

Uniform Regulations

To assure that you are properly wearing the Marine Corps League uniforms, members should familiarize themselves with the National Bylaws, Enclosure 3.

In an effort to gain some semblance of uniformity in our appearance, the following is a basic guideline for uniform set up and wear. All information is taken from Enclosure 3 of the National Bylaws. Pictures and drawings are used where possible, to help illustrate the regulations.

The Basic Cover



The minimum Marine Corps League uniform is the Basic Cover. While wearing the Basic Cover, you are considered in uniform and under arms.

In an opinion given by the National Chaplain, Ora Fultz, "It is worn indoors and out at all times, even in church. The cover is removed only during prayer. During prayer, remove your cover and place it over your heart."

The Basic Cover is the single most important part of the uniform, without which, no other part is authorized to be worn. The cover and all attachments are purchased through the Marine Corps League, see your Detachment Paymaster for information on how to order these items.

All members of the League are authorized to wear the red MCL cover. Members elected or appointed to Department Offices are authorized to wear the red with gold crown cover. Members elected or appointed to National Staff or Committees are authorized to wear the gold cover. The National Commandant is authorized to wear the white cover.

The following is part of the recent revision of Enclosure 3, adopted at the National Convention in Cleveland, in August, 2005:

The Past National Commandants are authorized to wear a Gold with White crown cover. Past Department Commandant, Past Pack Leader, Past Detachment Commandant, Past Chief Devil Dog of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Past National Director of Young Marines and Past National Executive Director, with the years displayed for holding that office, are the only members who are authorized to wear their respective cover after their tour of duty is completed. All other members will revert back to an appropriate cover for their current elected or appointed office, removing their prior officer identification strips.

Pins, ornaments, or ribbons are not authorized for wear on the MCL cover.

Nothing goes on the Basic Cover, except the Marine Corps Emblem on the left side and approved identification strips or embroidering on the right side. The Marine Corps emblem should be the solid gold emblem, not a Marine officer's gold and silver emblem. Identification strips should be worn to indicate "current" offices only, except as authorized by the Uniform Code for "Past Commandants". "Past Commandant" may be embroidered as this is a lifetime title. It must be small enough, as to be covered by a strip denoting any current office held.

If a strip is worn to denote current office, it will be worn above the detachment name and centered. The "LIFE" strip should be worn to the rear of the right side. The "LIFE MEMBER" strip should be worn the same as the identification strips are worn. That is, centered on the right side of the cover. The "LIFE" and "LIFE MEMBER" strips are two different strips.

Tradition is that the "LIFE MEMBER" strip would be worn above other strips, such as a current officer strip.

Although it isn't spelled out in the Uniform Code, the detachment name should be embroidered on the right side, 1/2" to 3/4" up from the bottom of the cover, centered left to right and abbreviated, if need be.

Contact your Detachment Paymaster about having the detachment name embroidered on your cover.

The Undress Uniform



The Long Sleeve and Short Sleeve Undress Uniforms will be discussed here.

There's more to the Undress Uniform than just taking off your red blazer. The Dress Blue trousers with the red NCO stripe are worn with the Undress Uniform, along with the Marine Corps web belt and brass buckle. It should be pointed out that the Dress Blue trousers have the red NCO stripe, not the wider Officers stripe.

The Black Trousers may be worn as an option with both Undress Uniforms, having the same belt and buckle options as with the Casual Uniform. The same shoes and socks are worn with the Undress Uniform, as with the Casual Uniform.

Long Sleeve Shirt



The Long Sleeve Undress Uniform shirt will be an aviator style shirt, with two (2) button down breast pockets and shoulder epaulets. It will have a military crease *running top to bottom, centered on each pocket and three creases on the back.* The Marine Corps League Shoulder Patch is worn on the left shoulder, centered on the crease, 1-1/2" down from the shoulder seam. The Field Forward American Flag patch will be worn on the right shoulder, centered on the crease, 1-1/2" down from the shoulder seam. The Sunburst Insignias are worn on each collar, *centered, 1/2" from both edges, with the eagles wings parallel to the deck.* The name tag may be worn above the right breast pocket, *centered and 1/8" above the top of the flap.* Either Marine Corps League ribbons or Department of Defense ribbons and badges may be worn above the left breast pocket, *centered, 1/8" above the top of the flap.* Marine Corps League and Department of Defense ribbons can't be mixed.

