OCP Uniform (Operational Camouflage Pattern)

OCPs were authorized for wear on 01 November 2025 and replace the ABU uniform.





ABU (Airman Battle Uniform)

ABUs can be worn until 31 October 2028



Cadets must achieve their first promotion to be issued ABUs from the squadron supply.

Where to Get Uniforms

OCPs – Vanguard: Vanguard is the official source. A complete OCP uniform from Vanguard (not including boots) is about $200. Talk to us before ordering – our squadron account gets 10% off, free shipping over $50, and no sales tax. www.vanguardmil.com

ABUs: The squadron has a small supply of used and new ABU coats and pants in limited and mostly adult sizes. You will have to buy new or used items we don't have, and the ABU patches.

New and Pre-Worn: New and pre-worn coats and pants can be found on eBay and online military and tactical supply stores. ABUs are getting hard to find because they are no longer worn by the Air Force. Air Force OCPs and Army ACU coats and pants are the same – the patches and their placement are different. Some nametapes and insignia you can get only from

Vanguard. Members have recently gotten OCP blouses and pants at the Army-Navy store below on Independence Blvd. Make sure the coat (shirt) and pants are the same material.

Military Surplus Stores
Here are a few area stores – some further away than others. You should call ahead to ask if they have what you are looking for before driving out there.

- ★ American Army Navy Store in Charlotte at 5326 E Independence Blvd., (704) 535-8687. https://www.americanarmynavy.com/
- ❑ Jasmine's Military Shop at 4913 Chastain Ave, (980) 272-1224. Jasmine's Military Shop, LLC | AZ Eazy Surplus
- ❑ Lenoir Military & Government Surplus in Hudson (north of Hickory on 321) at 2998 Hickory Blvd, (828) 728-7728. https://lmgsonline.com/
- ❑ The Military Store at 263 Branchview Dr SE Concord, (704) 953-7464. https://www.ncmilitarystore.biz/
- ❑ Big Sig's Military Surplus & Tactical Supply in Newton at 111 E 1st St, (828) 446-6744. https://www.facebook.com/BigSigsMilitarySurplus/
- ❑ Old Grouch's Military Surplus, 30 minutes west of Asheville in Clyde at 82 Main St http://www.oldgrouch.com/

Uniform Regulation
The uniform regulation is CAPR 39-1 if you want to read the requirements. https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/R_391_with_ICL_2101_Incorporated_5660EEB90E0DB.pdf if you want to read the various requirements.

Cold Weather: Thermal undergarments may be worn under OCPs/ABUs in cold weather. Because the thermal top will show, under ABUs it must be desert sand, white or cream colored, and under OCPs must be coyote brown. An option is to wear a tan or coyote brown t-shirt over the thermal. Pull the t-shirt neck up to cover up the thermal and pin with safety pins (so safety pins don't show). Civilian coats and jackets are also allowed.

Money Saving Tips: Vanguard has a 10% discount code each month. For example, in July 2026 the code would be FBJUL2026. The 3-letter month changes each month.

OCP Uniform

Item		Sources	Recent Price
	Coat, nylon or poly/cotton	Vanguard or other Youth SKU: CAP2005 Adult SKU: CAP2013	Youth size = $59.20; Adult size = $69
	Pants, nylon or poly/cotton	Vanguard or other Youth SKU: CAP2014 Adult SKU: CAP2022	Youth size = $59.20; Adult size = $69
	Tactical ball cap, adjustable, solid or mesh back	Vanguard SKU: CAP2097 or SKU: CAP2097A	$15
	Tan riggers belt, 1.5 inches wide	Vanguard or other CAP2510702	$9.85
	Crew neck t-shirt, coyote brown	Vanguard, Hobby Lobby, Amazon	$8
	OPTIONAL: Boot bands instead of tucking pants in boots. Order 2-3 pair -- they get lost.	Vanguard SKU: 2650170	$2.70
	Coyote brown suede 8-inch high boots, not composite toe. Cadets will outgrow before wearing them out.	Many sources. Nortiv 8 on Amazon are popular.	$60-$80
	Socks, dark brown or dark green, recommend wool or synthetic -- not cotton	Anywhere	

	**Velcro** name tape with last name only. Need 1 for shirt, 1 for ballcap, and 1 if buying fleece jacket.	Vanguard SKU: CAP6401	$4.65
	**Velcro** Civil Air Patrol tape. Need 1 for shirt, and 1 if buying fleece jacket.	Vanguard SKU: CAP6404	$4.15
	**Velcro** AUX patch, need 1	Vanguard SKU: CAP6087	$3
	**Velcro** reversed American flag patch, need 1	Vanguard SKU: CAP4432431	$6.30
	**Velcro** NC wing patch, need 1	Vanguard SKU: CAP0638FV	$5.10
	2”x2” dark blue velcro tab to receive metal airman and NCO insignia. Need 1 for shirt, and 1 if buying fleece jacket.	Vanguard SKU: CAP6038	$2.15
	OPTIONAL: Fleece jacket, coyote brown, with velcro	Vanguard SKU: CAP2091	$50
	COMING SOON: Velcro squadron patch	Squadron will provide	$0

