

The Army Combat Uniform

On June 14, 2004, the Army announced the selection of the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU).

The ACU is the culmination of many months of research and development, developed by Soldiers for Soldiers, and is the uniform of choice by the overwhelming majority of the Army's leaders and Soldiers.

The ACU consists of a jacket, trouser and patrol cap in a new universal camouflage pattern in addition to a moisture wicking t-shirt and Army Combat Boots (suede tan) for either temperate or hot weather climate.

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—the ACU is worldwide deployable.

The uniform will replace multiple versions of the current woodland pattern BDU and will be easy to maintain, thereby decreasing the out-of-pocket costs to our Soldiers.

The uniform will be fielded to deploying units starting in April 2005, and fielding to the entire Army is expected to be completed by December 2007.

The Army Black Beret will remain authorized for wear with the new ACU; no decision has been made concerning whether the ACU will replace any uniform other than the BDU.

The ACU, including component materials, will be manufactured in the United States using the same industrial base that produces the current BDU.

The ACU is part of the Army's continuing effort to equip the Army's Current Force today with Future Force capabilities and to provide America's Most Deployed Combat System, our Soldiers, the best, state-of-the-art equipment.

If you have any questions, please contact Debi Dawson, Program Executive Office Soldier's Public Affairs Liaison, at 703-704-2802 or debra.dawson@peosoldier.army.mil.



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Patrol Cap constructed with double thick bill and internal pocket

Velcro backed U.S. Army and last name tape

Tilted chest pockets with Velcro closure, optimized for use with the front opening of the Interceptor Body Armor Outer Tactical Vest (OTV)

Elbow pouch with Velcro closure for internal elbow pad inserts

Zippered front closure, reinforced with Velcro which provides a smooth surface when worn with the OTV

Knee pouch with Velcro closure for internal knee pad inserts

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

Moisture wicking tan T-shirt

Mandarin collar worn in the down position

Velcro backed rank insignia

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

Velcro sleeve cuff closure, which provides positive closure for all sizes

Forward tilted cargo pocket for easy access whether sitting, kneeling, or standing – incorporated elastic drawstring for positive closure during movement

Bellowed calf storage pocket with Velcro closure on the left and right leg

Combat Boot hot weather, or Combat Boot temperate weather



ACU worn with the black Beret and pin on skill badges

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

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

Integrated blouse bellows for increased upper body mobility

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

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

Permanent IR feedback squares affixed to each shoulder for nighttime identification

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

