

# Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America

Established by Patriots – Blessed by Pope Pius XI – Chartered by an Act of Congress



## National Uniform Regulations

**THESE REGULATIONS SUPERCEDE ALL OTHER PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED UNIFORM RULES  
AND REGULATIONS AND APPLY TO ALL MEMBERSHIP UNITS OF THE CWV  
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY;  
EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFICALLY NOTED HEREIN, SUBORDINATE ECHELONS ARE NOT  
AUTHORIZED TO ADOPT MODIFIED VERSIONS OF THESE REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL USE.**

Compiled By David Fofanoff, Commander  
Fr. Pierre-Jean DeSmet, S.J. – Post 1950, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho  
*with generous assistance from the following members:*  
Jose Garcia -TX, Steve Jones - FL, Mike Blau - OH, Arminda Crawford - OH.

*Copyright © 2009, Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc., All Rights Reserved.*

# National Uniform Regulations

***Authority for establishing and enforcing these regulations is found in the CWV National Constitution as stated below:***

**ARTICLE XI, SECTION 4,** *“The National Department shall establish the standard of design, color, material and each other item attendant to any uniform, medal, award, or citation of this organization.”*

**Recommended changes to these regulations must be submitted to the National Standards Committee at least one month prior to a scheduled National Board of Officers meeting. The Standards Committee will present the change request to the Board of Officers with a recommended action for vote. Any change must be approved by majority vote of the National Board of Officers.**

## **Section 1: National Uniform Sets**

All Catholic War Veteran uniform items designated as “organizationally purchased items” below **MUST** be purchased from authorized, licensed Catholic War Veteran official suppliers, approved by the National Board of Officers. Items marked as “locally purchased items” may be purchased from local vendors.

Uniforms must be worn so as to present a clean, neat, and professional appearance at all times. When worn while standing or walking, the Dress Blazer will be worn buttoned.

### **A. Mens Dress Uniform:**

1. **Dress Blazer:** *(organizationally purchased item)*, Current color approved by the National Department with CWV custom buttons, 4” CWV Celtic Cross emblem patch sewn centered upon the left breast pocket, worn with or without governmental awards and decorations.
  - a. Brass CWV cutouts are optional for local echelon adoption and wear on the Dress Blazer. Brass CWV cutouts will NOT be worn on the Dress Shirt when worn on the CWV Blazer.
2. **Garrison Cap:** *(organizationally purchased item)*, See Section 4 below for details.
3. **Dress Shirt:** solid white, Poplin type, collared without buttons, short or long-sleeved, button-down front, with or without breast area pockets. May use standard or CWV custom buttons *(organizationally purchased item)*. *Shirts with breast pockets will be similar in design to the industry recognized “Aviator” or “Pilot” style.*
4. Brass CWV cutouts *(organizationally purchased items)* are optional for local echelon adoption and wear on the Dress Shirt. **Brass CWV cutouts will not be worn on the Dress Shirt if these are worn on the CWV Blazer**
5. **Dress Trousers:** Current color approved by the National Department, cuffed or un-cuffed. “Jeans” type pants will not be worn.
6. **Dress Belt:** solid black, “military web type” or solid black leather, with silver or gold finished plain buckle. Belt width will not exceed 1 inch.

7. **4-in-hand Tie:** (*organizationally purchased item*), solid black, with sewn on 2 ½ inch CWV Celtic Cross emblem patch.
8. **Dress Socks:** solid black, calf-height. (*other colored socks may be worn if they are not visible at any time*)
9. **Dress Shoes / Boots:** solid black, leather, shined appearance.

**B. Mens Business Uniform:**

1. Same items as Men's Dress Uniform above with the following changes:
  - a. **The Dress Blazer is not worn.**
  - b. Brass CWV cutouts or CWV Blue/Gold Pins and/or the CWV Celtic Cross left shoulder patch (*organizationally purchased items*) are optional for local echelon adoption and wear on the Dress Shirt.
  - c. White short-sleeved undershirt is worn under the Dress Shirt.
  - d. The Dress Shirt will be the above described with breast area pockets.
  - e. 4-in-hand tie may be either of the Black or Blue color and is optional. If not worn, the top button of the Dress Shirt will be left unbuttoned.
  - f. Awards and decorations may be worn on the Dress Shirt.

