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GENERAL UNIFORM REGULATIONS

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CHAPTER ONE GENERAL UNIFORM REGULATIONS

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1101. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. POLICY. The purpose of the U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations is to: (1) Provide descriptions of all authorized U.S. Navy uniforms and components, and (2) Provide guidance for all Navy activities prescribing uniform wear in order to present a uniform image world-wide. **It is issued by direction of the Chief of Naval Operations and carries the force of a General Order. Any procedures or components, regarding uniforms or grooming, not discussed in these regulations are prohibited.**

a. Applicability. The provisions of this manual apply to all personnel who are authorized to wear the U.S. Navy uniform. It is issued for information and guidance, and requires compliance when wearing naval uniforms. This manual is the sole source for dictating how to correctly wear U.S. Navy uniforms and uniform components. It supersedes UNITED STATES NAVY UNIFORM REGULATIONS, NAVPERS 15665H dated 19 April 1991, and all other existing directives on Navy uniforms. After 1 January 1996, Navy Uniform Regulations will be distributed quarterly via BUPERS Directives in CD ROM format and will contain revisions and updates to the 1995 manual. For distribution information, see [Link](#).

**Articles 1101.1.b

through 1101.1.b(3)d are no longer in effect until further notice**

b. Navy Uniform Board (NUB). Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel Training and Education) (N1) is charged by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), through the Navy Uniform Board, to continuously review U.S. Navy uniform matters. Composition and functions of the Navy Uniform Board are set forth below.

(1) Membership & Structure

a. Members: Chief of Naval Personnel (N1), Board President; Commander, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command; Commander, Naval Supply System Command; Director, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Policy Division (N13); Director, Diversity and Women's Policy Division (N134); Director, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Resource Management Division (N10); Deputy Director, Surface Warfare (N86B); Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. Fleet Representatives include U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Fleet Master Chief; Pacific Fleet, Fleet Master Chief; Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education, Fleet Master Chief; Naval Installations Command, Force Master Chief; Navy Reserve Force, Force Master Chief; Naval Education and Training Command, Force Master Chief; U.S. Naval Academy, Command Master Chief; (O5/E9) female Representatives from PACFLT/LANTFLT O4/O5 (Alternate annually); and PACFLT/LANTFLT E8/E9 (Alternate annually).

b. Permanent Staff: Uniform Matters Office (Civilian Head, E9 Deputy Head and E6 Civilian Clothing Allowance Specialist)

c. Impact and Requirement Panel: Uniform Matters Office (Policy/requirements), N10 (Funding requirements & analysis), Navy Clothing & Textile Research Facility (NCTRF) (Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation), and Navy Exchange Command (NEXCOM) Uniform Program Management Office (UMPO) (Distribution, Retail & Execution).

d. Subject Matter Experts: UMO, Navy Exchange Command, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), NCTRF, and Navy Community Representatives (Invited).

e. Working Groups. The President is authorized to convene working groups as necessary to perform special functions and studies in carrying out the mission of the Navy Uniform Board.

(2) Mission. The mission of the Uniform Board is to consider any matter related to Navy uniforms in which a perceived problem exists or in which a possible improvement can be made. The Uniform Board will be guided by the uniform goals and policy established by the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).

(3) Responsibilities

a. Board President: Convene Uniform Board (at least semi-annually, and/or as deemed necessary); announce Uniform Board convening dates and Board results; screen suitability of recommendations for review, endorsement and forwarding for CNO review; forward reports and

recommendations to CNO via VCNO; prepare approved changes to Navy Uniform Regulations; communicate uniform changes to the Fleet; convene special working groups as required; and ensure uniform changes are kept to a minimum and in consonance with the history and traditions of the Navy.

b. Board Members: Represent respective area of responsibility, review proposals, and make recommendations to the President.

c. Permanent Staff: Support the Board President in carrying out his/her responsibilities; establish points of contact with Echelon 1 and 2 organizations to ensure uniform concerns and recommendations are presented to the Navy Uniform Board; review and recommend specification changes concerning design, detail and material of uniform items; maintain and interpret U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations per uniform policy and CNO decisions; monitor implementation of uniform policy; review development and testing of proposed uniforms and implementation of approved uniform components; monitor procurement, issue, and retail of Navy uniforms ensuring conformance with uniform regulations; maintain awareness of other services uniform developments; review individual clothing allowances for the CNO approved Seabag requirements prior to submission to office of Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

d. Impact and Requirement Panel: Evaluate uniform proposals for impact and requirements prior to submission to the Uniform Board; categorize proposals as Accessions, Fleet, or Organizational requirement/impact; and submit a report to Uniform Board identifying requirements and associated impact to implement submitted proposals.

