4.1. **Service Uniform.** The phrase “service uniform” refers to all combinations of the *service dress coat*, the lightweight *blue jacket*, the *long and short-sleeved shirt/blouse*, the *blue trousers/skirt*, the *blue herringbone tie/tie tab*, and their required accoutrements (*nametag*, *soft/hard rank insignia*, *ribbons*, *badges*, etc.). This uniform is also known as “blues.” The service uniform is the official uniform for AFROTC training. It is issued to all cadets upon entry into the AFROTC program. The following are the only approved combinations of the service uniform:

4.1.1. **Short-sleeved Shirt/Blouse Combination.** During warmer months, cadets will wear this combination. This uniform consists of the *short-sleeved blue shirt/blouse* and the *blue trousers/skirt*. The *blue herringbone tie/tie tab* is optional. *Soft rank insignia* is worn on the *epaulets* and the *blue plastic nametag* is worn. *Ribbons*, *badges*, and *shoulder cords* are optional, with the exception of *cadet aeronautical* *badges*, which are mandatory.

4.1.2. **Long-sleeved Shirt/Blouse Combination.** During colder months, cadets will wear this combination. This uniform consists of the *long-sleeved shirt/blouse* and the *blue trousers/skirt*. The *blue herringbone tie/tie tab* is mandatory. *Soft rank insignia* is worn on the *epaulets* and the *blue plastic nametag* is worn. *Ribbons*, *badges*, and *shoulder cords* are optional, with the exception of *cadet aeronautical* *badges*, which are mandatory.

4.1.3. **Service Dress Uniform.** This uniform combination is also worn during colder months or at semi-formal to formal events. This uniform consists of the *service dress coat*, the *short/long-sleeved blue shirt/blouse*, and the *blue trousers/skirt*. The *blue herringbone tie/tie tab* is mandatory. *Ribbons and badges earned* must be worn on the service dress coat. *Soft rank insignia* is worn on the *epaulets* of both the service dress coat and the shirt/blouse. The *blue plastic nametag* is worn on the shirt/blouse. Cadet officers wear the *silver service dress nametag* on the service dress coat in addition to the *blue plastic nametag* on their shirt/blouse underneath. Cadet airmen wear no service dress nametag. *Shoulder cords* will be worn if authorized. The *US lapel insignia* must be worn, and is placed halfway up the seam of the *service dress coat*, resting on but not over it. Bottom of *insignia* is horizontal with the ground (see figure below).
4.1.4. Short/Long-sleeved Shirt/Blouse with Lightweight Blue Jacket Combination. This uniform consists of the lightweight blue jacket with either the short or long-sleeved shirt/blouse combinations.

4.1.4.1. When worn, lightweight blue jacket must be zipped up at least halfway.

4.1.4.2. It may be worn with civilian clothes when hard rank insignia is removed.

4.1.4.3. The AF Symbol is optional. It may be embroidered on the left side at members cost, but if it is, it is not authorized to be worn with civilian clothes.

4.1.4.4. Women may wear the male version of the lightweight blue jacket.

4.1.4.5. Cadets may wear the lightweight blue jacket over the pullover sweater, however, the pullover sweater must not be exposed.

4.1.4.6. Jackets may be worn with or without the insulated liner.

4.1.4.7. Jackets are authorized to be worn indoors.

4.1.4.8. Wear hard rank insignia centered on both epaulets 5/8ths-inch from the shoulder seam. Cadet officers will wear the metallic black and silver cadet officer rank insignia with the silver stripes parallel to the shoulder seam (see figure below). Cadet airmen will wear the metallic blue and silver rank insignia with the point toward the neck.

4.1.4. Semi-Formal Dress Uniform (Modified Mess Dress Uniform). This combination is worn in lieu of a mess dress at formal events. This uniform consists of the service dress uniform (as prescribed above) with a long-sleeved white oxford shirt/blouse (no button-down collar) in place of the light blue shirt/blouse. Male cadets will wear the blue herringbone tie and females will wear the blue herringbone tie tab that they would wear with their service dress uniform. No headgear will be worn with this uniform combination. White shirts/blouses will be purchased at the expense of the cadet.
4.2. **Service Uniform Headgear.** When outdoors, cadets will wear the flight cap with diamond braid with all combinations of the service uniform, except when wearing the semi-formal dress uniform or during certain activities listed in the “Color Guard, Honor Guard, and Drill Team Instructions” portion of this manual.

