

# SCOTTISH AMERICAN MILITARY SOCIETY

SOCIETY NOBLE IN THE NOBLESSE OF SCOTLAND



## 2023 DRESS CODE

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2023/REVISED SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS EDITIONS

KENNETH A. LLOYD

COMMANDER, SCOTTISH AMERICAN MILITARY SOCIETY

# SCOTTISH AMERICAN MILITARY SOCIETY

## 2023 DRESS CODE

**Revised: September 2023//Supersedes All Previous  
Editions**

- PURPOSE:** The purpose of this dress code is to establish the basic requirements for the wearing of the Scottish American Military Society (herein referred to as SAMS) Uniform while representing SAMS at any public or private event. The uniform is the first thing people usually see when they come into contact with a SAMS member. As we are a quasi-military (uniformed veterans) organization, it should project a professional and standardized image.

It is intended to be a guideline for the wear of U.S. or foreign articles of uniform and decorations when the SAMS member is kilted, or in any way representing the Society. If you are wearing or displaying *any* SAMS identification;

### **YOU ARE REPRESENTING SAMS!**

Color/Honor Guard, Formal, Ceremonial, and other Scottish dress will be covered in additional appendices.

- APPROPRIATE DRESS:** Whether daywear or eveningwear is appropriate is determined by the degree of formality of the occasion, not by the clock. Daywear is appropriate for all but formal occasions where a tuxedo or full dress civilian/military (mess dress) attire would be required.
- HEADGEAR:** The Balmoral, Glengarry, or Tam O' Shanter is appropriate with a clan badge, the SAMS cap badge, or an appropriate regimental crest if you are entitled to it. Helmets (including combat, pith, and safari), helmet liners, current issue military caps, or other hats are not authorized except where a valid medical condition exists.  
Hakkles may be worn behind the cockade and cap badge at the discretion of the Post. Hackle wear and color is at the discretion of the Post, however if the hackle is worn, White is the preferred color as it signifies the Patriot Militia forces during the Battle of Kings Mountain (October 1780). A Red hackle is not authorized unless a member has served or is currently serving in the Black Watch Regiment or one of its allied or associated regiments. No member may wear one to three eagle feathers unless authorized by Lord Lyon, King of Arms.  
At the discretion of the Post Commander, Baseball style caps that denote a members branch of service, military unit, campaigns (Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, etc.), or SAMS Post may only be worn while said member is working in the Post or SAMS booth. Nonmilitary and civilian caps are not authorized at any time. Baseball caps are not authorized to be worn while performing Color or Honor Guard duties, Marching or Passing of the clans, or at any other time with the SAMS uniform.
- SHIRT:** The shirts should be of the service branch, aviator, or police style, with or without epaulets, either long or short sleeves as the Post or weather dictates. Shirt color is at the discretion of each Post, keeping in mind the military nature of our organization.

