



Attention!

Military style lets you stay classy, day or night, casual or dressy

story by **Rauna Davis**

To keep from overdoing it, a single military-inspired item per ensemble is enough. You don't want to look like you are actually in the military, just a nod will suffice.

With fashion week come and gone, the fall shopping spree has begun.

Among a flurry of trends, military-inspired pieces were everywhere on the runways. From Michael Kors' jungle-ready outfits to Victoria Beckham's sultry, fitted dresses, brass buttons and epaulets abound. Double-breasted coats were heavily featured, as were collared shirts, pants with high waists, and caps with a brim. The influence even stretches to the eyes; a new optical collection by Ksubi titled "War" features several takes on military style, including classic aviators and black-rimmed spectacles.

One great thing about this trend is that it can be dressed up or down, so a few key pieces in your ward-robe will go a long way.

Perhaps the most popular example of military-style influence can be seen in jackets. They come in many styles, from short and fitted to long and loose. Classic colors include green, black, navy blue and khaki. Lauren Jeans Co. just released a military-inspired jean jacket, available at Dillard's, that takes the look to a contemporary new level. Designers are now creating jackets in every hue from grey to bright red. For daytime, wear your military jacket with jeans and your favorite boots. Dress up your jacket and pants with a pair of heels. For work, don it over a solid-hue dress or with a button-up shirt and slacks.

Many of us have a pair of shorts that fit the style, particularly army green shorts. Try wearing them over sheer or black tights. (In our mild climate, the shorts should last at least through the beginning of fall; add a scarf if it is fairly cool outside). Army green is also a popular color for military-inspired pants, which can take on a contemporary look when paired with a crisp white top. Complete the look with a brown belt to pull it all together.

Navy blue is very much in style, and you can play on its nautical vibe by sporting it alongside red and white. Grey is incredibly versatile and tends to look good on every skin tone we're seeing it everywhere now from head to toe. Feminize the masculinity of many military pieces by adding a touch of pink, or even by including lace.



At first glance, **Betsey Johnson's leopard metal watch** appears to be no-nonsense. Look closer, and you'll see that feminine details abound. Glamorous without being girly, gold yet not stuffy, this watch will hit the mark every single time.

Dillard's, \$95



The neutral colors of this scarf make it a perfect addition to your military-inspired getup, as well as many other closet staples for the fall and winter season. The fringe and pattern makes it unique and awe-inspiring, not to mention on-trend. The tab-buttons on the gloves are reminiscent of military uniforms both past and present. Pair these pieces with a bomber jacket for a vintage look or wear them everyday with your favorite coat.

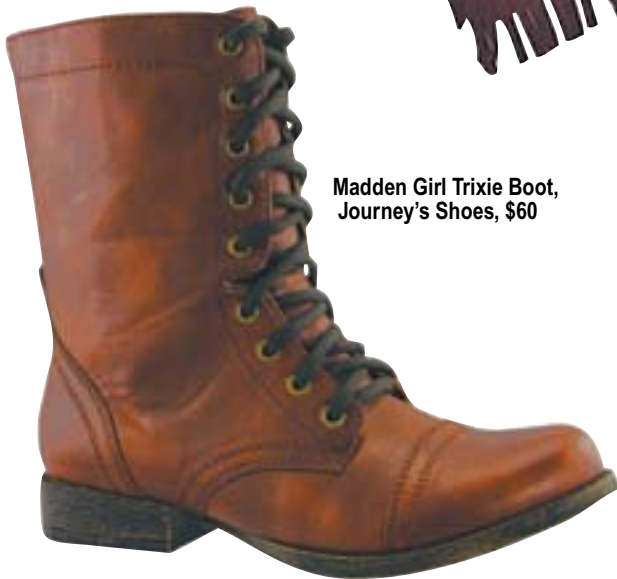
Muk Luk Military Scarf with Suede Fringe and Tab-Button Gloves, \$14.99/\$12.49, Target



BKE Woven Knit Hat, Buckle, \$12.60

Belts are an important part of fashion for their functionality, but they are also a way to add style. Cinched waists are popular in military-inspired looks, and belts made with elastic will create a lovely hourglass shape on any body when worn above the navel.

