# 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.
- 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.