



COMDTINST 1020.10A
06 March 2014

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1020.10A

Subj: STANDARDS FOR COAST GUARD PERSONNEL WEARING THE NAVY WORKING UNIFORM (NWU)

Ref: (a) Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6 (series)
(b) Maritime Expeditionary Security Operations Manual, NWP 3-10
(c) Supply Policy and Procedures Manual (SPPM), COMDTINST M4400.19 (series)

- PURPOSE.** This Instruction establishes guidance for the wearing of the Navy Working Uniform by Coast Guard personnel.
- ACTION.** All Coast Guard operational and unit commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements shall comply with the provisions of this Instruction. Internet release is not authorized.
- DIRECTIVE(S) AFFECTED.** The Standards for Wearing of Camouflage Utility Uniforms (CUU) by Coast Guard Personnel, COMDTINST 1020.10, is hereby cancelled.
- DISCUSSION.** The NWU is the standard U.S. Navy field uniform and is considered organizational clothing. The desert camouflage uniform (DCU) and woodland CUU were discontinued in June 2012. They have been replaced by the NWU, which is the new standard camouflage uniform worn by the Navy in CONUS and can be worn while deployed as prescribed by combatant commanders. The NWU Type II and III are of unisex design and include the Navy logo Anchor, Constitution, and Eagle (ACE) design in the print of the fabric. The NWU coloring schemes consist of two unique four-shaded digital camouflage profiles: the NWU Type II (DCU replacement) and the NWU Type III (CUU desert and woodland replacement). These were developed by the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Command under the authority and guidance of the United States Special Operations Command for NSW and Maritime Special Operations Forces.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No.163

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	X	X		X		X			X	X	X										X	X				
B	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X			X	X		X		X
C	X	X	X					X		X			X	X		X		X	X		X			X	X	
D		X		X		X			X	X		X	X		X						X			X	X	
E	X		X	X												X	X			X	X			X		
F																	X	X	X							
G			X	X	X																					
H	X					X																				

NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard. This Instruction is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Nothing in this Instruction authorizes or is intended to obligate the Coast Guard to expend, exchange, or reimburse funds, services, or supplies, or transfer or receive anything of value.
6. MAJOR CHANGES. The NWU family of uniforms is intended to replace multiple and less capable legacy uniforms, reduce total ownership costs, and modernize the warfighter. As such, the NWU series has been developed for use in the tactical expeditionary mission of today's Navy and Coast Guard, tailored for desert and woodland environments.
7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT.
 - a. PERSONNEL RESOURCES REQUIRED. N/A.
 - b. TRAINING REQUIRED. N/A.
 - c. FUNDING. The only authorized procurement source is through the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the National Stock System via MILSTRIP. No commercial purchases of any piece or part of the NWU Type II or Type III are authorized.
8. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
 - a. Environmental considerations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were examined in the development of this Commandant Instruction without substantive change. It is categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis and document requirements under Categorical Exclusion #33 as published in National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series), Figure 2-1. An Environmental Checklist and Categorical Exclusion Determination (CED) are not required.
 - b. This directive will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Instruction must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates. Due to the administrative and procedural nature of the Instruction, and the environmental guidance provided within it for compliance with all applicable environmental laws prior to promulgating any directive, all applicable environmental considerations are addressed appropriately in this Instruction.
9. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Instruction. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. CGWeb:

<http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/CGDirectives/>, and CGPortal:
<https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

10. **RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS.** This Instruction has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not have any significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
11. **POLICY.** Normally, Coast Guard personnel will only wear NWUs when operating in an OCONUS environment with other military forces or when training to operate in an OCONUS environment that would require NWUs. The following policy is aligned with U.S. Navy NWU guidance promulgated in NAVADMIN message DTG 301439ZAUG11. This message is located at: <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMINS/NAV2011/NAV11259.txt>.



a. Authorization.

