

Wearing a uniform after retirement is a privilege granted in recognition of faithful service to country. According to [Air Force Instruction 36-2903](#), retirees may wear the uniform as prescribed at date of retirement, or any of the uniforms authorized for active-duty personnel, including the dress uniforms. Retirees must not mix uniform items. Whenever the uniform is worn, it must be done in such a manner as to reflect credit upon the individual and the service from which retired.

Retired Airmen receive the retired lapel button at retirement. Retirees wear the retired lapel button on the left lapel. Retired Airmen whose assignments have included command at squadron, group or wing level are also authorized to wear the command insignia pin on the left lapel, below the retired lapel button. The commander insignia is a generic pin that can be worn by retired commanders. Commanders whose assignments have included command at squadron, group or wing level are authorized to wear the commanders' insignia. The pin (also known as the USAF Commander's Badge) has been in existence since 2002 and is awarded to any Air Force officer who holds a major command billet within the United States Air Force. It can be purchased at any AAFES Military Clothing Sales store.

Retirees whose last assignment before retirement was a first sergeant and/or command chief may wear appropriate chevrons in all instances the uniform is worn.

Retired Airmen will conform to the same standards of appearance, military customs, practices, and conduct in uniform prescribed for active-duty Airmen.

### **When to Wear the Uniform**

[Air Force Instruction 36-2903](#) states retirees may wear the uniform:

- at occasions of military ceremonies;
- memorial services, and inaugurals;
- patriotic parades on national holidays, other military parades or ceremonies in which any active or Reserve U.S. military unit is taking part ;
- at educational institutions when engaged in giving military instructions or responsible for military discipline; and
- at social or other functions when the invitation has been influenced by the member's active military service.

On these occasions the uniform may be worn while traveling to and from the ceremony, provided that such travel may be completed on the day of the ceremony.

### **When Wear is Prohibited**

Wear of the uniform is prohibited for all retirees:

- in connection with the promotion of any political or commercial interests or when engaged in off-duty civilian employment.
- Reserve technicians who are also members of the Ready Reserve may wear their uniform at their option while on duty in their civil service status.
- when participating in public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches, rallies, or public demonstrations, except as authorized by competent authority.
- when wearing the uniform would bring discredit upon the Uniformed Services.
- when specifically prohibited by DoD Regulations.

If there is any doubt about wearing the uniform to a function, the commander of the nearest installation should be contacted. Retirees in a foreign country should contact the American Embassy, the American Consulate, or a U. S. military authority.

## **Awards and Decorations**

4.4. Wear of Awards and Decorations by Retirees and Honorably Discharged Veterans. Honorably discharged and retired Air Force members may wear full-size or miniature medals on civilian suits on appropriate occasions such as Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day. Female members may wear full-size or miniature medals on equivalent dress.

## **Leather Flight Jacket**

According to AFI 36-2903, 8.5.2 (Page 110), with the exception of the Secretary and Under Secretary of the Air Force, the Leather A-2 flying jacket is not to be worn with civilian clothes.