Daytrip Cut-Out Belt, Buckle, \$16.95



Madden Girl Trixie Boot, Journey's Shoes, \$60

Tab-Sleeve Trench Coat in Bandolier Brown, Old Navy, \$42



You don't have to wear boots with this look. Feminine pumps with buckle details are work appropriate while remaining true to the military style.

Women's Kimmie Mary Jane Pump, Payless, \$24.99



For men, an old favorite is still in style



Outerwear is one part of a man's wardrobe where the military look never goes out of style. Lots of pockets are key, epaulet details make it complete.

BKE Putnam Hall Coat, The Buckle, \$120



Not only does this stylish watch feature luminous hands and a day/date window, it is made with an Eco-Drive battery that runs on any kind of light. That means you'll never have to deal with changing the battery again.

Citizen Men's Eco-Drive Military-Green Watch, JC Penney, \$110



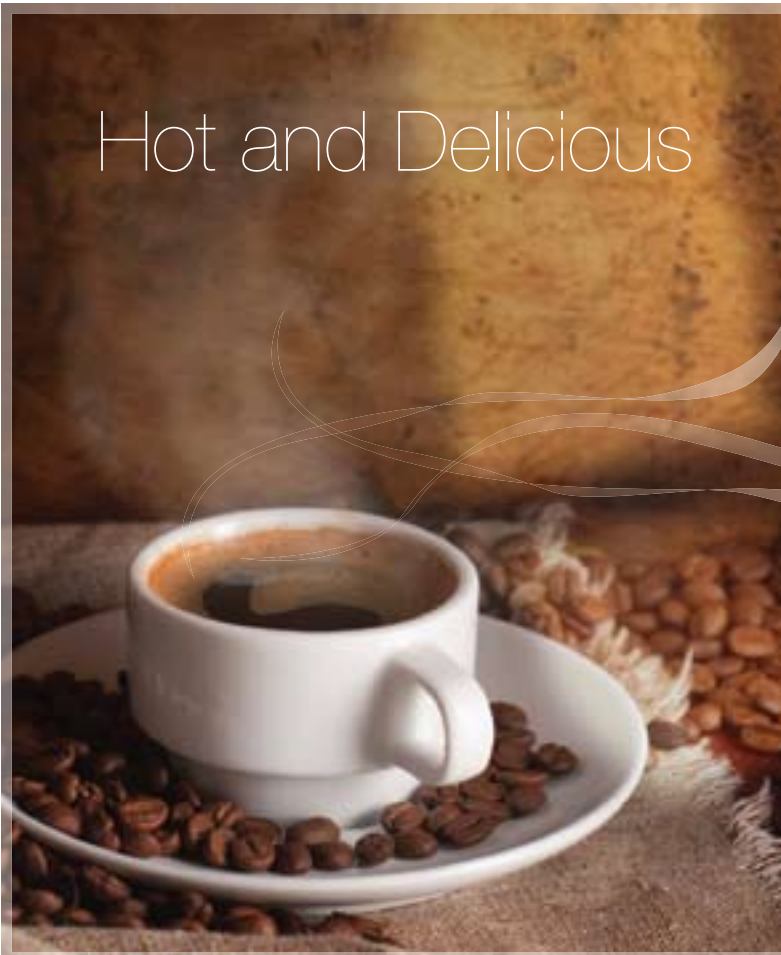
Renowned for his effortlessly cool apparel, Ralph Lauren has done it again. Cuffed and collared though it may be, this shirt is remarkably casual and just a bit rugged around the edges.

Denim & Supply Ralph Lauren Military Shirt, Dillard's, \$65

Armani Exchange took aviator sunglasses to new heights with this modern design featuring metal frames and smoke lenses.



Dillard's, \$65



Hot and Delicious

Thomas Coffee

Proudly offered throughout Southern Illinois.



Hand-selected from the finest Arabica coffee beans in the world and then roasted to perfection to deliver a tremendous taste you will savor cup after cup.



PEPSI MIDAMERICA

pepsimidamerica.com

1.800.827.7020