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HEADQUARTERS, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
BUILDING 28000 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TX 76544

AFVA-CG

28 July 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) Concerning the Wear and Appearance of the CAV Hat and Spurs within the 1st Cavalry Division (1CD)

1. **PURPOSE:** This MOI defines the general guidelines concerning the wear and appearance of the CAV Hat and Spurs.
2. **APPLICABILITY:** This MOI applies to all personnel, military and DA civilians assigned or attached to 1CD.

3. BACKGROUND

a. **CAV HAT.** The modern era tradition of the CAV Hat, often referred to as "the Stetson," began in the early days before the Vietnam War. The 11th Air Assault Division's Cavalry Scout pilots adopted the Model 1876 campaign hat as a symbol of their cavalry spirit. By the time the 11th Air Assault Division was reflagged as the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile), the members of the Air Cav Squadron, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, commanded by LTC John B. Stockton, were all wearing the hat. Lieutenant Colonel Stockton transferred the CAV Hat tradition to the entire 1st Cavalry Division (1CD) in Vietnam. By the end of the Vietnam War, many air and ground cavalry units were wearing the Stetson. The tradition was continued after Vietnam and has become the standard for all Cavalry units in the Army.

b. The Department of the Army classifies the CAV Hat and Order of the Spur as an "Army tradition." As such, regulations for the awarding of the CAV Hat, Spurs, as well as the wear of Cavalry accoutrements, can be set by a cavalry unit commander. Consequently, lacking any Army-wide regulations, this document provides instructions for all personnel assigned to the 1CD on the proper wear and authorization of such items. Veteran Cavalry Troopers may find some standards differing slightly from previous units, but the spirit and traditions embodied in this memorandum remain the same.

4. POLICY.

- a. Who may wear the CAV Hat?

(1) All personnel, military and DA civilians assigned or attached to the 1CD.

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b. Appearance and proper wear of the CAV Hat.

(1) The CAV Hat will be the standard black Cavalry Hat, Stetson or other appropriate brand, with a 3-inch brim.

(a) The hat will present a clean, neat appearance at all times.

(b) The hat will be blocked or formed so that the front and rear of the brim are either straight or slightly turned down.

(c) The crown crease should remain as manufactured. Dimples toward the front of the hat are acceptable, so long as they are not creased and present a neat appearance.

(2) The black leather chin strap is required for wear. The chin strap will be worn behind the wearer's head unless mounted. When mounted, the chin strap may be worn under the chin to maintain the hat's position on the head.

(3) Hat cords will be worn by all personnel according to rank.

(a) General officers will wear solid gold hat cords.

(b) Company and field grade officers will wear black and gold hat cords.

(c) Warrant officers (excluding CW5) will wear black and silver hat cords; CW5's will wear solid silver hat cords.

(d) All enlisted Troopers and NCOs will wear the Cavalry Yellow cord.

(e) Authorized civilians employed by the 1CD will wear cords commensurate with their civil service rating.

(f) Hat cords from modern era are the only authorized cords for Troopers in uniform. The cord will not extend beyond the edge of the brim of the CAV Hat. Cords may be knotted, but in no way are required to distinguish combat service.

(4) Crossed Sabers and rank insignia are the only accouterments authorized on the front of the hat within the 1CD. These are worn centered on the front of the hat. Rank is worn over the crossed sabers insignia evenly spaced between the top of the hat and the top of the bow ribbon. Branch insignia may be worn as one of three pins authorized on the back of the hat. The Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI), more commonly referred as unit crest may be worn centered on the back of the hat. The other two pins on the back are at the wearer's discretion. All active duty and DA civilians assigned to the 1CD will only wear the Unit Crest of the unit they are

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currently assigned.

(5) Nothing will be worn on the side of the CAV Hat.

(6) The CAV Hat and Spurs will be worn for the appropriate occasions. The hat may be worn at all official 1CD functions (i.e. promotions, parades, Stable Calls, or formals, as directed and authorized by the Commanding Officer of the formation). The hat will be the headgear of the day in the 1CD on the last workday of each week.

(a) The CAV Hat may not be worn at formations or other functions where the prescribed headgear is the beret or patrol cap only.

(b) The CAV Hat may not be worn during vehicle maintenance.

(c) The CAV Hat may not be worn during field training exercises. It may be worn during deployments for special events.

(d) The CAV Hat may not be worn during the consumption of indoor meals.

(e) The CAV Hat may be worn to but not inside of a chapel or an area designated for worship during indoor memorial or religious services. The CAV Hat may be worn for outdoor services and at facilities for non-religious events such as 1CD unit functions.

