



FIELD MANUAL: COBRA VIPER (V1)



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Viper Corps!

We are highly-motivated, superbly trained, and formidably equipped. Vipers are the backbone of the Cobra Legions. You will soon be issued with your own multi-layer body armor, assault rifle, and wraparound acrylic/composite helmet, complete with embedded radio telecommunications.

Actually...

...times are tough and you won't be issued anything. In fact, you'll be supplying your own uniform and equipment. If Cobra Commander was in charge of the world, as he should be, the economy would be significantly improved and he would provide for us all. Alas, G.I. Joe has kept our Commander from his plans for world domination, so resourceful new Vipers will be responsible for their own uniforms.

This Field Manual is intended to help new recruits assemble a 1986 Version 1 (V1¹) Viper uniform as accurately and as economically as possible. The recommendations provided in this manual are intended to provide a uniform standard to ensure that all new Vipers entering the ranks of the Finest are visually identical. Where possible, special attention has been made to recommend uniform components that are commonly available and easily attainable via online sellers.

Although there have been several variations of the Viper uniform since 1986, this manual focuses on the original V1 Viper, as seen in toys, comics, and television. When applicable, this manual will also make references to modern interpretations of the V1 Viper, including Version 20 (2009), and Version 28 (2011). Please note that the Sideshow Collectibles Viper uniform is not addressed in this manual, and will be the focus of a separate field manual.

Despite certain variations, the modern interpretations of the Viper uniform (V20 and V28) referenced in this manual are based upon the original designs of the V1 Viper, and therefore certain elements of those uniforms are considered acceptable substitutions (details are noted throughout).

Now, armed with this Field Manual, go forth and take your place among the ranks of the Viper Corps!

HAIL COBRA!

¹ For the purposes of a common reference system, the version numbers referred to in this manual use the structure provided by www.yojoe.com.



REFERENCE PHOTOS



Version 1 (1986)



Version 20 (2009)



Version 28 (2011)



RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

The following supplies and materials are recommended for construction of the V1 Viper uniform.

Fabric

Red fabric is required for multiple components of the V1 Viper uniform, including the shoulder pads, ribs, forearm bracers, as well as the inner and outer leg panels. The recommended red fabric is Red Pique 100% Cotton Fabric (4004099). This textured and durable fabric is available at Hancock Fabrics (in-stores and website).



Elastic

Red elastic is required to secure the forearm bracers to your arms. Red elastic (1" width) may be purchased from various online vendors, including www.amazon.com.



Batting

Batting is recommended to thicken various components of the V1 Viper uniform, including the shoulder pads, ribs, forearm bracers, as well as the inner and outer leg panels. Batting is commonly available at fabric stores (including Hancock Fabrics and JoAnn's Fabrics).

Interfacing

Interfacing is recommended to stiffen the forearm bracers. Interfacing is commonly available at fabric stores (including Hancock Fabrics and JoAnn's Fabrics).

Paint

With uniformity in mind, and understanding that there are hundreds of shades of red spray paint available, the recommended color for V1 Viper uniform components is Rust-Oleum Gloss Apple Red (249124). This paint closely matches the recommended red fabric and is widely available at various retailers. This paint will be used for the lemon grenades, belt buckle, and the three chest buckles. A matte clear-coat may also be used should a gloss finish not be desired.



Glue

Glue is required to attach the red Cobra sigil to the pistol belt buckle, as well as to attach the chest buckles to the quick release buckles of the assault vest. The recommended glue is IC-2000 Rubber-Toughened cyanoacrylate (CA). Unlike normal superglue which dries brittle, this rubberized glue is exceptionally durable, and remains somewhat flexible after drying. Latex gloves and clamps are recommended when working with IC-2000 CA glue.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: HEADGEAR	6
HELMET	6
GOGGLES	7
BALACLAVA	7
OPTIONAL HEADGEAR	7
SECTION 2: BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM	8
OVERVIEW	8
SHIRT	9
BDU TROUSERS	10
BDU TROUSER BELT	11
FOREARM BRACERS	12
GLOVES	12
KNEEPADS	13
BOOTS	13
SECTION 3: TACTICAL GEAR	14
ASSAULT VEST	14
COBRA SIGIL	15
GRENADES	15
CHEST POUCHES	15
CHEST BUCKLES	16
RED FABRIC SHOULDER PADS	16
RED FABRIC "RIBS"	16
VEST BELT	16
BELTBUCKLE	16
BELTPOUCHES	17
SECTION 4: WEAPON	18
ASSAULT RIFLE	18
SECTION 5: BACKPACK (OPTIONAL)	19
BACKPACK	19
SECTION 6: CHECKLIST	20