ABU Uniform

Item		Sources	Recent Price
	Coat, 35% cotton/65% polyester ripstop fabric. Other sources may have other fabrics (which are fine).	Squadron has some Vanguard or other	Vanguard Youth sizes = $37.15 Adult sizes = $47.10
	Pants, 35% cotton/65% polyester ripstop fabric. Note that other sources may have other fabrics (which are fine).	Squadron has some Vanguard or other	Vanguard Youth sizes = $37.15 Adult sizes = $47.15
	Flat top cap	Vanguard or other	Vanguard $12.25
	Desert tan/sand nylon belt or riggers belt, 1.5 inches wide. If Propper brand you want khaki color.	Vanguard or other	=--------0
	Sand or desert tan color (NOT brown or coyote) **<u>crew neck</u>** t-shirt, no pocket	Squadron has some XL. Hobby Lobby, Vanguard, check B	
	Boot bands/blousers Order 2-3 pair to have spares — they get lost.	Vanguard or other	Vanguard $2.50
	Black combat or tactical boots, **<u>8” high</u>**. Cadets will outgrow them before wearing them out.	Academy Sports, Nortiv 8 on Amazon, Walmart Interceptor	$50-$80

Item		Sources	Recent Price
	Black boot socks, wool or synthetic, not cotton.	Anywhere	
	Sew-on Name tape with last name only. Sold in pairs, order 1.	Vanguard	$5.35
	Sew-on Civil Air Patrol tape. Sold individually, order 2 because will eventually need 2 sets of ABUs.	Vanguard	$1.95 x 2
	Sew-on NC wing patch. Sold individually, order 2.	Vanguard	$2.85
	NC-024 squadron patch	Squadron	No charge

Patches and Nametapes for ABUs

The nametapes, wing patch, and squadron patch are sewn on. The Boy Scout store at 1222 East Franklin Blvd in Gastonia can sew them on; so can dry cleaners that do alterations.



Cloth nametape rests on but not over the right breast pocket of the BDUs. Do not cut the excess fabric but fold it under to prevent fraying.



Cloth CAP tape rests on but not over the left breast pocket of the BDUs. Do not cut the excess fabric but fold it under to prevent fraying.

The wing patch is on the left sleeve ½-inch below the shoulder seam and centered under the collarbone seam. <u>Be sure to tell the Boy Scout store to center it under the collarbone seam or they will sew it where the Boy Scout patch goes, which is not correct for CAP</u>.





Squadron Patch on the Right Chest Pocket: The patch is centered on the pocket sideways, and centered between the bottom of the pocket flap and the bottom of the pocket.



Class B Blues Uniform

Gastonia Composite Squadron

The Class B blues uniform consists of short sleeve shirt, nametag, pants, V-neck t-shirt, flight cap, belt, black socks, black shoes or combat boots.



***Curry Voucher*:** Depending on the financial need category entered on the membership application, cadets can receive up to $175 for the purchase of uniform items upon their first promotion.

Dress Blue Pant Leg Hems: Hem with the pants worn correctly (above the hip bones) and evenly, with a belt & shoes. The front of the trouser legs will rest on the front of the shoes or boots with a slight break in the crease. No one is going to be concerned about the length as long as they aren't highwater short or excessively long. The regulation says the back of the legs will be 7/8-inch longer than the front, so it's on an angle. Tailor shops call this a West Point or military cut. To hem them like this you can't just fold under on an angle and sew – it will bunch up. You have to open the vertical leg seam and then hem it.

Class B Blues Uniform

Item		Sources	Recent Price
 	Short sleeve dress shirt for males. For females there are 2 options - a regular blouse that gets tucked in, and "princess cut" that is untucked. The princess cut can be worn with slacks or skirt.	Squadron has a few Vanguard	$58.20, Male and Female
	Trousers/slacks, without cuffs, polyester or polyester/wool blend. There is a male version and female version. Same as Air Force. Females can wear slacks or skirt.	Squadron has some Vanguard Can also find on eBay	Male = $72.90, Female = $66.30
	Female skirt	Vanguard or eBay	$58.55
	Flight cap. There is a male version and a female version. Same as Air Force. Females can wear the male version.	Squadron has some Vanguard Can also find on eBay	$23.85
	Flight cap device, order 1	Vanguard	$8.05
	Navy blue cotton web belt with chrome tip and chrome buckle. Vanguard is $25; Walmart.com has it for $10 with free shipping.	Walmart.com, search for Rothco Military Web Belts	$10 free shipping
	White **<u>V-neck</u>** t-shirt required for males; optional for females.	Anywhere	

	Nameplate, order 1	Vanguard	$4.75
	Leather or patent leather dress shoes	Vanguard Amazon Shoe Show in Belmont or their website — Drexlite Ogden	$52.90 $50 $29.99
	Black socks	Anywhere	
	OPTIONAL Female neck tab (like a tie)	Vanguard Amazon, etc. Same as Air Force.	$19.80
	OPTIONAL Tie, pre-tied or regular, plain blue	Vanguard Amazon, etc. Same as Air Force.	$23
	Tie bar -- required for tie	Vanguard	$7.15

++ End ++