



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
BUILDING 28000, 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544

AFVA-CG

29 February 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) Concerning the Wear and Appearance of the CAV Hat and Spurs

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 Troopers and authorized Civilians in the Division.
3. BACKGROUND

a. "CAV HAT". The 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. By the time the 11th Air Assault Division was reflagged the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile), 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Division, commanded by LTC John B. Stockton, were all wearing the hat. Lieutenant Colonel Stockton transferred the "CAV Hat" tradition to the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. By the end of the Vietnam War, many air and ground units were wearing the hat. 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 assigned to the 1ST Cavalry Division on the proper wear and authorization of such items. Veteran Cavalry Troopers may find that some standards differ slightly from previous units, but the spirit and traditions embodied in this policy memorandum remain the same.

4. POLICY

- a. Who may wear the "CAV Hat"?

(1) All personnel, military and DA civilians, assigned or attached to 1st Cavalry Division units.

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. Owners of 4-inch brims will be allowed to retain their previously procured headgear; however, all personnel purchasing a "CAV Hat" after 1 June 2007 will only purchase and be allowed to wear the 3-inch brim hat.

(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 chinstrap may be worn under the chin to maintain the hat's position on the head.

(3) Hat cords shall be worn by all personnel according to rank or unit.

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

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

(c) Warrant officers will wear black and silver hat cords.

(d) All enlisted Troopers will wear the Cavalry Yellow cord, not based on their branch. Black hat cords are not authorized.

(e) Hat cords from modern era are the only authorized cords for Troopers in uniform. The cord will extend to the edge of the brim of the "CAV Hat". Cords may be knotted, but in no way are required to distinguish combat service. If knotted, the ends of the cord will still rest at the edge of the brim. Otherwise, replace the cord with a longer cord.

(4) Branch and rank insignia is worn centered on the front of the hat. Rank is worn above the branch insignia evenly spaced between the top of the hat and the top of the bow ribbon. Branch insignia includes standard or regimental branch insignia. Only metal branch insignia from the modern era are authorized. All Troopers, officers and civilians are authorized to wear Cavalry Cross Sabers as their branch insignia (wearer's preference). The distinctive unit insignia (DUI), more commonly referred as unit crest is worn centered on the back of the hat. Active duty and DA Civilians will only wear the Unit Crest (DUI) of the unit that they are currently assigned. They may wear up to two

additional items such as aviation wings, EIB, CIB, CAB, regimental crest, etc. based on the size of the badges. If two items are worn they must be similar in size to the DUI; one additional item if larger than the DUI. The unit crest will be worn above the items, evenly spaced.

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

(6) The "CAV Hat" and Spurs is to be worn only for the appropriate occasions. The hat may be worn at all official 1st Cavalry Division functions (i.e. promotions, parades, or formals, as directed and authorized by the Commanding General or Brigade Commander).

(a) The "CAV Hat" will not be worn outside of the Division area (i.e. PX, shoppette, and commissary) except at authorized events.

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

(c) The "CAV Hat" may not be worn during operations during vehicle maintenance or parking areas (e.g. motor pool).

(d) The "CAV Hat" may not be worn during field training exercises or to and from environmental leave (R&R) in combat. It may be worn during deployments for special events. The CAV Hat will be carried to and from the event and only worn at the event.

(e) The "CAV Hat" will not be worn at III Corps or Garrison sponsored functions unless directed by the Commanding General, III Corps.

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

(g) The "CAV Hat" may not be worn in a chapel or an area designated for worship during memorial or religious services. The "Cav Hat" may be worn at such facilities for non-religious events such as newcomer briefings and unit functions, however, the "Cav Hat" must be removed during invocations and benedictions.

(h) The "CAV Hat" will be removed when entering a residence, unless the head of the household is wearing a hat or the occasion mandates wear. Also, the "CAV Hat" should normally be removed when indoors just as the Beret is removed, unless it is in conjunction with a cavalry function or ceremonial event.

(i) The "CAV Hat" will be worn during the presentation and retiring of the colors.

(j) The "CAV Hat" may be worn in a smoking room or bar area during military functions. If a civilian establishment prohibits the wear of the hats then it must be removed.

(j) The "CAV Hat" is optional when dancing.

(k) When in civilian clothing, the "CAV Hat" may be worn at the wear's discretion. When wearing the "CAV Hat" with civilian attire, however the wearer should remain mindful and take great precaution to bringing discredit upon the Army, the 1st Cavalry Division, the "CAV Hat", and the tradition that they symbolize.

