

FINEST
A G.I. JOE COSTUME CLUB



FIELD MANUAL: COBRA STINGER DRIVER



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Cobra motor pool!

You will be responsible for the successful operation and maintenance of your very own Cobra Night Attack 4-WD vehicle, aka, the "Stinger"! The Stinger is based on Cobra Command's Top Secret designs, and these dreaded vehicles are the backbone of our organization's support and sustainment structure, providing advanced mobility on and off the battlefield.

Your job won't be easy. As a Stinger driver, you will be expected to operate your vehicle at breakneck speeds over varied terrain and roadways. You will manage the loading, unloading, and transportation of cargo, as well as the safety of personnel being transported. In coordination with Cobra High Speed Sentry (H.I.S.S.) drivers and other Cobra Armor assets, you will devise and employ offensive and defensive convoy and escort techniques, as well as maintain your vehicle's constant state of deployment readiness, including the operation and maintenance of the Stinger ground-to-air rocket system.

You will use this fast-attack vehicle to take the fight to our dreaded enemy... G.I. Joe.

But, first, let's get you a uniform...

This Field Manual is intended to help new recruits assemble a 1984 Version 1 (V1) Cobra Stinger Driver uniform as accurately and as economically as possible. The recommendations in this manual are intended to provide a documented standard to ensure that all new Stinger Drivers entering the ranks of the Finest are visually identical. Although variations of the Cobra Stinger Driver have been introduced since 1984, this manual focuses on the original V1 Cobra Stinger Driver, as seen in toys, comics, and television. Where possible, special attention has been made to recommend uniform components that are commonly available and easily attainable via online sellers.

Now, armed with this Field Manual, go forth and take your place in the motor pool among the ranks of Cobra Stinger Drivers!



Photo: www.3DJoes.com

HAIL COBRA!



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SECTION 1: HEADGEAR

HELMET

For Finest approval, the Cobra Stinger Driver helmet must be visually identical to helmets already in service within the Finest ranks (ask a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff for vendors and availability). Aside from the grey color, the Cobra Stinger Driver helmet is identical to the Cobra Officer helmet, and is distinguished from the Cobra Trooper helmet by the triangular rank insignia on the front of the helmet. Additional foam padding may be glued inside the helmet to provide a custom fit.

Tip: for a cleaner appearance, the excess chin-strap should be cut, or alternatively, a small piece of Velcro should be attached to keep the excess chin-strap close to the face.

Note: for those converting an Officer helmet to a Cobra Stinger Helmet, the paint color is Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch Satin Stone Grey (249855). The rank insignia is flat black.



MASK

The mask must be black and should completely cover the nose, neck, and chin. The mask should be long enough to tuck into the shirt collar. Black balaclavas are also acceptable as long as the nose, neck, and chin are covered.

The recommended mask can be found on eBay (search: "Kakashi Ninja Mask Naruto Anime Cosplay, Anbu costume"). This mask is available in various sizes. The required color is black.



OPTIONAL HEADGEAR

When not wearing the Cobra Stinger Driver helmet, a U.S. army-style black beret is authorized. The recommended flash is the red and black U.S. Army Special Operations Command beret flash. A Cobra-style Finest pin may be worn centered on the flash.

All berets should be Rothco "Inspection Ready" which are pre-shaven, pre-shaped, leather-trimmed, and made to military specifications without eyelets or drawstrings.

If you are unfamiliar with the proper care and wear of a military beret, please consult with the Command Staff or various online beret tutorials. If you are in the process of assembling a Cobra Stinger Driver uniform and do not yet own a helmet, the beret is an acceptable temporary alternative.





SECTION 2: BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM

OVERVIEW

For Finest approval, and to match other Cobra Stinger Drivers, the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) trousers and shirt must be “Propper” brand (Grey). The correct Grey color for the BDU trousers and shirt may be confirmed by ensuring that the item number of each garment ends in “020”.



The item number of each Propper Grey garment ends with “020”.



SHIRT

Cobra Stinger Drivers have two choices for shirts:

- **Propper (Grey) Tactical Dress Shirt:** this two-pocket shirt is designed to be tucked into the trousers, and is less bulky than standard BDU shirts. The correct Grey color for this shirt may be confirmed by ensuring that the item number ends in “020”.
- **Propper (Grey) 2-pocket BDU shirt:** this two-pocket BDU shirt is bulkier than the Tactical Dress shirt and fits larger in the arms and chest. The correct Grey color for this shirt may be confirmed by ensuring that the item number ends in “020”.

