

Cadet Uniforms

There are 3 basic uniforms—the Airman Battle Uniform (ABUs), the Blue Service Uniform (dress blues), and the PT (physical training) uniform. The Battle Dress Utility (BDUs) uniform is being phased out but can be worn until June 2021.



The ABU uniform should be acquired first. This will permit your cadet to fully participate in most CAP activities. We have a small supply of used uniform pieces, but sizes and availability vary considerably. A complete new ABU uniform including boots will cost \$150-200.

Don't buy the Blue Service Uniform until after your cadet earns their first promotion, because at that time you will receive a \$100 voucher from CAP that is good only for the dress blues. The voucher will basically cover the shirt and pants. A complete new Service Dress Blue uniform, after the \$100 voucher, will cost about \$100 out-of-pocket.

The **PT uniform** is a black t-shirt, black or dark blue running shorts, socks, and running shoes/sneakers. Black or dark blue sweatpants shirt or hoodie will be needed in cooler weather.

Where to get Uniforms

The squadron keeps a small supply of used uniform items at the airport, so the first step is to check whether we have any pieces that might fit the cadet. Do this on a meeting night when we meet at the airport (PT night).

Vanguard (www.vanguardmil.com) is the “official” supplier, but you can find items at online military and tactical supply stores, surplus stores, Amazon, Walmart.com, and eBay. Some items, like insignia, are available only from Vanguard. Before buying items from other than Vanguard, read the uniform regulations to make sure the items you are buying will comply.

The following are local sources for some uniform items. You should call ahead to ask if they have what you are looking for:

- American Army Navy Store in Charlotte at 5326 E Independence Blvd., phone (704) 535-8687.
- Lenoir Military & Government Surplus in Hudson (north of Hickory on 321) at 2998 Hickory Blvd., phone (828) 728-7728.
- Jasmine’s Military Shop / AZ Eazy Surplus. Two locations — Charlotte at 4913 Chastain Ave (weekdays only) and Fort Mill flea market at 3674 Highway 51 N (weekends only). Phone number for both is (980) 272-1224.
- The Military Store 263 Branchview Dr SE Concord, phone (704) 953-7464.
- Corfam/patent leather dress shoes: \$24.99 at Shoe Show at 609 Park Street in Belmont.

Uniform Regulations

Regulation M39-1 is the CAP Uniform Manual. It contains almost all the requirements for all CAP uniforms and how to wear them. The exception is that some additional ABU-specific requirements and wear instructions have been published separately. M39-1 and the supplemental ABU requirements are available on the CAP website.

Dress Blue Pant Leg Hems: Hem with the pants worn correctly (above the hip bones) and evenly, with a belt & shoes. Mark the front of the trousers at the point where the crease just touches the shoe. Add 5/8” to this in the back and that’s the hem length. Most tailor shops call this a “West Point cut.”

Money Saving Tips: Vanguard offers free shipping for orders over \$35, and posts a 10% discount coupon code on their Facebook page each month (<https://www.facebook.com/vanmilstore/>). Use the Vanguard \$100 “Curry Blues Voucher” to offset costs for the Blue Service Uniform. If there is an activity where the Blue Service Uniform is called for and a cadet doesn’t have one, he/she can wear civilian dress clothes instead.

Cold Weather

Thermal undergarments may worn under the ABUs in cold weather. Because the thermal top will show, it must be desert sand, white or cream colored. Another option is to wear a tan t-shirt over the thermal. Pull the t-shirt neck up to cover up the thermal, and then pin with safety pins (so safety pins don’t show).

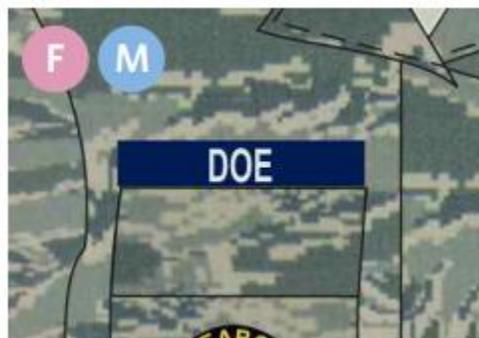
ABU Uniform

Item		Suggested Source	Price
	Blouse, 35% cotton/65% polyester ripstop fabric. Other sources may have other fabrics (which are fine).	Vanguard or other	Vanguard Youth sizes 8-12 = \$31.50 Adult sizes = \$40.00
	Pants, 35% cotton/65% polyester ripstop fabric. Note that other sources may have other fabrics (which are fine).	Vanguard or other	Vanguard Youth sizes = \$31.05 Adult sizes = \$40.00
	Flat top cap	Vanguard or other	Vanguard \$10.40
 	Desert tan nylon belt or riggers belt. Vanguard's small belt is 39". Propper makes smaller sized nylon belts.	Vanguard or other Propper belt from TacticalGear.com	Vanguard \$7.80 \$7.99
	Desert Tan crew neck t-shirt, no pocket.	Vanguard or other Amazon - Softe Men's 3-Pack Short Sleeve Crew Neck Military T-Shirt	Vanguard \$8.35 \$22.00
	Boot bands/blousers	Vanguard or other	Vanguard \$2.60

	Black combat or tactical leather boots, 8” high. Vanguard charges \$100. The same and similar boots are available elsewhere for much less.	Suggest other than Vanguard	\$50-\$90
	Black boot socks, wool or synthetic, not cotton.	Anywhere	
	Name tape with last name	Vanguard	\$4.50
	Civil Air Patrol name tape	Vanguard	\$1.60
	North Carolina wing patch	Vanguard	\$2.40
	NC-024 squadron patch	Squadron	TBD

Patches and Nametapes for ABU Uniform

The nametapes, wing patch, and squadron patch need to be sewn on. Many dry cleaners have tailors on staff, and the Boy Scouts of America store at 1222 E. Franklin Blvd. in Gastonia can also do it.



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 in line with the shoulder seam.



The squadron patch is centered on the right breast pocket.

Service Dress Blue Uniform

Item	Suggested Source	Price
	Short sleeve dress shirt for males and overblouse for females	Vanguard \$49.40, Male and Female Use voucher

			
	<p>Trousers/slacks, without cuffs, polyester or polyester/wool blend. Same as Air Force and Coast Guard dress blues.</p>	<p>Vanguard</p> <p>Can also find on eBay</p>	<p>Male = \$61.80, Female = \$56.20</p> <p>Use voucher for 1st pair</p>
	<p>Flight cap. There is a male version and a female version. Same as Air Force.</p>	<p>Vanguard</p> <p>Can also find on eBay</p>	<p>Male = \$20.25, Female = \$20.25</p>
	<p>Flight cap device</p>	<p>Vanguard</p>	<p>\$6.80</p>
	<p>Cotton web belt with silver tip and buckle.</p> <p>Vanguard's is about \$18. A Rothco belt & buckle at Walmart.com is \$7.</p>	<p>Rothco brand, Walmart.com is one source</p>	<p>\$7</p>
	<p>White <u>V-neck</u> t-shirt (males only)</p>	<p>Anywhere</p>	
	<p>Nameplate</p>	<p>Vanguard</p>	<p>\$4.00</p>

	<p>Leather or patent leather dress shoes</p>	<p>Vanguard Shoe Show in Belmont We have used ones in various sizes</p>	<p>\$44.95 \$24.99</p>
	<p>Black socks</p>	<p>Anywhere</p>	

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