

MCL Detachment 1257 Uniform Guidelines



Uniform Guide For Detachment 1257

This uniform guide is for Air, Land, NC Detachment 1257. This also is to acknowledge information from National and Department Bylaws and the National Uniform Committee.

The guidance of this Marine Corps League (MCL) Uniform code is presented as a standard to establish uniformity and define appropriate wear of the Marine Corps League Uniform. The word "Uniform" itself is defined as: (1) Always the same, as in character or degree unvarying, (2) conforming to one principle, standard, or rule; consistent.

Acknowledgement

Information contained within was obtained from multiple sources including the National Bylaws & Administrative Procedures, Enclosure 3 (Reprinted Jan 2011). The Marine Corps Library, and Lou Calleja of the Department of Florida and Lisa Solarczyk from the Department of Pennsylvania.

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Uniform Items of the Marine Corps League

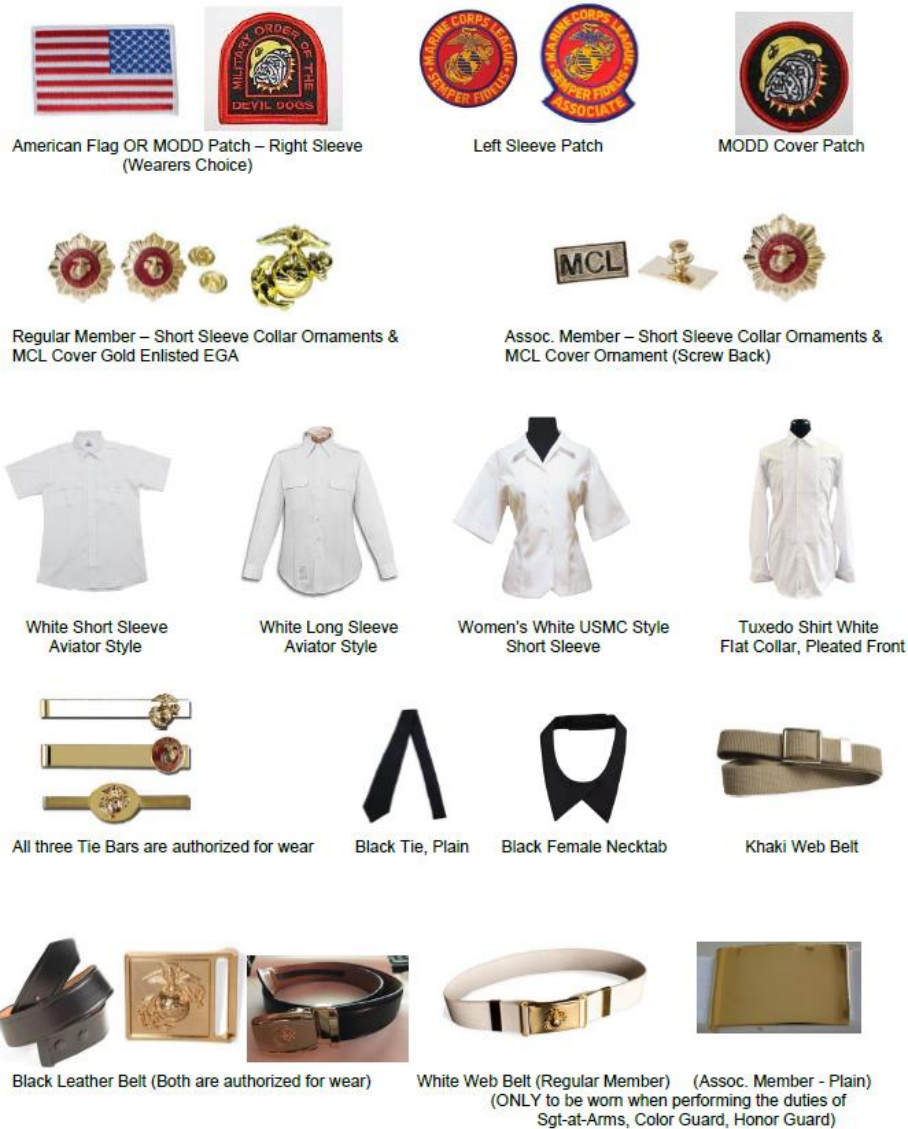


Figure 1 Marine Corps League Uniform Items

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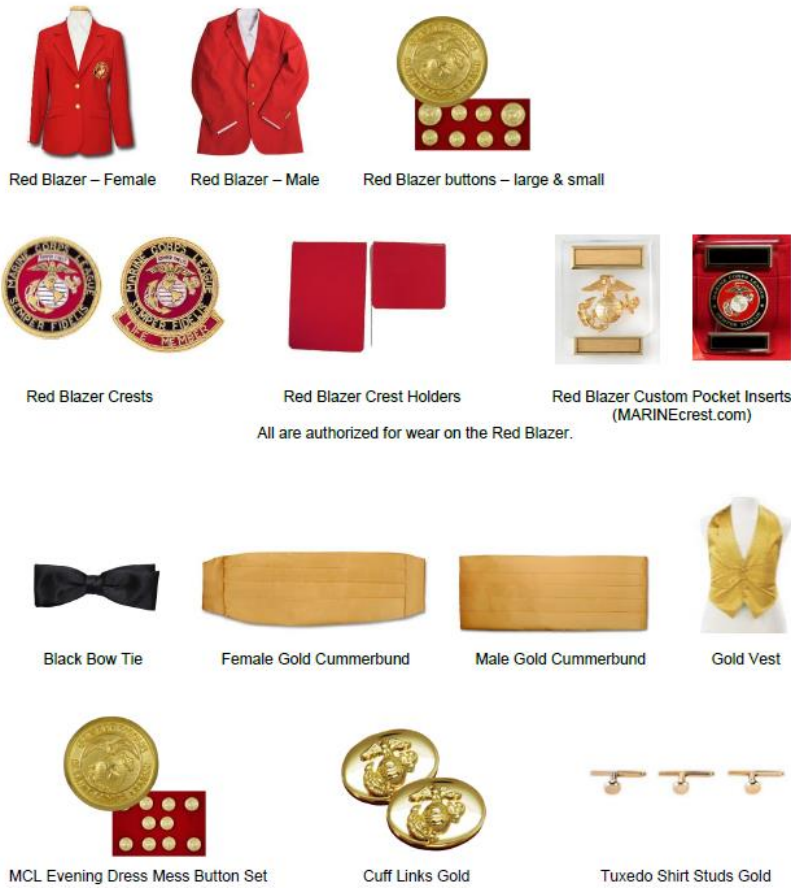


Figure 2 Marine Corps League Uniform Items

Scarlet and Gold Covers



Sunburst insignia (Screw back) instead of EGA

Figure 3 Scarlet Red and Gold Cover Types

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Cover Strips



Figure 4 Available Cover Strips

Cover Types

- RED: All members of the Marine Corps League. This is the Detachment Cover.
