

Army Combat Uniform



The Army Combat Uniform (ACU) consists of a jacket, trousers, patrol cap, moisture wicking T-shirt, and the recently adopted Army Combat Boot (temperate and hot weather). The new ACU is the culmination of many months of research and development by Soldiers, for Soldiers, and is the uniform for choice by the overwhelming majority of Army leaders and Soldiers.

The ACU enhances Soldier performance by providing a uniform that is tailorable to the individual mission, provides enhanced functionality and ergonomics over the existing Battle Dress Uniform (BDU), and does away with requirements to procure uniforms focused on specific environments, making the ACU deployable worldwide. The ACU fielding to designated deploying units began in February 2005 and will continue fielding not later than May 2008.

The Army black beret remains authorized for wear with the new ACU. The ACU, including component materials, is manufactured in the United States using the same industrial base that produced the BDU, thereby ensuring the highest quality control and supporting the American work force.

The ACU coat was designed to be compatible with the Interceptor Body Armor (IBA). The chest pockets and sleeve pockets are accessible while wearing body armor. The zipper

closure eliminates hot spots caused by the buttons of the BDU coat rubbing on the Small Arms Protective Inserts (SAPI) of the IBA.

The ACU is worn with ancillary items, including hook-backed embroidered U.S. Army tapes, name tapes, and rank and shoulder sleeve insignia.

System Description

Component Materials: 50% cotton, 50% nylon

Color: Combination of three colors: Urban Grey, Foliage Green, Desert Sand

Weight:

Coat: 1.35 lbs (size Medium-Regular)

Trouser: 1.6 lbs (size Medium-Regular)

Size: 37 coat sizes, 36 trouser sizes

Status: Currently being issued to deploying forces. Introduced in the Clothing Bag in October 2005. Available in the Army & Air Force Exchange Service as of January 2006.



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Patrol Cap constructed with double thick bill and internal pocket

Moisture wicking tan T-shirt

Mandarin collar worn in the down position

ACU with pin-on skill badges

Hook-and-loop tape-backed rank and insignia

Elbow pouch with hook-and-pile tape closure for internal elbow pad inserts

Slide fastener front closure, reinforced with hook-and-loop tape, which provides a smooth surface when worn with the Outer Tactical Vest (OTV)

Three-slot pen pocket for easy access, optimized for use with the OTV

Knee pouch with hook-and-loop tape closure for internal knee pad inserts

Leg cuff with front closure tie, which allows more comfortable closure on the outside of the boot collar

ACU with Boonie Hat

Hook-and-loop tape-backed U.S. Army and last name tape

Tilted chest pockets with hook-and-loop tape closure, optimized for use with the front opening of the Interceptor Body Armor (IBA) OTV

Infrared (IR) feedback American flag that provides both day and night recognition for friend or foe identification

Integrated blouse expands for increased upper body mobility

Hook-and-loop tape sleeve cuff closure, which provides positive closure for all sizes

Expandable calf storage pocket with hook-and-loop tape closure on the left and right legs

Combat Boot hot weather, or Combat Boot temperate weather



ACU worn with the black beret

Hook-and-loop tape-faced shoulder pockets that allow for the wearing of unit patches, skill tabs, and recognition devices

Permanent IR feedback squares affixed to each shoulder for night-time identification

Shoulder pocket maximized for storage when wearing the OTV—easily accessible on the left and right shoulders

Mandarin collar worn in the up position to keep out debris and protect the neck when wearing the OTV

Forward tilted cargo pocket for easy access whether sitting, kneeling, or standing, incorporated elastic drawstring for positive closure on the left and right leg

ACU design is maximized for use with the OTV, with easy access pockets and maximized storage space

