

# Uniform Care Information

## General Storage:

- ❑ Empty pockets, remove belts, and hang with closures zipped.
- ❑ Coats should never be buttoned during any kind of storage.
- ❑ Hang the uniform on shaped or padded hangers, leaving lots of room around the garment.

## General Cleaning and Pressing:

- ❑ Refresh garments quickly after wearing or unpacking by hanging them in a steamy bathroom. Moisture from steam will remove wrinkles.
- ❑ Wear proper layers beneath the uniform to reduce the amount of perspiration that the uniform absorbs.
- ❑ Dry clean only when you have spots and stains, never for removing wrinkles.
- ❑ While military fabrics are color-fast and durable, harsh chemicals used in dry cleaning will fade and wear the fabric over time.

## Wool and Wool-Blend Garments:

- ❑ Never use an iron directly on wool fabric. Always use a cover cloth between the fabric and the iron.
- ❑ If wool gets wet, dry the garment at room temperature away from heat.
- ❑ Remove spots and stains promptly.
- ❑ Brush wool gently to remove surface soil. Use a damp sponge for finer fabrics.
- ❑ Give wool garments a 24-hour rest between wearings. Wool fibers will naturally shed wrinkles and will generally return to their original shape.
- ❑ Keep moths away by storing wool in an Intercept®-lined bag.

## Polyester Uniforms:

- ❑ Never use an iron directly on polyester fabric. Always use a cover cloth between the fabric and the iron.
- ❑ Remove spots and stains promptly using a damp sponge if possible.
- ❑ Give polyester garments a 24-hour rest between wearings.
- ❑ While most polyester items can be washed by machine, **never machine-wash** a military uniform because of acetate and other items used in the making of the uniform.

## Special Notes For Army Blue Mess Jacket:

- ❑ Frequent dry cleaning is especially harsh on the satin lapels.
- ❑ Dry clean only when spots or stains cannot be removed at home with a brush (for wool cloth) or a damp sponge (for satin).
- ❑ As a general rule, limit dry cleaning to once every three years.
- ❑ **Remove any bullion rank before dry cleaning.** The harsh chemicals will react with and discolor the bullion thread.

## Wool-fabric Hats:

- ❑ If the hat gets wet, dry the hat at room temperature away from heat.
- ❑ Remove spots and stains promptly.
- ❑ Brush fabric gently to remove surface soil; should this fail, use a damp sponge.
- ❑ Do not use a brush on the braid, but use a damp sponge only.

## Shoes:

- ❑ Use a high-quality polish for leather-upper shoes. Scuffs can generally be polished out.
- ❑ Exercise care while wearing high-gloss shoes. While there are some “Old-Soldier” tricks which we cannot endorse, scuffs in high-gloss shoes are generally permanent.
- ❑ Polyurethane soles must be worn at least every few months to keep the sole supple and to prevent the sole from breaking down.