Ribbons are to be worn in rows not exceeding four ribbons per row, for multiple awards. If the top row has fewer ribbons than the lower rows, they are to be centered on the lower rows. The tie and tie bar are worn the same as the Casual Uniform

Short Sleeve Shirt



The Short Sleeve Undress Uniform is in all ways identical to the Long Sleeve Uniform, except the sleeve length. It has the same pockets, shoulder epaulets, creases and patches. The top most button is left open and a tie is never worn with the short sleeve Undress Uniform shirt. The dress blue trousers with red NCO stripe are to be worn with this uniform, as well and the black trousers are also an option. The same belts and belt options are worn with the short sleeve Undress Uniform as with the long sleeve Undress Uniform. Sunburst insignia and ribbons are worn the same as the long sleeve shirt. The optional name tag is worn the same way as with the long sleeve shirt, too.

Ceremonial Uniform



Departments or Detachments having a Color Guard may wear the Ceremonial Uniform, ONLY when participating in these ceremonies. This uniform is authorized for both male and female members.

Marine Corps League ribbons ONLY are to be worn, or no ribbons at all. The shirt is either the Marine Corps, khaki, long sleeve, (Bravo) uniform shirt or the Marine Corps, khaki, short sleeve (Charlie) uniform shirt.

If the long sleeve (Bravo) shirt is worn, the Marine Corps khaki necktie and Marine Corps or Marine Corps League gold tie bar is worn."

Only the dress blue trousers with red NCO stripe and the Marine Corps web belt and brass buckle are to be worn with this uniform.

The rest of the uniform, the shoes, socks, patches and name tag are the same as is worn on the Undress Uniform.

The Casual Uniform

The Casual Uniform, also referred to as the Red Blazer Uniform is shown here. The following items are required for the Casual Uniform.

The Red Blazer



The red blazer is available at clothiers outside the Marine Corps League, see your Detachment Paymaster about ordering this item. All attached items are ordered through the Marine Corps League, see your Detachment Paymaster on how to order these items. The buttons it comes with, must be removed and in their place Marine Corps League buttons sewn. There will be two (2) MCL buttons on the front of the blazer and three (3) MCL buttons on each sleeve. The Marine Corps League Crest is worn on the left breast pocket, *about 1/4" below the lower half of the pocket cuff and centered on the pocket.* The Marine Corps League Crest pocket insert may be worn in place of the standard crest, and the commercially sold plastic sleeve insert with permanently set Marine Corps Seal may also be worn.

The MCL Member, MCL Life Member, 5 Year, 10 Year, etc., pins are worn in the left lapel button hole. Other pins are also authorized, but never more than two (2) at a time, on the left lapel. The Past National Commandant pin may be worn inboard with the National Marine of the Year outboard. National Marine of the Year pin may be worn inboard, with a Past Department or Detachment Commandant, or other Member pin outboard. Kennel Devil Dog of the Year pin may be worn outboard of the National Marine of the Year pin. The Chapel of Four Chaplains pin, may also be worn. The medal and ribbon presented by the Chapel of Four Chaplains may be worn around the neck with this uniform. *It should be worn over top of the neck tie.*

The name tag is not worn with this uniform. Large medals are never to be worn on the red blazer. Sunburst insignias are never to be worn with the red blazer. Miniature medals, ribbons, and badges are not to be worn on the red blazer, except when the blazer is worn as an optional jacket of the Formal Uniform, and

then only miniature medals may be worn. The Formal Uniform will be discussed below.