(4) Uniform Change Recommendations. Sailors may make uniform or uniform regulation change recommendations via their chain of command to the Uniform Board. Recommendations are to be submitted in letter format with subject line REQUEST FOR UNIFORM BOARD POLICY CHANGE. Recommendations should reflect Navy-wide application with an eye towards standardization and uniform policy reduction. Uniform change proposals are to be endorsed via cover letter by each endorsing echelon. The final endorsement should include proposal Subject Matter Expert contact information. Uniform proposals which are not endorsed favorably at any level will not be accepted by the board. Proposals favorably endorsed shall be submitted to Navy Uniform Board, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (N131U), 701 S. Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22204-2164. Recommendations shall be submitted as follows:

a. Fleet units: Uniforms and uniform regulation change proposals shall be evaluated and endorsed at the unit level, forwarded through the chain of command up to the force (TYCOM)(N1) and fleet level (N1), as appropriate. Fleet commanders will perform a final screening and endorsement prior to final forwarding to the Navy Uniform Board.

b. Shore installations: Forward evaluated and endorsed recommendations to Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) via their respective region commander. CNIC will forward recommendations to U.S. Fleet Forces (N1) for consideration. U.S. Fleet Forces forward approved recommendations with endorsement to the Navy Uniform Board.

c. Training commands (less U.S. Naval Academy): Forward evaluated and endorsed recommendations to Navy Education and Training Command (NETC). NETC will perform a final screening and endorsement to the Navy Uniform Board.

d. All others: Uniforms and Uniform Regulation change proposals shall be evaluated and endorsed at the unit level and forwarded through the administrative chain of command with final endorsement to the Navy Uniform Board.

2. HISTORY. Historically, uniforms have been the product of a sailor's environment: physical, geographical and technical. Uniforms were provided for protection against the elements or to create distinction among specialists in a growing Navy. Foremost, however, was an element of simplicity providing a uniform that would not interfere with the Sailor's everyday tasks. Women's uniforms, on the other hand, were designed to duplicate civilian fashion trends. Today's Navy has narrowed the gap between men's and women's career paths. Women now perform many of the same tasks and have the same specialties as their male counterparts. These changes necessitated a more definitive policy to bring the uniforms of both men and women more closely in line with each other.

3. ENFORCEMENT. These regulations define the composition of authorized uniforms. Navy uniforms are distinctive visual evidence of the authority and responsibility vested in their wearer by the United States. The prescribing authority determines when and where the uniforms in this manual are appropriate for wear. Uniforms and components shall be worn as described in these regulations. Navy personnel must present a proud and professional appearance that will reflect positively on the individual, the Navy and the United States. While in uniform, it is inappropriate and detracts from military smartness for personnel to have their hands in their pockets. Additionally, when walking from point to point while in uniform, it is inappropriate and detracts from military smartness for personnel to be smoking or using tobacco products, or to be eating and/or drinking. All personnel shall comply with these regulations and be available to teach others the correct wear of Navy uniforms. Exemplary military appearance should be the norm for uniformed personnel. These regulations describe all authorized U.S. Navy uniforms and the proper manner for their wear.

4. HEADGEAR

a. General. The cap/hat is an integral part of the uniform. Uniform headgear is not required to be worn when ships are at sea outside harbor limits, except on specific watches or on ceremonial occasions specified by the commanding officer or higher authority. Uniform headgear is required in port, unless safety prohibits wear, i.e., foreign object damage (FOD).

b. Outdoor Wear. Outdoors, personnel remain covered at all times unless ordered to uncover, or during religious services not associated with a military ceremony. Personnel remain covered during invocations or other religious military ceremonies such as changes of command, ships' commissionings and launchings, and military burials, etc. The chaplain conducting the religious ceremony will guide participants following the customs of his church.

c. **Indoor Wear.** Indoors, personnel shall remain uncovered at all times unless directed otherwise by higher authority for a special situation/event. Those service members in a duty status and wearing side arms or a pistol belt may only remove headgear indoors when entering dining, medical or FOD hazard areas or where religious services are being conducted. Tiaras may be left on indoors.

d. **Special Circumstances.** A military cover may be removed when riding a bicycle on or off base. A safety helmet is recommended. Personnel may remove their cap or hat when traveling inside a private automobile or riding a bicycle off base. A cover is mandatory when entering or within a military reservation, unless wearing the cap is impractical or hazardous.

