



CIVIL AIR PATROL
HAWK MOUNTAIN RANGER SCHOOL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY, CIVIL AIR PATROL
218 Pine Swamp Road, Kempton, PA 19529



13 June 2023

(Supersedes policy letter dated 1 June 2021)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: HMRS/CC

SUBJECT: HMRS Uniform Policy

References: (a) CAPR 39-1, 5 Mar 2020, *Civil Air Patrol Uniform Regulation*.

1. This letter details the Hawk Mountain Ranger School (HMRS) policy for wear of Civil Air Patrol uniforms and activity specific variations at Hawk Mountain to including the Hawk Mountain Ranger School and any unit events conducted within the confines of CAP corporate-owned property. It does not supersede CAPR 39-1, *Civil Air Patrol Uniform Manual* regulations and serves to provide supplemental guidance to members participating in HMRS activities.
2. All CAP members attending Hawk Mountain events will strictly comply with CAPR 39-1 at all times. In the spirit of this policy, and the desire for CAP Rangers to meet and exceed all CAP standards, members will maintain the highest standards of dress and personal appearance including the five elements of neatness, cleanliness, safety, uniformity, and good organizational image.
3. Per CAPR 39-1, Activity Directors are permitted to authorize activity specific uniforms provided they meet the overall spirit of CAP uniform guidance. During Hawk Mountain activities, CAP-approved uniforms are required during duty hours as defined by the period between morning formation and closing formation. Civilian clothes are permitted outside of duty hours. Special instructors from external agencies or government entities may wear the comparable uniform of their department/service. Uniforms will be worn during official formations. Variations to the uniform for formations due to schedule, weather, or other necessary circumstances will be authorized by the Director of Operations.
4. Applicability of this policy to local (non-HMRS) events is at the discretion of the host unit/organization's Wing Commander. Wear of Ranger-specific uniform items off HMRS property will only be permitted with explicit Wing Commander permission and should at all times adhere to the spirit of this policy and in full compliance with CAPR 39-1.
5. ABU Wear Policy. As of 15 June 2021, BDU uniforms are no longer authorized for wear at CAP events. As authorized by national guidance, the orange baseball cap and colored uniform undershirts are permitted for wear with ABUs only during HMRS activities. While the HMRS Activity Patch may be worn on the right or left breast pocket, graduates should wear the patch on the left breast pocket if able to maintain uniformity across members. Ranger Tabs are permitted for wear on the ABU only while participating in Hawk Mountain activities on the mountain. No other Ranger specific uniform items are permitted on the ABU at this time. See Attachment 2 of this policy for more specific guidance.
6. Commercial Non-Uniform Items. Due to the unique safety considerations of HMRS activities, the wear of non-uniform/issue uniform items is permitted on a conservative basis to include protective outerwear and footwear. These clothing items should only be worn when needed to perform their task.

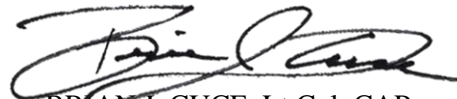
Bldg 3-108, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003 (Mail)
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Every effort should be made to ensure a neat and conservative appearance and consistent with the uniform being worn. Examples may include winter jackets, waterproof jackets, boots for extended mountain field operations, or waterproof/insulated boots and “gators” for winter operations.

7. While in garrison, HMRS Base Staff uniforms will be permitted as authorized for national activities in CAPR 39-1. These uniforms include corporate-style CAP uniforms, Hawk BX supplied polo shirts, HMRS black fleeces, or uniform-issued staff shirts. Closed-toed shoes are required during duty hours or after hours when transiting outside the main base area through hazardous wooded terrain. These activity specific variations must comply with the CAPR 39-1 standards addressed in paragraph 2. When conducting field operations outside the HMRS property boundary, only CAPR 39-1 authorized USAF-style or corporate field uniforms will be worn. Combat boots, or equivalent footwear with adequate ankle support, will always be worn while exercising on the obstacle course.

8. The HMRS Base Exchange (BX) will be the primary source for Ranger specific items not available through Vanguard. Any personally procured items must be in compliance with all applicable CAPR 39-1 requirements for wear and consistent with this policy.

9. This policy supersedes all previous HMRS and CAP Ranger Uniform guidance. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the event and/or future HMRS events, or disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by member’s chain of command. Any questions or comments regarding this policy can be addressed to the HMRS Command Staff at hawkmountain@cap.gov.



BRIAN J. CUCE, Lt Col, CAP
Commander

Attachments:

1. Applicable CAPR 39-1 References, 5 Mar 2020
2. HMRS Distinctive Uniform Guidance
3. HMRS Parade Uniform Poster and Quick Reference

ATTACHMENT 1 – APPLICABLE CAPR 39-1 REFERENCES

5.1.1.9.1. Encampments and Activities. Encampment Commanders and/or Activity Directors may authorize the wear of Encampment/Activity specific t-shirts or headgear for wear at the Encampment/Activity only. Examples of these items would be Baseball Caps, Berets (Blue Beret Activity only), or a different color t-shirt. Encampment/Activity specific items will not be worn outside of the Encampment/Activity. For the purpose of this regulation, an encampment/activity includes travel to and from the activity site and the member's home.