The White Shirt

This outlines the shirt to be worn with the "Casual", or red blazer uniform. *The shirt can be either long sleeve or short sleeve, but must be plain white in color. This shirt can be purchased at any clothing store. The shirt should have a plain collar. It will not be the "aviator" style shirt worn with the Undress Uniform. Sunburst insignias are not worn with the "Casual" uniform. Ribbons and badges are not to be worn with the "Casual" uniform. Patches are not worn with the "Casual" uniform.*

No devices, pins, badges or patches of any kind are to be worn with the "Casual" uniform. Just the shirt, tie and prescribed tie bar, described in the tie section below. Nothing more!

The Black Trousers

Black trousers with a black belt and square gold buckle with the Marine Corps Emblem are to be worn with the Casual Uniform. The belt can be either the wide leather belt or the narrow dress belt. The wide leather belt is worn with the large square buckle with the Marine Corps Emblem on it. Both are available through National. The narrow dress belt with the smaller buckle, also having the Marine Corps Emblem, satisfies the black dress belt option, see your Detachment Paymaster about how to order these items. The trousers are purchased at any clothing store. *The bottom of the cuff, should just reach the top of the heel sole of the shoes.*

Dress blue trousers with red stripe are not authorized with the Casual Uniform.
Sansabelt trousers are not authorized with the Casual Uniform.

The Black Necktie

The necktie should be a plain flat black tie with a Marine Corps League or Marine Corps gold tie bar. The tie is available at any clothing store, but the tie bar is purchased through the Marine Corps League or you may wear the Marine Corps issued gold tie bar. No other tie bar is authorized. No tie tacks, no tie colors other than black, and no embroidered or other designs on the tie are authorized. Just a simple, plain, black, tie. *A clip on tie may be worn, or if using a regular tie, a four in hand knot is recommended.*

The Black Shoes

The shoes should be black leather oxfords, either corafram type, or highly shined. The uppers on the toes should be flat leather, with no seams. Rubber or leather soles may be worn. **Black socks, should be worn, also.** No taps are authorized.

The White Gloves

For certain ceremonies, like funerals, visitations and flag ceremonies, it is acceptable to wear the white ceremonial gloves, though there is no mention of them in the National Bylaws, Enclosure (3). However, many detachments and departments have begun to use them more frequently for funerals, Colors ceremonies or other similar events, our detachment being one of them. They are worn to respect the tradition of USMC color guards and honor guards. Wearing the white gloves distinguishes the members of special details from other members who are not a part of the ceremony. These gloves are plain white gloves with a single snap on the inside of the wrist. When worn for a ceremony with others in uniform, it is recommended that an "all or none" approach be used in wearing the gloves. In other words, if one member is without gloves, all members of the ceremony should be bare handed also.

The Formal Uniforms



The Formal Uniform will consist of the Basic Cover, as with all other uniforms. The shirt will be a formal pleated shirt, with a

standard collar and no ruffles. The tie will be a black, military, bow tie. The shirt will have gold cuff links and gold studs.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains medal may be worn with this uniform, as an option and the Marine Corps League Blazer Crest or Bullion Seal is optional when miniature medals are worn.

The red mess jacket is worn with this uniform, but the red blazer may be worn as an option, due to the high cost of the red mess jacket, which is ordered through an outside clothier. If the red mess jacket is worn, it will be a medium weight gabardine material with Marine Corps League buttons, a gold waist chain and the Sunburst Insignia in locating holes in the jacket collar.

The buttons are sewn on, three to a sleeve and three on either side of the waist, as illustrated.

A gold cummerbund or gold vest front is to be worn with this uniform. They are both sold through National, see the Detachment Paymaster about ordering.

Black tuxedo pants are worn with this uniform, but black trousers are an accepted option. The belt and buckle can be either of the belts worn with the Casual Uniform. Shoes and socks are the same as the Casual Uniform.

When wearing the red mess jacket, large medals may be worn as described below. When wearing the red blazer, miniature medals are authorized as described below, but not the large medals.

Mounting of Large Medals

When more than one medal is worn, they shall be suspended from a holding bar of metal or other material of sufficient stiffness to support the weight of the medals. No more than seven medals are to be worn on one row.

When more than seven medals are worn, additional rows shall be used. When more than four medals are on a single row, they are to overlap evenly, on a four ribbon bar, up to seven medals.