**C. Mens Formal Dress Uniform:**

1. Same items as Men's Dress Uniform above with the following changes:
  - a. **The Garrison Cap is not worn.**
  - b. Replace 4-in-hand Tie with a Black Bow Tie.

**D. Mens National Officer Formal Dress Uniform:**

1. Same items as Men's Formal Dress Uniform above with the following changes:
  - a. Replace the CWV Dress Blazer with a White Formal Dinner Jacket.
  - b. Replace the Dress Trousers with Black Tuxedo Trousers.

**E. Womens Dress Uniform:**

1. Same items as Men's Dress Uniform above with the following changes:
  - a. Garrison Cap will be the WAC type.
  - b. Dress Blazer may be standard men's length or women's shorter length.
  - c. Dress Shirt may be replaced with a similarly styled dress blouse.
  - d. Dress Trousers may be replaced with a similarly styled dress skirt or slacks.
  - e. 4-in-hand Tie may be replaced with a similarly styled neck tab type tie.
  - f. Dress Socks may be replaced with similarly styled black or neutral hosiery.
  - g. Dress shoes shall be either 1"-2" pumps or black walking type.

F. **Womens Business Uniform:**

1. Same items as Women's Dress Uniform above with the following changes:
  - a. The Dress Blazer is not worn
  - b. Brass CWV collar insignia or CWV Blue/Gold Pins and / or the CWV Celtic Cross left shoulder patch (*organizationally purchased items*) are optional for local echelon adoption and wear on the Dress Shirt.
  - c. The Dress Shirt will be the above described with breast area pockets.
  - d. 4-in-hand tie or neck tab type tie in Black or Blue color is optional. If not worn, the top button of the Dress Shirt will be left unbuttoned.
  - e. Awards and decorations may be worn on the Dress Shirt.
  - f. White women's undergarments are worn under the Dress Shirt or Blouse

G. **Women's Formal Dress Uniform:**

1. Same items as Women's Dress Uniform above with the following changes:
  - a. **The Garrison Cap is not worn.**

H. **Women's National Officer Formal Dress Uniform:**

1. Same items as Women's Formal Dress Uniform above with the following changes:
  - a. Replace the CWV Dress Blazer with a White Formal Dinner Jacket.
  - b. Replace the Dress Trousers / Skirt with Black Dinner Skirt at tea or floor length.

**Section 2: Wear of the Business, Dress, and Formal Uniforms**

**NO ADDITIONAL ITEMS ARE PERMITTED TO BE WORN ON THE UNIFORM  
EXCEPT THE SPECIFIC ITEMS DESCRIBED HEREIN.**

- A. As a general rule, CWV National Uniform Sets will be worn by all members when officially representing the CWV or attending events involving the use of the CWV Ritual.
- B. Every member is expected to have available, and to wear appropriately, the CWV National Uniform Set that has been so designated by the event's hosting echelon as the Uniform of the Day. Each echelon Officer of the Day is responsible for, and expected to specifically enforce, the designated Uniform of the Day guidelines for each event.
  1. The Gold colored 4-in-hand tie (*organizationally purchased item*) is an optional tie for specifically designated social events only. The Gold tie will NOT be worn for any event where business is conducted.
- C. Optional items authorized to be worn on the lapels of the CWV Blazer
  1. CWV cutout letters on both the left and right lapels, centered and parallel to the line of lapel,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " –  $\frac{3}{4}$ " below the cut of the lapel line.
  2. Left Lapel - a Soldiers Cross pin, centered and 1" - 1.5" below the CWV cutouts, if worn
  3. Left Lapel - a small U.S. Flag pin, centered and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " below CWV cutouts, if worn. This will not be worn if a Flag Pin is worn on the Garrison cap as described in Section 4.

4. Right Lapel - Past Echelon Commander's Pin centered and ½" below CWV cutouts, if worn
  5. Right Lapel - a pin from a current or recent CWV National Convention (or other CWV function, centered and 1" - 1.5" below the CWV cutouts, if worn.
- D. Every member is expected to wear any CWV issued awards and decorations (*such as the Honor et Veritas, Celtic Cross, Father Washington, and Most Outstanding Catholic War Veteran*) as prescribed by the issuing membership unit.
1. The CWV Post, Chapter, Department, and National Awards shall be worn on the Dress Uniform Jacket and optionally on the Dress Shirt (without Jacket). When worn, these awards will be worn on the wearer's right side, centered directly above the upper pocket and will be of the same type that is worn on the left side (*either ribbons or medals*). If there is no right side upper pocket available, then they will be worn vertically in line with the bottom most row of ribbons or medals worn on the left side.
  2. CWV awards will be worn in the order of precedence, from right to left: National, Department, Chapter, Post, and then each subsequent level; Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