4.2.1 Cadet officers will be issued a “Prop & Wings” flight cap insignia upon satisfactory completion of Field Training (FT) and entrance into the Professional Officer Course (POC). They will wear the insignia on the left side of the flight cap, vertically centered, with the front edge of the wings 1-1/2 inches from the front of the flight cap. See figure below. Cadet officers are only authorized to wear the gold/silver combination “Prop & Wings” (gold wings and silver propeller) if a relative was a member of the Army Air Corps, if a parent has at least 20 years of military service, if a parent died in the line of duty, or if a parent participated in active combat as a member of any U.S. military service.

4.2.2. When not wearing the flight cap, it should be tucked under the belt on the left side between the first and second belt loop with the front edge of the flight cap hanging down and insignia (if applicable) visible. The opening of the flight cap should be toward the outside. The flight cap should not be seen above the belt. (See figures below)

4.3. **Additional Instructions.**

4.3.1 While males only have one version each of the long and short-sleeved shirts, females have both a “tuck-in” version and an “over-blouse” version. Only female cadet officers may wear the “over-blouse” version. However, only the “tuck-in” style shirt will be issued to female cadets at government expense. Therefore, if female cadet officers wish to wear the “over-blouse” version they must purchase it at their own expense. Note:
Female cadets may be required to tuck in over-blouses in formation or during inspections as the detachment commander directs.

4.3.2 *Soft rank insignia* will be used on the epaulets of the *service dress coat*, *long- and short-sleeved shirts/blouses*, and the *pullover or cardigan sweater*. The epaulets are inserted into the *soft rank insignia* and buttoned. The bottom edge of the *soft rank insignia* must be as close as possible to the upper seam of the sleeve. The different soft rank insignias are below:

![Soft Rank Insignia Diagram](image)

4.3.3 **Blue Plastic Nametag.** The *blue plastic nametag* is worn on the *long- or short-sleeved shirt/blouse* on the wearer’s right. Males wear centered above and resting on the right breast pocket. Females wear centered on right side even with or up to 1½ inches higher or lower than the first exposed button.

4.3.4 **Silver Service Dress Nametag.** One *silver service dress nametag* will be issued to each cadet officer in conjunction with the “*Prop & Wings*” *flight cap insignia* issue upon satisfactory completion of FT and entrance into the POC. The *nametag* is worn centered on the wearer's right side of the *service dress coat* with the bottom of the *nametag* level with the bottom of the *ribbons*. Cadet officers also wear the *silver nametag* on the *pullover sweater* centered on the wearer’s right. Cadet airmen will not wear the *silver nametag* on either the *service dress* or the *pullover sweater*.

4.3.5 **Shoulder Cords.** Wear *shoulder cords* on the left shoulder of the *service uniform*. Only one *shoulder cord* may be worn at a time. *Shoulder cords* should be worn grounded to the upper seam of the sleeve. When this is not practical, they may be worn attached to
the button of the epaulet. Shoulder cords authorized for wear are Arnold Air Society (AAS) or Silver Wings (SW), Color/Honor Guard and Drill Team, Scabbard and Blade, and Pershing Rifles (may only be worn while participating in Pershing Rifles activities). No other shoulder cords are authorized for wear.

4.3.6. Wear of Awards and Decorations.

4.3.6.1. Shirts/Blouses. Unless otherwise directed by the detachment commander, ribbons are optional on shirts/blouses. For male shirts, ribbons will be centered on and flush on the top edge of the left breast pocket. For female blouses, ribbons will be centered on the left side of the blouse, parallel to the ground. Align the bottom the ribbons with the bottom of the nametag.

4.3.6.2. Male and Female Service Dress Jackets. Ribbons and badges are mandatory for wear on the service dress jacket. Ribbons will be worn centered on and flush with the top edge of the welt pocket.

4.3.6.3. If ribbons are worn, whether on the service dress jacket or shirt/blouse, cadets must wear all of the ribbons they have earned.

4.3.6.4. Staggering of ribbons with 3 or 4 to a row is authorized when necessary to avoid unprofessional appearance. Refer to AFI 36-2903, Figure 4.3. and Table 4.2. for further guidance.