- 5. SAMS PATCH and FIRE & SWORD PIN:** The SAMS Patch and the Fire & Sword Pin are the official designators of active membership in the Society. For veterans or retired service members, the patch is to be worn centered on the left shoulder, one inch below the shoulder seam. If the SAMS patch is to be worn on the uniform of active service members, it should be worn in keeping with the uniform regulations of their branch of service. One (1) Post patch, State, or National flag patch may be worn on the right shoulder, also centered on the sleeve, one inch below the shoulder seam. The SAMS Fire & Sword pin should be centered on the shirt epaulettes or Post approved epaulet covers.
- 6. NECKTIE:** The wearing of a necktie with the SAMS Uniform is OPTIONAL. If worn, it should be black in color and tucked between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> buttons of the shirt in a military style. A clip-on tie is recommended, but a handtied one is also acceptable.
- 7. COLLAR INSIGNIA:** The SAMS Crest Pin is authorized to be worn on both collar points of the uniform shirt. The pin(s) should be aligned diagonally and centered on the collar point with the bottom of the Crest 1" from the point. No other collar devices are authorized. The SAMS Crest Pin, when worn in civilian attire, is worn as if it were a Clan Crest badge.
- 8. RIBBONS and BADGES:** Authorized ribbons, unit devices, warfare, or specialty qualifications badges may be worn in accordance with the manner prescribed for the member's branch in keeping with the formality of dress. The SAMS Uniform, with either the members service branch or a "police" type shirt would be consistent with the Class B, or Service Uniform. **Full size, miniature military or civilian medals and awards are not authorized to be worn on the SAMS Uniform.** The only exception to the rule would be those service members who are the recipient of the Medal of Honor or the Victoria Cross. Miniature medals should be reserved for formal Scottish attire/occasions with the Prince Charlie, Argyle, or Tweed jackets. In keeping with uniform regulations of all branches of the armed services, civilian badges, patches, awards, emblems, pins, etc., are not to be worn on items of military dress; NOR are they authorized to be worn on the SAMS Uniform. This would include, i.e., piping/drumming awards. This rule does not apply to the use of Scottish clan or other emblems on the bonnet, belt, kilt pin, sgian dubh, etc., when worn with military dress. We are a rank less society. Active duty or active reserve members may wear their shirts/jackets in accordance with their service's regulations and in this case, worn "sterile", i.e., no SAMS patches or badges).
- 9. NAME TAGS:** Tags will be worn in accordance with the members service branch regulations (i.e., Army on the right pocket flap, Navy above the right pocket). The exception would be if worn in a Color or Honor Guard situation, all name tags should be worn in the same manner and location. Name Tags should appear simple and military in nature.
- 10. SYMBOLS OF AUTHORITY:** While we are a rank less society, we do have an established chain of command per our National By-Laws. National, Regional, and Post Officers may wear a symbol of their position. Examples are: Aiguilettes, Name Tag indicating position (Commander, Adjutant, etc.), Colored Epaulettes, or Epaulet pins indicating position (not to be worn in place of the Fire & Sword Pin). Whatever is worn should be done in keeping with the military nature of the uniform, as well as good taste and common sense.

**11. KILT OR TREWS:** A Society member, both male and female active duty, veteran, or retired, may wear any kilt or trews of their clan, regiment, service, region of Scottish origin, or appropriate “general” tartan. “Utility, Tactical, or Cargo” type kilts are not authorized to be worn with the SAMS uniform. When a member wears a kilt, they should keep in mind the circumstances (formal, field, dance, etc.) and dress with appropriate accessories. Members should keep in mind that the proper length of the kilt is one (1) inch above the center of the kneecap, pleats at the back, front buckled on the right and/or left, and worn a bit higher at the waist than ordinary trousers (even with the navel). One (1) Kilt pin of the members choice, 2-3 inches from the bottom of the kilt. Rank insignia, Unit or Service branch patches/pins, or other non-Scottish paraphernalia do not qualify as kilt pins.

**12. BELT:** Plain brown or black leather is preferred for daywear and black leather with silver buckle for evening wear. The belt should be approximately two inches wide with military, clan, or another appropriate buckle. The belt color should be consistent with the shoes and sporran.

**13. SPORRAN:** Plain black or brown leather in keeping with the color of the shoes and kilt belt is suggested for day wear. Fur or black leather adorned with silver are recommended for evening wear (Think: Silver after Six). As the SAMS uniform is considered service dress, the regimental (horsehair) sporran is inappropriate for normal wear. If the horsehair sporran is used for Color or Honor Guard purposes, it must be replaced after the activity with the members regular day or evening wear sporran. The sporran chain or belt should be placed in the kilt loops with the buckle centered at the rear. The top of the sporran will be one hand (4") width from the bottom of the kilt belt buckle. The center of the sporran shall be in line with the center of the belt buckle.