- Red with Gold Crown: Department Officers, elected or appointed
- Gold: National Officers, elected or appointed
- White: National Commandant
- Gold with White Crown: Past National Commandants
- Gold with Black Crown: Past Chief Devil Dogs (of the MODD)

NOTE: Only the following members are authorized to wear their respective cover after their tour of duty is completed, with the years displayed for holding that office:

- Past National Division Vice Commandants
- Past National Chief Operating Officer
- Past National Directors of the Young Marines
- Past Department Commandants
- Past Detachment Commandants Past Pack Leaders (of the MODD)

All other members will revert back to the appropriate cover for their current elected or appointed office, removing their prior officer identification strips.

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Detachment Cover

↑↑ Standard Cover worn by ALL members of the MCL ↑↑



Shown with MODD patch ↑↑



Department Officer Cover
or MODD Pack Officer Cover



Shown with MODD patch ↑↑



National Officer Cover
or MODD Kennel Officer Cover



Shown with MODD patch ↑↑

Figure 5 MCL Covers

When Marine Corps League Members are wearing the appropriate cover, they are considered to be in uniform. Please keep in mind that no other type of cover may be worn at a Marine Corps League function or meeting.

The only insignia “authorized for wear” on the Marine Corps League Covers is the 1-1/2" X 1-1/2" Anodized Solid Gold Color or Polished Brass Marine Corps Emblem (we refer to as the EGA, Eagle Globe Anchor) on the Left Side.

