



U.S. Marines Combat Utility Uniforms 2003

Full-Color Plate

by

Sergeant John M. Carrillo

U.S. Marine Corps

The first utility uniform was made of sage-green herringbone twill (HBT) cotton and was introduced in 1941. Other utility uniforms have been worn since then, to include several camouflaged versions during World War II, a redesigned "HBT" uniform in the 1950s, and the "green sateen" uniform of the 1960s and 70s. Different versions of the jungle utilities were worn during the Vietnam conflict, which contributed to the transition from the "green sateen" uniform to the camouflage utility uniform until the camouflage utility uniform was finally adopted in 1982. The camouflage utility uniform, with minor improvements over the years, has continued to be worn by Marines up to present day.

The latest version of the utility uniform, the combat utility uniform, began development in April 2001, and was designed with the modern battlefield in mind. Structural improvements were made to increase the durability of the uniform, and a new camouflage pattern, in both woodland and desert color schemes, was included in the overall design. This pattern, with its incorporation of numerous small Marine Corps emblems throughout, is unique among the world's military forces. The olive-mojave or "coyote brown" rough side out leather combat boots are also distinguished by heat-embossed Marine Corps emblems on the outer ankles. These Marine Corps combat boots have two versions, a temperate weather boot (MCCB(TW)) and a hot weather boot (MCCB(HW)). The woodland pattern combat utility uniform was first made available to selected commands on 17 January 2002. The combat utility uniform will gradually replace the camouflage utility uniform until it becomes the only utility uniform worn as of 1 October 2006.

At the far left is a male major in the desert pattern combat utility uniform, with sleeves rolled up, as typically seen in garrison during the summer season. Wearing of undershirts

is optional for the individual, unless otherwise prescribed by the commander for uniformity. Shown with this uniform is a standard olive green cotton undershirt, which is the only type undershirt that may be worn with the utility uniform. The Marine Corps emblem is embroidered on both the cap and left breast pocket in brown thread. Although black leather boots and the MCCB(TW) boots may be worn with this uniform, MCCB(HW) boots are shown.

Second from the left is a female first lieutenant also wearing the desert pattern combat utility uniform and MCCB(HW). The Interceptor outer tactical vest (OTV) in solid olive-mojave is shown with pistol holster and modular pouches attached in standard pistol configuration. The combat utility uniform garrison cap may be worn in the field at the commander's discretion. The personal armor system ground troops (PASGT) kevlar helmet has a reversible helmet cover, with desert pattern side out. The Marine Corps emblem shown on the helmet cover is a black iron-on decal instead of embroidered. Also shown is the AN/PSN-11 precision lightweight global positioning system receiver (PLGR) and the M4 gas mask inside carrier fastened by waist and leg straps. Although shown centered on the front closure flap, actual placement of insignia on organizational clothing and equipment may vary with the commander. Subdued insignia of grade may be prescribed for wear in the field, with black Subdued insignia substituting silver garrison insignia and brown Subdued insignia substituting gold garrison insignia.

The figure in the center is a male sergeant in full combat dress and is carrying an M16A2 rifle with mounted AN/PEQ-2 infrared laser target pointer. The woodland pattern combat utility uniform is shown with the MCCB(TW) boots, although black leather boots and the MCCB(HW) boots are also authorized. Modular pouches

are mounted in rifleman configuration on the fighting load carrier (FLC), which is worn over the OTV. On his back is the modular lightweight load carrying equipment (MOLLE) systems pack. These organizational issue items may be worn with either desert or woodland camouflage patterns, as the commander may prescribe. The PASGT helmet is shown with reversible helmet cover, woodland pattern out, and with four-point chinstrap. Mounted on the helmet is the AN/PVS-14 night vision monocular, which allows the Marine to see in low light conditions and to identify infrared targeting.

The second figure from the right is a male lance corporal in woodland pattern combat utility uniform with FLC arranged in grenadier configuration. The weapons shown is the M16A2 rifle with M203 grenade launcher mounted. The combat utility field hat, like the combat utility garrison cap, has embroidered in black thread the Marine Corps emblem. A patrol pack, detached from the MOLLE system, is worn as a substitute for the main pack. A drinking tube leading from a hydration system in the patrol pack is attached to the FLC for single-handed access, although canteens are also worn in reserve. Shown with this uniform are the MCCB(TW) boots.

A female gunnery sergeant in the woodland pattern combat utility uniform is at the far right. The crew-neck service sweater may be worn under the utility coat at the option of the individual. The name and service tapes have embroidered lettering in black thread on a camouflage background, and the Marine Corps emblem on the left breast pocket is also embroidered in black thread. Black insignia of grade is worn by enlisted for both garrison and the field. Shown on the outer ankle of the MCCB(TW) boots is the Marine Corps emblem heat embossed into the leather, done in the same manner as for the hot weather boots.