**14. KILT HOSE & FLASHES:** Hose of the appropriate color and material should be worn befitting the formality of the occasion. Tartan patterned hose are generally inappropriate for day wear. Flashes may be of a single color or matching the tartan (kilt). If worn in a Color or Honor Guard situation, all members of the detail should have matching color hose and same color flashes (i.e., Red). Flashess are to be worn with the forward edge of the flash in line with the shin bone and in line with the front seam if spats are worn. Only the bottom third of the flash should be visible. Sgian-dubhs are encouraged and should be worn in the top of the hose, behind the flash on the wearers dominant side. The handle of the sgian dubh should only project far enough out of the hose to be grasped.

**15. FOOTWEAR:** The traditional Ghillie Brogues, plain black or brown leather low quarter shoes for day or field wear, in keeping with the color of the sporran and kilt belt. Ghillie Brogues or Black patent leather shoes with or without a silver buckle are recommended for dress or evening wear. Footwear such as sneakers, sandals, running shoes, and jungle, desert, or combat boots are not authorized for wear except for valid medical reasons.

**16. SAMS LADIES:** A female member who is not a serving member of the Armed Forces or a veteran, wears a kilted skirt in a tartan appropriate to the individual for day wear. Except for ribbons, her shirt is set up with SAMS patch and pin-badge as service members. A tartan sash is appropriate for evening wear or with civilian day wear. The ways a sash is worn by Ladies are as specified by Lord Lyon, King of Arms. Clanswomen wear the sash over the right shoulder fastened with a sash brooch. Ladies married out of their clan but wearing their original clan tartan sash over the right shoulder secured with a pin and fastened with a bow on the left hip.

**17. FEATHERED BADGES AND REAL FEATHERS:** Feathered badges are optional and require approval by the National Commander prior to issue by the Quartermaster. The three feather type is restricted to current and emeritus national commanders while the two feather type is restricted to national executive committee members and regional commanders during the respective terms of appointment of all. Feathered badges may be worn solo. Real feathers, of any count, are restricted from display by all members UNLESS they are worn in conjunction with previously authorized, and present, feathered badges as aforementioned. NOTE: While real feathers may be worn in the aforementioned positions, eagle feathers and those from predatory and migratory birds in the US are prohibited by federal law from possession and/or use.

**18. SIDEARMS:** In keeping with both Scottish and military historical tradition, virtually any edged sidearm is appropriate for wear at the waist. Replica black powder firearms, either flintlock or percussion, are authorized for wear as appropriate, but flintlock weapons are more historically representative of Scottish and early American firearms than others. Firearms other than black powder type should not be worn or displayed by members at Scottish gatherings, games, or parades. The display of dirks, sgian dubhs, firearms, or any other form of weapon, must conform with current area laws applicable to their possession and/or carry.

**19. OVERDRESS:** Over Dress should be military in nature and appropriate to the season. Such items as "Woolly Pully," Ike Jacket, British battle dress jacket or service sweater are suggested. For Color Guard or Honor Guard duties, all members should be wearing the same color and style shirt or jacket. Each Post has the discretion to determine what "Foul Weather" gear is appropriate to their locales. As always, good taste and common sense should be considered. Fatigue, utility, and camouflage shirts are deemed inappropriate for any SAMS occasion.

**SUMMARY:** This dress code specifies the wear of military items with Scottish attire by members of this Society. In all cases, this dress code defers to current service regulations on the subject and to all the rules of Lord Lyon. The basic rule is simple good taste.