The following chart shows the correct order of precedence for all CWV issued awards and decorations:

## CWV Awards and Decorations

### Order of Precedence

Order of St. Sebastian	Fr. Washington	Celtic Cross
Honor et Veritas	Founder's Award	Natl. Gold
Natl. Silver	Natl. Bronze	Dept Special
Dept. Gold	Dept. Silver	Dept. Bronze
Chapter Gold	Chapter Silver	Chapter Bronze
Post Gold	Post Silver	Post Bronze

3. Multiple awards from the same echelon (Post, Chapter, Department, National), shall be designated by the wearing of attachment devices similar to military regulations as follows:
  - a. **Suspension Ribbon with Medal**  
*The suspension ribbon with medal is an organizationally purchased item. For the first award of any type, wear the suspension ribbon and medal without any devices. For each subsequent award of the same type, a bronze numeral device shall be affixed to the ribbon. For the second award, a bronze numeral "2" will be worn, for the third award; the "2" will be replaced with a "3" and so on.*
  - b. **Ribbon Only**  
*The ribbon unit is an organizationally or locally purchased item and will be worn with the appropriate star device(s) attached representing the type of award level. For the first award, wear the ribbon with one corresponding star device attachment centered on the ribbon. Additional awards of the same type from the same echelon are represented by adding the appropriate level star device to the ribbon (gold, silver, or bronze). A maximum of 4 stars may be worn on each ribbon. Upon the 5<sup>th</sup> award, a second ribbon is worn.*

For multiple echelon awards of different levels, the star devices will be worn in the correct order of precedence upon the ribbon, from the wearer's right to left, as follows: first gold, then silver, then bronze.

- E. The National Commander's fringe cord decoration is the only cord type decoration permitted on the Dress Blazer. It is to be worn on the left shoulder and only by the current National Commander.
- F. The Men's and Women's National Officer Formal Dress Uniform is an optional uniform that is authorized to be worn only by current members of the National Department's Board of Officers for special occasions as directed.
- G. In support of the U.S. Veterans Administration's "Veterans Pride Initiative" all members are authorized and highly encouraged to wear their lawfully earned official U.S. Government issued awards and decorations on their Dress Blazer (*for dress and formal uniforms*) or, on the Dress Shirt (*for business uniforms*).
  - 1. In all cases, official governmental awards and decorations should be worn on the uniform above the left breast pocket in similar fashion, and in the order of precedence as described in the current military regulations for your selected service branch.
  - 2. In all cases, members will wear their awards and decorations on the Dress Blazer in either medal or ribbon form. **Mixing the wear of both medals and ribbons is NOT authorized.**
  - 3. When wearing awards and decorations on the Dress Shirt of the Business Uniform, they will be worn only in ribbon form. **No medals will be worn on the Dress Shirt at any time.**
  - 4. A member attending a function of any membership unit is expected to wear their awards and decorations in accordance with that echelon's specific Uniform of the Day instructions.
- H. Recipients of the Order of St. Sebastian may wear the Order's medal to any veterans, military, or religious function. The medal should only be worn with the CWV Dress Uniforms or other civilian semi-formal or formal attire. **As the highest decoration awarded by the CWV, The Order of St. Sebastian Medal should never be worn in a casual manner and recipient members of the Order will be accorded due respect from all members.**

### **Section 3: Local Work Uniforms**

We are primarily a service organization. As such, it may not always be practical or appropriate to wear a National Uniform Set as described above for all occasions or in more casual work environments. In recognition of this, the National Department authorizes local echelons to develop and prescribe for wear local work uniforms for their membership.

For purposes of this section, local work uniforms includes all clothing worn by local echelon members when officially representing the CWV that are not specifically described within the National Uniform Sets above. Examples of these are Honor, Color, or other Ceremonial Guards, accompanying Rifle Squads, Drum and Bugle Corps, Kitchen Help, Event Setup and Cleanup, Post Meeting Uniform, etc.

