

Technology

- There has been a shift in focus towards using wearable technology in military apparel
- Having camouflage uniforms provides protection against being spotted in wooded areas, but with an increase in infrared sensing technology there has been more focus on military apparel providing infrared camouflage as well (Degenstein, 2021)
- Smart textiles (aka smart fabrics) have the capability to monitor the wearer's condition in different environments and can be applied to the military uniform
- Smart fabrics have different degrees to which they are "smart" (Degenstein, 2021):
 - Some only sense an external stimulus
 - Some have added sensors and employ a function
 - Others can adapt to different stimuli all at a molecular level that is invisible to the naked eye
- Wearable technology in the military provides protection against various biological, mechanical, and chemical threats which give smart fabrics an opportunity to grow drastically in the future



Types of Clothing



- Military fashion is extremely popular in mainstream fashion. Military street wear was said to have come into style in the 1960's and 1970's when soldiers returned from Vietnam and wore various parts of their uniforms in their daily lives in defiance since their nation didn't welcome them home properly. Designers realized military streetwear was practical.
- Women in the military have advocated for uniforms that better suit their bodies over the years.
- Each branch of the military has many different forms of uniform
- Members of the Air Force wear a three-button coat with silver-colored buttons and matching trousers and either a service cap or flight cap.
- A basic army uniform includes a black jacket, white dress shirt and dark blue slacks with a gold stripe.
- Coast guard members typically wear a blue four-pocket single breasted jacket, matching trousers, and a tie of the same shade as the jacket.
- Women in these branches might have slightly different uniforms consisting of skirts and stockings.
- Military members take their uniforms very seriously as they symbol the mission that these soldiers face every day to serve their country.





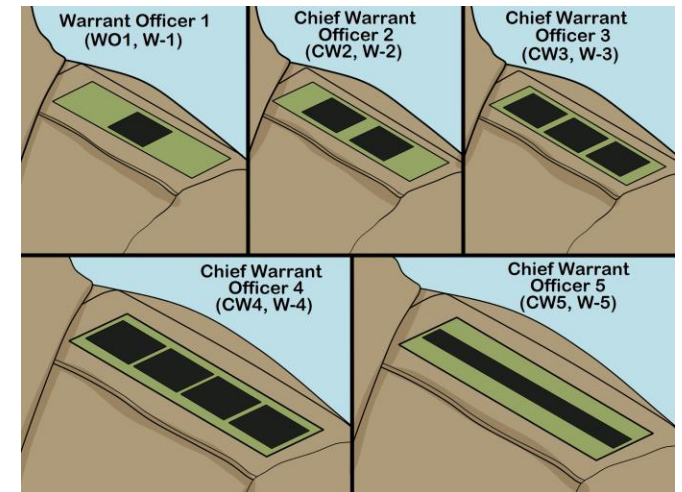
Adornment, Modesty, Immodesty, Protection

- When people choose to wear clothing to look nice and be aesthetically pleasing, this is known as the adornment theory.
- Some parts of military clothing can be considered adornment depending on the wearer.
- Camouflage print has become popular in clothing styles, as well as the army green color. These can both be styled to fit an aesthetic.
- Military clothing was originally and is mainly used for protection. The green camouflage print was originally designed to hide soldiers in the woods from attackers.
- The same thing applies with desert soldier clothes, matching the color of the sand.



Meanings of Clothing

- When it comes to the symbolic meaning of military uniforms it's all about the sense of belonging and being a team. Military uniforms also portray a sense of power to enemies and allies alike. The uniforms also serve as a legacy for soldier's fellow comrades who passed. The uniforms embody the professionalism and commitment to the Army Values - loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.
- They convey years of service, occupational specialty, rank, special assignments and specific awards won, all in a glance. Each branch has a different way of distinguishing an E1 (a private) from and E9 (a sergeant major).
- To keep things simple, soldiers display their rank insignia in the center of their caps. A rank insignia patch will be sewn on the chest area as well. Some uniforms of enlisted soldiers have a rank insignia patch on the upper sleeves. The placement of the patches can change depending on what branch you are in and how much authority you possess.
- Military uniforms are so serious and highly respected that the US Government passed the Stolen Valor Act in 2005. The Act made it illegal to wear or falsely claim to have received any military medal or decoration without authorization.



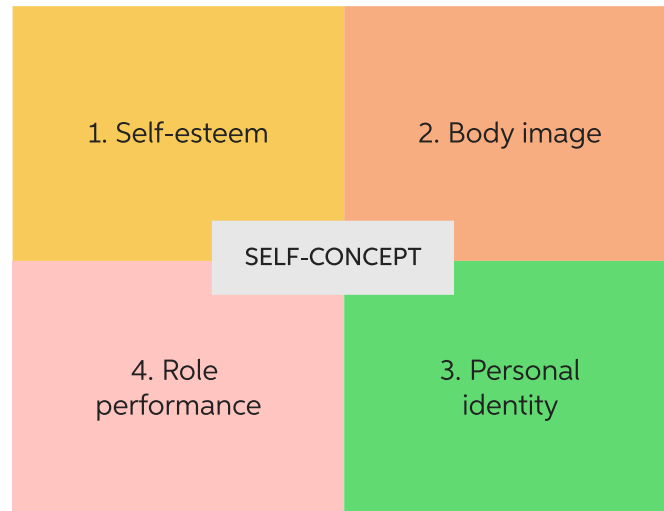
Clothing Values

- Values are principles that help us make choices and determine how we view things.
- When we wear clothing, especially in a public setting, there are values within the clothing
- People who wear military fashion can sometimes be very focused on the political values it appeals to.
- Wearing military fashion can represent association with the military, or a strong connection to it.
- Also important in military fashion are the economic values and benefits.
- Clothing originally worn by the military is based on practicality and uniformity.
- We see similar decisions made in military fashion, with cargo pants and combat boots becoming popular.



Socio-Psychological Factors of Dress

Components of Self-Concept



- The presence of a uniform has a large socio-psychological impact on members of the military because of its ability to identify oneself as a group member with status in an organization
 - Wearing a camouflage pattern on its own does not equate to the camouflage of a military uniform because the meanings of the apparel are not the same
- The uniform becomes the group and because of that, a member's behaviors will impact the uniform itself rather than the group of people wearing it (Joseph, 1972)
 - The phrase "disrespecting the flag"
- The uniform provides varying degrees of pride based on where you live and the way the community perceives the military, which also reflects the willingness of an individual to join and serve in the armed forces
- Badges and patches are worn to reflect status within the group that can both positively and negatively reflect one's self-concept
 - Positive: Acknowledging a promotion in rank and becoming a member of greater importance
 - Negative: Badge or patch being revoked and facing expulsion from a sub-group
- Being a member of the military brings on a heavy socio-psychological impact which is largely due to the visual appearance of the uniform, and the responsibilities that come with wearing it