**POST COMMANDERS HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN PERSONALIZING THE UNIFORM  
TO THEIR PARTICULAR POST/LOCALE, BUT THEY MAY NOT AUTHORIZE THE  
WEARING OF ARTICLES AND/OR ITEMS THAT ARE OUTSIDE OF OR CONTRARY TO  
THIS DRESS CODE.**

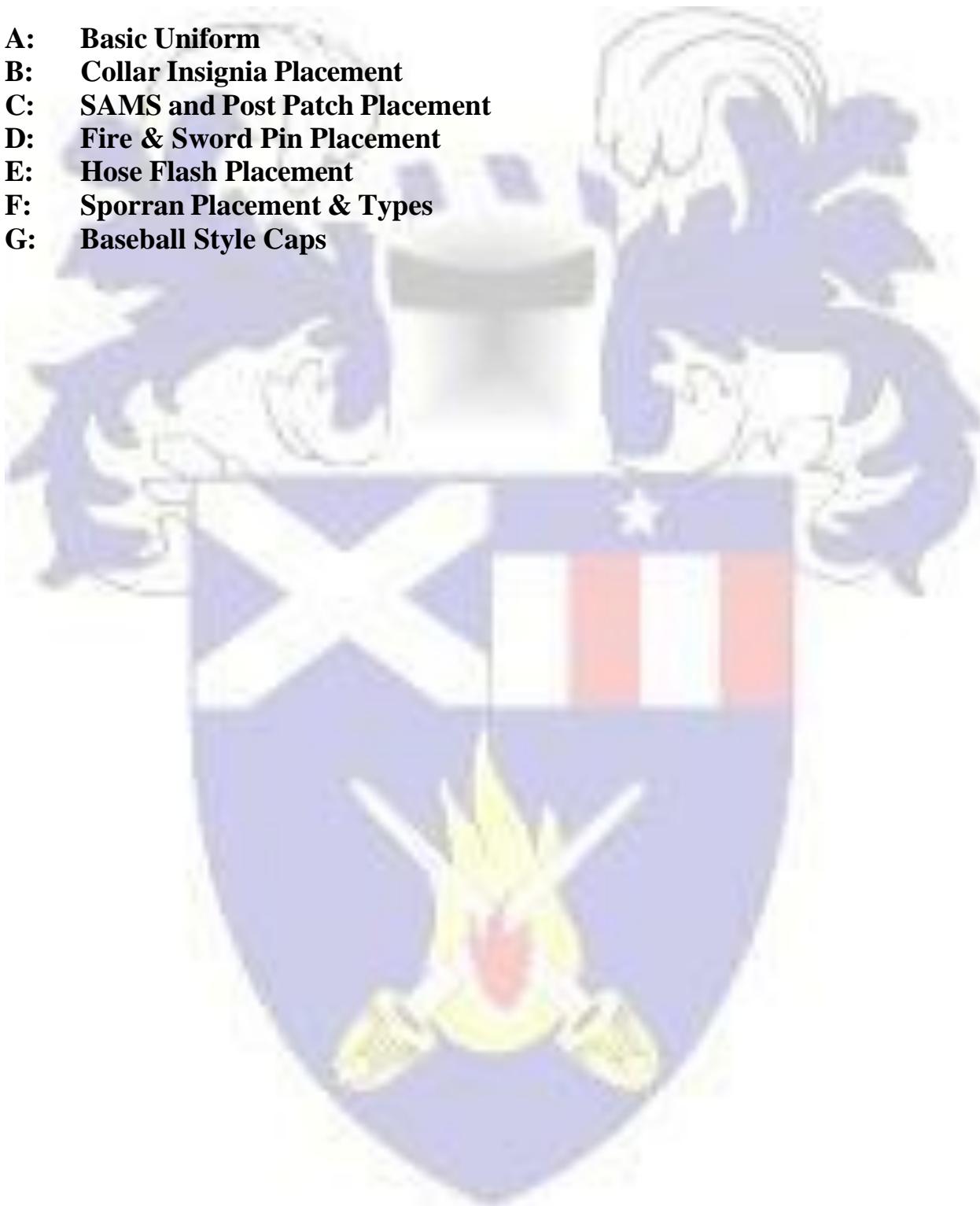
