

Policies and Wear of Uniform

References:

- a. Honor Guard Weapons Policy, Policy TNC 919-01-08, 16 January 2018.
- b. National Cemetery Administration Military Funerals Honors Safety, Human Capital Management Letter, No. 005-18-43F1.
- c. Army Regulation 670-1, 25 May 2017, especially Section 21-6. This section is included as Appendix A.
- d. VFW Manual of Procedure, Section 803, especially paragraphs **Uniforms** and **Uniform Patches and Pins**.

WEAPONS POLICY

Tahoma National Cemetery policy is that no Honor Guard weapons or ammunition will be unattended while on Cemetery ground. This includes the ready room, at a committal shelter storeroom or shelter. VFW Post 6785 policy is that rifle team members will maintain their weapon on their person or entrusted to a comrade. Ammunition will be stored in a locked vehicle and be issued as needed during our duty day. Weapons will be carried with safeties ON and never pointed at persons. The Honor Guard Chair, the rifle team leader and the member transporting weapons will ensure these policies are followed

New members of the rifle team will be provided with a copy of this policy and be trained in the safe handling of the rifles and ammunition. All members of the Honor Guard will also receive training in the methods of rendering honors and firing the three volleys, honoring the deceased veteran. This training will be conducted by the Honor Guard Chair, or the leader of the Rifle Team. Guidance from Army FM 3-21.5 (FM 22-5) Drill and Ceremonies will be the standard and can be found in Appendices C and D of the manual.

SAFETY POLICY

The Post Honor Guard will use the available committal shelter firing pads. The rifle team will half-face to avoid aiming the rifles at the committal shelters.

A Cemetery Representative will warn attendees of the loud nature of rifle fire. Post 6785 custom is to repeat the warning, especially noting children and older persons that the rifle fire will be very loud and that ears should be protected.

Shell casings presented to the next of kin are polished and checked for sharp edges. Any casings picked up and provided to attendees at their request should be checked for sharp edges, damage, and cleanliness, prior to being presented to any attendees.

All members of the Honor Guard rifle details should wear hearing protection, which are available at the ready room.

UNIFORM POLICY

The Post Honor Guard uniform will consist of black shoes, black socks, gray slacks, white shirt (provided) with US Flag and Tahoma National Cemetery shoulder patches, blue blazer (provided) with US Flag and Tahoma National Cemetery shoulder patches, black VFW necktie, and VFW garrison cap. In inclement weather, the Honor Guard wears a US Army-style raincoat, with US Flag and Tahoma National Cemetery shoulder patches (provided). For some National Cemetery honor ceremonies, a VFW broad brimmed hat (cowboy style) is worn, supplied with a scarlet hat cord. One is provided to each member. Additionally, the custom has been to provide each member a garrison cap that lists "Honor Guard" on the left side, with the beginning year of membership. Each member will be issued insignia, VFW and 6785 (three each); three scarlet cords (worn around the left sleeve of the shirt, jacket, and raincoat; and a scarlet bib-type scarf (worn at some ceremonials). Other pins related to Honor Guard duties may be issued, to be worn on the jacket. Appendix B shows diagrams of the shirt and jacket and placement of insignia. Appendix A is the authorization to wear earned ribbons and decorations from your military service. Purchase and wear of these items is at the member's discretion. The Honor Guard uniform is considered to be civilian clothing for these purposes. Uniforms are to be kept neat and clean. Remember wear of the uniform reflects on the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Color Guard uniform is essentially the same as Honor Guard.

