non-distress 'finds', 1
distress find as an aircrew)



Search 'Find' Ribbon
(3 distress finds, 1 distress 'find'
as an aircrew)



Search 'Find' Ribbon
(70 non-distress 'finds', 1 distress
'find' as aircrew)



Air Search and Rescue Ribbon
(80 sorties, 10 as aircrew)



Air Search and Rescue Ribbon
(30 sorties, 10 as aircrew)



Air Search and Rescue Ribbon
(20 sorties, 10 as aircrew)

Pictured above are both the Search 'Find' ribbon and the Air Search and Rescue ribbon with propeller device and multiple award clasps. The propeller device is always centered on the ribbon. The first clasp, when awarded to a member with a bronze propeller device already on their ribbon, is placed in the middle of the wearer's left-hand side on the ribbon between the edge and the propeller; the second, on the opposite side in the same position. Additional clasps are placed so that the ribbon will have a balanced appearance until a silver triangular clasp replaces five bronze clasps.

Disaster Relief Ribbon: Basic ribbon awarded for five actual or evaluated disaster relief missions, plus certain additional training requirements. A bronze "V" device worn on the ribbon denotes participation in a Presidential-declared disaster relief mission.

National Cadet Competition and National Color Guard Competition Ribbon: Basic ribbon for winners of the wing competition, bronze star for winners of the region competition, silver star for winners of the national competition. Multiple bronze and silver stars may be worn in any combination to denote additional wins in region and national competitions.

Cadet Advisory Council Ribbon: Awarded to all primary members of each cadet advisory council by cadets only. The ribbon with appropriate device as indicated below is a permanent cadet activity award.

- Basic ribbon: service as group Cadet Advisory Council representative.
- Basic ribbon with bronze star: service as wing Cadet Advisory Council representative.
- Basic ribbon with silver star: service as region CAC representative.
- Basic ribbon with gold star: service as national CAC representative.

Senior members who were cadet advisory council members while cadets may continue to wear the ribbon with the highest level of service denoted.

Senior Recruiter Ribbon: Basic ribbon awarded for seven cadets or senior members (or combination) recruited; a bronze triangular clasp is awarded for every additional 10 cadets or senior members recruited. A silver triangular clasp is worn for 50 cadets or senior members recruited. Once a silver clasp is awarded, all bronze clasps are removed. Any recruiting credit as a cadet (with appropriate documentation) counts toward the total for the Senior Recruiter Ribbon.

Cadet Recruiter Ribbon: Basic ribbon awarded for two cadets or senior members (or combination) recruited; a bronze triangular clasp is awarded for every additional 5 cadets or senior members recruited. A silver triangular clasp is worn for every 10 cadets or senior members recruited. Once a silver clasp is awarded, all bronze clasps are removed.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

Decorations and awards given by a foreign country allied to the United States are worn after any US military or CAP ribbons. Foreign decorations, ribbons, badges, etc., awarded in writing to a member not in the Armed Forces of the United States may also be worn if approved by National Headquarters. Aeronautical badges, emblems, insignia, ribbons, etc., given by a foreign government, or agency, as souvenirs or emblems of friendship DO NOT QUALIFY as earned awards and WILL NOT be worn on the CAP uniform. All cases where doubt exists as to the propriety of a badge, medal or other device being worn will be referred to CAP

National Headquarters for decision. Ribbons of foreign awards, if worn, may need to be modified for wear to fit a U.S. military style ribbon rack. Other foreign awards and decorations worn as a sash or star may only be worn with mess dress or service dress uniforms.

CADET RIBBONS WORN BY SENIOR MEMBERS

Certain cadet-only ribbons may be worn by senior members who were former cadets, or those senior members who were part of the staff for an encampment or national special activity. CAP members who earned some of these activity ribbons as cadets may continue to wear them as senior members.

- Highest cadet milestone award or achievement ribbon
- International Air Cadet Exchange Ribbon
- National Cadet Competition Ribbon
- National Color Guard Competition Ribbon
- Cadet Advisory Council Ribbon (only if it was earned as a cadet)
- National Cadet Special Activities Ribbon
- Encampment Ribbon

OBSOLETE RIBBONS WORN BY CAP MEMBERS

While these ribbons are no longer awarded, they may be worn by senior members who earned them.