5. SHIPBOARD RESTRICTIONS

a. **Polyester Uniforms.** Do not wear 100% polyester uniforms (Certified Navy Twill) in any operating fire room. Wear only flame retardant clothing when engaged in hot work such as welding or brazing, and when exposed to open flame, such as during boiler light-off operations, or spark producing work such as grinding.

b. **Skirts/Dress Shoes.** Do not wear skirts or dress shoes (pumps/heels) aboard ship. The wearing of skirts or dress shoes (pumps/heels) are not prescribable or optional aboard ship. These items may be stored aboard ship optionally at the discretion of the service member and worn when immediately departing or returning to the ship.

c. **Poromeric Shoes.** Do not wear poromeric (e.g. corfam) shoes aboard ship for normal daily operations. Poromeric shoes may be worn when immediately departing or returning to the ship, or when specifically authorized by the commanding officer for ceremonial or other special occasions.

d. **V-Neck/Sleeveless Undershirts.** Do not wear V-neck/sleeveless undershirts aboard ship for normal daily operations. V-neck/sleeveless undershirts may be worn when immediately departing or returning to the ship, or when specifically authorized by the commanding officer for ceremonial or other special occasions.

e. **Acrylic Cardigan and V-Neck Sweater.** Do not wear acrylic V-neck sweater aboard ship as an outer garment during daily operations. Acrylic V-neck sweater may be worn when immediately departing or returning to the ship, or when specifically authorized by the commanding officer for ceremonial or other special occasions.

6. CLOTHING REPLACEMENT ALLOWANCES

a. **General.** In Executive Order 10113 of 24 February 1950, the President has delegated to the Secretary of Defense the authority to prescribe the quantity and kind of clothing or cash allowances in lieu of clothing, for enlisted personnel.

b. **Amount.** Allowances are based on the useful wear life of the various uniforms. DOD Directive 1338.5 outlines the policies and regulations pertaining to allowances. DOD Instruction 1338.18, reissued annually, sets the amount of clothing replacement allowances. The Department of Defense Military Pay and Allowances Entitlements Manual is the authority for paying of clothing allowances.

c. Annual Clothing Replacement Allowance (CRA).

(1) CRA is a cash allowance provided for replacing a minimum quantity of each required uniform and paid over the estimated useful life of the articles. The uniform components and minimum required number of each are listed on <Tables 3-1-1 and 3-1-2>. While these are the minimum number required, members may acquire and maintain more than the initial issue at their own expense.

(2) CRA is for replacing uniforms. Washing, dry cleaning, alterations, and repairs are the member's responsibility. Any unusual wear and tear, damage, or loss of various articles may result in out-of-pocket costs.

d. **Command Replacement of Destroyed Uniform Items.** Personnel assigned to duties which prematurely destroy uniform items should be issued coveralls or protective outer garments. Uniform items which are destroyed due to lack of adequate protective garments should be replaced by the command. For additional information refer to NAVSUP Manual P485.

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► 1201 - Authority to Prescribe

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CHAPTER ONE GENERAL UNIFORM REGULATIONS

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1201. AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE

1. GENERAL. Navy personnel shall wear the uniform of their respective rate or rank as prescribed by the designated uniform prescribing authority.

2. PRESCRIBING AUTHORITY. The area/regional coordinators, as designated in Section 4 of Standard Navy Distribution List, OPNAV P09B2-105, are the prescribing authorities responsible for issuing and controlling uniform policy within the geographic limits of their assigned region <Table 1-2-1>. This authority shall not be delegated. The senior officer present is responsible for uniform policy afloat.

