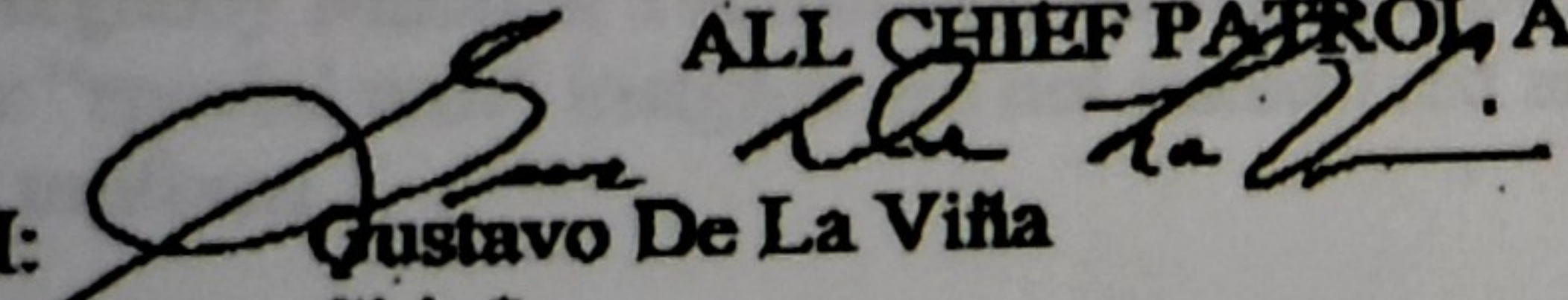


U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

HQBOR 10/13-P

425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

NOV - 6 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTORS, BORDER PATROL
ALL CHIEF PATROL AGENTSFROM: 
Gustavo De La Villa
Chief
U.S. Border PatrolSUBJECT: Border Patrol Uniform Policy

Several questions regarding uniform policy have been raised to Headquarters in recent weeks. I am taking this opportunity to discuss some of these questions so that there will be a common understanding throughout the Border Patrol.

The current uniform policy for the Border Patrol is found in section 2415 of the *Administrative Manual*. Section 2415 has not been replaced by the draft policy document circulated to your offices for review and comment several years ago.¹ It has, however, been amended by several policy memoranda issued by this office, which remain in effect until superseded.

The leather jacket is approved as an optional official (dress) uniform item and as an optional flight uniform item for Aircraft Pilots.² It may not be worn as part of the rough duty uniform.

¹ The draft policy document was prepared by a working group headed by then-Assistant Chief Robert S. Coleman of the Headquarters Border Patrol staff. It was circulated to the field for review and comment on November 19, 1993. It was submitted to the Headquarters Office of Policy Directives and Instructions for inclusion in the revised edition of the *Administrative Manual*. But it was withdrawn by Headquarters Border Patrol when it was discovered that substantive changes had been made to it without this office's prior knowledge or consent.

² The flight uniform consists of the NomexTM flight suit and other items approved and/or issued by the Chief of Air Operations. The leather jacket was authorized as an optional item for the flight uniform by a policy memorandum dated July 31, 1997. Copies of the memorandum can be obtained from Headquarters.

All Assistant Regional Directors, Border Patrol
All Chief Patrol Agents
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Section 2415 addresses the wearing of "campaign" ribbons in the section entitled "Symbols of Rank and Service." The phrase "campaign ribbons, federal and service decorations" is interpreted to mean all ribbons representing Federal military and civilian awards and decorations. Ribbons may be worn only on the Eisenhower jacket.

Several questions have been asked about the proper placement of collar insignia. In November 1992, the Border Patrol adopted the U.S. Marine Corps regulation on the placement of collar insignia on the official and rough duty uniforms. An illustration showing the proper placement of collar insignia is attached. Only Marine Corps-style grade insignia (Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier General, and Major General) are authorized. "K-9," Emergency Medical Technician, bicycle patrol, and other types of metal and cloth specialty or "special unit" insignia are not authorized and may not be worn on the official or the rough duty uniform.

Also several questions have been raised about service stars. Service stars worn on the Eisenhower jacket represent service as an employee of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, regardless of branch or division. Credited time is not limited to Border Patrol service. Military service and other Federal Government employment is recognized by the 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-year pins, etc., awarded under the Incentive Awards Program.³

The uniform holsters available for the Beretta 96D Brigadier .40 S&W caliber pistol from R&R Uniforms, Inc., are not classified as "male" and "female." Agents may choose either holster. Both holsters are approved for the official and rough duty uniforms.

In addition to being a symbol of law enforcement authority, the uniform conveys the image of the Border Patrol to the public. I request that you see that your agents wear the uniform in a manner consistent with Headquarters policy statements to ensure that a professional image is conveyed uniformly throughout the Nation. Official and rough duty uniform items may not be mixed. You are encouraged to direct specific questions about uniform policy issues to this office. Your principal point of contact is Assistant Chief William Beaumet, who can be reached at 202-616-7031.

Attachment

cc: Executive Associate Commissioner, Field Operations
All Regional Directors

³ Service pins are not authorized for wear on any variation of the Border Patrol uniform.