National Commander's Citation – This was the highest senior training award before inception of the Gill Robb Wilson Award. The ribbon is identical to the Gill Robb Wilson except the colors are worn reversed.

Frank Borman Falcon Award – This was the highest cadet program award, discontinued in 1979.

CAP Certificate of Proficiency – Not to be confused with the senior training Certificate of Proficiency (now the General Benjamin O. Davis Leadership Award), this was the equivalent of the Billy Mitchell Award in the early days of the cadet program. Up to three bronze clasps may be worn on this ribbon to denote further cadet achievements completed.

Amelia Earhart Award with Bronze Clasp – Prior to the creation of the General Ira C. Eaker award, this denoted a cadet who completed all achievements in the cadet program, but did not earn the Spaatz Award. Former cadets who are now senior members and who can show documentation having completed all cadet achievements may be awarded an unnumbered Eaker Award certificate and wear the Eaker ribbon in its place.

Other obsolete CAP ribbons may no longer be worn on current uniforms.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL WEAR

Commemorative medals and awards made by private manufacturers or awarded by fraternal organizations denoting military or campaign service or membership may not be worn on the CAP uniform.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AWARD WEAR

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary awards **may not** be worn on the CAP uniform.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

All decorations, award and service medals, whether awarded by the military or CAP have a specific order in which they are worn. The ribbon with the highest order of precedence is always worn to the wearer's right, or when multiple rows of ribbons are worn, always the first ribbon displayed on the top row. Ribbons are worn in descending order of precedence; the last ribbon on the bottom row is on the wearer's left. On the following pages are illustrations showing the order of precedence of CAP cadet and senior member decorations and awards. Also included is the order of precedence for U.S. Air Force decorations and awards; for other U.S. military services, consult current regulations for order of precedence.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR CIVIL AIR PATROL DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

				
SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR	BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR	DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD	EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD	MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
				
COMMANDER'S COMMENDATION AWARD	CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR LIFESAVING	NATIONAL COMMANDER'S UNIT CITATION AWARD	UNIT CITATION AWARD	NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CITATION (1964-1978)
				
GILL ROBB WILSON AWARD	PAUL E. GARBER AWARD	GROVER LOENING AWARD	GEN. BENJAMIN O. DAVIS LEADERSHIP AWARD	MEMBERSHIP AWARD
				
A. SCOTT CROSSFIELD AEROSPACE AWARD	GEN. CHARLES E. (CHUCK) YEAGER AEROSPACE AWARD	CADET CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY AWARD (1954-1964)	FRANK BORMAN FALCON AWARD (1964-1979)	GEN. CARL A. SPAATZ AWARD
				
GEN. IRA C. EAKER AWARD	AMELIA EARTHART AWARD	GEN. BILLY MITCHELL AWARD	NEIL ARMSTRONG ACHIEVEMENT	DR. ROBERT H. GODDARD ACHIEVEMENT
				
GEN. JIMMY DOOLITTLE ACHIEVEMENT	CHARLES A. LINDBERGH ACHIEVEMENT	CAPT. EDDIE RICKENBACKER ACHIEVEMENT	WRIGHT BROTHERS AWARD	MARY A. FEIK ACHIEVEMENT
				
GEN. HENRY H. (HAP) ARNOLD ACHIEVEMENT	GENERAL JOHN F. CURRY ACHIEVEMENT	COMMAND SERVICE RIBBON	AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AWARD	AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION AWARD
				
VFW CADET OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD	VFW CADET NCO OF THE YEAR AWARD	RED SERVICE RIBBON	SEARCH 'FIND' FIBBON	AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE RIBBON
				
COUNTERDRUG RIBBON	DISASTER RELIEF RIBBON	CADET ORIENTATION PILOT RIBBON	CADET COMMUNITY SERVICE RIBBON	INTERNATIONAL AIR CADET EXCHANGE RIBBON
				
NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION RIBBON	NATIONAL COLOR GUARD COMPETITION RIBBON	CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL SERVICE RIBBON	NATIONAL CADET SPECIAL ACTIVITY RIBBON	ENCAMPMENT RIBBON
				