3. SENIOR OFFICER PRESENT AFLOAT (SOPA). SOPA ensures compliance with uniform policy, as issued by the prescribing authority, regarding liberty parties and members of the command operating ashore. This includes all occasions when personnel are ashore. The senior naval officer assigned to any joint command may prescribe the appropriate uniform, for naval personnel, stationed at the joint command using Table of Equivalent Service Uniforms, <Table 6-6-1>.

4. PRESCRIBED UNIFORMS. Prescribing authorities select uniforms, the individual does not. It is essential that suitable uniforms for ship and shore, dress and work are prescribed. Each designated region should consider its unique work environments, tenant commands and missions, climatic conditions, geographic location and public exposure. Generally, there will be only one uniform of the day authorized for wear at a given time and location. All military personnel, on naval shore activities must wear either the uniform of the day or appropriate civilian attire prescribed by the activity's prescribing authority. Military and civilian attire must present a neatly groomed and socially acceptable appearance. When warranted by local circumstances, the prescribing authority may prescribe an alternate uniform. In that case, only the minimum number of uniforms required to meet local conditions will be prescribed. A specific uniform will be prescribed for functions involving the civilian community. Local commands may address special uniform requirements to the prescribing authority if a waiver is necessary.

5. REGULATIONS. Each prescribing authority will publish uniform guidelines. They must be punitively enforceable with the force of a general order and thus are recommended for review by the cognizant Judge Advocate to ensure enforceability. Each prescribing authority shall send a copy of their instruction to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (N131U), 701 S. Courthouse Rd, Arlington, VA, 22204.

a. Guidance. The following guidance is for preparing regional uniform directives.

(1) When a departure from former uniform policy is planned, review the new policy with Navy uniform centers to ensure adequate availability.

(2) Consider potential financial impact which could occur from an abrupt shift in policy. (Early planning doesn't ensure spending).

(3) Area directives should specifically address uniform requirements for personnel in medical, industrial, or other unique jobs.

(4) Wearing nonstandard accoutrements, unauthorized combinations of uniform components, and locally designed uniform components is prohibited.

(5) Special Situations Request waivers from the Chief of Naval Operations via the chain of command for any uniform requirements of training commands or officer accession commands that deviate from these regulations.

(6) Organizational clothing, i.e., foul weather jackets, green flight jackets, coveralls, etc., is authorized for wear with working uniforms **only during actual performance of special work or duties for which organizational clothing is designed.**

(7) E1-E6 personnel may only be required to wear items listed on <Tables 3-1-1 and 3-1-2>.

(8) Optional items may be worn but not required.

TABLE 1-2-1

AREA COORDINATION ASSIGNMENTS
AND
REGIONAL COORDINATORS WITHIN THOSE AREAS

1. COMMANDER, U.S. FLEET FORCES (EAST COAST ATLANTIC)

COMMANDER NAVY REGION, MID-ATLANTIC VA (VIRGINIA (less Northern Virginia Area assigned to COMNAVDIST WASHINGTON DC) PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, NORTH CAROLINA, CONNECTICUT, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT and WEST VIRGINIA)

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST (FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, LOUISIANA, TEXAS, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, GUATANAMO CUBA and PUERTO RICO)

COMMANDER NAVAL AIR FORCE, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET (BERMUDA, and AZORES)

COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES, U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND (WEST INDIES)

COMMANDER NAVY REGION MIDWEST (ARKANSAS, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, OKLAHOMA, OHIO, TENNESSEE and WISCONSIN)

2. COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET (WEST COAST/PACIFIC)

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST (CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, COLORADO and UTAH)

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION NORTHWEST (ALASKA, IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON STATE, MONTANA and WYOMING)

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII (HAWAII and ISLANDS OF MIDWAY, KURE, WAKE, JOHNSON, PALMYRA AND KINGMAN REEF)

COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES, JAPAN/REGION JAPAN (JAPAN, OKINAWA and DIEGO GARCIA)

COMMANDER U.S. NAVAL FORCES, KOREA/REGION KOREA (KOREA)

COMMANDER U.S. NAVAL FORCES, MARIANAS/REGION MARIANAS (GUAM, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND and INDONESIA)

COMMANDER U.S. NAVAL FORCES, SINGAPORE/REGION SINGAPORE (SINGAPORE)