- (1) Commandant (CG-ODO) is the executive agent for NWU policy and designates units authorized to procure and wear the NWU. Commandant (CG-721) will become the executive agent for this policy when Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) capability functions are shifted from Commandant (CG-ODO).
- (2) The Director of Logistics (DOL) will provide product line modeled support for the fielding, sustainment, and life cycle management of the NWU. The DOL is the only authorized unit to procure the NWU.
- (3) Subject to the uniform policies of the local operational commander, Coast Guard personnel designated by Commandant (CG-ODO) and assigned to or attached to the following units, teams, or detachments are authorized to wear the NWU in the following situations:

- (a) The NWU Type II is primarily worn during deployments and pre-deployment training. Only Coast Guard personnel assigned to units directly supporting operations that require a desert tactical uniform in the theater of operations may wear the NWU Type II.
- (b) The NWU Type III is primarily worn during deployments and pre-deployment training. The following units, teams or detachments are authorized to wear the NWU Type III:
 - 1) Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) and support personnel deployed OCONUS in support of Geographic Combatant Commander (GCC) operations;
 - 2) Coast Guard personnel deployed operationally in support of, and as directed by, the GCC. This applies to GCC staffs, Service staffs, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) staff or their subordinate units, and Joint Task Forces (JTF);
 - 3) Coast Guard personnel actively engaged in Port Security Unit (PSU) Active Duty Training, PSU basic skills courses, unit-wide Inactive Duty Training (IDT), or equivalent activities as prescribed by the (GCC) may wear the NWU Type III;

Note: PSU members mobilized in garrison to support the deployed elements of the unit shall continue to wear the Operational Dress Uniform or other uniform prescribed by the local District Commander when not involved in IDT or active duty periods described above.

- 4) Personnel assigned to Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (PATFORSWA) and Redeployment Assistance and Inspection Detachment (RAID) Team; and
 - 5) Coast Guard Headquarters and Area staffs visiting deployed units OCONUS.
- (4) While deployed, personnel requiring a uniform for “outside-the-wire” operations may continue to use current flame resistant compliant uniforms (i.e., FRACU, NOMEX Flight Suit, USMC FROG I and II) but are authorized to wear the NWU Type III when a flame resistant uniform is not required.

b. NWU Type II and III Components and Features.

- (1) Both NWU Type II and III incorporate the following construction features:
 - (a) A retractable mandarin collar with Velcro fastener;
 - (b) A center chest rank tab;

- (c) Chest and shoulder pockets with tapered flaps and combination button and Velcro fasteners;
 - (d) Shoulder pocket flaps with Velcro to accommodate identification friend or foe (IFF) markers;
 - (e) Canted thigh cargo pockets and elevated calf pockets with pocket flaps; and
 - (f) Elastic waist band for improved trouser waist adjustment and reinforced ribbon buttons on the fly and cargo pockets.
- (2) Components include brown cotton or tan moisture wicking undershirt, black boot socks, blousing straps, desert tan boots, 1 3/4-inch coyote brown nylon woven riggers belt with subdued black finished buckle, eight point utility cap, unisex blouse (shirt) and trousers, and service and name tape.
- (3) Prescribed NWU Type II and III components include matching pattern, waterproof, and breathable fabric parka with slip on insignia, removable coyote brown fleece liner, and brown fleece or knit watch cap.
- (4) Optional NWU Type II and III components include 1 3/4-inch wide coyote brown one piece adjustable nylon webbing belt with forged steel buckle D-ring and hook and loop fastener, tan boots, brown or green boot socks, earmuffs (with outer garments only), earrings (gold ball for female E-7 and above and silver ball for female E-6 and below), black leather gloves, matching print inclement cold weather pants, and Navy approved hard hats.
- (5) The following Coast Guard specific modifications and guidance is provided for NWU Type II and III manner of wear:
- (a) Headgear: An eight-point, USMC-style cap will be worn squarely on the head so that the visor is on a line just above the level of the eyes. All officers, chief petty officers, and petty officers will wear the appropriate embroidered rank insignia centered on the front of the cap. The bottom of the insignia will be approximately 1-1/4 inches from the visor.
 - (b) Sun Hat: The camouflaged utility sun hat may be worn squarely on the head so the visor is on a line just above the level of the eyes only when prescribed by the operational commander. No insignia is worn on the camouflage utility sun hat.
 - (c) Watch Cap: When authorized by appropriate authority, will be worn during cold weather conditions as required. The watch cap will be worn diagonally from the base of the back of the head, across the ears and on the forehead. Rank/rate insignia is not authorized to be worn on the watch cap.
 - (d) Blouse/Shirt: Normal wear is outside the waistband of the NWU Type II/III trousers. When directed by appropriate authority, the shirt will be worn inside the

trouser waistband (tucked in). When worn in garrison, the mandarin collar folds down flat and the neck tab extension is secured under the left collar with hook and loop tape (Velcro). For tactical application only (such as when wearing chemical biological radiation gear, body vest armor, and carrying weapons with a sling) the collar is worn in the up position with the Velcro tab pulled across the center of the neck and secured to the underside of the opposite collar. Sleeves may be worn rolled up as directed by appropriate authority. When authorized, NWU Type II/III sleeves shall be rolled (cuff right-side out) forming a 3-inch wide band covered by the cuff of the shirt (the outside fabric of the NWU Type II/III will show). The termination point of the roll is approximately 2 inches above the elbow. This manner of sleeve roll presents a short sleeve appearance and facilitates expeditious de-rolling and fastening during emergent situations. The Seabee logo is the only authorized unit logo or patch on the NWU Type II and III uniforms.