- American Flag pins, Marine Corps pins, Marine Corps League pins, Chaplain/cross pins, Corpsman pins, Honor Guard pins, division/unit pins, rank pins, wings, badges or any other types of pins or devices of any kind (aviation, parachutist, explosive ordnance disposal, and diving) are not authorized for wear.
- The Devil Dog patch, if authorized, will be worn up front on the right side of the cover.
- The identification strips, i.e., Department or Detachment strip, or embroidering, will be centered on the right side. If the "LIFE" strip is worn, it will be to the rear of the right side. The "LIFE MEMBER" strip will be worn the same as the identification strips are worn, and should be worn above other strips.
- You must have a separate cover for POUND, PACK or KENNEL Officer. POUND, PACK OR KENNEL text cannot be on the same cover as DETACHMENT, DEPARTMENT OR NATIONAL.

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Current OFFICE, LIFE or LIFE MEMBER can be worn on the Cover. You can use “Cap Strips” that are available from the MCL National “Semper Fi Store” or have it embroidered. Life member strips are worn above other strips. If the word “Life” is embroidered, it is placed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the rear of the cover, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the braid stripe for neatness.

Detachment Name on Cover

You should always have your Detachment Name (AIR, LAND, NC #1257) either embroidered on the cover or have a cover strip made.



Figure 6 Detachment Cover Strip

Out in the community – Allows the public and prospective MCL Recruits to know who you are and where you are located. They may not have realized you’re located in their local community.

At a MCL Meeting other than your own Detachment – Allows other MCL members to identify where you’re from when you attend a MCL Convention or joint event with other MCL Detachments.

Men's Basic MCL Cover Uniform Worn Any Time

The regulations regarding the Basic Uniform for both regular and associate male members is provided below. Normally used during General Meetings or anytime you would like to wear the cover to represent yourself as a member of the Marine Corps League.

Cover and Cap Device

The cover is the men's scarlet garrison-style cap with gold lettering and piping. Regular members wear the regular member cap device which is a gold-colored Marine Corps emblem on the left side, affixing it to the cover by a screw-post attachment. Associate members shall wear the distinctive associate member cap device in the same location as that of regular members, affixing it in the same manner. Under no circumstances are associate members permitted to wear the cap device of a regular member.

Detachment Name and Number

The detachment name and number should be embroidered on the right side, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch up from the bottom of the cover, and centered from left to right.

Cover Identification Strips

Identification strips should be worn to indicate currently-held offices and removed or changed each time a member changes their office or they are no longer serving in a staff billet. The only exception to this is that of the title of "PAST COMMANDANT" as

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this is a lifetime title. The identification strip shall be worn on the right hand side of the cover, above the detachment name, and centered from left to right. For those who are lifetime members, the "LIFE MEMBER" strip may also be worn. It should be worn the same manner as the billet identification strips—that is, centered on the right side of the cover, and above the detachment name.

What NOT to wear on the Cover

Pins, decorations, or ribbons are not authorized for wear on the Marine Corps League cover.

Men's Detachment Informal Dress Uniform

The guidance regarding informal dress for both regular and associate male members is provided below. Normally worn by members at General Meetings and events where they want to be recognized as members of the Marine Corps League.

Cover

The scarlet and gold men's garrison-style cover with the appropriate device is to be worn. Embroidered lettering, denoting the detachment and appropriate identification strips is optional. Detailed information regarding the cover is provided in the instructions regarding the Basic Uniform on page 8.

Optional Shirt Style

Black or Red pull over (polo shirt styleⁱ) with the Marine Corps League emblem embroidered on the left side. If a name tag is worn, the name tag is centered on the shirt on the right side.

Optional Trousers Color and Belt

Black trousers with a black leather belt are suggested and gilt buckle, or khaki trousers with a black, brown, or cordovan leather belt and gilt buckle are to be worn with the informal dress. The belt may be either 1¼, 1½, or 1¾ inches in width. The widest two leather belts are to be worn with the larger square buckle, while the narrower belt is worn with the rectangular ratchet buckle. Both buckles are gold in color and have the Marine Corps emblem on them. The black and khaki trousers may be purchased at any clothing store and should not be pleated. The length of the trousers should be such that the bottom cuff of the trousers barely touches the top of the heel sole of the shoes.