3. COMMANDER, NAVY REGION EUROPE, AFRICA and SOUTHWEST

ASIA (EUROPE/AFRICA/SOUTHWEST ASIA) less East African Littoral States assigned to COMUSNAVCENT, MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL (less Egypt) ISLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, PORTUGAL, UNITED KINGDOM, NORTHERN EUROPE, and ICELAND)

4. COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND (MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA, INCLUDING EAST AFRICAN LITTORAL STATES OF EGYPT, SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, DJIBOUTI, SOMALIA and KENYA)

5. CHIEF OF NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

CHIEF OF NAVAL AIR TRAINING

COMMANDER, NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, GREAT LAKES, IL

6. COMMANDER, NAVAL RESERVE FORCE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

7. COMMANDER, NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON, DC (NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON, ENCOMPASSING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, AND VIRGINIA COUNTIES)

VIRGINIA COUNTIES: ARLINGTON, FAIRFAX, FAUQUIER, LOUDOUN, PRINCE WILLIAM, KING GEORGE, AND STAFFORD. INCLUDE THE CITIES LOCATED WITHIN THEIR COMBINED OUTER BOUNDARIES.

MARYLAND COUNTIES: ANNE ARUNDEL, KENT, QUEEN ANNES, CAROLINE, TALBOT, DORCHESTER, WICOMICO, SOMERSET, WORCHESTER, ST. MARY'S, CALVERT AND CHARLES.

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CHAPTER ONE GENERAL UNIFORM REGULATIONS

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1301. TRAVEL UNIFORM

1. GENERAL. When traveling on leave, TAD or transfer, Service Dress Blue may be worn during any season.

2. REGIONAL TRAVEL. For travel within a region, wear either the uniform of the day as prescribed for destination or Service Dress Blue uniform for the entire trip. For travel between regions, wear either the uniform of the day for destination or point of departure for actual travel. A change to the uniform of the day at destination is required to conduct business, or Service Dress Blue may be worn for the entire trip. Working uniforms are not normally authorized for official travel, but area coordinators may authorize working uniforms in specific geographic regions or situations when warranted by local conditions.

3. GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION. Navy personnel traveling aboard any military organic or commercial contracted (chartered) aircraft may wear civilian clothing when traveling on regular/emergency leave or Space A travel. Personnel on PCS or TAD orders may travel in civilian clothing unless otherwise directed by cognizant authority. Those who wear a uniform will observe regional travel requirements. Navy personnel must ensure that their dress or personal appearance is appropriate for the occasion and conforms to required standards set forth in Chapter Z. Members wearing civilian clothing will ensure it is warm enough for inflight operations and destination. Personnel traveling overseas should consult the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide for any particular uniform or civilian clothing requirements for their destination.

4. COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION. When traveling on commercial international flights, Navy personnel in a duty, leave, or liberty status will wear an appropriate uniform or civilian clothing as required by the USAF Foreign Clearance Guide. For travel in the United States, Navy personnel using a commercial mode of transportation may wear appropriate uniform or civilian clothing.

5. COMMUTING

a. General. The prescribing authority may authorize working uniforms, except Navy Blue Coveralls, for commuting to and from work. Commuting is defined as a direct route from place of residence to place of work by means of a private vehicle, to include all travel aboard DOD-owned/controlled aircraft.

b. Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type I, II, and III Authorized Brief Stops.

1. NWU wear is authorized for commuting and all normal tasks and associated stops (e.g. stops at child care, gas stations, off-base shopping, banking, DMV, and dining) before, during and after the workday. NWUs are not a liberty uniform. Consumption of alcohol while off-base in NWUs is not permitted. The area or regional commander may further restrict uniform policies within their geographical limits regarding the wear of NWUs.

Within the National Capital Region (NCR) the NWU is authorized for wear at all locations with the exception of inside the pentagon building, national mall area bounded by capitol hill and surrounding senate and house offices, the white house and executive office building, state department and all monuments and memorials. Wear while metro, public transportation and slug lines outside the pentagon is authorized. NWU wear is authorized in office environments at headquarters staffs outside these NCR areas. NWU is authorized for all Navy recruiting command recruiters in the continental United States (CONUS), Hawaii and Guam (e.g. malls, schools, normal recruiting areas).