SECTION 1: HEADGEAR

HELMET



Basic V1 Helmet



Sideshow Collectibles (SSC) Helmet

For Finest approval, the helmet must be visually identical to helmets already in service within the Finest ranks (ask a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff for vendors and availability). Currently, there are two styles of approved Viper helmets:

1. The Basic V1 helmet
2. The “Sideshow Collectibles” (SSC) helmet

As the SSC helmet shares many features with the modern-era V20 and V28 Vipers, both helmets are approved to be worn with the V1 Viper uniform² (please note that the goggles are different for each style of helmet).

² Note: the SSC helmet is the only approved SSC uniform component authorized to be worn with the V1 Viper uniform.



GOGGLES

For basic V1 goggles, please inquire with helmet manufacturers (ask the Command Staff for details). For the SSC helmet, the recommended goggles are “HUMVEE RAF Motorcycle Goggles (black)”, which are available from various online sellers. The goggle lenses may be tinted, if desired.

Tip: to secure the goggles on the helmet, consider lining the inside of the elastic strap with multiple strips of black, non-skid cabinet liner (see photo). By using multiple strips, the goggles strap will retain its elasticity.



SSC Helmet Goggles:

HUMVEE RAF Motorcycle Goggles (black)



Non-skid cabinet liner for goggles strap

BALACLAVA

The balaclava must be black and long enough to completely cover the neck and chin. The balaclava should be tucked into the shirt collar. Open or closed-faced balaclavas are acceptable as long as the neck and chin are covered.

The ideal balaclava should be thin, lightweight, and designed to wick away sweat from beneath the helmet. Black balaclavas are widely available from a variety of online vendors.



OPTIONAL HEADGEAR

When not wearing the Viper helmet, a U.S. army-style black beret is authorized. The recommended flash is the red and black U.S. Army Special Operations Command beret flash.

All berets should be Rothco “Inspection Ready” which are pre-shaven, pre-shaped, leather-trimmed, and made to military specifications without eyelets or drawstrings.

If you are unfamiliar with the proper care and wear of a military beret, please consult with the Command Staff or various online beret tutorials. If you are in the process of assembling a Viper uniform and do not yet own a helmet, the beret is an acceptable temporary alternative.





SECTION 2: BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM

OVERVIEW



For Finest approval, and to match other Vipers, Troopers, and Officers, the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) trousers and shirt must be “Propper” brand (Dark Navy). The correct Dark Navy color for the BDU trousers and shirt may be confirmed by ensuring that the item number of each garment ends in “405”.



The item number for the correct color ends with “405”.



SHIRT

The Finest recommends using the Propper (Dark Navy) Tactical Dress Shirt. This two-pocket shirt is designed to be tucked into the trousers, and is significantly less bulky than standard four-pocket BDU shirts. Less bulk is important as this shirt will be beneath the Viper assault vest. Please do not buy a bulky four-pocket BDU shirt for the Viper V1 uniform.

The sleeves of the Propper Tactical Dress Shirt are to be rolled-up to the bicep. For a neater appearance, sleeves may be cut, rolled, and permanently sewn in the rolled-up position.

Tip: the Tactical Dress Shirt epaulettes and buttons may be removed and sewn to attach the sleeve roll to the upper arm (see sleeves of Viper V20 as reference).



Shoulder Patches

Shoulder patches on the Viper uniform are permitted but not required. If a Viper Skull Patch is worn, this patch should be placed on the right upper arm, slightly forward of the sleeve center, and one inch down from the shoulder seam. Ask a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff for details on acquiring the Viper Skull Patch.