Regardless of which shirt you choose, the shirt should be tucked into the BDU trousers. Please avoid purchasing 4-pocket BDU shirts which are not intended to be tucked into BDU trousers.



Propper (Grey) Tactical Dress Shirt



Propper (Grey) 2-Pocket BDU Shirt

Rank Pins

As with Officers, Stinger Drivers wear nickel (silver) rank pins on the shirt collar. The pins are worn one inch from the front and upper edges of the collar, and parallel to the collar's front edge.

Note: the only rank pins authorized to be worn by Stinger Drivers are single nickel bars (U.S. Army First Lieutenant), or, after three years of Finest membership, two joined nickel bars (U.S. Army Captain) may be worn. Gold rank pins are not to be worn with the Stinger Driver uniform, nor are pins indicating a higher rank (e.g., Major, Colonel, etc.).





Embroidered Chest Flap

For Stinger Drivers, a large red Cobra sigil should be worn on the center of the chest. The preferred technique for this modification requires the purchase of an additional, larger, Propper Grey shirt (any style), at least two sizes larger than your normal size.

Use the back of the larger shirt to make a flap which should then be embroidered with a red Cobra sigil. Check with the Finest Command Staff for recommended embroiderers. Once the embroidery is done, sew one side of the flap to the side seam of your primary uniform shirt. To access the shirt buttons, use Velcro to attach the other side of the flap.



Tip: Online retailers will occasionally place larger size (2X-4X) Propper shirts on clearance for less than \$10 (e.g., www.TacticalGear.com, and www.LAPoliceGear.com).



One side of the chest flap is secured by Velcro.



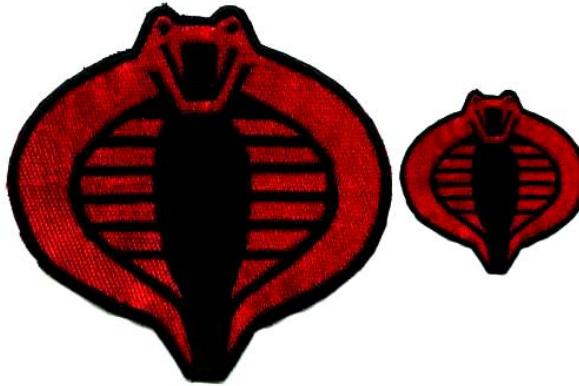
The other side is sewn along the shirt seams.



Chest Patch

If you are in the process of assembling a Cobra Stinger Driver uniform and you have not yet finished the chest flap modification or embroidery, an acceptable temporary alternative is to sew a large (6" wide), red Cobra patch onto one side of the chest (the other side of the patch is attached with Velcro to leave access to the shirt buttons).

If you choose this method, the preferred patch that matches other Officers and Troopers in the Finest is sold on eBay by seller "Katarra8". As of the revision date of this Field Manual, Katarra8 offers a two-pack of red Cobra Officer patches (the large chest patch, as well as the smaller left shoulder patch). These patches have iron-on backings, however, it is recommended that the patches be sewn for a more secure placement. When ordering these patches, be sure to request that the red "dot" be removed from the bottoms of both patches.



Note: the embroidered chest flap is preferred by the Finest. The chest patch should be considered only as a temporary alternative.

Left Shoulder Sigil

A red Cobra sigil patch may be worn on the left shoulder/upper arm of the shirt, 1.25" down from the seam, and slightly forward of the center of the arm. This sigil may be embroidered to match the chest panel, or can be a 3" red patch. The recommended patch is sold by seller "Katarra8" on eBay.

Optional Shoulder Patches

Optional patches, including red garrison patches, or red Finest patches may be worn on the right shoulder/upper arm of the shirt (ask a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff for patch availability). The uppermost patch should be positioned 1.25" down from the seam, and slightly forward of the center of the arm.

Please note that all optional patches for Cobra Stinger Drivers should be primarily red in color. Silver Cobra sigils and patches are not to be worn with the Stinger Driver uniform.