2. CONUS air travel in NWUs is authorized only on military and government contracted flights between military airfield installations (e.g. NAS Oceana to NAS Fallon). The NWUs are not authorized for wear during commercial travel (e.g. airlines, railways, or bus, etc.) but are authorized on commuter transportation (e.g. Metrorail, metro bus, commuter bus, VRE, ferries). While OCONUS, personnel who are deploying, executing permanent change of station orders, on rest and relaxation leave status to or from OCONUS area of responsibility (AOR) or transiting in an emergency leave status will travel in appropriate civilian attire. T-shirts, shorts, sandals etc. are not considered appropriate civilian attire. Upon entering or departing CONUS, personnel on official travel transferring to and from any AOR are authorized to wear the NWU Type II/III only on U.S. flag commercial airlines and government contracted flights. Personnel will only

wear NWUs at the CONUS port of entry or debarkation and will not wear NWUs when arriving or departing any OCONUS civilian airport point of debarkation/entry (APOD/E). Personnel will wear appropriate civilian clothing when debarking at APOD/E. When travelling in NWUs, it shall be clean and present a sharp military appearance. In all cases, at least one set of civilian attire is to be packed in a carry-on luggage for contingency situations. Travel in NWUs is not authorized on any commercial carrier for any reason other than stipulated in this article.

c. Other Working Uniforms.

1. Flight Suit. Occasion for wear is aligned with the NWU occasion for wear policies as outlined in article 1301.5.b. above. This policy applies to one-piece flight suits only. Green flight suits will be the primary flight suit worn in CONUS. Tan flight suits will only be worn in CONUS in hot weather environments (Fallon, El Centro, China Lake, Lemoore, etc.) as authorized by the TYCOM.

d. Organizational Clothing. Wear of organizational clothing, except flight suits, brown leather flight jackets, and camouflage uniforms, is not authorized while commuting.

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► 1401 - Laws, Directives

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CHAPTER ONE GENERAL UNIFORM REGULATIONS

SECTION 4: LAWS, DIRECTIVES, U.S. NAVY REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO UNIFORMS Article

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1401. LAWS, DIRECTIVES, U.S. NAVY REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO UNIFORMS

1. [GENERAL](#). Various laws, regulations and amplifying directives issued by competent authorities govern the wear of uniforms by Navy personnel. Applicable laws include:

a. Title 10, U.S. Code

- (1) Sec. 771-Unauthorized wearing prohibited.
- (2) Sec. 771a-Disposition on discharge.
- (3) Sec. 772-When wearing by persons not on active duty authorized.
- (4) Sec. 773-When distinctive insignia required.
- (5) Sec. 774-Applicability of chapter.
- (6) Sec. 6155-Uniforms, accoutrements and equipment; at cost.
- (7) Sec. 6156-Uniforms; Sale to former members of the naval service.

b. Title 18, U.S. Code, Sec 244-Discrimination against person wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces.

c. Title 36, U.S. Code, Sec. 176-Display and use of the Flag.

d. Title 37, U.S. Code

- (1) Sec. 415-Uniform Allowance: officers; initial allowance.
- (2) Sec. 416-Uniform Allowance: officers; additional allowance.
- (3) Sec. 417-Uniform Allowance: officers; general provisions.
- (4) Sec. 418-Clothing Allowance: enlisted members.

2. [U.S. NAVY REGULATIONS](#). U.S. Navy Regulations article 1161 applies:

a. Clothing which is sold or issued by the United States to any person in the naval service shall not be sold, bartered, exchanged, pledged, loaned or given away, except as authorized by proper authority.

b. No person in the naval service shall have any article of wearing apparel belonging to any other person in the naval service without permission from proper authority.

3. [EXCERPTS OF LAWS AND AMPLIFYING DIRECTIVES](#)

a. Title 10, U.S. Code, Sec. 771 stipulates that no one person except members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps, may wear

(1) The uniform, or a distinctive part of the uniform, of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps; or

(2) A uniform which has components similar to distinctive parts of Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps uniforms.

b. Title 10, U.S. Code, Sec. 772 (e) states "The President, in Executive Order 10554 of 18 August 1954, delegated to the Secretary of Defense the authority to prescribe regulations under which persons not on active duty who served honorably in the Navy in time of war may wear uniforms." The following excerpts from DOD Instruction 1334.1 of 11 August 1969 outline these instructions and prescribe limitations for members of the Armed Forces.