5.2.1.1.2.7. CAP Ranger Tab. One CAP Ranger tab earned at the Hawk Mountain activity may be sewn centered immediately above and touching the "Civil Air Patrol" tape on the uniform. Aviation or Occupational badges worn above this will be placed so that the insignia is ½ inch above the Ranger Tape, rather than measuring from the "Civil Air Patrol" tape. CAP Ranger Tab will not be worn outside the activity after 15 Jun 2021.

9.2.4. Hawk Mountain Ranger Training. Graduates of this program may wear one Ranger tab awarded in accordance with that activity's procedures on the USAF-style BDU and Corporate Field Uniforms in accordance with instructions contained in Chapter 5. Graduates of this program may wear the orange baseball cap in one of two versions with the USAF-style BDU and Corporate Field Uniforms: worn with the squadron number or worn with keystone device with senior member or cadet officer grade insignia. Cloth grade insignia must be worn on the orange baseball cap when wearing the AF-style BDU uniform. Metal or cloth grade insignia may be worn on the orange baseball cap when wearing the CAP distinctive field uniform. Any web belts or other items earned at the activity are authorized for wear at the activity only. The Ranger Tab and orange baseball cap may be worn with the ABU uniform during the activity only and may not be worn on the Corporate Field Uniform after 15 June 2021.

9.4. Items which May be Authorized by Wing Commander. Wing Commanders may authorize the following items to be worn for specific purposes within their respective wing or within specific units of their wing. Commanders will not use this authority to circumvent National policy. In all cases, these items will have no national significance or recognition as a part of the CAP uniform. They will not be worn at region or national events (cadet exchange, special activities, etc.), unless specifically authorized by the sponsoring region headquarters or NHQ. They may be worn only while performing the duty for which the use of the items was authorized. Wing/region approved items will be worn only within the boundaries of the authorizing commander. Examples of purposes of these items are to identify members of special CAP groups such as drill teams, bands, color guards, encampment cadet staff, and members participating in emergency services' missions.

9.4.1. Shoulder Cords. Will only be worn by cadets on the USAF-style Service uniform (Class A and B). Not more than one shoulder cord will be worn at one time, and it will be worn on the left shoulder. Color to be determined by the wing commander, except wing commanders will ensure that any other cords authorized using colors present in para 9.3 are sufficiently different in construction from those cords sold by Vanguard to avoid any misrepresentation of duty. Shoulder cords may be worn by cadets at all times when in Class A or B uniforms and will be worn aligned along the left shoulder seam. If the garment has an epaulet, the cord will be worn underneath the epaulet.

9.4.2. Scarves.

9.4.3. White Gloves.

9.4.4. White and Black Belts.

9.4.5. Helmet liners/Hardhat. Color to be determined by wing commander except that helmet liners authorized for wear by members participating in emergency services missions will be white and will be worn with a decal of the Emergency Services Patch (Version 1 or 2).

9.4.6. Beret. Only blue berets may be authorized by wing commanders for wear by members within their wings.

9.5. Wear of Items Required for Emergency Services or Safe Operations. Items required to be worn by the various Task Guides as published by NHQ/DO are authorized to be worn with the USAF-style and Corporate-style utility and flight uniforms. These items will generally be colored black, brown, olive drab green, tan, camouflage or other conservative colors unless specifically required to be high visibility and will be conservative in appearance. Commanders will ensure that these items meet the requirements of the NHQ/DO published task training guide and are limited for wear to those situations that operational or training activities make them a requirement for successful mission accomplishment. Commanders will use discretion in authorizing wear of these items with dress uniforms. These items include:

9.5.1. Safety vest or safety apparel worn in accordance with instructions found in CAPR 62- 1, CAP Safety Program, and emergency services task guides.

9.5.2. "Camelback" or canteen water containers.

9.5.3. Poncho or other raingear.

9.5.4. Web belts, load bearing equipment, rescue vests, and other 24 hours gear as noted in emergency services task guides.

9.5.5. Backpack.

ATTACHMENT 2 – HMRS DISTINCTIVE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

1. **HMRS Duty Field Uniform.** The HMRS distinctive field uniform will be wear of the approved ABU or CFU uniform in accordance with CAPR 39-1 and will contain only the following Ranger uniform items. This uniform will be the primary duty uniform only be authorized while conducting activities at Hawk Mountain Ranger School or when otherwise approved by the local Wing Commander or designee. Wear of the uniform during HMRS will be as directed by the Director of Operations. No other uniform items may be worn other than those authorized below.