BDU TROUSERS

The Propper (Dark Navy) BDU trousers must be modified by adding ribbed red panels, centered, along the outside and inside legs. To achieve the desired thickness and the padded, ribbed look, it is recommended that batting be used between fabric layers (as used in quilting).

Tip: Vipers wearing tall leather motorcycle boots may wish to add stirrups to the bottom of each leg.

Red Panel - Inner Leg

The red ribbed panels on the inside of each leg should be 5” at the widest point, and taper to approximately 4” near the knee. The top edges of each inner leg panel are rounded, and should start approximately 5” down from the crotch seam. Starting from the top edge near the crotch, horizontal panel lines should be sewn every 1.5” down the inside leg. The bottom of the inner leg panel must be concealed in your boots, however, it is not required to extend the entire length of the leg.

Tip: For greater accuracy, dark navy piping may be used as trim around the red inner leg panel (see 1986 Viper V1 card art).



Inner leg panel with rounded top edge



Outer leg panels

Red Panel - Outer Leg

The red ribbed panels on the outside of each leg are 3” wide and centered above and below the BDU trouser cargo pockets. Starting from the waistline, horizontal panel lines should be sewn every 1.5”. The bottom of the outer leg panel must be concealed in your boots, however, it is not required to extend the entire length of the leg.



BDU TROUSER BELT

The recommended trouser belt for the Viper V1 uniform is any black “BDU belt” offered by Condor, Blackhawk, and a variety of other manufacturers. Please note that this belt is fed through the belt loops of the BDU trousers and will be completely concealed by the assault vest belt.

The Condor “Riggers Belt” is also acceptable (see V28).

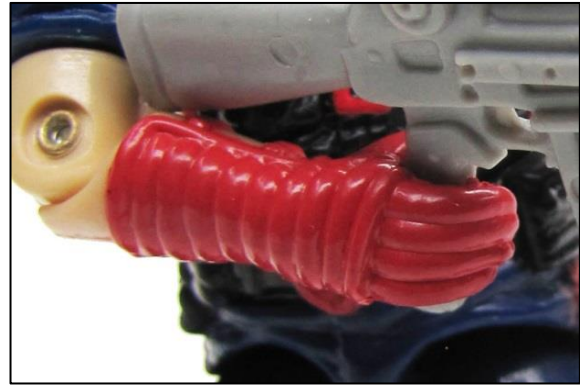




FOREARM BRACERS

A signature component of the V1 Viper is the red, ribbed, forearm bracers. The bracers are made from the same red fabric used on the BDU trousers and cover the forearms and the backs of each hand. Each bracer is stitched to form approximately 10 ribs. Each rib is 1" wide. The number of ribs may be adjusted depending on the length of your arm, however, the width of each rib should remain consistent at 1". The bracers attach to the arm via three 1" red elastic straps (forearm, wrist, and palm).

As with the red leg panels, it is recommended that batting be used between fabric layers to achieve the padded, ribbed look (approximately 0.25" thick). Thick interfacing may also be used to stiffen the bracers. If needed, patterns for the bracers are available from the Command Staff.



GLOVES

The 1986 Viper V1 wore short (wrist-length) red gloves that matched the red forearm bracers. Please avoid long "gauntlet" gloves (which extend past the wrist and cover the forearms), and fingerless gloves. The recommended glove for male and female Vipers is the NEFF Daily Pipe Glove (red).



NEFF Daily Pipe Glove (Red)



KNEEPADS

The tall leather motorcycle boots of the V1 and V20 Viper figures feature a ribbed kneepad which protrudes from the top edge of the boots. These pads may be created from black leather (vinyl or imitation leather), batting, and thick interface, and attached to the inside of the boot shaft. Vertical stitches (1" wide) should be sewn into the knee covers. If needed, patterns for the kneepads are available from the Command Staff.

The V28 Viper wears standard black combat boots with black tactical kneepads. Kneepads are optional for this uniform if wearing combat boots, however, if kneepads are worn, a black tactical kneepad is recommended, similar in style to the photo at right.