(1) Members of the Armed Forces (including retired members and members of reserve components). Wearing of uniforms is prohibited under any of the following circumstances:

(a) Any meeting or demonstration which is a function of, or sponsored by an organization, association, movement, group, or combination of persons which the Attorney General of the United States has designated, pursuant to Executive Order 10450 as amended, as totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive, or as having adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States by unconstitutional means.

(b) During or in connection with political activities, private employment or commercial interest, that imply official sponsorship of the activity or interest.

(c) When participating in activities such as public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches, rallies or any public demonstration which implies the service supports the principles of the demonstration or activity. This rule may be waived by the service.

(d) When wearing of the uniform would discredit Armed Forces.

(e) When specifically prohibited by regulations of the department concerned.

(2) Former Members of the Armed Forces. Unless discussed in DOD Directive 1334.1 or Title 10 U.S. Code Sec. 772, former members who served honorably during a war and whose most recent service was terminated under honorable conditions, may wear the uniform of the highest grade held during their service only on the following occasions and during travel related to those occasions.

(a) Military funerals, memorial services, weddings and inaugurations.

(b) Patriotic parades or ceremonies in which any active or reserve United States military unit is taking part. Wearing of the uniform or any part of it at any other time or for any other purpose is prohibited.

(3) Medal of Honor Holders. Persons who have been awarded the Medal of Honor may wear their uniform at any time except under the circumstances discussed in subparagraph b.(1) above.

(4) For Members of the Naval Service. The Secretary the Navy supports the following:

(a) Exercising the rights of freedom of speech and assembly does not include the right to use the inherent prestige and traditions represented by the uniforms of the naval service to promote privately held convictions on public issues.

(b) Members of the Navy and Marine Corps, including retired members and members of reserve components are prohibited from wearing uniforms of the naval service while attending or participating in a demonstration, assembly, or activity knowing that a purpose of the demonstration, assembly, or activity supports personal or partisan views on political, social, economic, or religious issues, except as authorized in advance by competent authority; or incident to attending or participating in a bona fide religious service or observance.

(5) Other Than Official Events. A commanding officer may authorize wearing the uniform when assured that the service member is not appearing in uniform at the particular event, to promote privately held convictions or interests, or lead the observers to believe that the demonstration, assembly, or activity does not relate to matters in public controversy.

4. DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA. (Title 10 U.S. Code Sec. 773 refers). The Secretary of the Navy prescribed the following distinctive mark for members of military societies which are composed entirely of honorably discharged officers and enlisted personnel and the instructors and members of duly organized cadet corps. This distinctive mark is a diamond, 3-1/2 inches long in the vertical axis, made of any fabric, white on blue, forestry green, or khaki clothing and blue on white clothing. Wear this mark on all outside clothing on the right sleeve, at the point of the shoulder, placing the upper tip of the diamond 1/4 inch below the shoulder seam.

5. DISPLAY AND USE OF THE FLAG. (Title 36 U.S. Code Sec. 0176 refers)

a. Never fasten, display, use, or store the flag where it could be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in anyway.

b. The flag should never have placed upon it, or have attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing.

c. Never use the flag for advertising. It should not be embroidered on cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or reproduced on paper napkins, boxes or anything that is disposable or used as part of a costume or athletic uniform.

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CHAPTER ONE GENERAL UNIFORM REGULATIONS

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1501. UNIFORM STANDARDS

1. STANDARD PHRASEOLOGY. When making official references to the uniforms, insignia, and grooming standards in any official publication, the terms set forth in these regulations shall be used.

a. Basic Uniform Components. Uniform items required as part of the basic uniform. These are the minimum items which must be worn unless the prescribing authority directs otherwise.

b. Prescribable Items. Uniform items which may be directed or authorized for wear with the basic uniform. Prescribable items may be worn with basic uniform at the individual's discretion unless otherwise directed.

c. Optional Items. Uniform items purchased at the wearer's expense, which may be worn with the basic uniform, but which are not prescribable. Optional items may be worn with the basic uniform at the individual's discretion unless otherwise directed.

