

## WHAT KIND OF COVER DO I WEAR TODAY?

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That is a good question for it depends on the day and where I am. Let's start on our journey back in July 1940. On that month I had enlisted for a month of training with the CMTC. Most people do not recognize those initials, but at the time they stood for the Civilian Military Training Corps. Those who enlisted for the training would spend a month with Army military officers. We lived in tents, used the military kitchens and dining halls. Each individual received training in close order drill formations, gunnery, target practice, man to man combat, KP or kitchen duty, military pay in silver dollars, and traversed the never to be forgotten barbed wire obstacle course. For cover I wore green military dungarees and a fore and aft cap with an Army emblem. Those who completed two summers of the training were offered a commission in the Army. Because of the war, the program was discontinued after 1940.

My next enlistment took me in the Marine Reserve Officer Training Corps in April 1942 and I was called to duty in July 1943. My cover at the time was that of an enlisted Marine with a fore and aft cap with a Marine insignia. In October of that year I received an acceptance of my application the Navy to enter their program since I had been accepted for medical school training. My commanding officer (Marine) could not believe that this could occur. The entire application had to be resubmitted to the Marine Headquarters and in about a month I was released from the Marines to reenlist in the Navy. I was able to take one Marine uniform with me and I reported the Naval Hospital in Great Lakes in that uniform. The Navy furnished a seaman's uniform with which I a white Navy cap. After two months at the hospital I was transferred to the University of Iowa School of Medicine. The Navy wanted all of the uniforms given back to them prior to my transfer. Therefore, I reported to medical school in a Marine uniform. A few weeks later I received my midshipmen's hat which I wore until my release from active duty with the Navy in 1946.

I continued with the Navy Reserve as a medical officer wearing a Navy Officers hat during my internship and my residency when affiliated with a Navy or Marine Reserve Unit. I returned to active duty with the Navy in September 1950 for the Korean Conflict and remained on duty for two years. I continued with the Navy Reserve changing my hat to that of a Navy commander and eventually was assigned as the commanding officer of a battalion composed of medical students who were serving on active duty while attending their respective medical schools. I was released from the Navy because of age after serving for a total of forty years as an active or inactive reservist.