**BDU TROUSERS**

For Finest approval and to match other Cobra Stinger Drivers, the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) trousers must be “Propper” brand (Grey). The correct Grey color for the BDU trousers may be confirmed by ensuring that the item number ends in “020”. No modifications are required for the BDU trousers.

**BDU TROUSER BELT**

The recommended trouser belt for the Cobra Stinger Driver uniform is any black “BDU belt” offered by Condor, Blackhawk, and a variety of other manufacturers. Please note that this belt is fed through the belt loops of the BDU trousers and will be completely concealed by the Condor Battle Belt. Your bayonet (left leg) and optional drop-holster (right leg) will be suspended from your BDU trouser belt.

**GLOVES**

Black tactical gloves should be worn with the Cobra Stinger Driver uniform. Acceptable gloves are made by various vendors, including Hatch, Rothco, Blackhawk, and others.

To prevent skin showing at the wrists, long, gauntlet-style, tactical gloves are recommended.

**Hatch SOG Glove**

**KNEEPADS**

As with Troopers, and Officers, Cobra Stinger Drivers wear black tactical kneepads, similar in style to the kneepads in the photo at right. Acceptable black tactical kneepads are made by various vendors, including Condor, Blackhawk, Rothco, Alta, and others.

BOOTS

Cobra Stinger Drivers wear standard issue black combat or jungle boots, similar in style to the boots in the photo at right. Only solid black combat or jungle boots are to be worn with the Cobra Stinger Driver uniform (please avoid boots with olive drab webbing, work boots, etc.).





SECTION 3: TACTICAL GEAR

OVERVIEW

Condor is the preferred tactical gear manufacturer for all Cobra Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers in the Finest. All tactical gear worn by Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers in the Finest should be black. Using the Condor Battle Belt and Tactical H-Harness as a common base, Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers are granted freedom to build upon this foundation and create personalized gear load-outs that can be customized for individual tastes and modified for a wide array of Finest events and appearances (e.g., carrying additional canteens during hot-weather events or parades).

Cobra Stinger Drivers are allowed a certain degree of freedom when customizing your gear. While uniformity and consistency will always be needed among the ranks, assuming that the minimum core components of the uniform are present (e.g., correct color Propper BDUs, appropriate helmet, etc.), the Finest allows for members to create customized Cobra uniforms specific to individual tastes, while remaining consistent with other Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers in the Finest.

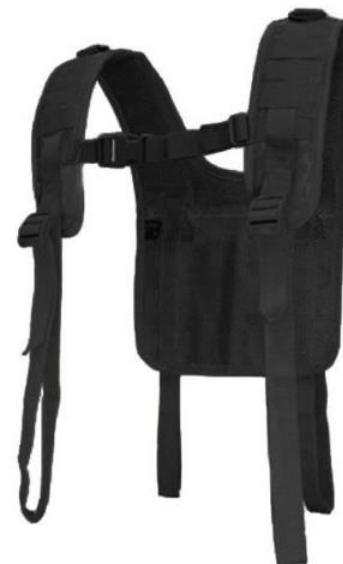
Condor offers a variety of black tactical pouches, packs, holsters, and accessories, all compatible with the Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment (MOLLE) system. Finest members are encouraged to pick from this virtually limitless series of options to create their own specific Cobra uniform.

CONDOR TACTICAL H-HARNESS

As a core component of the uniform, Cobra Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers wear the Condor Tactical H-Harness, which connects to the Condor Battle Belt. The chest strap of the Tactical H-Harness should be removed so as not to cover the Cobra chest sigil.

Note: Stinger Driver have the option of affixing red shoulder pads to the Condor Tactical H-Harness (see photo of 1984 Version 1 V1 Cobra Stinger Driver for reference). If you plan to make this modification, the use of red vinyl is recommended, and the red must match the color of the other red uniform elements, including the Cobra chest sigil).

Tip: with the addition of Velcro, use the chest strap of the Tactical H-Harness as a leg strap for the bayonet sheath on your left leg.



CONDOR BATTLE BELT

Cobra Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers wear the Condor Battle Belt, which is connected to the Condor Tactical H-Harness. The Battle Belt is MOLLE compatible and allows for limitless configurations of pouches and accessories.