4.3.6.5. Refer to AFROTCI 36-2020 for ribbon award criteria. See AFROTCVA 36-3 for precedence.

4.3.6.6. See AFROTCI 36-2020, Attachment 5 for instruction on the use of ribbon devices.

4.3.6.7. See AFROTCI 36-2020 for wear authorization for specific active duty awards and awards from other organizations.

BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM (BDU) INSTRUCTIONS

5.2 Battle Dress Uniform. The battle dress uniform consists of a brown undershirt, a camouflage blouse, a pair of camouflage trousers, and their required accoutrements (sew-on nametag, sew-on U.S. Air Force tape, metallic rank insignia, etc.). While there are currently no printed regulations for the Airman’s Battle Uniform (ABU), we will assume that they are the same as the BDU. Therefore, for each reference to BDUs, apply the same rules for the ABU.

5.2.1. BDUs will be configured with sewn-on name and U.S. Air Force tapes. These cloth tapes specify our service, “U.S. Air Force,” and the military member’s surname. Tape is approximately 6 1/4 inches long and 1 inch wide with 3/4-inch lettering. The “U.S. Air Force” tape is placed over the left pocket, while the name tape is placed over the right pocket. Make no deviations to the USAF/Name tapes. EXCEPTION: Use smaller letters to fit name within standard tape length. The tape color will correspond to the particular utility uniform.
5.2.2. Cadet officers will wear *metallic black and silver officer rank insignia* centered on the left and right collar, one inch from the front of the collar, with the silver stripe(s) perpendicular to the front of the collar. (See figure below).

![Metallic black and silver officer rank insignia](image1)

5.2.3. Cadet airmen will wear *metallic blue and silver Cadet Fourth Class (C/4C) or Cadet Third Class (C/3C) insignia* centered on the left and right collar so that the long edge of the insignia is parallel to and one inch from the front edge of the collar. (See figure below).

![Metallic blue and silver Cadet Fourth Class (C/4C) or Cadet Third Class (C/3C) insignia](image2)

5.3. **BDU Headgear.**

5.3.1. Cadets will wear the BDU cap with the BDUs. No insignia will be worn on the BDU cap.

5.3.2. Detachments may design a detachment ball cap for wear with the BDUs. Ball caps must be in compliance with Air Force policy, and must be approved by the detachment and region commander. If approved for wear, it may only be worn locally at the detachment. The detachment ball cap may not be worn with the PTU. No commutation or issue in kind funds may be expended for purchase of detachment ball caps. No insignia will be worn on the ball cap.

5.4. **BDU Field Jacket.** When weather warrants it, cadets are authorized to purchase and wear *BDU Field Jackets* either on top of or in place of their BDU blouses.

5.4.1. Wear metallic rank insignia on the BDU Field Jacket in accordance with (IAW) paragraphs 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 above.

5.4.2. BDU nametape and U.S. Air Force tapes will not be worn on the field jacket.
5.5. **Additional Instructions.**

5.5.1. With detachment commander approval and if purchased by the cadet, black turtlenecks are authorized to be worn in place of T-shirt during periods of inclement weather.

5.5.2. No other patches, badges, or accoutrements will be worn on the BDUs.

5.5.3. Socks worn with BDUs must be black. White socks are not authorized. (For ABUs, we assume that socks must be dark green).

**Physical Training Uniform (PTU) Instructions**

7.1. **Physical Training Uniform.** Two versions of the PTU presently exist. The first is the *old style gray t-shirt and gray shorts*, and the second is the *new style gray t-shirt and blue shorts*. Likewise, there is the *old style gray sweatshirt and gray sweat pants*, and the *new style blue warm-up jacket and blue warm-up pants*.

7.1.1. Cadets may choose to wear either the *old style PTU combination* or the *new style PTU combination*. However, when wearing either combination, cadets must not mix elements of clothing from one combination with elements of clothing from the other combination. For example, cadets can’t wear the *new style PTU shorts* with the *old style gray sweatshirt*, and cadets can’t wear the *old style gray sweat pants* with the *new style gray t-shirt*.

7.1.2. In addition to the *t-shirt and shorts*, cadets must wear *athletic shoes*, *white socks*, and *appropriate undergarments*. Cadets may wear any type of *athletic shoe* with all PTU combinations. *Socks* may be of any length and may contain small, conservative trademark logos.