- (e) Trousers: Normal wear is fastened fully on the waist with belt buckle centered over the trouser fastener. The trouser legs shall be bloused with blousing straps so the blouse covers the top three rows of the boot eyelets. When authorized to wear the trousers unbloused, the trouser leg length will not extend below the bottom of the boot heel.
- (f) Belt and Buckle (Riggers Belt): All personnel will wear the 1 3/4-inch coyote brown one piece nylon woven riggers belt with subdued black finished buckle or 1 3/4-inch wide coyote brown one piece adjustable nylon webbing riggers belt with forged steel buckle, d-ring, and hook and loop fastener. The excess end of the fastening tip will be oriented to the left of the buckle of the wearer's body. When properly worn, the belt tip will extend 2-4 inches from the buckle.
- (g) Boots: Authorized footwear worn with the NWU Type II and III is a desert tan or brown brushless boot (including American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved composite safety toe ASTM-2413-05 (as updated). Bootlaces will be tucked in a manner to present a well-kept appearance. Steel-toed boots are not authorized. Socks shall be black, brown, or green and extend above the top of the footwear to ensure comfort.
- (h) Undershirts: Shall be brown (coyote), 100% cotton or tan moisture wicking, and quarter-length sleeve, with an elliptical (crewneck) collar.
- (i) Thermal Underwear: Organization issued or personally purchased thermal underwear is authorized to be worn underneath the NWU Type II/III undershirt and trousers. Thermal underwear will not be visible when worn underneath the undershirt.
- (j) Cold Weather Parka is the standard outerwear worn with the NWU Type II and III. It has a detachable coyote brown fleece liner that provides extra protection during extremely cold conditions. The parka is equipped with a fold-out hood

located inside the Velcro closure section of the collar. The hood is designed to provide additional protection during inclement weather conditions.

- 1) To ensure its watertight integrity, puncturing, pinning, or sewing items to the parka is not authorized.
 - 2) The coyote brown parka fleece liner is the only liner authorized to be worn with the NWU Type II and III. The coyote brown fleece liner is authorized for wear as a stand-alone outer garment with the NWU Type II and III uniforms without a rank device on the fleece. The fleece is interchangeable with both NWU Type II and III.
- c. Environmental Extremes. The following modifications are authorized when granted by appropriate authority (GCC/OPCON/TACON/Commanding Officer).
- (1) The NWU Type II and III blouse may be removed on job sites or in work spaces.
 - (2) The NWU Type II and III trousers may be worn un-bloused on job sites or in workspaces.
 - (3) During the winter or inclement periods, the parka hood is authorized for wear. In addition to head gear, black leather gloves and matching pattern inclement weather pants (APECS) are authorized.
- d. Rank/Rate insignia. Appropriate rank/rate insignias will be worn by all officers, chief petty officers, and petty officers. The rank insignia will be slid onto the tab on the front of the parka and fleece.
- (1) All rank, rate, service tapes, name tags, breast insignia, warfare pins, and identification badges will be embroidered on either NWU Type II material or the NWU Type III material without black ink pixels on the NWU Type III print.
 - (2) Cap insignia (rate/rank) will be worn centered on the front of the NWU Type II/III eight-point cap by all officers, chief petty officers, and petty officers. The bottom of the insignia will be approximately 1 1/4-inch from the visor.
- Note:** Officers will wear the regular size embroidered grade insignia. Chief petty officers will wear the 1 1/4-inch embroidered cap insignia. Petty officers will wear the regular size embroidered petty officer cap insignia. E-3 and below will not wear a cap insignia.
- (3) Rank insignia (pull on/pull off) shall be worn by E-4 and above personnel on the parka and blouse center chest rank tab as follows:
 - (a) Officers, with the exception of vice admirals and admirals (O-9s and O-10s), will wear a regular size embroidered grade insignia. Admirals and Vice Admirals will wear a slightly smaller size insignia to accommodate the insignia's proper fit on

the tab. The stars will be stacked vertically with the point up. Chief petty officers and petty officers will wear the regular size embroidered cap insignia.