Please note that the Condor Battle Belt requires an internal quick-release belt which is worn inside the Battle Belt. Many times these belts are sold together as a set, but please check with the vendor you are purchasing from to confirm that both belts are included.



**POUCHES AND ACCESSORIES**

Finest members are encouraged to select from the wide assortment of black Condor MOLLE-compatible tactical pouches, canteens, holsters, packs, and other items to create a customized gear load-out for their Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers. Photos of possible gear combinations are included on this page.



Condor Frag
Grenade Pouch



Condor Tactical
Gadget Pouch



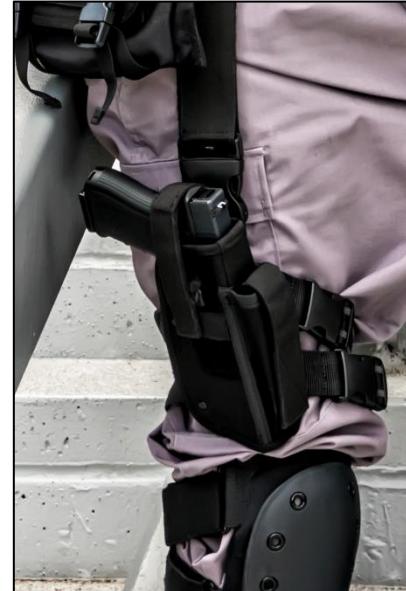
**BAYONET (LEFT LEG)**

Cobra Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers wear a plastic bayonet strapped to the left leg and suspended from the BDU trouser belt (not the Condor Battle Belt). The recommended bayonet is the inexpensive Lancer Tactical CA-07 plastic bayonet, available at various online retailers including www.amazon.com.

Tip: use the chest strap that you removed from the Tactical H-Harness as a leg strap for the bayonet sheath. Velcro is required to create the adjustable closure.

**DROP-HOLSTER (RIGHT LEG) - OPTIONAL**

Cobra Officers, Troopers, and Stinger Drivers have the option to wear a black handgun drop-holster strapped to the right leg and suspended from the BDU trouser belt (not the Condor Battle Belt). A multitude of black tactical drop-holsters are available online via various retailers.





SECTION 4: WEAPONS

PRIMARY WEAPON: AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE

Weapons are optional for Cobra Stinger Drivers. If you choose to carry a weapon, the recommended weapon is the airsoft AK-47 (and variants). Where local laws and rules allow, Finest members are permitted to carry AK-47 Airsoft rifles (unloaded at all times) with the Cobra Stinger Driver uniform.¹

The AK-47 must be full scale (1:1), and may be woodgrain or black. Please be aware that several cheap plastic Airsoft AK-47s are on the market, and are exceptionally fragile. You may wish to consider investing in a real-weight, metal airsoft AK-47 which will likely last much longer than the cheap plastic variety. Folding stock variants of the AK-47 are also permitted.



SECONDARY WEAPON: HANDGUN

The standard secondary weapon for Cobra Stinger Drivers is a black Airsoft handgun (M1911 or similar style) that Finest members have the option to wear in a drop-holster on the right leg.



¹ The Finest places the utmost importance upon the safety of our members and the safety of the public while attending public events. Finest members are not required to carry prop weapons. When carrying weapons, members are required to abide by all relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to weapons, as well as the individual rules and policies of specific venues and events. As laws and regulations vary based on location, Finest members are required to be knowledgeable of, and abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to each member's specific location or event. Finest members are expected to conduct a safety check of weapons prior to events to ensure that all weapons are unloaded at all times.



SECTION 5: CHECKLIST

HEADGEAR

- Helmet (grey)
- Mask
- Beret (optional) with flash

BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM

- Propper (grey) shirt with chest flap, Cobra sigil embroidery, shoulder sigil, and rank pins
- Propper (grey) BDU trousers
- BDU Trouser Belt (black), worn through BDU trouser belt loops
- Gloves
- Kneepads
- Boots (standard black combat or jungle boots)

TACTICAL GEAR

- Condor Tactical H-Harness
- Condor Battle Belt (including inner quick-release belt)
- Condor Pouches and Accessories
- Bayonet (left leg)
- Drop Holster (right leg) - optional

WEAPON

- AK-47 Assault Rifle (optional)
- Handgun (M1911 or similar style) - optional