Optional Shoes and Socks

The shoe and sock color are only a suggestion with the informal dress uniform. If you would like then shoes should be black, brown, or cordovan oxfords, either of Corfamⁱⁱ, or polished leather. The uppers on the toes of the shoes should be smooth, without seams or ornamentation. Black shoes may be worn with either black or khaki trousers, however brown and cordovan shoes should only be worn with khaki trousers. The color of socks worn should match the color of the shoes.

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What Not to Wear with Informal Dress Uniform

No medals or ribbons should be worn with informal dress, however a name tag is authorized and may be worn on the right hand side of the shirt. It should be placed approximately horizontal to the center of the embroidered Marine Corps emblem on the opposite side of the shirt.

Men's Summer Undress Short Sleeve Aviator Shirt Uniform

The regulations regarding the Summer Undress Uniform for both regular and associate male members is provided below. Can be used for General Meetings but normally used for Marine Corps socials and events during the summer.

Cover

The scarlet and gold men's garrison-style cover with the appropriate device, embroidered lettering and identification strips is to be worn with the Casual Uniform. Detailed information regarding the cover is provided in the instructions regarding the Basic Uniform on page 8.

Short Sleeve Aviators Shirt

The short sleeve Undress Uniform shirt will be an aviator style shirt, with two button down breast pockets and shoulder epaulets. It will have a military crease running top to bottom, centered on each pocket and three creases on the back. The shirt shall be worn with an open collar.

Flag and Member Patches

The Marine Corps League Shoulder Patch is worn by regular members on the left shoulder of the long sleeve aviator shirt, centered on the crease, 1½-inches below the shoulder seam. Associate members are not permitted to wear this patch, and should wear the distinctive Associate Member Patch, placed in the same manner as that of the patch of regular members. The Field Forward Flag patch will be worn by both regular and associate members on the right shoulder, centered on the crease, 1½-inches below the shoulder seam.

Collar Devices

Regular members shall wear a pair of collar devices consisting of the Marine Corps emblem on a red-colored background, surrounded by a gold-colored embellishment. These devices are commonly referred to as "Sunburst Insignias" and shall be worn on each collar of the shirt, centered ½ of an inch from both edges of the collar, with the anchors pointed inboard and the wings of the eagles parallel to the deck.

Associate Member Collar Device

Associate members shall not wear these "Sunburst Insignias" but shall instead wear the distinctive collar devices designed for associate members. These devices consist of a pair of rectangular gold-colored devices that contain the lettering "MCL." These devices are to be worn on each collar of the shirt, centered ½ of an inch from both edges of the collar with the lettering properly oriented and parallel to the deck.

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Blue or Black Trousers and Belt

The blue trousers with the red non-commissioned officer's stripe are worn with the Undress Uniform by regular members, along with the Marine Corps khaki web belt and brass buckle. It should be noted that the scarlet stripe on the dress blue trousers are to be that worn by Marine non-commissioned officers which is 1.12-inches in width, not the wider stripes worn by active duty Marine officers. Associate members may also wear blue trousers with the Marine Corps web belt and brass buckle, however their trousers will be devoid of the scarlet non-commissioned officer's stripe. As an option, black trousers with a black belt and square gold buckle with the Marine Corps Emblem may be worn with the Undress Uniform in lieu of the blue trousers and web belt. When wearing the black trousers, the belt can be either be a 1½-inch or 1¼-inch wide black leather belt. The wide leather belt is worn with the large square buckle, while the narrower belt is worn with the rectangular buckle. Both buckles are gold in color and have the Marine Corps emblem on them. The black trousers may be purchased at any clothing store. The length of both the blue and black trousers should be such that the bottom cuff of the trousers just touches the top of the heel sole of the shoes.

Shoes and Socks

Black socks should be worn. Shoes should be black oxfords, either of Corfam, or highly shined leather. The uppers on the toes of the shoes should be flat, with no seams. Rubber or leather soles may be worn, however, taps are not authorized

Collar Sunburst Anchors

The sunbursts that are won on the undress short-sleeve and long-sleeve uniforms are centered ½ inch inside the collar tip, with the wings of the emblem parallel to the deck.