BOOTS

The V1 and V20 Viper figures wear tall (estimated at 16-17"), black leather motorcycle boots with straps, buckles, and a silver toe appliance (an optional upgrade). The V28 Viper wears standard black combat boots (with tactical knee pads). Either is approved footwear for the Viper uniform.

For male Vipers, recommended boots are Chippewa police motorcycle boots (71418), or AdTec Engineer Boots (1443). The recommended boots for female Vipers are the Franco Sarto Perk Motorcycle Boot (ASIN: B00NQ31YIA).



**Men's Chippewa Police
Motorcycle Boot (71418)**



**Men's AdTec
Engineer Boot (1443)**



**Franco Sarto
Women's Perk
Motorcycle Boot**



SECTION 3: TACTICAL GEAR

ASSAULT VEST

The preferred assault vest for the V1 Viper uniform is the “VISM MOLLE Pals Vest” by NcStar (available at www.amazon.com). This inexpensive vest includes the attached belt, and is currently worn by the vast majority of Vipers in the Finest. This vest features three quick-release clips which are a prominent feature on all Viper reference uniforms (V1, V20, and V28). This vest can accommodate a Camelback or similar hydration system in the large back pocket.

Tip: as the chest of this vest is made of mesh webbing, you may wish to sew sections of plain black fabric to the underside of the vest, thereby preventing the uniform shirt from showing through the vest. A zipper may also be added to the front center of the vest for greater accuracy.





COBRA SIGIL

A red Cobra sigil is worn on the upper right chest of the vest, typically in the form of a patch. The patch should be high-quality and approximately 3.5” in circumference. For a cleaner appearance, you may wish to first remove rows of MOLLE webbing and Velcro and sew a plain black piece of canvas or fabric along the edges of the vest (under the trim). The patch may then be sewn onto the black fabric. Another option is to embroider the red Cobra sigil onto the black fabric prior to sewing to the vest.



GRENADES³

Two red grenades (lemon style) should be clipped onto the MOLLE webbing on the upper left chest of the vest. Inert lemon grenades are widely available at military surplus stores. The lemon grenades should be painted red to match the other red components of the uniform. Please avoid using other types of grenades, including “baseball” or “pineapple” style grenades. The grenades should be painted red to match the belt buckle and the red fabric components of the uniform.



Unpainted “lemon” grenade



CHEST POUCHES

The V1 Viper assault vest features two shallow chest pockets beneath the Cobra sigil and grenades on each side of the chest. At full scale, the estimated size of the chest pouches are approximately 4.5”W x 4”H. The recommended chest pouch is the Condor MA49 EMT Glove Pouch (black). Two of these pouches are needed.



³ Please remember that the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) prohibits air travel with inert grenades. Grenades may be shipped (via FedEx), if needed.



CHEST BUCKLES

The Viper vest features three red, rectangular buckles which secure the vest in the front. To create these buckles, 1.5” Simplicity Bar Slide Buckles may be modified (remove the center bar), painted, and glued to each quick-release clip on the vest.

RED FABRIC SHOULDER PADS

The V1 Viper vest features two shoulder pads on each side. The shoulder pads are made from the same fabric used for all other red components of the uniform. Thick batting should be sewn inside the shoulder pads to create the desired thickness (approximately 1”). Note: the shoulder pads are approximately double the thickness of all other red fabric components of the uniform.



RED FABRIC “RIBS”

The V1 Viper vest features a red fabric panel under each arm stitched with five distinct horizontal ribs. The panel is approximately 5” wide at its widest point and tapers slightly at the waist. The rib stitches are approximately 1.25” apart. The ribs are made from the same fabric used for all other red components of the uniform. Batting should be sewn inside the ribs to create the desired thickness.



VEST BELT

The recommended assault vest (the NcStar VISM MOLLE Pals Vest) includes a 2” wide black belt that is approved for wear with the Viper uniform. The two pistol magazine pouches included with belt should be removed.

BELT BUCKLE

The V1 Viper wears a red Cobra sigil on the pistol belt, mounted on red circular base. These buckles are currently available from Finest members for purchase (see Command Staff for details). The sigil should be glued or otherwise secured onto the quick release buckle of the vest belt. You may wish to use a small piece of rubber or foam as a spacer between the quick release buckle and the Cobra sigil.



