

**5<sup>TH</sup> COMPANY WASHINGTON ARTILLERY UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS**  
**(Revised as of March 10, 2025)**

**1) Enlisted CS Kepi/Cross Cannons/"WA" Kepi "Pins":**

**Specifications:** Red wool top and sides of kepi; with Richmond Gray (dark) wool band at base of kepi; black chin strap and sun visor. The "WA" letters and cross cannon "pins" are obtained by the Battery from the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum, in New Orleans, LA. Please speak to an officer of the Battery as to how to obtain these kepi pins should you need them or lose them.

**2) CS Shell Jacket:**

**Specifications:** Length of jacket is "standard" CSA shell jacket (shorter than federal sac coat); Richmond Gray (dark) wool jacket; with Richmond Gray shoulder epaulettes lined with Red Piping; front is made of nine (9) brass "W.A. Pelican Buttons." Shell jacket should have inside breast pocket as is typical with US and CSA sac coats and shell jackets; Muslin "lining" on inside of shell jacket is optional but this lining really adds to the appeal of the uniform and is highly encouraged; decorative red piping on jacket is on cuffs of sleeves, collar, epaulettes, and on left and right (but not the center seams) that run lengthwise on the back of jacket. Belt loops should also have red piping. As to those men who are officers, jacket stripes are artillery red. Note that two additional buttons (the same size/type as the shell jacket's front buttons) are attached to the epaulettes (one on each epaulette) and on each belt loop (total of 13 buttons). The W.A. Pelican Buttons are made from original casts and are obtained by the Battery from the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum, in New Orleans, LA. Please speak to an officer of the Battery as to how to obtain Pelican Buttons should you need them or lose them.

**3) Britches:**

**Specifications:** Sky Blue (federal infantry britches); red striping on britches acceptable for officers.

**4) Black Leather Belt with CSA Belt Buckle:**

**Specifications:** Standard infantry black leather belt with rectangular "Pelican" belt buckle (see camp officers for details). However, a member is allowed to use oval, square, or rectangle "CS" or "CSA" belt buckles until the member can purchase a rectangular Pelican belt buckle. The preferred Pelican belt buckles are also made from original casts by the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum, in New Orleans, LA., and can be ordered from this museum online or via phone call. The Curator for the museum is Patricia (Pat) Ricci. She is a pleasure to work with. The contact information for the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum is below in this document.

**5) Suspenders:**

**Specifications:** Traditional civil war era suspenders (a/k/a “braces” or “galluses” at the time); preference may be for Muslin/cotton (off-white color as a base) or with red stripes/designs, but this is at the discretion of the soldier.

6) **Canteen:**

**Specifications:** Prefer Sky Blue; however, wood, tin, gray, Richmond gray or jean wool, at the discretion of the soldier.

7) **Leathers and Accouterments/Haversacks:**

**Specifications:** While Washington Artillery is not an infantry or cavalry unit, some soldiers have muskets and therefore black leather cartridge boxes/shoulder slings and cap pouches; and some may have side arms (period revolvers with black leather holsters/cap/cartridge boxes) in and around their person or camp. These items are not a part of the Washington Artillery uniforms, nor are they recommended wearing during drilling and firing exercises, to include haversacks and canteens, as these items can interfere with drill and fire exercises and working the gun (haversacks can be Federal black or typical CSA Muslin/cotton/canvas types, by the way). Further, some reenactment venues prohibit artillery soldiers from using/bearing these arms at events. Haversacks and other equipment can be left in camp or brought near the battery position subject to conditions on the ground, applicable law and venue rules (to include distance/safety requirements for caps/cartridges and other gear placed away from the Limbers/Ammo Boxes, Artillery pieces, and working areas of the battery, as directed from time to time by the appropriate officers). Unless the camp is adequately guarded at all times, please secure valuables in your vehicle, with a trusted friend or family member, or other safe and secure location while at or participating in reenactments. All men are at minimum encouraged to bring your canteens to the battery position with water.

**Note<sup>1</sup>:** Typically, during a battle and in warm weather conditions, CSA artillerymen wore just their shirts, britches/suspenders, kepi’s and boots, to minimize getting in the way of working the gun; but at minimum, most reenactment rules require artillery positions #1 and #2 to wear their shell jackets for added misfire protection for their arms.

**Note<sup>2</sup>:** During the war, CSA artillerymen typically used a 2-banded musket, which is shorter than the 3-band musket, but whatever rifle you have you are welcome to bring it (absent any venue restrictions), we just don’t use them when reenacting battles, unless we deploy artillery guards at some events.

**Note<sup>3</sup>:** For infantry reenacting, 2 band muskets are generally prohibited at reenactments as they have shorter barrels or gun lengths. This is because when infantry double lines or columns are formed to volley fire or fire at will, the soldiers in the back row fire too close to the front line soldier’s side of his head/ears.

8) **Gloves/Gauntlets/Artillery Tools:**

**Specifications:** There are different types of Gloves that may be used in reenactments.

First, there are “dress” or “parade” gloves. These are typically your standard white cotton military-style gloves. Some dress gloves are shorter or longer up on the wrists, and wrist length is the soldier’s discretion. In any event, these gloves may be used by Washington Artillery soldiers who wish to take part in some ceremonies, formal Balls/dances, and mostly at reenactment “morning colors” events, which usually take place at 9:00 a.m. for flag raising/saluting purposes involving other combined infantry and cavalry units.

CSA “gauntlets,” that is CSA “buff” color (as opposed to the Federal pure white color), are also optional but may be worn at any time unless otherwise directed by the appropriate officer.