- a. **Headgear.** HMRS students and graduates are permitted to wear the orange baseball cap with HMRS logo or unit specific numeric designators. Members of permanent Ranger staff will wear orange hats with red keystones and Expert Rangers are permitted to wear the black keystone. HMRS staff members will wear cloth or metal rank insignia centered within the logo or keystone. All others will wear CAPR 39-1 appropriate headgear while conducting HMRS activities.
- b. **T-Shirt.** HMRS graduates are permitted to wear the orange HMRS shirt with appropriate school logo. Color authorized will be in accordance with the following. All others will wear CAPR 39-1 directed colors while conducted HMRS activities. No other colors will be authorized.

Black – Expert Ranger
Red – Field Medic and Above
Orange (with Ranger Staff Logo) – Permanent Ranger Staff
Orange (with HMRS logo) – HMRS Graduate

- c. **Ranger and Medic Tabs.** Earned ranger qualification tabs will be worn centered above the Civil Air Patrol tape on ABU or CFU uniforms. Only one tab will be worn.
- d. **HMRS Graduate Patch.** The HMRS patch will be worn by graduates of any HMRS summer course conducted in conjunction with the National Cadet Special Activity. A rocker denoting Staff will be permitted for all members of Permanent Ranger Staff.
- e. **Web Belts.** Wear of the web belt over ABU or CFU blouse will be optional in the Duty Field Uniform. Color authorized will be in accordance with the following. No other colors will be authorized.

Black – Expert Ranger
Red – Master Medic
White – Permanent and Probationary Ranger Staff

- f. **Black HMRS Fleece.** The black HMRS fleece will be the standard uniform outerwear for cool to cold weather climates. This is not a mandatory item and may be substituted with any authorized military or civilian outerwear as appropriate for inclement weather conditions.
- g. **Safety Items.** Use of safety gear items will be mandatory when conducting field activities at the direction of the Senior Squadron Commander. Hard hats and safety vests are not required while operating on designated trails but will be worn at all other times when operating in woodland terrain. All other safety items will be worn in compliance with published risk management guidance.

2. **HMRS Parade Uniform.** The HMRS Parade Uniform will be limited to designated special occasions only, such as HMRS graduation events or presentation of special awards or qualifications. This uniform will only be authorized while conducting activities at Hawk Mountain Ranger School or when otherwise approved by the local Wing Commander or designee. Wear of the uniform during HMRS will be as

directed by the Director of Operations. These items may be worn in addition to the authorized Duty Field Uniform items. No additional items may be worn other than those listed.

- a. **Scarfs.** Wear of scarfs will be permitted based on award qualification or staff status. Color authorized will be in accordance with the following. No other colors will be authorized.

- Orange – Permanent Ranger Staff
- Yellow – Probationary Ranger Staff
- Grey – Ranger Staff Candidate
- Red – Medic First Class or above
- Green – Field Medic

- b. **Web Belts.** Wear of the web belt over ABU or CFU blouse will be permitted in the Parade Uniform. Color authorized will be in accordance with the following. No other colors will be authorized.

- Black – Expert Ranger
- Red – Master Medic
- White – Permanent and Probationary Ranger Staff

3. **HMRS Base Uniform.** Activity specific base uniforms may be worn while conducting administrative or logistical business in support of the activity and only permitted on the confines of the HMRS property. Members may choose to wear CAPR 39-1 authorized corporate uniforms, such as the tactical polo shirt, or wear attire in compliance with the below additional permitted uniform items. If corporate uniforms are worn, they will not be modified from the direction provided in CAPR 39-1. All HMRS specific items will be worn in a neat and professional appearance at all times. Ranger specific uniform items detailed above will not be worn with the Base Uniform.

- a. **Headgear.** Headgear will not be worn with HMRS Base Uniforms except in cases where wear for sun-protection is desired.
- b. **Shirts.** Authorized shirts will be HMRS BX supplied orange or black HMRS polo shirts, wing distinctive polo shirts, or HMRS distinctive t-shirts.
- c. **Pants.** Long pants or shorts are permitted. Pants (or shorts) will be solid and subdued in color. Cargo or tactical style pants are permitted.
- d. **Footwear.** Close-toed shoes are required during duty hours or when conducting activities where open-toed shoes would be hazardous. Close-toed shoes will always be worn when entering student areas.

4. **HMRS PT Uniform.** HMRS staff uniform for physical training and ranger testing will consist of athletic shoes, black sweatpants or athletic pants, and colored staff shirt. Weather appropriate fleece or other outer garments are permitted. Black shorts may be worn by staff supervising PT activities or calisthenics, but long pants must be worn when participating in the obstacle course to prevent rash or irritation. Uniforms may also be worn by staff supervising but not fully participating in PT events.

5. **Wear of Civilian Attire.** Civilian attire will be permitted only after designated duty hours as determined by the Director of Operations or when conducting work details to avoid unnecessary soiling of CAP uniforms. Civilian clothes should be worn when visiting off base establishments when not as part of official duties and are required for any visits to social establishments after hours. Members will present a professional appearance at all times when in non-uniform attire that reflects credit upon the school and organization. Ranger specific uniform items detailed above (excluding T-shirts) will not be worn with the civilian attire.

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