Tip: the belt buckle may be painted with Rust-Oleum Gloss Apple Red (249124) to match the lemon grenades.



BELTPOUCHES

The V1, V20, and V28 Vipers wear three pouches on the vest belt:

1. A rectangular pouch (approx. 6.75"W x 4.5"H), worn horizontally on the left side.
2. A larger rectangular pouch (approx. 7.88"W x 5.63"H), worn horizontally on the right.
3. A small rectangular pouch (approx. 2.25"W x 4.5"H), worn vertically on the right, forward of and adjacent to Pouch 2.

Pouch 1 (left side)

The recommended pouch is the black Condor First Response Pouch (191028). For absolute accuracy, the strap closure and quick-release buckle may be removed, and two black metal snaps may be attached to either side of the flap closure.



Pouch 2 (right side)

Although the desired sizes are slightly different, a second Condor First Response Pouch (see Pouch 1) is approved for wear on the right side.

Pouch 3 (right side)

The recommended pouch is an inexpensive, generic "Black Molded Nylon Knife Sheath" widely available on eBay. For absolute accuracy, a black metal snap may be attached in the center of the flap closure. Note: the belt loop on this pouch must be modified to fit onto the 2" vest belt.





SECTION 4: WEAPON

ASSAULT RIFLE

The V1 Viper rifle features a scope, a forward grip, a suppressor, and a flashlight mounted beneath the barrel. The color of the original 1986 Viper rifle is light gray, however, later iterations of the figure included a black rifle. Finest members are permitted to carry light gray or black Airsoft rifles (unloaded at all times) with the V1 Viper uniform.⁴



As a base rifle, the Finest recommends the Airsoft BBTac M82 Airsoft Electric Assault Rifle. Available via various online sellers (including www.amazon.com), this rifle includes a scope, forward grip, suppressor, folding stock, and flashlight.

Tip: the M82 rifle's transparent magazine should be painted black.



⁴ The Finest places the utmost importance upon the safety of our members and the safety of the public while attending public events. Finest members are not required to carry prop weapons. When carrying weapons, members are required to abide by all relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to weapons, as well as the individual rules and policies of specific venues and events. As laws and regulations vary based on location, Finest members are required to be knowledgeable of, and abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to each member's specific location or event. Finest members are expected to conduct a safety check of weapons prior to events to ensure that all weapons are unloaded at all times.



SECTION 5: BACKPACK (OPTIONAL)

BACKPACK

The backpack is an optional component of the V1 Viper uniform. The V1 Viper backpack is a top-loading pack with a buckled flap closure and embossed Cobra sigil. Beneath the closure are two grenades, a canteen, and a vertical pouch.



As a base pack, the Finest recommends the Rothco Jumbo Musette Bag (black), available through various online vendors including www.amazon.com. This inexpensive canvas bag may be easily modified to accommodate the grenades, canteen, and pouch. For additional accuracy, canvas and batting may be added to the top closure flap to create the distinct five ridges.





SECTION 6: CHECKLIST

HEADGEAR

- Helmet
- Goggles
- Balaclava
- Beret with U.S. Army Special Operations Command flash (optional)

BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM

- Proper brand (dark navy) Tactical Dress Shirt (sleeve patches optional)
- Proper brand (dark navy) BDU Trousers (with red fabric modifications)
- BDU Trouser Belt (black), worn through BDU trouser belt loops
- Forearm Bracers (handmade item)
- Gloves (wrist-length red tactical gloves)
- Kneepads (optional)
- Boots (17" leather, buckled motorcycle boots, or standard black combat boots with kneepads)

TACTICAL GEAR

- Assault Vest
- Cobra Sigil (patch or embroidery)
- Grenades (2) (red, "lemon" style)
- Chest Pouches (2)
- Chest Buckles (3) (modified and painted bar slide buckles)
- Red Fabric Shoulder Pads
- Red Fabric Ribs
- Belt Buckle
- Belt Pouches (3)

WEAPON

- M82 Airsoft Electric Assault Rifle

BACKPACK (OPTIONAL)

- Rothco Jumbo Black Musette Bag (modified)