Figure 7 Shirt Collar Anchors

Note: The anchors shall point inboard, not outboard.

Collar Sunburst Template

The template shown for the collar sunburst was designed to properly place the sunburst devices correctly on the undress short-sleeve and long-sleeve shirts. Simple print a copy of the template and cut the template out. The template can also be flipped over to do both collars. Use the template to align with the collar and insert the sunburst into the center of the template. After properly positioning the sunburst several times on your shirt, you will notice visual holes and you will no longer need this template.

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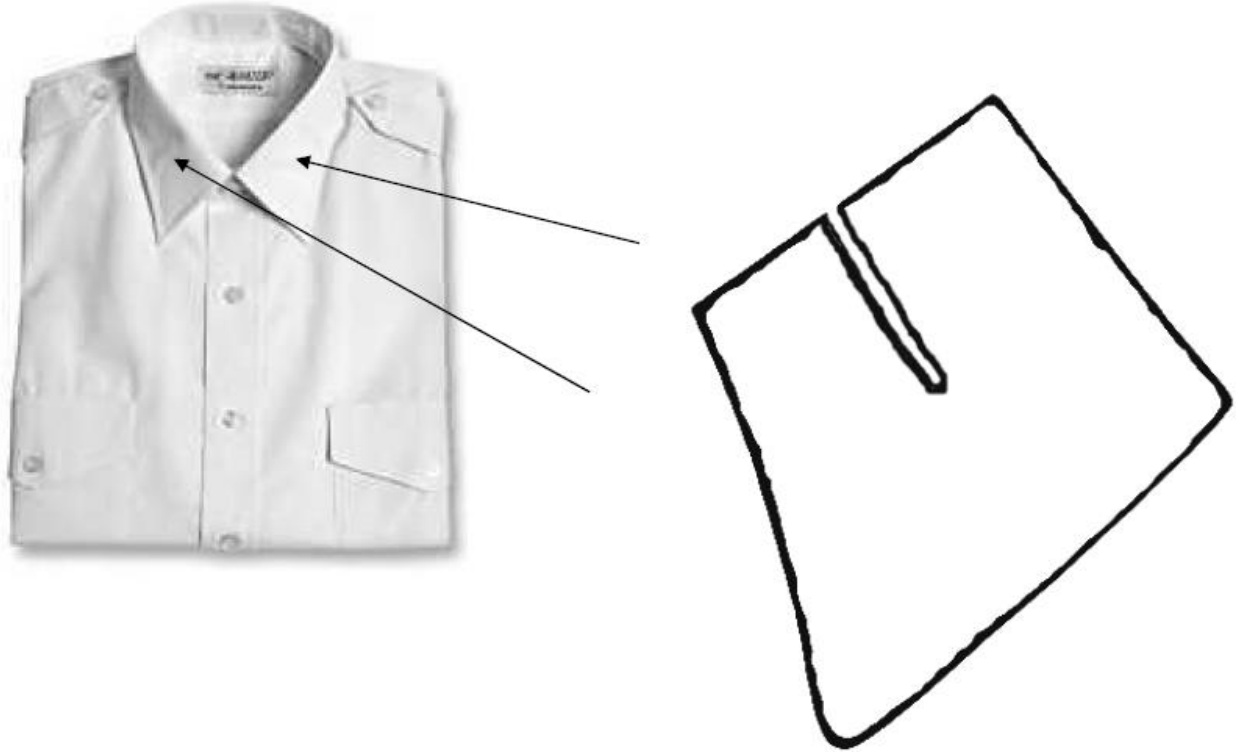


Figure 8 Sunburst Collar Template

Name Tag

A name tag may be worn above the right breast pocket of the shirt, centered and one-eighth of an inch above the top of the flap.

Ribbons

Ribbons are also authorized for wear and will be placed centered and one-eighth of an inch above the left breast pocket flap. The ribbons are to be worn in rows not exceeding four ribbons per row. If the top row has fewer ribbons than the lower rows, they are to be centered on the lower rows. In all cases, the ribbons worn must either be those of official military awards or those of Marine Corps League awards since commingling of these two types is never authorized.

