

FINEST
A G.I. JOE COSTUME CLUB



FIELD MANUAL: COBRA TROOPER



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Cobra!

You have joined the nameless, faceless legions of Cobra Command. No matter your past, your nationality, or the circumstances that led you here, you have sworn absolute loyalty to our illustrious leader, Cobra Commander, and you will be expected to perform your duty to further the objectives of Cobra!

As a Trooper, you will steadily work your way up the ranks of Cobra. Your journey is sure to be filled with obstacles and challenges. Whether you specialize as an infantry grunt, medic, sniper, or something else, Cobra has plans for you! Maybe you will earn your stripes and become a senior enlisted advisor. Perhaps you will be granted a commission and the right to don the nickel bars of a Cobra Officer. As you progress through your career in Cobra, you will play a critical role in the defeat of our dreaded enemy, G.I. Joe, and you will help Cobra achieve our goal of global domination!

But first, let's get you dressed.

This Field Manual is intended to help new Cobra Troopers assemble a uniform as accurately and as economically as possible. The recommendations in this manual are intended to provide a uniform standard to ensure that all new Cobra Troopers entering the ranks of the Finest are visually identical. 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 among the ranks of the Cobra!

HAIL COBRA!

Cover Photo Credit: Bryan Humphreys: Mad Scientist with a Camera (DragonCon 2014)



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SECTION 1: HEADGEAR

HELMET

For Finest approval, the Cobra Trooper 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).

Additional foam padding may be glued inside the helmet to provide a custom fit.

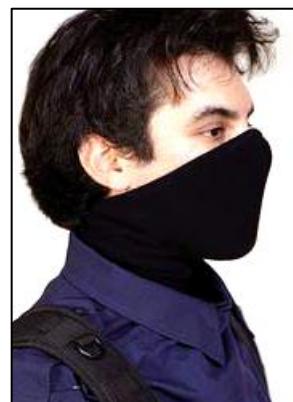
Tip: for a cleaner appearance, the excess chin-strap should be cut, or alternatively, a small piece of Velcro may be attached to keep the excess chin-strap close to the face.



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 Trooper 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 Trooper 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 Troopers, Officers, and Vipers, the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) trousers and shirt must be "Propper" brand (Dark Navy). The correct Dark Navy color for the BDU trousers and shirt may be confirmed by ensuring that the item number of each garment ends in "405".



The item number for the correct color ends with "405".

**SHIRT**

Cobra Troopers have two choices for shirts:

- **Propper (Dark Navy) Tactical Dress Shirt:** this two-pocket shirt is designed to be tucked into the trousers, and is less bulky than standard BDU shirts.
- **Propper (Dark Navy) 2-pocket BDU shirt:** this two-pocket BDU shirt is bulkier than the Tactical Dress shirt and fits larger in the arms and chest.

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 (Dark Navy) Tactical Dress Shirt



Propper (Dark Navy) 2-Pocket BDU Shirt

Rank Pins

As opposed to Officers, Cobra Troopers do not wear rank pins on the shirt collar.



Embroidered Chest Flap

For Cobra Troopers, 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 Dark Navy 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 Dark Navy 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 Trooper 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 and black Cobra Trooper 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.

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



Left Shoulder Sigil

To match other Troopers in the Finest, a red Cobra sigil patch should 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 and black patch. The recommended patch is sold by seller "Katarra8" on eBay.



Optional Shoulder Patches

Optional patches indicating enlisted rank (e.g., red sergeant stripes), garrison patches, or 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 Troopers should be primarily red in color. Troopers should avoid wearing silver patches, as this color is typically reserved for Cobra Officers.



BDU TROUSERS

For Finest approval, and to match other Troopers, Officers, and Vipers, the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) trousers must be “Propper” brand (Dark Navy). The correct Dark Navy color for the BDU trousers and shirt may be confirmed by ensuring that the item number of each garment ends in “405”. No modifications are required for the BDU trousers.



BDU TROUSER BELT

The recommended trouser belt for the Cobra Trooper 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 drop-holster (right leg) will be suspended from your BDU trouser belt.



GLOVES

Black tactical gloves should be worn with the Cobra Trooper 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 Officers, Cobra Troopers 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 Troopers 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 Trooper 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 and Troopers in the Finest. All tactical gear worn by Officers and Troopers in the Finest should be black. Using the Condor Battle Belt and Tactical H-Harness as a common base, Officers and Troopers 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).

As an Officer or Trooper, you may wish to select a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). For example, you may select a gear load-out specific to a Cobra medic, scout, mortar specialist, radio operator, anti-armor specialist, sniper, etc. 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 and Troopers 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 and Troopers 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.

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 and Troopers 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 Officer or Trooper. Photos of possible gear combinations are included on this page.



Condor Frag
Grenade Pouch



Condor Tactical
Gadget Pouch



An example of customizing gear based upon Cobra MOS, this Trooper is outfitted as an anti-armor specialist.



BAYONET (LEFT LEG)

Cobra Troopers 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)

Cobra Troopers 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

The standard primary weapon for Cobra Troopers is the Airsoft Dragunov SVD Sniper Rifle. Where local laws and rules allow, Finest members are permitted to carry the Dragunov SVD Airsoft Rifle (unloaded at all times) with the Cobra Trooper uniform.¹ The Dragunov SVD must be full-scale (1:1), preferably metal, and may be woodgrain or black. The PSO-1 SVD scope is recommended for use with the Airsoft Dragunov SVD Sniper Rifle.



A less expensive alternative primary weapon for Cobra Troopers is the AK-47 (and variants). 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

The standard secondary weapon for Cobra Troopers is a black Airsoft handgun (M1911 or similar style) that is worn in the 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
- Mask
- Beret (optional)

BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM

- Propper (dark navy) shirt with chest flap, Cobra sigil embroidery, and shoulder sigil
- Propper (dark navy) 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)

WEAPON

- Dragunov SVD Sniper Rifle with PSO-1 Scope, or, AK-47 Assault Rifle
- Handgun (M1911 or similar style)