**APPROVED BY NATIONAL COMMANDER & COUNCIL**

**DATE: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

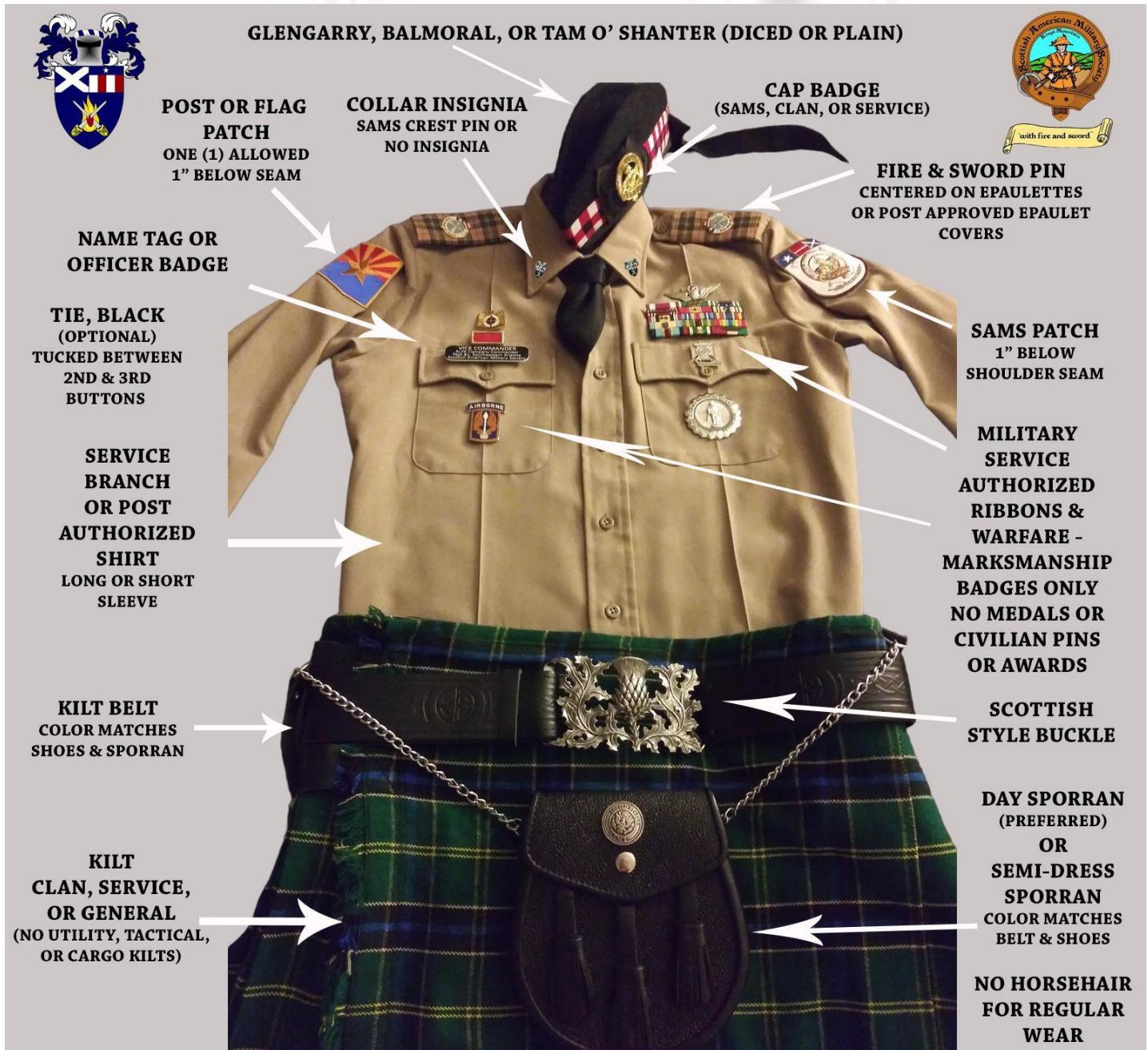
---

## UNIFORM WEAR ILLUSTRATIONS

- A: Basic Uniform
- B: Collar Insignia Placement
- C: SAMS and Post Patch Placement
- D: Fire & Sword Pin Placement
- E: Hose Flash Placement
- F: Sporran Placement & Types
- G: Baseball Style Caps