Men's Winter Undress Long Sleeve Aviators Shirt Uniform

The regulations regarding the Winter Undress Uniform for both regular and associate male members is provided below. Can be used for General Meetings but normally used for Marine Corps socials and events during the winter.

Cover

The scarlet and gold men's garrison-style cover with the appropriate device, embroidered lettering and identification strips is to be worn with the Casual Uniform. Detailed information regarding the cover is provided in the instructions regarding the Basic Uniform on page 8.

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Long Sleeve Aviators Shirt

The long sleeve Undress Uniform shirt will be an aviator style shirt, with two button down breast pockets and shoulder epaulets. It will have a military crease running top to bottom, centered on each pocket and three creases on the back.

Flag and Member Patches

The Marine Corps League Shoulder Patch is worn by regular members on the left shoulder of the long sleeve aviator shirt, centered on the crease, 1½-inches below the shoulder seam. Associate members are not permitted to wear this patch, and should wear the distinctive Associate Member Patch, placed in the same manner as that of the patch of regular members. The Field Forward Flag patch will be worn by both regular and associate members on the right shoulder, centered on the crease, 1½-inches below the shoulder seam.

Collar Devices

Regular members shall wear a pair of collar devices consisting of the Marine Corps emblem on a red-colored background, surrounded by a gold-colored embellishment. These devices are commonly referred to as "Sunburst Insignias" and shall be worn on each collar of the shirt, centered ½ of an inch from both edges of the collar, with the anchors pointed inboard and the wings of the eagles parallel to the deck. Associate members shall not wear these "Sunburst Insignias" but shall instead wear the distinctive collar devices designed for associate members. These devices consist of a pair of rectangular gold-colored devices that contain the lettering "MCL." These devices are to be worn on each collar of the shirt, centered ½ of an inch from both edges of the collar with the lettering properly oriented and parallel to the deck.

Necktie and Tie Bar

The necktie should be a solid-color flat black tie with either a Marine Corps League, Marine Corps, or a Marine Corps NCO gold tie bar. No other tie bar is authorized, nor is the use of tie tacks. A four-in-hand knot is recommended. A clip-on tie may be worn in lieu of a standard necktie.

Trousers and Belt

The blue trousers with the red non-commissioned officers' stripe are worn with the Undress Uniform by regular members, along with the Marine Corps khaki web belt and brass buckle. It should be noted that the scarlet stripe on the dress blue trousers are to be that worn by Marine non-commissioned officers which is 1.12-inches in width, not the wider stripes worn by active duty Marine officers. Associate members may also wear blue trousers with the Marine Corps web belt and brass buckle, however their trousers will be devoid of the scarlet non-commissioned officers' stripe. As an option, black trousers with a black belt and square gold buckle with the Marine Corps Emblem may be worn with the Undress Uniform in lieu of the blue trousers and web belt. When wearing the black trousers, the belt can be either be a 1½-inch or 1¼-inch wide black leather belt. The wide leather belt is worn with the large square buckle, while the narrower belt is worn with the rectangular buckle. Both buckles are gold in color and have the Marine Corps emblem on them. The black trousers may be purchased at any

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clothing store. The length of both the blue and black trousers should be such that the bottom cuff of the trousers just touches the top of the heel sole of the shoes.

Shoes and Socks

Black socks should be worn. Shoes should be black oxfords, either of Corfam (used as a leather substitute for shoes), or highly shined leather. The uppers on the toes of the shoes should be flat, with no seams. Rubber or leather soles may be worn, however, taps are not authorized.

Name Tag

A name tag may be worn above the right breast pocket of the shirt, centered and one-eighth of an inch above the top of the flap. Ribbons are also authorized for wear and will be placed centered and one-eighth of an inch above the left breast pocket flap. The ribbons are to be worn in rows not exceeding four ribbons per row. If the top row has fewer ribbons than the lower rows, they are to be centered on the lower rows. In all cases, the ribbons worn must either be those of official military awards or those of Marine Corps League awards since commingling of these two types is never authorized.

Men's Casual Red Blazer Uniform

The regulations regarding the Casual Uniform for both regular and associate male members is provided below.