When eight or more medals are worn, the lower row will contain the same number as, or one more than, the upper row and overlap evenly, up to seven medals. The upper row will be side by side up to four medals, then overlapping if the second row is more than four medals and less than seven. The upper row, should never be more than one medal greater in number than the lower row.

In the event that more than fourteen medals are worn, they are to be placed on three rows, with the lower and middle rows containing the same number of medals and the top row, either the same number or one less than the middle row.

At no time are there to be more than seven medals to a row. Any time there are more than four medals to a row, they are to be overlapped evenly (no more than 50%) and the upper rows will have no more than one more medal than the next lower row.

Sound confusing? Here it is, all spelled out for you.

One or two medals, 1 row side by side on a 2 ribbon bar.
One to three medals, 1 row side by side on a 3 ribbon bar.
One to four medals, 1 row side by side on a 4 ribbon bar.
One to five medals, 1 row overlapping on a 4 ribbon bar.
One to six medals, 1 row overlapping on a 4 ribbon bar.
One to seven medals, 1 row overlapping on a 4 ribbon bar.
Eight medals, 2 rows on two (2) - 4 ribbon bars (4 up and 4 down)
Nine medals, 2 rows on two (2) - 4 ribbon bars (4 up and 5 down)
Ten medals, 2 rows on two (2) - 4 ribbon bars (5 up and 5 down)
Eleven medals, 2 rows on two (2) - 4 ribbon bars (5 up and 6 down)
Twelve medals, 2 rows on two (2) - 4 ribbon bars (6 up and 6 down)
Thirteen medals, 2 rows on two (2) - 4 ribbon bars (6 up and 7 down)
Fourteen medals, 2 rows on two (2) - 4 ribbon bars (7 up and 7 down)
Fifteen medals, 3 rows on two (3) - 4 ribbon bars (5 each row)
Sixteen medals, 3 rows on two (3) - 4 ribbon bars (5 up, 5 middle and 6 down)
Seventeen medals, 3 rows on two (3) - 4 ribbon bars (5 up, 6 middle and 6 down)
Eighteen medals, 3 rows on two (3) - 4 ribbon bars (6 up, 6 middle and 6 down)
Nineteen medals, 3 rows on two (3) - 4 ribbon bars (6 up, 6 middle and 7 down)
And so on, adding rows as needed.

Wearing of Miniature Medals (Formal Dress Only)

A: Miniature medals may be worn on the left lapel of the red blazer with the medals placed evenly between the left lapel notch and the top edge of the breast pocket and one inch out from the edge of the inside of the left lapel. In those instances where regulation size holding bars cannot be accommodated on the lapel, medals may be extended beyond the edge of the lapel to the left breast of the red blazer.

B: Additional holding bars on the Red Blazer shall be placed under the top row in such a manner that the medallions of the upper row are in line immediately above the medallions of the succeeding row, unless medal count is uneven.

Note: This applies only if wearing the Blazer. When wearing the Marine Corps League Mess Jacket, miniatures will be worn as you would large medals.

Mounting of Miniature Medals

- A. When more than one (1) medal is worn, they should be suspended from a holding bar of metal or other material of sufficient stiffness to support the weight of the medals.**
- B. When eleven (11) medals are worn, there will be five (5) medals on the first row, and six (6) medals on the second row (medallions cannot be even top to bottom).**
- C. The maximum length of the holding bar for medals should be four (4) inches, (3 ribbon bar). A maximum of five (5) medals, side by side, can be accommodated on a holding bar of maximum length, however, a maximum of ten (10) medals can be accommodated on a holding bar if overlapped. Overlapping shall be equal (not more than 50%) and the right or inboard medal shall be shown in full.**
- D. Mounting of medals by rows:**
One to ten medals, 1 row only
One to eleven medals, 2 rows - first row (5), second row (6)
Two medals mounted side by side on a one (1) inch bar (1 ribbon bar)
Three medals mounted on a one (1) inch bar (1 ribbon bar) overlapped
Four medals mounted on a two (2) inch bar (2 ribbon bar) overlapped
- When more than one (1) of the same medal has been awarded, stars shall be worn for additional awards.**