- (b) The rank tab is centrally located on the parka and blouse. The tab is 3-1/2 inches tall and 1-1/2 inches wide. All rank tabs are centrally located for a consistent focal point for identification. On the blouse, the rank tab top edge is in alignment with the top seam of the chest pockets. On the parka, the rank tab edge is located two inches to the wearer's left from the primary zipper.
 - (c) All ranks will be embroidered with black thread except for the ranks of ensign and lieutenant commander, which will be embroidered with spice brown thread; W-2 with spice brown and green thread; and W-3 and W-4 with black and green thread.
- (4) Devices: Incumbent command afloat, command ashore, and officer-in-charge ashore and afloat embroidered devices are authorized for wear by eligible personnel. Devices are worn on the NWU type II and III blouse above the right pocket centered 1/4-inch above the name strip. Devices shall be embroidered on a strip of the applicable NWU type II/III fabric.
 - (5) When applicable, a maximum of two permanent warfare/qualification insignia (or temporary insignia as allowed by CG policy) may be worn on the NWU type II and III. The size of the fabric strip on which they are embroidered will be rectangular and the approximate size of the breast insignia. The primary breast insignia will be worn centered above and flush with the "U.S. COAST GUARD" identification marking on the shirt.
 - (6) Badges: Command master/senior/chief and authorized badges will be embroidered and worn on the left breast pocket. Badges shall be embroidered on a strip of the applicable NWU type II and III fabric.
 - (7) Name Tapes: The wearer's name is worn over the right pocket and the words "U.S. COAST GUARD" is worn over the left pocket. Lettering maybe 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch block style on approximately 1-1/4 inch wide fabric strips. Both tapes will match the width of the pocket.
 - (8) Patches: Unit patches, other organizational, or unit patches are not authorized. U.S. flag patches are not authorized unless directed by the operational commander and/or overseas (or assigned) with DOD.
 - (a) When authorized, a two tone U.S. flag matching the colors of the NWU Type II and III uniforms shall be worn on the right shoulder pocket flap and affixed with hook and pile.
 - (b) When authorized, a two tone Coast Guard Ensign matching the colors of the NWU Type II and III uniforms shall be worn on the left shoulder pocket flap and affixed with hook and pile.

- e. Identification markings. Identification markings will be embroidered in approximately 3/4-inch block letters on approximately 1-1/4 inch wide fabric strips. Long names can be embroidered in approximately 1/2 inch letters. Proper locations of fabric strips are as follows:
- (1) NWU Type II and III Blouse: Wearer's surname will be sewn centered above and flush with the top of the wearer's right breast pocket.
 - (2) "U.S. Coast Guard" will be sewn centered above and flush with the top of the wearer's left breast pocket.
 - (3) Rating badges will not be worn or stenciled on the NWU Type II and III.
 - (4) No badges, insignia, accoutrements, logos, patches, or devices of any type will be worn on the left breast pocket.
 - (5) IFF glint tape or other identification/marker may be worn during deployment training exercises and on deployment when approved by the Joint Task Force Commander.
 - (6) Velcro attachments during tactical operations: Velcro attached accoutrements are authorized for wear and removal on the NWU Type II and III at the discretion of the Commanding Officer and approval from the JTF Commander during tactical operations. Accoutrements include service tape, name tape, command insignia, all identification badges, and breast insignia.
 - (7) NWU Type II and III Trousers: The wearer's surname will be sewn centered above and flush with the top of the right rear trouser pocket.
- f. Care. The following instructions must be followed when caring for the NWU Type II and III in order to maximize service life and maintain optimum performance:
- (1) Follow the wash and care instructions indicated on each NWU uniform article.
 - (2) Do not starch the NWU Type II and III under any circumstances. The use of starch and any process that involves dry-cleaning or a steam press will adversely affect the treatments and durability of the uniform and is not authorized.
 - (3) When washing and drying, turn garments inside out, close hook and loop fasteners to prevent snagging, machine wash in cold or warm water (120 degrees Fahrenheit max) on permanent press cycle. Use mild detergent containing no brighteners or bleach.
 - (4) Tumble dry on low heat (not to exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit). Remove immediately from dryer and fold flat or place on a rustproof hanger. To drip dry, remove from washer/water and place on a rustproof hanger. Do not wring or twist.
 - (5) Light ironing is authorized if needed. Creating creases in the NWU Type II and III is not authorized.