Cover

The scarlet and gold men's garrison-style cover with the appropriate device, embroidered lettering and identification strips is to be worn with the Casual Uniform. Detailed information regarding the cover is provided in the instructions regarding the Basic Uniform.

Blazer and Buttons

The scarlet blazer is available through a number of clothing vendors. The jacket should fit properly and should not "pull" when buttoned. The buttons that are provided with the blazer by most suppliers will need to be removed and replaced with the official gold-colored Marine Corps League buttons. There will be two (2) large Marine Corps League buttons on the front of the blazer, and three (3) small Marine Corps League buttons on each sleeve.



Figure 9 Red Blazer Jacket

Blazer Crest

The Marine Corps League blazer crest is worn only by regular members and is not authorized for wear by associate members. The blazer crest is worn on the left breast pocket, about ¼-inch below the lower half of the breast pocket cuff and centered on the pocket. The bullion-embroidered blazer crest may be attached using the three pin and clutch-back fasteners that are affixed to the back of the crest, or through the use of a blazer crest pocket insert. In lieu of an embroidered crest, a commercially sold plastic sleeve insert with a permanently set Marine Corps League seal may be worn in its place.

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Dress Shirt

The shirt may either be long sleeve or short sleeve, but must be solid white in color and should have a plain collar. This shirt can be purchased at any clothing store. It will not be the "aviator" style shirt worn with the Winter or Summer Undress Uniforms. **No collar devices, pins, badges, ribbons, medals, or patches are to worn on the white dress shirt.**

Necktie and Tie Bar

The necktie should be a solid-color flat black tie with either a Marine Corps League, Marine Corps, or a Marine Corps NCO gold tie bar. No other tie bar is authorized, nor is the use of tie tacks. A four-in-hand knotⁱⁱⁱ is recommended. A clip-on tie may be worn in lieu of a standard necktie.

Trousers and Belt

Black trousers with a black belt and square gold buckle with the Marine Corps Emblem are to be worn with the Casual Uniform. The belt can be either be a 1½-inch or 1¼-inch wide black leather belt. The wide leather belt is worn with the large square buckle, while the narrower belt is worn with the rectangular buckle. Both buckles are gold in color and have the Marine Corps emblem on them. The black trousers may be purchased at any clothing store. The length of the trousers should be such that the bottom cuff of the trousers just touches the top of the heel sole of the shoes. Sansabelt^{iv} trousers are not authorized with the Casual Uniform, nor are dress blue trousers.

Shoes and Socks

Black socks should be worn. Shoes should be black oxfords, either of Corfam (used as a leather substitute for shoes), or highly shined leather. The uppers on the toes of the shoes should be flat, with no seams. Rubber or leather soles may be worn, however, taps, cowboy boots and sneakers are not authorized.

For those members who cannot wear uniform shoes because of problems with their feet they may wear a black shoe that is plain toe and shined.

Lapel Pin

The Marine Corps League Member, Life Member, Commandant, and Associate Member pins may be worn in the left lapel button hole. Other pins are authorized, but never more than two (2) at a time.

The following lapel pins maybe worn only on the Red Blazer or Evening Dress Jacket.

- The Past National Commandant Pin may be worn inboard with the National Marine of the Year outboard.
- National Marine of the Year may be worn inboard with a Past Department or Detachment Commandant Pin. (ONLY ONE PAST COMMANDANT PIN MAY BE WORN AT A TIME, WEARER'S CHOICE.)
- Kennel Devil Dog of the Year Pin may be worn outboard of the National Marine of the Year.
- The Chapel of Four Chaplains, MCL Membership, or Retired Marine Lapel pins may also be worn.

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- Although there are several types of MCL Membership pins (i.e. Past Commandant, Life Member, Five Year Membership, Ten Year Membership, etc.), only "ONE" MCL Membership pin should be worn.
- Ordained Ministers or Chaplains may wear a symbol of their religion of the size approved by DOD. Whatever pins are approved for wear ONLY TWO (2) PINS MAY BE WORN AT ANYTIME, Wearer's Choice.