As far as heavy-duty gloves/gauntlets and artillery tools used in drill and fire exercises, we supply those items, to include hand “welders” gloves for drills and exercises, as well as vent picks, priming lanyards, primers, and thumb stalls, etc.

#### **9) Shirts:**

**Specifications:** Shirts should be solid muslin/muslin color or “white” pull over “Jefferson” shirts; long sleeve, and proper for a CSA soldier (traditional buttoned civil war era shirts). Red shirts were very rare for artillerymen, but used more with infantry Zouaves. If patterned shirts are all you have these are also acceptable, but preference is for the solid white colored Jefferson shirts of the time currently provided by C&C Sutlery (contact information is below).

#### **10) Boots/Brogans/Socks:**

**Specifications:** Jefferson boots (“brogans”) should be black. Black leather tall boots are strongly preferred however, as they look so much more impressive. As to socks, we prefer comfortable, wool socks that were typical of the time and solid color (thicker socks when it is cold, and thinner socks when it is warm weather). If possible, try to avoid using boots/brogans that have metal “horseshoe” rims around the heels, as while these metal rims do make the heel leather pads last longer, they are “slippery” on metal/wood/tile, etc., smooth surfaces and may cause the soldier to slip and fall. Usually, these metal heel rims can be removed and replaced with a leather or black rubber heel pad. In fact, keep an eye on heel pads that are wearing out over time/use, as when they start to wear into the heel itself, it becomes more expensive to replace the heel itself and the heel pad. Heel pads can be easily replaced (like any other leather shoe) by a leather/shoe repair service of your choice.

#### **11) Cross Cannons/Hat Pins:**

**Specifications:** See above section on “kepis.”

#### **SUTLERS:**

While it is in the soldier’s discretion in using any particular sutler or merchant for your uniforms and other items, as far as the kepi’s and shell jackets, shirts, britches, boots, suspenders, etc., one recommended Sutler is C&C Sutlery, based in Idaho, which Sutler has personally worked with Washington Artillery to design and make the kepi’s and shell jackets we use per historical

specifications and photographs provided from Major Beasley. In fact, and currently C&C Sutlery is the only Sutler that we are aware of that can make our special “Washington Artillery” kepis. Also, we have another Sutler, “Milk Creek Mercantile” that can supply many items that you may need to include making your custom “Washington Artillery” shell jackets per the above referenced shell jacket specification.

The owner of C&C Sutlery is Chad Lox. He started reenacting as a kid with his dad (who founded this company in 1976), back in the 1960’s in Illinois and later in Florida. As to Milk Creek Sutlery, they are based in Troutdale, Oregon, and mostly specialize in custom uniforms (however, they do NOT make kepis for us). Milk Creek Mercantile, owned by Teresa White, has been in business since 1995.

with oval, square or rectangle “CS” or “CSA” belt buckle Both of these Sutlers are friendly and knowledgeable about our Unit and its needs, efficient and ship reliably, and both Sutlers have considerable experience in making or supplying their goods for museums, producers of civil war TV shows, movies, and historical/reenacting groups throughout the USA.

**A Note About Top Hat’s Sutlery.** Owned by Todd and Becky Olson, Top Hat’s Sutlery is also a good vendor and attends many Florida reenactment events (and some out-of-state events also). Todd and Becky are good friends of Washington Artillery, and they are very familiar with us. They carry all the leather, brass, accouterments you can imagine, suspenders canteens, and wood tables, wood crates used as coolers, and new and used clothing items. They are usually local at reenactments and are convenient for needed purchases (on site). Becky also makes many of the uniforms and clothing items they sell; however, they cannot make our jackets and kepis, as they cannot obtain from their suppliers the “Richmond Gray” wools we need. Also, Todd personally makes all of the wood products they sell.

Again, for any questions or needed guidance feel free to reach out to Major Beasley, Quartermaster Ross Cramer, or Adjutant Alan Taylor. It is also recommended that you also use C&C Sutlery for the sky blue britches as there may be some (albeit slight) “color variations” between different suppliers on the sky blue colors, and it is best to try to achieve maximum uniformity as to the uniforms. Also note that the sky blue britches used in the Seminole Indian Wars period (generally from 1817-1858), is NOT the sky blue dye color we used in the Civil War., and is Not acceptable with Washington Artillery.

**C&C Sutlery:**

Owner: Chad Lox  
Address: 2001 North Washington Avenue  
Emmett, Idaho 83617  
Website: ccsutlery.com  
Email: info@ccsutlery.com  
Phone: (208) 398-7279

**Milk Creek Mercantile Co.:**

Owner: Teresa White  
Address: PO Box 819  
Troutdale, OR 97042  
Website: milkcreek.com  
Email: milkcrk@gmail.com  
Phone: (971) 292-8368

**Confederate Memorial Hall Museum (New Orleans):**

Owner: Louisiana's Civil War Museum (belt buckles/buttons and more)  
Address: 929 Camp Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Website: confederatemuseum.com  
Email: [memhall@confederatemuseum.com](mailto:memhall@confederatemuseum.com)  
Phone: (504) 523-4522

**Top Hat's Sutlery:**

Owners: Todd and Becky Olson,  
Address: 2242 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Trail  
Sumterville, FL 33585  
Email: tophatsutlery@aol.com  
Phone: (239) 450-1121

Of course, there are many other sutlers and merchants out there such as Blockade Runner, Dixie Gunworks, etc., among others. If you wish to reenact at an event with us and do not have all or parts of a uniform, let us know as we have loaner uniforms and gear for those wishing to give us a try!

Priority of Purchase should first be shell jacket, kepi, shirt, bitches/suspenders and boots/brogans.

Thank you,  
Washington Artillery  
5th Company