

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Army’s Operational Camouflage Pattern Army Combat Uniform rank insignia, badges, name, and service tapes will now feature a lighter pattern to increase readability and make it easier to recognize a Soldier’s rank.

In order to achieve commonality, the Army worked with the U.S. Air Force, the Natick Soldier Systems Center and Program Executive Office-Soldier (PEO-S) to develop the three-color fabric pattern, which replaces the current seven-color pattern. Thus, the Army has updated the specification, adding Class 15-3 Color Insignia Pattern for Nametapes, US Army Tapes and Rank Insignia.

The reason for the change is to accommodate the spice-brown color embroidery for the Air Force as it did not show well on the Army’s seven-color standard uniform fabric. In order to standardize the insignia across the Army, Air Force and Space Force, The Institute of Heraldry and PEO-S worked to transition the Army Insignia at the same time, unify them with a three-color background pattern, versus the current seven-color pattern to make them easier to manufacture.

The Army’s name and service tapes will retain their current black block letter stitching. Stitching for the Army’s name tapes, grade insignia and badges will remain black.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has already begun to transition inventories to the new three-color pattern name and service tapes. The Defense Logistics Agency is placing orders for the three-color pattern as the seven-color backgrounds are phased out.

The three-color insignia name tags should be in the inventory and available to Soldiers by Nov. 2020.

The current seven-color background rank insignia, badges, name, and service tapes are and will remain, authorized for wear.