Approved Lapel Pins

- Past National Commandant pin
- National Marine of the Year pin
- Devil Dog of the Year pin
- Past department/detachment Commandant pin
- Chapel of Four Chaplains pin
- MCL membership pin
- Retired Marine / Navy pin
- Life Member pin
- Ordained Ministers or Chaplains Symbol pin
- American Flag pin
- Vietnam war veteran pin

Other: Up to three full-size official military or Marine Corps League medals (of the wearer's choice), may be worn with the Casual Uniform as the occasion dictates, however, the full-size medals must be mounted on a single ribbon bar on the left breast, centered above the pocket and on a single bar. In either case, the medals worn must either be those of official military awards or those of Marine Corps League awards since commingling of these two types is never authorized.

You may not wear a name tag or mini medals on your Red Blazer Uniform. In addition, you cannot wear jump wings or air crew wings and the Vietnam commemorative pin.^v

Marine of the Year Medallion

The MOY Medallion can be worn with the MCL ribbons because the MOY is a MCL award. You cannot mix the DOD (Department of Defense) ribbons with MCL ribbons so the MOY Medallion cannot be worn with DOD ribbons. Remember, you do not mix the MCL and DoD ribbons. The only time you do not wear the MOY Medallion is when wearing a polo shirt or civilian attire. You must be in MCL uniform when wearing the MOY Medallion, these are undress long sleeve, short sleeve uniform, red blazer casual or mess dress uniform.

Detachment Paymaster

Red Cover and EGA

Our Detachment Paymaster has Red Covers for \$31.00 and an EGA for \$4.85. Please contact our Paymaster with the size of cover required.

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Optional Pull-Over Black MCL Detachment Shirt

We have been using T.A.G.S. Embroidery/Shirley's Uniform Shop at 2919 Brentwood Rd. in the MiniCity area of Raleigh off Capital Blvd and Brentwood Rd., right before 440. Turn right at the gas station and be prepared to turn into the driveway on the left. Phone is 919-878-7227. The owner is Tom Kincaid. He has all the info for our shirts. If you tell him you are from MCL Detachment 1257 in Wake Forest, he'll know what you need and has the screening for the shirt already made up..

Special Marine Corps League Functions in Wake Forest

During the following Marine Corps League functions in and around Wake Forest, the general membership should try to abide by the guidance of the event liaison. That person will identify what MCL uniform is appropriate for the function. In all events, at a minimum, your MCL cover is a requirement to represent the Marine Corps League and your detachment.

- Wake Forest military flag raising
- Wake Forest Veteran Memorial Service
- Color Guard postings
- Volunteering (MCL cover is optional)

Honor Guard / Color Guard

The Marine Corps League does have an Honor Guard (HG) plus a Color Guard (CG) and our detachment is authorized to form either or both. As of now, we have not officially formed either of these. Detachment 1257 has started a CG by purchasing the flag white belt harnesses and we have provided a few flag presentations but nothing officially.

MCL HGs and CGs wear authorized Marine Corps League Uniforms. They may wear outerwear or inclement weather clothing and equipment authorized by their Detachment Commandant. All HGs and CGs must wear the same MLC uniform and outerwear.

Detachment members of MCL HGs and CGs are specific "Details" which assigned to participate in Ceremonies, Funerals, Parades, and other public events. Multiple detachments can pull their resources together to form HG and CG "Details".

Patches and Pins^{vi}

Color Guard members have been seen wearing a small "Color Guard" patch under the MCL patch. This Color Guard patch is not allowed and needs to be removed if there.

Also, the pin that is in the shape of a folder flag is not an authorized pin and should not be worn.

ⁱ Polo Shirt is a form of shirt with a collar, a placket neckline with two or three buttons.

ⁱⁱ Corfam is a brand of synthetic flexible, microporous material, used as a leather substitute for shoes.

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ⁱⁱⁱ The four-in-hand knot for ties is tied by placing the tie around the neck and crossing the broad end of the tie in front of the narrow end. The broad end is folded behind the narrow end and brought forward on the opposite side, passed across the front horizontally, folded behind the narrow end again, brought over the top of the knot from behind, tucked behind the horizontal pass, and the knot is pulled snug.

^{iv} Sansabelt is a brand of men's trousers with a wide webbed elastic band sewn into the waist, which is intended to make a belt unnecessary.

^v There will be a ByLaw to add this pin during the 2021 National Convention.

^{vi} MCL Committee