SENIOR RECRUITER RIBBON	CADET RECRUITER RIBBON	WORLD WAR II SERVICE RIBBON		

NOTE: Shaded boxes denote obsolete ribbons that may continue to be worn by senior members who previously earned them. Other obsolete CAP ribbons not listed here may no longer be worn.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR U.S. AIR FORCE DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

				
MEDAL OF HONOR	AIR FORCE CROSS	DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL	AIR FORCE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL	SILVER STAR
				
DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL	LEGION OF MERIT	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS	AIRMAN'S MEDAL	BRONZE STAR MEDAL
				
PURPLE HEART	DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL	MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL	AIR MEDAL	AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
				
JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL	AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL	JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL	AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL	AIR FORCE COMBAT ACTION MEDAL
				
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION	GALLANT UNIT CITATION	JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD	MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD	AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD
				
AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD	PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL	COMBAT READINESS MEDAL	AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL	ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
				
AIR RESERVE FORCES MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL	OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR RIBBON	AIR FORCE RECOGNITION RIBBON	AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL	AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL
				
ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL	EUROPEAN-AFRICA- MIDDLE EAST CAMPAIGN MEDAL	WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL	ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL	MEDAL FOR HUMANE ACTION
				
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL	KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL	ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL	ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL	VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
				
SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL	KOSOVO CAMPAIGN MEDAL	AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL	IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL	GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
				
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL	KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL	ARMED FORCES SERVICE MEDAL	HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL	MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR U.S. AIR FORCE DECORATIONS AND AWARDS (continued from previous page)

				
AIR AND SPACE CAMPAIGN MEDAL	AIR FORCE OVERSEAS SHORT TOUR SERVICE RIBBON	AIR FORCE OVERSEAS LONG TOUR SERVICE RIBBON	AIR FORCE EXPEDITIONARY SERVICE RIBBON	AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD
				
AIR FORCE BASIC MILITARY TRAINING INSTRUCTOR RIBBON	AIR FORCE RECRUITER RIBBON	ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL	AIR FORCE NCO PME GRADUATE RIBBON	AIR FORCE BASIC MILITARY TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE
				
AIR FORCE SMALL ARMS EXPERT MARKSMAN RIBBON	AIR FORCE TRAINING RIBBON	PHILIPPINES DEFENSE RIBBON	PHILIPPINES LIBERATION MEDAL	PHILIPPINES INDEPENDENCE MEDAL
				
PHILIPPINES PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION	REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION	REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION WITH PALM	UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL	UNITED NATIONS MEDAL
				
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL	NATO MEDAL (FORMER YUGOSLAVIA)	NATO MEDAL (KOSOVO)	KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA)	KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT)
				
REPUBLIC OF KOREA KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL				

NOTE: Shaded boxes denote an obsolete medal, award or ribbon that is no longer awarded; they are included here in the correct order of precedence so that CAP members who have earned these awards to continue wearing them on the Air Force-style uniform.

The Army Good Conduct Medal (and associated devices) was worn by Air Force members prior to the introduction of the Air Force Good Conduct Medal in 1960. The Air Force Good Conduct Medal is no longer awarded as of 2006; members who earned it previously may continue to wear it.

















A gold frame, identical in style to the Presidential Unit Citation's frame is worn on the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon to denote deployment into a combat zone.

For specific award criteria on U.S. Air Force decorations and awards, please see the Air Force Personnel Center's awards and decorations web site located at:

http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/default.asp?prods3=152&prods2=2&prods1=1#USAF_Awards_and_Decorations.

DEVICES WORN ON U.S. AIR FORCE AND CIVIL AIR PATROL RIBBONS

Below are devices which are worn on Air Force and Civil Air Patrol ribbons. They are attached to service or suspension ribbons to denote subsequent awards or some distinctive features of a specific decoration.

