MODERN US MILITARY QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

ARMY, AIRFORCE and SPACEFORCE - CURRENT WEAR GUIDANCE

The current US Military Combat Uniform includes a PATROL CAP, JACKET, T-SHIRT, CARGO PANTS, BELT and BOOTS. Additional uniform elements include BODY ARMOR and HELMETS. The current design of the uniform is known as ACU and is known for its mandarin collar, velcro features and slanted pockets - all changes in the design from the BDU.

PATROL CAP

Worn with rank patch on front and name attached to back of the patrol cap. The functional design of the patrol cap has not changed with the updates in camouflage design. Hairstyle guidance is provided by the army so that hair will not interfere with the wear of the patrol cap.

PATROL JACKET

Rank and other patches are worn on the ACU style jacket in velcro. The ACU design was introduced to the army in 2004 and was created for integration and use of body armor. The current camo pattern issued to soldiers is known as either Scorpion or Multicam. When not deployed all personnel wear full color flags.

T-SHIRT

A simple crew neck collared T-shirt worn tucked into the uniform pants. Available in the colors of Tan 499 or Sand.

PANTS

ACU style cargo pants are worn tucked into boots or bloused.

BELT

1 electronic device allowed on the belt. Available in Sand and Tan 499.

BOOTS

Worn in either Tan or Coyote color. When on active duty, each soldier must own two pairs of hot weather boots and 1 pair of cold weather boots.

BODY ARMOR

Introduced in 2018 the US Army now uses the Modular Scalable Vest. This load bearing system is notable for being 5lbs less than the previous system the Improved Outer Tactical Vest.

HELMET

The Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH) was designed based on the PASGT style helmet worn up until Operation Enduring freedom. It includes tactical mounting points for things like headsets, microphones and night-vision.

CAMOUFLAGE STYLES OF THE MODERN US MILITARY

In the modern era the US Military has designed many styles of camouflage to deal with the change of the modern battleground from the European theater to the Afghan theater. Additionally the different branches have toyed with digital camouflage patterns with the development of digital cameras, the proliferation of night vision and the use of satellite tracking of subjects.

UNIVERSAL CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN (2004-2019)
Worn by the ARMY, the Universal Camouflage Pattern (UCP) was used in duty with the newly created ACU style of uniforms. Officially retired in 2019.

OCP CAMO (2015-Current)
Worn by the ARMY, the AIR FORCE and the newly created SPACE FORCE the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) is commonly known as both Multicam and Scorpion camo. Developed in 2015 and adopted by the US Army in that year, it has since been endorsed by the Airforce to show close ties between the two branches of the military. Officially the Airforce adopted the pattern as of 2020. Originally worn with black thread for patches - as of April 1st, 2021 all patches use "Spice Brown" color pallet.

MARPAT (2002-Current)
Worn by the US MARINE CORPS. Designed in 2001 and deployed between 2001 and 2005 in the Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform design.

TIGER STRIPE(-2018)
Formerly worn by the US AIR FORCE in the Airman Battle Uniform style of uniform design.

UNIFORM DESIGNS OF THE MODERN US MILITARY

In the course of modern US Military history there have been a number of designs for the uniforms of its combatants. Over the years with changes to camouflage, philosophy and design some branches of the US Military uniform have become more common across multiple branches or less.

Army Combat Uniform
The clear winner of uniform design now adopted by the ARMY, AIR FORCE and SPACE FORCE. Originally deployed to the Army in 2004 in the UCP camo pattern - the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) design has been officially adopted in OCP with the spice brown patch pallet as of 2021.

Airman Battle Dress Uniform
Decommissioned in 2018.

Marine Corp Combat Utility Uniform
Developed in 2001 and officially deployed between 2002 and 2005 the MCCUU has been the official uniform design of the Marine Corps ever since.

Battle Dress Uniform
A very common and long lasting design used by the US Military. Still a popular option in the airsoft community this style of uniform design was phased out with the introduction of the ACU design in 2004