Sheriff's Hats

How's this for an interesting small category?

Sheriff's hats run the gamut from civilian wear to baseball cap-types to military styles. The most recognizable style to most of us, though, is the 'campaign hat' [first photo, opposite page].

The origins of the campaign hat can be traced to the 1840s when U.S. Army mounted troops posted to the far-west sometimes wore wide-brimmed civilian hats, which were more practical than the regulation shakos and forage caps then issued. The crease was influenced by the designs of the sombreros worn by the Mexican Vaqueros. The name started to be used after the 1872–1876 regulations, which introduced a black felt hat—which could be drab after 1883—for fatigue use derived from the types popularized during the American Civil War. Some were worn with campaign cords, mainly as a form of decoration.

You don't see the civilian styles on sheriffs these days, but, today, Smokey the Bear wears a campaign hat, as do the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, park rangers, the border patrol, Boy Scout leaders, and many police agencies, including several states' highway patrols. [shown below]