DEVICE	DESCRIPTION
	Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster - subsequent awards of the same decoration or unit award in the Army and Air Force
	Silver Oak Leaf Cluster – five awards of the same decoration or unit award in the Army and Air Force  = 
	Bronze Star 3/16" - subsequent awards of the same service medal or ribbon (all services) or unit award in the Navy and Marine Corps
	Silver Star 3/16" -  = 
	Bronze Numeral - subsequent awards of the <i>Air Medal</i> (Army only) and some service ribbons
	Bronze Knotted Bar - 2nd through 6th award of the <i>Army Good Conduct Medal</i>
	Silver Knotted Bar - 7th through 11th award of the <i>Army Good Conduct Medal</i>
	Gold Knotted Bar - 12th through 16th award of the <i>Army Good Conduct Medal</i>
	Bronze Letter "V" - acts of valor involving conflict with an armed enemy. For Civil Air Patrol, worn on the Disaster Relief Ribbon to denote participation in a Presidential declared disaster relief mission.
	Gold Airplane - participation in the Berlin Airlift; it is worn on the ribbon of the <i>Occupation Medal</i> (Army) (Trivia: it's modeled after the Douglas C-54 transport aircraft.)
	Bronze, Gold, Silver Antarctica Device - 1 thru 3 winters spent on the Antarctic continent; it is worn on the <i>Antarctica Service Medal</i>
	Bronze, Silver, Gold Hourglass - a subsequent award of the <i>Armed Forces Reserve Medal</i>
	Gold Letter "M" – denotes a reservist called up to active duty on the <i>Armed Forces Reserve Medal</i>
	Bronze CAP Device - subsequent awards of the same Civil Air Patrol decoration
	Silver CAP Device - five awards of the same Civil Air Patrol decoration.  = 
	Bronze CAP Propeller Device - worn on Civil Air Patrol awards denoting service as an aircrew member.

NOTES ON MILITARY RIBBON WEAR

1. The *Distinguished Service Medals*, *Commendation Medals*, *Achievement Medals* and *Good Conduct Medals* awarded by other services are worn by military personnel next to the equivalent medal of their own service.
2. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces may receive only the lowest grade (Legionnaire) of the *Legion of Merit*; the three upper grades are conferred solely to members of allied armed forces. The grades of the Legion of Merit are, from lowest to highest: Legionnaire, Officer, Commander and Chief Commander.
3. Until 1984 the *Purple Heart* was worn after all achievement medals.

4. Decorations of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and life saving medals are worn together with other military awards only by members of the U.S. Coast Guard. Members of other services wear these medals (if awarded) after unit citations.
5. As of March 31, 2003 the U.S. Coast Guard became part of the Department of Homeland Security. All medals of the Department of Transportation therefore became Department of Homeland Security medals.
6. Decorations of the U.S. Merchant Marine are worn after all unit citations; service medals of the U.S. Merchant Marine are worn after all military service medals.
7. All other U.S. government civilian decorations may be worn only after unit citations by military personnel.
8. Only one *United Nations Medal* can be worn. Until 1995 it was always worn on the "standard" UN ribbon (blue with white side stripes); since then it can be worn on the ribbon specified for a mission, any subsequent mission being denoted by small bronze five pointed stars. The same applies to the NATO medals.
9. Decorations, awards and ribbons awarded by U.S. states for National Guard or state defense force service are not allowed to be worn by active duty members of the US Armed Forces except those National Guard members that have been federalized and called up to extended active duty; members of state defense forces (National Guard, State Guard, etc.) wear them after all other decorations, U.S. and foreign.
10. Commemorative decorations and medals are not allowed to be worn by active members of US Armed Forces; veterans usually wear them after all other military decorations and medals earned on civilian attire.

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Air Force Instruction 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, 2 August 2006.

Civil Air Patrol Manual 39-1, *Civil Air Patrol Uniform Manual*, 23 March 2005.

Civil Air Patrol Manual 39-3, *Award of CAP Medals, Ribbons and Certificates*, 2 July 1998.

CAP and most U.S. Air Force ribbon and device illustrations are from Lukas Gaszewski's outstanding U.S. military ribbon checker web site located at <http://www.medals.lava.pl/us/uschk.htm> and are used with his kind permission. Other ribbons not on his site were taken from the Air Force Personnel Center's awards and decorations website.

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Last updated: 1 September 2007