7.1.3. The *sweat shirt/warm-up jacket* and the *sweat pants/warm-up pants* may be worn together or separately with the *t-shirt and shorts*. However, the *sweat shirt/warm-up jacket* will not be worn without the *t-shirt* underneath, the *sweat pants/warm-up pants* will not be worn without the *shorts* underneath, and the *shorts* will not be worn without *appropriate undergarments*.

7.1.4. When worn, the *new style blue warm-up jacket* must be zipped up at least half way, and the *new-style blue warm-up pants* must be zipped at legs. The *hood* of the *new style blue warm-up jacket* must be stored and zipped when not worn.

7.1.5. Cadets may not alter the PTU in any way.

7.1.6. Cadets must tuck *t-shirts* into *shorts*.

7.1.7. Cadets may wear *navy blue or black Spandex shorts* and *leggings* under *shorts*. *Full-length leggings* may be worn in cold weather periods.

7.1.8. Detachment commanders may establish local policy on the wear of *reflective wrist, arm or waist bands* with the PTU. Use Operational Risk Management (ORM) considerations.
7.1.9. Detachment commanders may, during cold or inclement weather, approve local wear of black “watch” caps with the PTU if purchased by the cadet. Detachment ball caps designed IAW paragraph 5.3.2. above will not be worn with the PTU. Also, the BDU cap will not be worn with the PTU.

7.1.10. Detachment commanders may, in exceptionally cold or inclement weather, authorize wear of the BDU field jacket and other cold weather items, such as gloves or scarves, with the PTU.

7.1.11. No PTU item, except the new style blue warm-up jacket, may be worn with civilian clothes. And even then, the jacket may be worn with civilian clothes only during AFROTC-sponsored activities as defined in AFROTCI 36-2017, paragraph 3.1.2.

7.1.12. Female cadets exercising in the PTU may wear their hair free of pins or other accessories normally required to meet uniform standards.

7.1.13. The detachment commander will use ORM considerations when deciding whether or not to allow cadets to wear jewelry with PTUs during PT sessions. If worn, jewelry will follow normal uniform rules.

7.1.14. Cadets are not required to render salutes while in PTUs.

7.2. Events Authorized for Wear of PTUs.

7.2.1 PTUs may only be worn during LLAB activities, physical training (PT), or other physical activities specifically designated by the detachment commander, to include individual PT.

7.2.2 Detachment commanders will not permit cadets to wear any PTU combination to detachment events (LLAB, etc) where the rest of the cadet corps is wearing either blues or BDUs. In this case, when a cadet has not yet been issued blues or BDUs, he/she will wear appropriate civilian attire.

7.2.3 If cadets wear the PTU during individual PT sessions, they must wear the uniform in accordance with prescribed directives to ensure they do not bring discredit to the AFROTC program or the US Air Force.

**FLIGHT DRESS UNIFORM (FDU AKA FLIGHT SUIT) INSTRUCTIONS**

6.1. Cadets Authorized Wear of FDUs.

6.1.1. Only cadets categorized as pilots, navigators, or Air Battle Managers may be issued FDUs for regular wear.

6.1.2. Cadets designated as Space and Missile candidates are not authorized wear of FDUs.

6.2. Events Authorized for Wear of FDUs.
6.2.1. AFROTC Flight Orientation Program (FOP). If available in the inventory, FDUs may be worn by cadets participating in the AFROTC FOP during the duration of their flight only. FDUs must be issued immediately before and returned immediately after the training. Wear of the Aircrew Style Name Patch (ASNP) is not required for wear by cadets participating in AFROTC FOP when worn for single flights and returned to inventory. If FDUs are not available in the inventory, cadets will wear BDUs for AFROTC FOP participation. If cadets have not been issued BDUs and combat boots, the service uniform will be worn. Early issue of BDUs and combat boots is not authorized for AFROTC FOP participation.

6.2.2. Recruiting. If authorized by the detachment commander, cadets authorized wear of FDU in paragraph 6.1.1. above are authorized to wear FDUs for recruiting events. Membership on a “Recruiting Team” does not automatically authorize a cadet on-going wear of FDUs.