(f) The CAV Hat should be removed when indoors in accordance with US Army headgear regulations, unless it is in conjunction with a ceremony, Stable Call, or unit function.

(g) When in civilian clothing, the CAV Hat may be worn at the wear's discretion. When wearing the CAV Hat with civilian attire, the wearer should remain mindful and take great precaution to not bring discredit upon the Army, the 1CD, the CAV Hat, and the traditions they symbolize.

(h) During invocations or ceremonies, participants may follow the example of the person delivering the invocation in order to determine whether the headgear should remain in place or be removed. Those participating in the ceremony will not remove their headgear; rather they will slowly bow their heads with headgear in place.

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c. Who is authorized to wear the Spurs?

(1) There are two different categories of Spurs awarded in the 1CD: Silver and Gold. Neither Spurs are an entitlement for serving within this Division and must be earned. The "Order of the Spur" will not be awarded to any Trooper based on arbitrary or meritless criteria such as rank, time in service, branch, or ability to endure hazing or other degrading behavior. Rather, Troopers must first be in good standing within their formation (i.e. have no incidents of misconduct, record of adverse actions, or failures in obtaining basic army standards) and then "earn" the right to wear Cavalry Spurs through their demonstrated proficiency at both technical and tactical skills expected of Troopers assigned to this Division. Units will catalogue by name rosters (including signatures) of all Spur Holders (Silver and Gold) in a suitable log book. Units will maintain the deployment orders for all Gold Spur Holders.

(2) Each Brigade will establish a leader certification program to award the Silver Spurs which assesses and measures the warrior skills a Cavalry Trooper should possess for their MOS/Branch of Service, as well as their overall physical fitness. The program will be called "Spur Ride" and will adhere to AR 600-20. All Spur Candidates will be treated with dignity and respect at all times - Hazing is not authorized. Spur Certificates will be presented during a suitable ceremony which reflects the achievement of the Trooper. Units down to battalion level will produce and design their own Spur Certificate signed by the commander and CSM.

(3) Troopers may lose the right to wear the Spurs if they fail to remain in good standing such as demonstrating an act of indiscipline. All Troopers assigned or attached to a Cavalry unit such as the 1CD are authorized to earn and wear the Spurs.

(4) The Gold Spurs, often referred to as "Combat Spurs" are awarded to Troopers during combat deployments. It is encouraged that all Troopers participate in a Spur Ride, earning the right to wear Spurs regardless of color. Brigades may modify the "Spur Ride" during deployments based on available resources and time constraints; however, discipline is a must. Neither Silver nor Gold Spurs are more prestigious than the other. The wearer may choose to wear the Spurs they have earned as long as they match.

(5) The Spurs can be worn with or without the CAV Hat. The standard Spur worn is the "Prince of Wales" Spur (no rowel). The models with rowel: M1859, M1872, M1874, and M1885 Cavalry Spurs may be worn as an alternate style. The strap may be black or tan. Civil War "Eagle's Head" or "Horse's Head" Spurs are authorized, but personal "Cowboy" or "Western" Spurs are not authorized for wear in uniform.

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(a) The "rowel-less" M1911 Spur or Prince of Wales model spur are the more traditional 20th Century form of Cavalry spur, featuring a short neck and no rowel at the end. In other cavalry units, Troopers who have earned spurs may be authorized to wear spurs that feature rowels at the end. See enclosure 1 and enclosure 2 for authorized Cavalry Spurs.

(b) When worn with Low Quarters: The spurs will be affixed to the footgear midway between the upper portion of the sole and the lower part of the heel along the seam of the shoe. The U shaped portion shall enclose the shoe in such a manner as to assure that the neck of the spurs curves down to the ground. The strap will be fastened over the instep of the footgear in such a manner that the buckle faces to the outside of the foot. See enclosure 1 for authorized wear with Low Quarters.

(c) When worn with Boots: The spurs will be affixed to the footgear so that the U shaped portion follows the seam of the ankle support. The strap will be fastened over the instep of the footgear in such a manner that the buckles face the outside of the boot. See enclosure 1 for authorized wear with Boots.

5. The purchase of the CAV Hat or Spurs is an optional item which Troopers are not required to purchase. Troopers may purchase the CAV Hat or Spurs from any location that offers the headgear and Spurs in accordance with this MOI.

6. The Commanding General, 1CD, is the approval for all exceptions to this policy. Violations of this policy by Troopers could be subject to administrative actions and corrective training. Violations of this policy by DA civilians could result in the loss of the privilege to wear the CAV Hat on post while on duty.

7. The POC for this action is the Commanding General.


John B. Richardson IV
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Commanding