d. Conspicuous. Obvious to the eye, attracting attention, striking, bright in color. Should blend with (not stand out from) a professional appearance in uniform. What is conspicuous on one person may not be noticeable on another. If attention is naturally drawn to or distracted from the professional appearance, it is conspicuous.

e. Conservative. Not conspicuous or detracting from the professional appearance while in uniform.

f. Faddish. A style followed for a short period of time with exaggerated zeal. Styles are enduring, fads are generally short in duration and frequently started by an individual or event in the civilian community. Fads are generally conspicuous and detract from a professional appearance.

g. Complements Skin Tone. A conservative color which contributes to the wearer's natural skin tone. Conservative colors are generally inconspicuous and do not detract from a professional appearance in uniform.

h. Phase-Out. Discontinue wear.

2. REGULATION CLOTHING AND INSIGNIA

a. LABEL. Uniform clothing, equipment and accessories issued or sold through the Navy Supply System are regulation and will be labeled like the following sample:

Name: Name: Service No.:
Trousers, Blue, 100% Wool Serge
Contract No.: DSA 100-00-0-000
Name of Supplier: The Trouser
Manufacturer

b. CERTIFICATION. All other uniform components and accessories will conform to the specifications for regulation items. The purchaser is responsible for ensuring that each garment meets approved specifications. Garments having the following label are certified to be regulation:

This garment is warranted to meet or exceed the requirements established by the U.S. Navy Certification Program and was produced under certification #00-000-00

for basic materials warranted by the manufacturer to have been produced in accordance with sample under current certification.

UNIFORM CERTIFICATION

All authorized insignia shall be stamped with a certification number and the following information will be included on packaging:

U.S. NAVY CERTIFICATION #0-000

This item is warranted by the manufacturer to meet the applicable government requirements.

Where gold or silver are specified for insignia, synthetic metal base substitutes, certified by Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility, are authorized.

Uniform components acquired from other than Navy approved sources must conform to all military specifications regarding fabric, style, and appearance. The purchaser is responsible for ensuring that each garment meets approved specifications.

3. AUTHORIZED FABRICS

a. Only those fabrics which are approved by the Chief of Naval Operations are authorized for the manufacture of naval uniforms. Presently approved fabrics are listed on <Table 3-1-3>.

4. SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARD SAMPLES

a. The Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command ensures that specifications for all articles of uniform and insignia prescribed for naval personnel are prepared and maintained for approval of the Chief of Naval Operations. The standard regulation samples of uniforms and insignia, made in accordance with military specifications and approved by the Chief of Naval Operations, shall be maintained at the U.S. Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility. All articles issued to personnel in the Navy must conform to the standard sample and its specification.

b. Regulation samples of enlisted uniforms may be requested from the Commander, Defense Personnel Support Center, 2800 South 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19101.

c. Specifications governing Navy uniform articles, insignia and accessories may be obtained from the Officer in Charge, Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility, Post Office Box 59, Natick, MA, 01760.

d. Do not deviate from the approved specifications without specific authorization of the Chief of Naval Operations.

5. UNIFORM REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT. The Chief of Naval Operations charged the Navy Uniform Board to continually review Navy uniform matters and use the following specific qualitative factors, applicable to all uniforms, to evaluate suitability of current uniforms and those proposed for replacement.

a. Versatility. Flexibility and adaptability in terms of:

(1) Number of personnel wearing uniforms.

(2) Varied climates.

b. Safety. The ability to protect and not present a hazard to personnel.

c. Ease of Maintenance. Laundering, cleaning, upkeep, and tailoring requirements.

d. Storage. Amount of space required for stowage.

e. Cost. Purchase price and maintenance costs.

f. Durability. Ability to present a neat appearance over a long period of time.

g. Tradition. Historical acceptance and longevity within the naval service.

h. Recognition. The ease with which observers recognize the uniform and the member's rank.

i. Military Appearance. How well the uniform displays a smart, crisp image.

j. Compatibility. Interchangeability among other uniform components.

k. Contemporary Appearance. Attitude of military members toward the uniform.

l. Comfort. Perceived physical satisfaction during wear.

6. CONTINUING REVIEW. The Navy Uniform Board will continually review the uniform situation in the Navy. Significant changes in styles, technical improvements in fabrics, problems reported by field commanders, and wearer's views will be considered in the review.

NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND: 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington TN 38055-0000

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