#### **In all cases, the following rules shall govern the use of local work uniforms:**

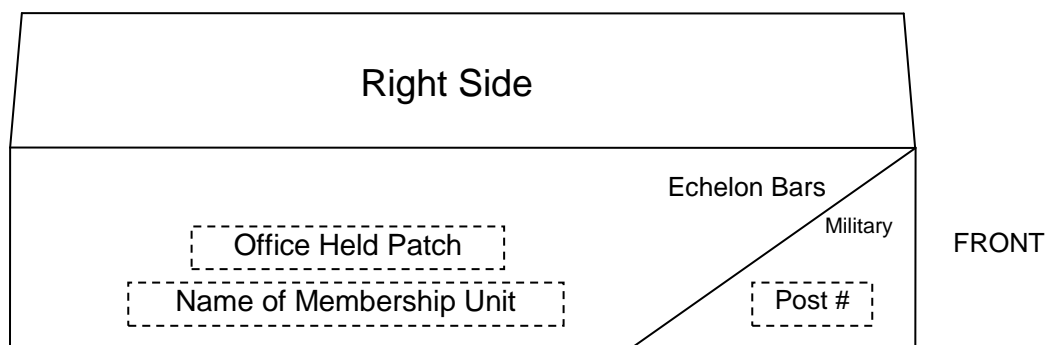
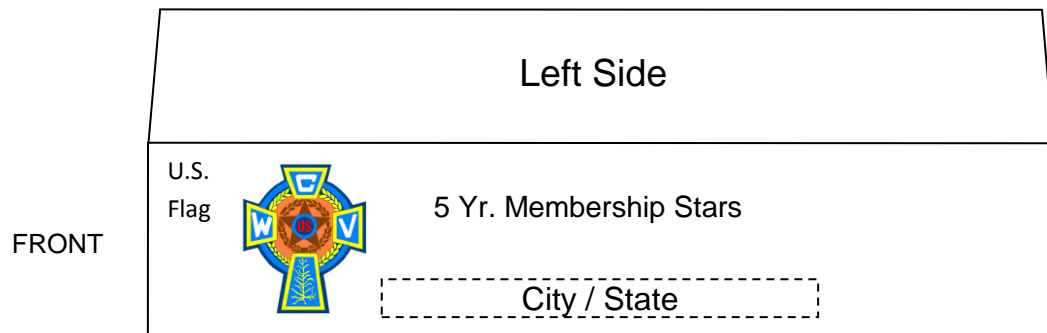
- A. An echelon desiring to develop a local work uniform will submit a high resolution color photographic sample of all proposed uniform items, along with a detailed description of the items, and the local echelon's officially approved usage guidelines in written form to the National Commander, or his designee, for review and approval before having item produced locally.

- B. Only written approval authorizations from the National Commander ,or his designee ,will be accepted as authentic. Each echelon is required to retain a copy of the written authorization for each local work uniform in their echelon records for future review.
- C. As a general rule, the colors of the work uniform items will match as closely as possible those of the National Uniform Sets.
- D. If a similar item has already been developed, approved, and is currently available to be purchased from the National Headquarters, the echelon may be required to utilize those items in lieu of the proposed new local item.
- E. The CWV Celtic Cross emblem may be reproduced and used in embroidery or in locally created pins and patches, so long as the emblem is recreated and presented in its entirety, with the original colors, lettering, and dimensions intact.
- F. The full organization title of “Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America” is also authorized for use as defined in item 5 above. The terms “United States of America” may be abbreviated as “U.S.A.”.
- G. Any changes or modifications to a previously authorized local work uniform must be pre-approved as described in items 1 and 2 above prior to any official adoption or implementation.

**Section 4: Wear of the Uniform Garrison Cap**

**NO ADDITIONAL ITEMS ARE PERMITTED TO BE WORN ON THE CAP EXCEPT THE SPECIFIC ITEMS DESCRIBED HEREIN.**

The following diagrams show the approximate placement of items on the Cap for all echelons *(detailed descriptions for each authorized item follow below):*



- A. All members shall wear the appropriately colored Cap for the echelon membership unit in which they are currently serving in as follows:
1. Post – BLUE with GOLD braid and GOLD lettering (Members and Officers)
  2. Chapter – BLUE over WHITE with GOLD braid and GOLD lettering (Officers)
  3. Department – WHITE with GOLD braid and GOLD lettering (Officers)
  4. National – GOLD with GOLD braid and BLUE lettering (Officers)
- B. Upon completing their term of service with any echelon above the post level, the departing Officer, Committee Chairman, Committee Members, and designated Aides, shall no longer be entitled to wear that echelon’s designated Cap. These members shall revert to wearing the Post designated Cap with the following exceptions:
1. All Past National, Department, Chapter, and Post Commanders may continue to wear their appropriate Commander Cap so long as the “Office Held” patch denotes the “Past Commander” designation.
  2. In all cases as described above where service in an echelon above the Post level has been successfully rendered, members will be entitled to wear the appropriate Echelon Service Bars designating those echelons previously served. In order to preserve the legitimacy and dignity of echelon bars, the current Board of Officers of the echelon previously served is encouraged to officially award and provide the Echelon Service Bar Cap insignia to the departing member.