APPENDICES

A. Excerpt from AR 670-1.

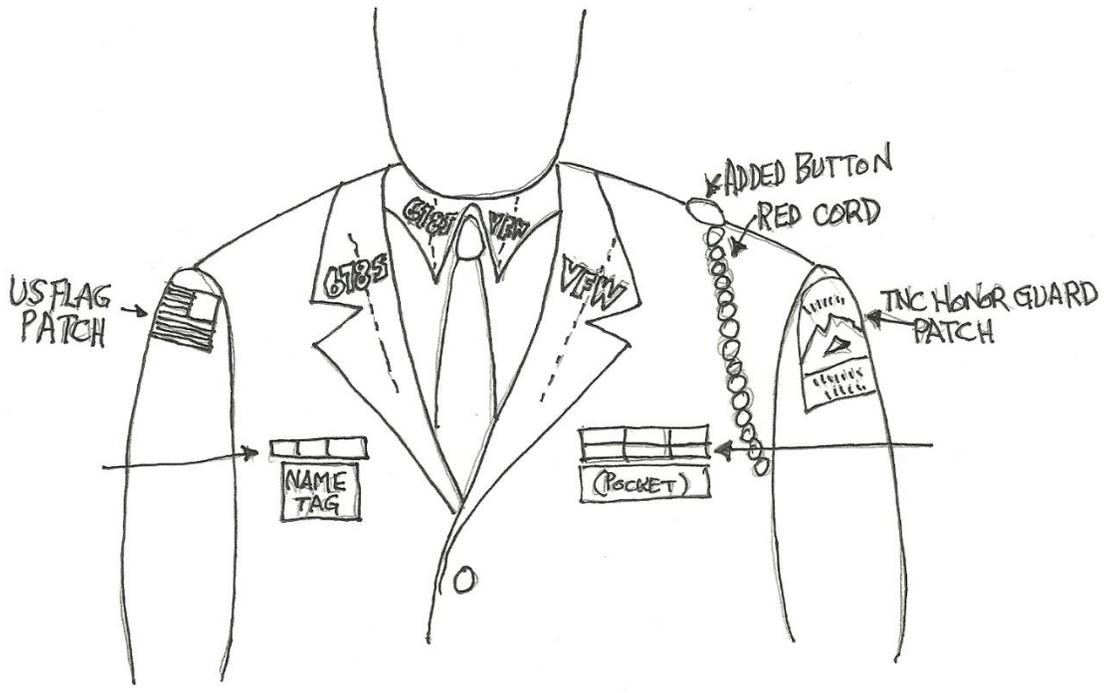
21–6. Medals on civilian clothes Retired personnel and former members of the Army (as described above) may wear all categories of medals described in this regulation on appropriate civilian clothing. This includes clothes designed for veteran and patriotic organizations on Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and Armed Forces Day, as well as at formal occasions of ceremony and social functions of a military nature. Personnel may wear either full-sized or miniature medals. Personnel who wear medals on civilian clothes should place the medals on the clothing in approximately the same location and in the same manner as for the Army uniform, so they look like medals worn on the Army uniform.

B. Diagrams for VFW Post 6785 Honor Guard (and Color Guard) Uniform wear. Includes placement of Insignia of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the awards and decorations of the comrade's military service. The decorations authorized are generally listed on the DD Form 214 issued to each service member upon discharge or release from service. The VFW and 6785 brass are to be worn on the white shirt collars, as shown on the jacket lapels and on the black raincoat collars in a similar fashion. The red shoulder cord is to be worn on each of these garments, around the left sleeve. No other items need be worn on the raincoat, and awards and decorations are at the member's discretion.

Diagrams.

VFW Post 6785 Honor Guard Uniforms
Patch, Insignia, and Ribbon Placement

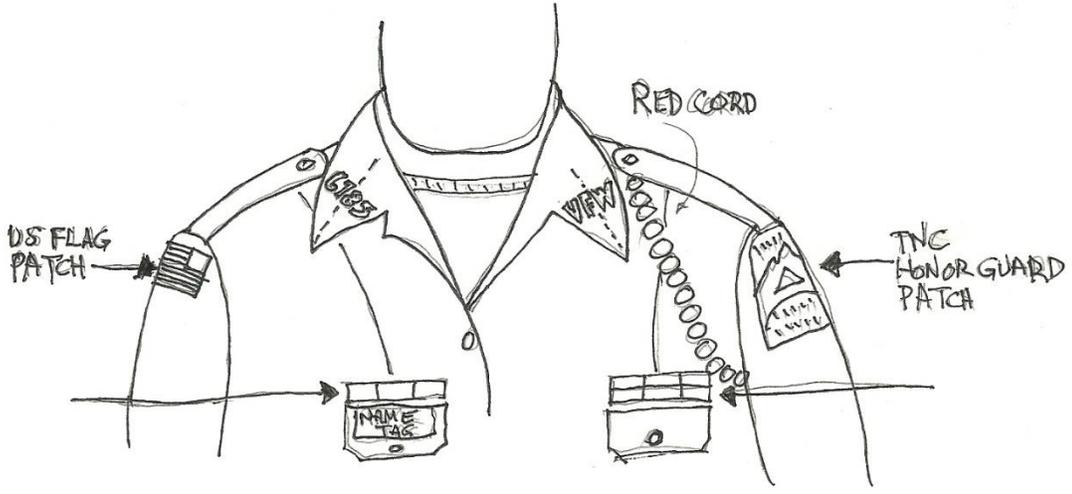
Note: The 6785 and VFW collar insignia are placed perpendicular to a line through the collar to the point. The VFW Manual of Procedure describes the position as parallel to the ground.



Ribbon and Awards Placement as Prescribed by Your Service. US Army style is shown above name tag and pocket, above, indicated by arrows.

Other pins may be worn on jacket lapel, below the notch. (Be Tasteful)

If necktie or bib scarf are worn with the white shirt, collar insignia placement is the same.



Unit awards, ribbons, and other awards as prescribed by your service.

Raincoat. Patches and collar insignia are worn as on the white shirt. Red Cord is worn on the left arm, in similar fashion to the white shirt.