6.2.3. Professional Development Training (PDT). If available in the inventory, cadets may be issued FDUs for participation in Flight Awareness Summer Training (FAST), USAFA FreeFall, USAFA Soaring, and Operation Air Force selections to bases with fighter aircraft. FDUs must be returned immediately upon completion of training.

6.2.4. FDUs may not be worn for any other purpose unless approved by AFROTC/DO.

6.3. Configuration. The following instructions apply to wear of the FDU by AFROTC cadets:

6.3.1. FDUs will be configured with the ASNP. The ASNP will be configured as follows (text lines justified to the left and right):

- Cadet Aeronautical Badge centered above name line
- First line: “FIRST NAME MI LAST NAME” (No nicknames allowed)
- Second line: “CADET AFROTC” (Justify CADET to the left and AFROTC to the right).

6.3.1.1. Cadets categorized as ABM will not wear an aeronautical badge. First and Second Lines will be centered on the patch.

6.3.1.2. Cadets authorized wear of the FDU and who have earned the Parachutist Badge (whether through the USAFA Freefall program, Army Airborne Training, or other prior service qualifications) may have them placed on their ASNP, centered between the Cadet Aeronautical Badge (if applicable) and above the name line. Cadets who wish to have this added to an existing patch must do so at their own expense.

6.3.1.3. Cloth, colored ASNPs may be worn if approved by the detachment commander and purchased by the cadet. Cloth ASNPs will be configured exactly like leather ASNPs. No distinctive school markings are authorized. Cloth ASNPs will have two contrasting colors: one color for the background, and a contrasting color for the rim and embroidery. Colors used will be determined by the detachment commander and be consistent throughout the detachment for cadets wearing cloth ASNPs. Detachment commanders may not mandate that cloth ASNPs be worn, since the cloth ASNP is purchased at the cadet’s expense.
NOTE: Do not replace the ASNP solely because it does not meet the provisions of this paragraph, but ensure any new ASNP meet these requirements.

6.3.2. The *AFROTC patch* (cadet version with light blue background) will be worn on the right breast pocket of the FDU between the diagonal pocket zipper and the main zipper. The *U.S. Flag patch* will be worn on the left shoulder. A *detachment patch*, if available, may be worn on the right shoulder. Cadets will not wear the *Air Education and Training Command (AETC) patch*.

6.3.2.1. All patches must be attached to the flight suit by the use of velcro. Do not sew any patches on the flight suit.

6.3.2.2. No other patches, badges, or accoutrements will be worn on the FDU.

6.3.3. FDUs must be worn with authorized *black combat boots*.

6.3.4. *Cadet rank insignia* will not be worn on the FDU.

6.3.5. FDUs will not be worn unless all required patches and insignia are available. This includes the AFROTC patch, the U.S. Flag Patch, and the ASNP. **Exception:** Per paragraph 6.2.1., the ASNP is not required for wear by cadets participating in AFROTC FOP when worn for single flights and returned to inventory.

6.4. **Headgear.**

6.4.1. Cadets will wear the *diamond braided flight cap* with appropriate *insignia* with the FDU. *Flight cap* will be stored in the lower cargo pocket on the left leg when not worn.

6.4.2. Detachment commanders may approve wear of the *black “watch” cap* with the FDU only while operating on a flight line during extremely cold or inclement weather if purchased by the cadet.

6.5. **Additional Instructions.**

6.5.1. Issue FDUs to authorized cadets (see paragraph 6.1.) at the beginning of the AS 400 year, or immediately upon notification of categorization selection if currently enrolled in AS 400 or later.

6.5.2. Authorized cadets may wear FDUs in lieu of BDUs unless training requirements or the detachment commander dictate otherwise. Cadets will wear BDUs if FDUs are unavailable.

6.5.3. Requests for FDUs for authorized cadets must be made through the region to AFROTC/DOSL. Regions will attempt to meet FDU requirements from within the region whenever possible. Requests for new FDUs will be based only upon those authorized in paragraph 6.1.

6.5.4. **Non-AFROTC Provided FDUs.** FDUs obtained from sources other than HQ AFROTC may only be worn if deemed in serviceable condition and of the appropriate style by the detachment commander. Once identified as such, FDUs will be counted in the inventory of detachment FDUs. Wear policy is the same as listed in paragraphs 6.1. and 6.2. above.
6.5.5. **Scarves.** Detachment scarves are authorized. Color of scarves will be determined by the detachment commander and consistent with university colors.