## A: Basic SAMS Uniform



# AUTHORIZED SAMS UNIFORM 2023

**B: Collar Insignia Placement**



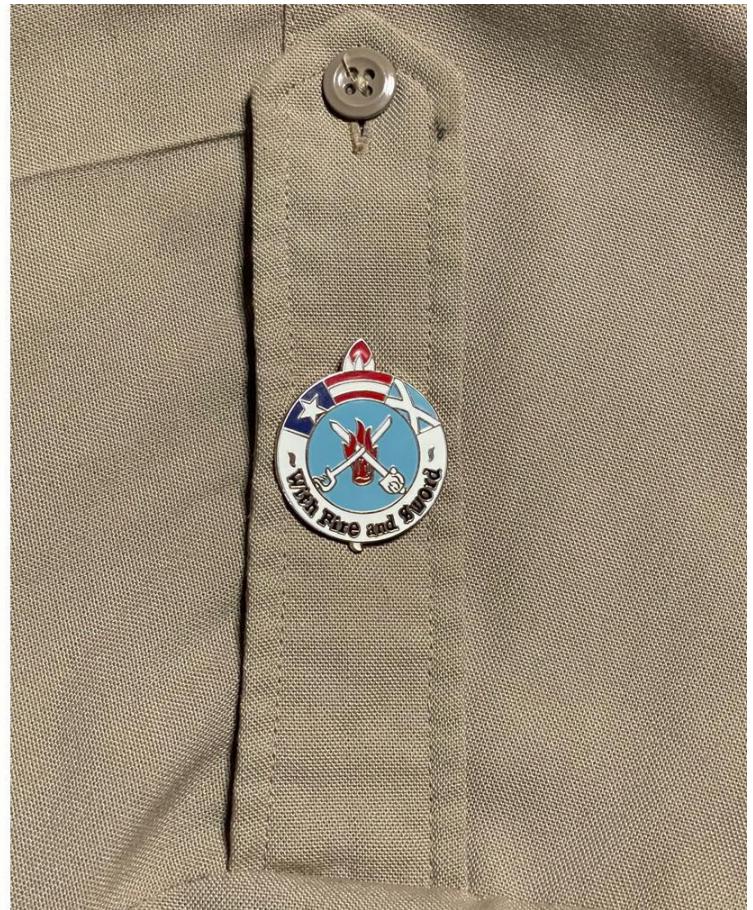
**C: SAMS and Post Patch Placement**



**D: Fire & Sword Pin Placement**



**WITH EPAULET COVER**



**WITHOUT EPAULET COVER**



## **E: Hose Flash Placement**



**The inside edge of the Flash is centered on the shin bone.  
If Spats are worn, the inside edge should be in line with the front seam of the Spats.  
Only the bottom 1/3 of the Flash is exposed.**



## **F: Sporran Placement & Types**



Sporran should be worn centered over the groin with the top of the sporran one (1) hand width (approx. 4") below the bottom edge of the belt buckle.

### **BELOW ARE REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLES OF THE DIFFERENT SPORRAN TYPES**



## DAY SPORRANS



## SEMI-DRESS SPORRANS



**DRESS OR FORMAL SPORRANS//Only appropriate after 6:00PM (1800) and formal occasions**



**HORSEHAIR SPORRAN**  
**SHOULD ONLY BE WORN WHEN PERFORMING**  
**COLOR OR HONOR GUARD DUTIES**  
**NOT TO BE WORN AS A DAY OR DRESS SPORRAN**



## G: Baseball Style Caps

Representative Examples of Authorized Ball Caps:



**Representative Examples of Unauthorized Ball Caps:**



**-----NOTHING FOLLOWS-----**