

Uniform Code for Dummies

It ain't hard to understand: There's rules to follow about wearing the Marine Corps League uniform and if there were none, we'd all look like a bunch of fly-boys with all kinds of doodads hanging from blouses 'n covers and such.

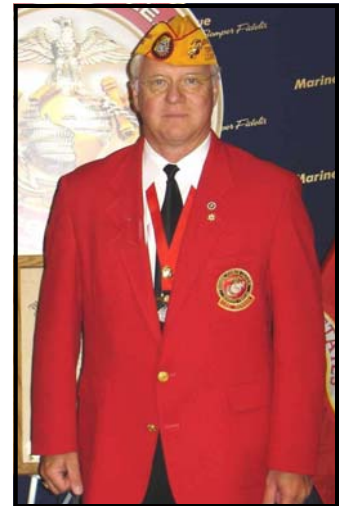


First, the **basic uniform** is the cover (that's the thing you put on your head.) It looks like this. The color for detachments is red, department officers wear red and gold and national officers wear gold (see pic below.) Simple. If you get to be National Commandant, you wear white, but don't worry about that for awhile. Nothing is pinned on there but the EGA on the left side with embroidered MCL logo. On the right is a strip (or embroidered on) stating detachment name and office held. If you're a life member you get another strip. If you're a Devil Dog, that patch goes on there, too, That's it. Don't you dare pin anything else on there or we'll laugh and giggle and point fingers at you. When you are wearing the cover you are in uniform. Everything else just makes you look better.

There are three types of full uniforms—**casual, summer undress, winter undress** and **formal**. (Undress doesn't mean no clothes.) The **casual uniform** looks like this picture. Look carefully, Steve is wearing the red blazer, with MCL crest on pocket, white shirt, black tie and black trousers,. The Devil Dog ribbon, with dog tag, is worn around the neck. (A MOY ribbon can be worn if you earned it; not together) There are just two pins on his lapel. (The full uniform code will tell you which ones) Up to three large medals may be worn with this uniform. (revision, 2008) Black belt with MC buckle or ratchet belt, black socks and black shoes, plain toe, (shiny) complete this uniform. Makes you look



proud to be a League member, doesn't it? Don't improvise. (There is no name tag, according to National)



Next one is the **summer undress**. You wear this one when it's too hot for the casual or when the Commandant says so. The short sleeve shirt is aviation style with epaulets and two flap pockets. The MCL sunbursts are worn on the collar.



(Remember, inboard and outboard. Anchors point left and right.) The MCL patch is worn on the left sleeve, and if you are a MODD member, you wear that patch on the right sleeve. (American flag, if you are not a Devil Dog). Either service ribbons *or* MCL ribbons, but not both and don't you dare mix 'em. Name tag goes over right pocket. Blue trousers with NCO red stripe or optional black trousers. With blue trousers, the USMC web belt is worn. MODD dog tag is optional. That's it.

Next uniform is the **winter undress**. Same rules apply, except the sleeves are long and a black tie is worn. (in the Old Corps, we called 'em field scarves) . Make sure the tie clasp is MC or MCL. Same rules for ribbons 'n such,.

Now comes the **formal uniform** There are two variations: The red blazer or the red mess jacket. With either one, a formal white shirt is worn. It is *pleated, no ruffles* and *regular collar*. Black military style bow tie (yes there is a difference.) and gold cummerbund or gold vest. Black tuxedo trousers or just plain black. New regulations adopted at the 2008 convention allow blue trousers with red NCO stripe to be worn with the red mess jacket but **NOT**



with the red blazer. Get it? Miniature medals are worn on the left lapel. Regulations say large medals may be worn with the mess jacket, but miniature medals on both uniforms look best. Remember, service or MCL but not both. The rest of the uniform is the same as all uniforms (shoes, etc.) If you follow pictures you can't go wrong. (except the name tag on the guy to the left. Jeez, we know who you are.. Remember, laughing, giggling and finger-pointing if you don't dress properly.)



There is one more variation uniform and it is called the **ceremonial uniform**. It is to be worn only at what the name implies— *ceremony*— as in color guard. It is not to be worn at meetings or gatherings of good ole boys. The uniform consists of khaki shirt, either short sleeve or long. Khaki tie with MC clasp with long sleeve. Sunbursts are worn on the collar and all the other patches that are worn on the white shirt. **Exception!— ONLY MCL ribbons are allowed on this uniform, not service!** Trousers are blue with NCO red stripe. (No black) Use discretion. When we were



Marines, we looked like Marines. Maybe we changed a bit as we got older and a little heavier. Let's not look too much like active duty Marines and make the public think the Marine Corps have lowered it's standards.

Female Members

All the same rules apply for female members as far as patches, medals 'n such. If you don't remember, go back and check.

Cover (remember, that thing goes on your head) may be female or male style. Still the basic uniform.

The Casual women's blazer is understandably a little different, with just two MCL buttons on the front and three on the sleeve. It is worn with a white USMC blouse or plain white shirt. Shown is black Marine Corps style cross-over **OR** tie, black with clasp. Black skirt should be straight (length 1-2" below knees, just like in the Corps). Trousers may be worn in lieu of skirt, if you're so inclined.

If you're wearing the dress blues with the casual uniform, the USMC style, long or short sleeves is preferably worn.

Shoes, black, plain toe, pumps (with skirt) or shoes, black, plain toe, women's oxfords with trousers. Hose, nylon, black with pumps or black socks with trousers. Here's where we really get you gals—earrings, optional (you choose) shall be white pearls or gold ball not bigger than 9mm. They gotta fit tight to the ear and no dangling below the earlobe



Associate members uniform code for both male and female have all the same restrictions with the following exceptions: The left sunburst is worn on the cover in lieu of the EGA and MCL insignia on collars, where applicable. Flag patch may be worn on right shoulder and the MCL Associate one on the left. No blazer crest has been approved yet. It's gotta be done at National Convention. Oh yeah, the dress blue trousers may be worn with undress and dress uniform but *without* the red NCO stripe.