6.5.6. When wearing FDUs, sleeves will be worn at full length (not pushed up). The FDU front zipper will be closed within approximately 3 inches of the neckline. All pockets will be zipped and all pocket items will remain concealed.

6.5.7. T-shirts worn will be IAW paragraphs 3.3.1.4 and 3.3.8.

6.7.8. AFROTC does not provide flight jackets for wear, therefore, there is no authorized jacket to be worn with the FDU. If weather is such that wear of the FDU without a jacket is not practicable, cadets should wear BDUs. **EXCEPTION:** If serviceable Air Force authorized nomex flight jackets are available in the detachment inventory from non-AFROTC sources, they may be issued to cadets for wear. Flight jackets will not be worn unless all required patches and insignia are available. This includes the AFROTC patch, the U.S. Flag Patch, and the ASNP (additional ASNPs must be purchased at the expense of the cadet).

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**COLOR GUARD, HONOR GUARD, AND DRILL TEAM WEAR INSTRUCTIONS**

8.1. **Definitions.** In order to ensure all detachments have the same understanding of what constitutes these organizations, the following definitions are provided.

8.1.1. **Color Guard.** Color Guards are small (typically 3-8 person) teams that form to carry the flags/colors and present them at such activities as sporting events, parades, and other formal ceremonies, such as military balls. These teams may also participate in Color Guard competitions at drill meets.

8.1.2. **Honor Guard.** Honor Guards are small (typically 3-8 person) teams that are very similar to Color Guards, except they may or may not carry flags. They are formed to honor something or someone, such as at funerals, veterans’ ceremonies, etc. This may include flag raising/lowering details.

8.1.3. **Drill Team.** Drill Teams are normally larger teams (though sometimes as small as a color/honor guard) that do not carry flags, except possibly a flight guidon. They may drill with or without weapons. They are formed to perform for events such as parades or exhibitions, or to compete in Drill Team competitions at drill meets.

8.2. **Cadets and Events Authorized for Uniform Wear.** Cadets participating in detachment sanctioned Color Guards, Honor Guards, and Drill Teams may wear their uniforms while preparing for, performing, or coming from performing Color/Honor Guard or Drill Team duties.

8.3. **Additional Instructions.**

8.3.1. Color/Honor Guard members and Drill Team members will wear the following items as part of the Color/Honor Guard and Drill Team uniform. If funding is available, purchase the following special items using commutation funds (see AFOATS1 65-102) or IIK funds. Detachments are not specifically funded for Color/Honor Guards or Drill Teams, therefore, funding must come from available commutation or IIK funds, personal
expense, or other legal sources of funding. See AFOATSI 65-102 for guidance on commutation funds. IIK units must request approval from AFROTC/DOS prior to purchasing new uniform items under this paragraph. Variations to this uniform are not authorized unless approved by AFROTC/DOS. Color/Honor Guard and Drill Team uniforms will consist of the following:

8.3.1.1. The service dress uniform is worn by all members of the Color/Honor Guard or Drill Team.

8.3.1.2. USAF ceremonial service (wheel) cap with silver rimmed visor, silver front chin strap, and black rear chin strap. Wear the USAF Honor Guard “Wing and Star” service cap insignia.

8.3.1.3. Single strand white shoulder cord.

8.3.1.4. USAF ceremonial web belt (blue with silver trim) with chrome buckle emblazoned with “Wing and Star” insignia.

8.3.1.5. White gloves. (Detachments may purchase white gloves with grip face for better hold of weapons and flags.)

8.3.1.6. Purchase white flag holders as needed.

8.3.1.7. No ascots, berets, or any other item not specified in this paragraph will be worn.

8.3.1.8. Female cadets participating in Color/Honor Guards or Drill Teams will wear the male service cap.

8.3.1.9. If desired, Drill Teams may alter the service dress uniform to remove ribbons and badges to present a standardized appearance by all drill team members during competition. All other insignia must be worn. Color/Honor Guards will not alter the uniform in this manner.

8.3.2. Color/Honor Guard uniform items will be issued out on AF Form 538, Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, to the individual cadet and should be turned in when the cadet no longer participates as an active member of the Color/Honor Guard or Drill Team.