Note: Use of commercial cleaners and commercial hot press are not authorized. The NWU Type II and Type III uniforms are restricted items and shall remain under the positive control of the person to whom they are issued. Commanding Officers shall hold individuals accountable for negligent lost or stolen uniforms. The NWU Type II and Type III uniforms should be maintained in accordance to the maintenance/care tags sewn into each article of clothing. Tailoring of the NWU, to include sewing of nametapes and insignias, is completed by DOL-42. If modifications are required after uniform issue, contact DOL-42 for instructions for returning uniforms. In certain circumstances, DOL-42 will authorize units to have uniforms modified at another tailoring facility. Units are not authorized to modify and/or tailor uniforms without written consent from DOL-42.

g. Occasion for wear.

(1) CONUS:

- (a) Wearing NWU Type II and III uniforms during routine, short-term stops while transiting between work and place of residence via POV or public transportation is authorized. Examples of short-term stops include drop off/pick up for child care, dry cleaners, gas stations, banks, and convenience stores. Shopping at non-military installation retail store outlets or malls or attending off-base entertainment venues are considered extended stops and are not authorized. Wearing of the NWU Type II and III uniforms is not authorized at formal off-base official Coast Guard or Government functions (e.g., sailor of the year events, navy league functions, or award banquets). Off-base working parties, including community relations projects, may be authorized by regional commanders. Wearing of the NWU Type II and III uniforms is not authorized for off-base personal appointments (e.g., court, DMV, civilian medical visits, and off-base education). During the prescribed workday outside the National Capital Region (NCR), routine short-term stops and off-installation dining in the NWU Type II and III is authorized; however, off-installation dining after the prescribed workday is prohibited.
- (b) NWU Type II and III uniforms are not authorized for wear while visiting any Coast Guard District, Area, Headquarters or Headquarters Command Staff office. NWUs are not authorized for wear anytime in the NCR, as defined as: the District of Columbia, Crystal City, Pentagon City, Rosslyn, the Mark Center, Federal Office Building 2 (Navy Annex), Naval Support Facility Arlington, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, and the Pentagon. NWUs are authorized outside the NCR as defined above.
- (c) Air travel in NWU Type II and III uniforms is authorized only on military and Government contracted flights between military airfield installations (e.g., AIRSTA Clearwater to AIRSTA Elizabeth City).

(2) OCONUS:

- (a) Deployed personnel who are traveling in a leave status to/from an OCONUS area of operation or transiting in an emergency leave status will travel in appropriate civilian attire. T-shirts, shorts, and sandals are not considered appropriate attire. Uniforms will not be worn when using commercial travel.
- (b) Upon entering or departing CONUS, personnel on official travel transferring to/from any AOR are authorized to wear the NWU Type II and III only on U.S. flagged commercial airlines, military airlift, or Government contracted flights. Personnel will only wear NWU's at the CONUS port of entry or debarkation and will not wear NWU's when arriving or departing any OCONUS civilian airport point of debarkation/entry (APOD/E). Personnel will wear civilian clothes when debarking at the APOD/E. When worn while traveling, NWUs will be clean and present a sharp military appearance. GCC policies on wearing military uniforms in their AOR supercede this Instruction.
- (c) In all cases, at least one set of civilian attire is to be packed in carry-on luggage for contingency situations.

h. Initial Outfitting Organizations/Units.

- (1) Sustainment of the NWU Type II is the responsibility of the USCG. If available, USCG centrally-funded initial outfitting of the NWU Type II is authorized only for personnel in accordance with this Instruction.
- (2) Sustainment of the NWU Type III is the responsibility of the USCG. If available, USCG centrally-funded initial outfitting of the NWU Type III is authorized in accordance with this Instruction.
- (3) Program management for unique items, such as USCG enlisted insignia, is the responsibility of the Executive Agent (EA).

i. Uniform Service Life. Commanding Officers shall ensure that:

- (1) Damaged uniforms are returned to the DOL-42 warehouse for exchange;
- (2) Transferring personnel from a unit that requires NWU Type II or Type III uniforms (and not transferring to a unit that requires the same uniforms) will return all uniform items (except for the undershirt, liner, belt, watchcap, boots, and slip-on rank insignias) to the DOL-42 warehouse; and
- (3) Personnel are held accountable for negligent lost or stolen uniforms. Notification of lost or stolen Type II or Type III uniform will be sent to DOL-42 via CGMS message traffic and CGIS shall be info copied on the message.

12. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

13. REQUESTS FOR CHANGES. The Office of Counterterrorism and Defense Operations Policy (CG-ODO) shall be responsible for coordinating revisions to this Instruction. Submit recommended changes via the chain of command to Commandant (CG-ODO).

Peter J. Brown /s/
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Response Policy