(l) During invocations, participants will 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 parade ceremonies will not remove their headgear; rather they will slowly bow their heads with headgear in place.

c. Who is authorized to wear the Spurs?

(1) There are two different categories of Spurs awarded in the 1st Cavalry Division: silver and gold. Neither Spurs are an entitlement for serving within this division. 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, and 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.

(2) Each Brigade will establish a program to award the Silver Spurs which assesses and measures the warrior skills a Cavalry Trooper should possess as well as their overall physical fitness. The program will be called "Spur Ride". The assessment may be executed over as short of a time period as 24 hours with required prerequisites or over a course of time up to three months and during the duty week. Hazing is not authorized. Units should conduct a "Spur Ride" twice a year to include during combat deployments. Spur Certificates should be presented during a suitable ceremony which reflects the achievement of the Trooper. Units 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 1st Cavalry Division are authorized to earn and wear the Spurs.

(4) The Gold Spurs, often referred to as "Combat Spurs" are awarded to deserving Troopers during combat deployments. Under previous policy the Combat Spurs were given away as a token and not earned thus allowing Troopers to wear

Spurs without meeting a standard and causing Trooper to not want to participate in a Spur Ride. This policy change now requires a Trooper to participate in a Spur Ride in order to have the right to wear Spurs, regardless of color. Neither the 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. The following is the criteria for awarding the "Combat Spurs".

(a) Trooper must have first earned the right to wear the "Silver Spurs" and be in good standings as a Cavalry Trooper. Serving in combat alone does not qualify a Trooper the right to wear or be awarded the Gold Spurs. Brigades may modify the "Spur Ride" during combat deployments based on available resources and time constraints. However, discipline is a must.

(b) Troopers must conduct two combat patrols or missions during the deployment to earn the right to wear Gold Spurs. Trooper must have conducted a movement outside the Forward Operating Base, Combat Outpost, or Camp to be considered a combat patrol or mission. The combat patrol or mission must have been by ground on foot or in a combat vehicle. Being transported by helicopter from one secure location to another (FOB to FOB) does not qualify. However, Troopers assigned to aviation units such as pilots or air crewmen with the primary duty is to fly combat mission do meet the requirement.

(c) Troopers which receive the CIB, CAB, CMB, or a valorous medal meet all requirements to be awarded the Gold Spurs. They are however encouraged to still conduct a Spur Ride to demonstrate their overall proficiency as a Cavalry Trooper.

(d) For Troopers that have been awarded the Gold Spurs during a previous deployment or from a previous unit and have not met the standards during a Spur Ride are encouraged to participate in a Spur Ride.

(5) The Spurs are worn with the "CAV Hat". The standard Spur worn is the "Prince of Wales" Spur. The strap may be black or tan.

(a) This model is a more traditional 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. However, the Prince of Wales Spur is the preferred model approved for standard wear in the 1ST Cavalry Division. Therefore, Prince of Wales Spurs is the appropriate choice for accomplished Cavalrymen such as those who make up the First Team. The 1859 Cavalry Spurs may be worn as an alternate style.

(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 rowel 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.

(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.

5. PURCHASING "CAV Hat" or Spurs

a. The purchase of the "CAV Hat" or Spurs is an optional item which Troopers are not required to purchase. The "CAV Hat" may be purchased from the 1ST Cavalry Association Chapter Souvenir Shop in the 1ST Cavalry Division Museum; however Troopers are not required to purchase from this vendor.

b. Troopers may purchase the "CAV Hat" or Spurs from any location that offers the headgear and Spurs as described above.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The Commanding General, 1ST Cavalry Division, is the approval for all exception to this policy. Violations of this policy by Troopers could be subject to UCMJ. Violations of this policy by DA civilians could result in the loss of the privilege to wear the "CAV Hat".

b. The POC for this action is the 1ST Cavalry Division Command Sergeant Major.



MAURICE JACKSON
CSM, USA
Division Command Sergeant Major



JOHN C. THOMSON III
Major General, US Army
Commanding

Enclosure 1



Enlisted Cord, Rank and Branch Centered



Officer Cord with assigned Distinctive Unit Crest (DUI)



Crest (DUI) plus two smaller awards



Crest (DUI) plus one smaller Award or larger such as Aviation Wings



1859 Cavalry Spur

Prince of Wales Spur



DUI with one larger award



Spur worn on boot