**The following descriptions detail each item’s type and proper placement on the Uniform Garrison Cap:**

**RIGHT SIDE:**

- A. Post / Unit Name Embroidery:** *(Post name optional)* To preserve uniformity, the Board of Officers for individual Department, Chapter, or Post echelons are authorized and encouraged to prescribe for members of their membership unit the specific naming convention for their unit to be used. In all cases the unit name will be centered between the end of the front curtain flap and the rear of the cap, and ½ inch from bottom of Cap.
- B. Office Held Patch:** Centered immediately above unit name.
- C. Post Number Embroidery:** Centered on right front curtain (flap) ½ inch from bottom of Cap.
- D. Echelon Service Bars:** Each bar is 7/8 inch in length and ¼ inch in width and are colored per echelon as follows:
- **Chapter Service-** a BLUE and WHITE bar
  - **Department Service** – a solid WHITE bar
  - **National Service** – a solid GOLD bar

All authorized Echelon Service Bars will be worn, however, the maximum number of individual service bars that can be worn is three (*one per designated echelon*). Only one Echelon Service Bar will be worn for service to a particular echelon regardless of how many separate terms of service have been previously completed.



Echelon Bars shall be worn as follows:

- **National Service** - 2 inches back from the front center peak of cap and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the flap braid.
  - **Department Service** - 2 inches back from the front center peak of cap and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " below flap braid. If a National bar is worn, the Department bar will be worn centered directly below it.
  - **Chapter Service** - 2 inches back from the front center peak of cap and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" below flap braid. If a Department bar is worn, the Chapter bar will be worn centered directly below it.
- E. **Branch of Military Service Insignia Pin:** Worn on the right front curtain (flap) centered as much as possible immediately above the Post number in the empty space available within the enclosed braided area. Insignia may designate Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or any other major unit within these military branches, such as Infantry, Artillery, Submarine, Etc. **At no time will any portion of the insignia extend outside of the enclosed braided area.**

**LEFT SIDE:**

- A. **CWV Celtic Cross Emblem Patch:** 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall with a blue background. Center of emblem placed 2 inches back from the front center peak of cap, and centered between the upper braid and bottom of cap.
- B. **City and State Embroidery:** To preserve uniformity, the Board of Officers for individual Department, Chapter, or Post echelons are authorized and encouraged to prescribe for members of their membership unit one of the following two standards for implementing this area:
1. State name spelled out in its entirety, without City name.
  2. City name spelled out in its entirety followed by a comma and abbreviated State initials.

In all cases the City and State names and initials shall be on one line only, beginning immediately to the right and below the CWV emblem patch. The City and State line shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch up from the bottom of the cap. Members of the National Headquarters Post may choose either of the two recognized standards above.

- C. **5 year Continuous Membership Stars:** First gold star pin is to be placed 1 inch back from, and as much as possible in line with, the end of the center cross arm of the Celtic Cross emblem patch. Each consecutive star earned will be placed  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to the rear of the previous star resulting in a continuous straight horizontal line of stars towards the rear of the cap. At the discretion of the individual, the 50 yr. pin may be worn in lieu of 10, 5 yr. Stars and placed similar to the First Star placement above.
- D. **Life Membership Pin:** Authorized only for Life Members as designated by the National Department. The pin shall be provided by the National Department directly to the member. It shall be placed 1 inch to the right of the Celtic Cross emblem patch and centered below any 5 Year Continuous Membership Stars and above the City and State line.
- E. **American Flag Pin:** Pin shall be no longer or wider than 1" in size and placed on the front uppermost flap portion of the cap in front of the Celtic Cross emblem patch and immediately below the braid.

**THIS**

**PAGE**

**LEFT**

**INTENTIONALLY**

**BLANK**