RESERVIST MAGAZINE

U.S. COAST GUARD
RESERVIST

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE

UNIFORMS

SPECIAL ISSUE

SPECIAL UNIFORM ISSUE

2006

This information is intended for use by Coast Guard Reserve personnel and serves as a quick reference for Coast Guard uniform standards. The images used in this publication are to aid in the proper wearing of Coast Guard uniforms.

This material is in no way intended to replace Coast Guard policy. Personnel are to adhere to the latest official guidance as prescribed by appropriate authority.

Where applicable, chapter, section, and paragraph have been cited from the Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6 (series).

All uniform items shall be worn in accordance with applicable directives.

"Commands and personnel in leadership positions at every level are responsible to promote and enforce high standards for uniform appearance."

— COMDTINST M1020.6 (series)

This issue of *The Reservist* would not have been possible without the effort and assistance of the following: CDR Andrea Contratto, LCDR Rob Hanley, LCDR Lisa Schulz, PA2 Judy Silverstein, LT Christa Jackson, CWO Darryl Ransom, Mr. Carol Brewton, CWO Tarvin Greene, Mr. Bill Broadaway, CWO Rene Manalo, Mr. Mike Gable, CWO Mike Lewis, Ms. Deneen Day, LT Mike Bowman, CWO Dave McLoughlin, the Uniform Distribution Center, Ira Green Inc., Mr. Telfair Brown, the staff of USCG Visual Imagery, Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux, Maura Gomez, Jae-Won Kwon, Greg Peck, Greg Reilly, Eric Wilson, Ronald Taylor, Melissa Warren, Mary Rivas and John Elliott. From the staff of the magazine, to those who helped make this possible

– THANK YOU!

SPECIAL
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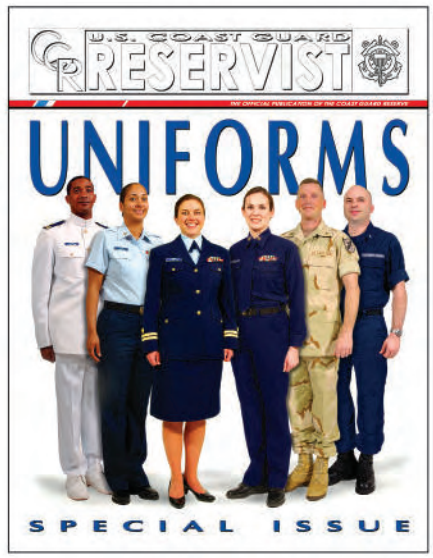

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ed's Note ____ 4
Greetings ____ 5
A History of Uniforms ____ 6
Catalog of Uniforms ____ 12
ODUs ____ 14
Trops ____ 16
Winters ____ 18
Bravos ____ 20
FDBs ____ 22
Dinner ____ 24
Whites ____ 26
Cammies ____ 28
Deserts ____ 29
Covers ____ 30
Coats ____ 32
Shoes ____ 34
Extras ____ 35
Ribbons ____ 36
Pins ____ 38
Ranks ____ 40
Table of Equivalents ____ 42
Inspection Prep ____ 44
ODU Sleeve Roll ____ 48
Uniform Distribution Center ____ 50
UDC Order Form ____ 51
CDTO ____ 53
Letters ____ 54

ALSO INSIDE: A Special Pullout Poster

Special Uniform Issue Becomes Reality!

I can't believe it's finally in print — the Special Uniform Issue has finally become a reality! At 60-plus pages, this is the largest issue of The Reservist ever published in the 53-year history of this publication (breaking the old record of 56 pages in October 2001 following 9/11).

The road to getting this in your hands has been rocky at times. Here's a quick summary.

Several years ago, I proposed and we talked about publishing an issue devoted entirely to Coast Guard uniforms. The scope of a uniform issue was daunting; we didn't want to publish it unless we did it right and were as thorough as possible. For various reasons, the project never quite got off the ground, would get back-burnered or would be overtaken by events (OBE).

We didn't give up though!

Late last year, members of our staff sat down with Mr. Carol Brewton, Uniform Program Manager and his staff and pounded out an outline of proposed stories. We also asked for input from our readers nationwide in early 2006 and, as usual, you responded with suggestions, comments, and questions galore (good questions too that required extensive research). A number of them are published here as well. Also, in preparation for this issue, we've held two all-day photo shoots of members wearing the various USCG uniforms.

From a uniform history and the "catalog of uniforms" to an updated Awards and Medals chart (our first since March 1996), this issue is as comprehensive as possible without republishing the Uniform Regulations (COMDTINST M1020.6E). Keep in mind that this issue serves as a quick reference and supplement but certainly does not replace the official Uniform Regulations.

Some interesting features include stories on the USCG Clothing Design and Technical Office, the Uniform Distribution Center, and Uniform Inspections. One note: Although some of our reservists drill at Air Stations, Reserve aviation has been on hiatus for quite some time, so we did not include uniform aviation info (devices, flight suits, etc.).

This was truly a team effort and my hat is off to all of our contributors. Special thanks to Mr. Carol Brewton and his fine staff in the Uniform Division (CG-1221), as well as our staff here at the Office of Reserve Affairs (CG-1313). A special salute to Mr. Chris Rose, who did all of the graphics work you see in these pages, and to LCDR Lisa Schulz, who did a lot of legwork, logistics and research.

The goal of this issue was to produce a comprehensive and practical guide to educate, update and inform our reservists on the proper wear of the USCG uniform. I think we have achieved our goal. I'm proud to finally get this issue on the street and into your hands. Enjoy the journey through the pages of the largest Reservist magazine in history!

— ED

U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVIST MAGAZINE

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Greetings from USCG's Military Uniform Program!

By Mr. Carol W. Brewton,
Uniform Program Manager, Commandant (CG-1221)

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Uniform Program Manager. I came on board in July 2005 and am thrilled to be a part of this organization. My background is 30 years of experience in textiles, logistics, and management. My most recent position was with Border and Transportation Security at the Department of Homeland Security.

I have found the people of the USCG to be friendly, professional, passionate, and they have a terrific work ethic. I have spent the last several months getting to know the process, the uniforms, traveling to meet with the troops in various areas [north and south] and listening to what is desired, wanted, and needed. As with most things, opinions are varied, and sometimes they contradict each other. The good thing is that members consistently take pride in their uniforms and are truly interested in looking professional.

Exciting things are happening for you, now and in the coming months in the world of uniforms. First, a Uniform Board convened recently for the first time in several years. The package is in the approval process and is making its way through the senior management chain. Good news will be forthcoming. Second, news from that Uniform Board will be followed by an ALCOAST announcement, followed by revised Uniform Regulations. Third, a new web-based function for placing orders will be installed by the time this edition "hits the street," thereby allowing orders to be placed with the Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) 24/7. Fourth, the UDC will be installing state-of-the-art bar code equipment, improving the inventory control process to ensure the appropriate stock levels are available for you.

I want to point out that one limiting factor is that we must buy U.S. products. This is good news for American manufacturers, but there are not many to choose from. So, it adds another challenging dimension being in the business of USCG uniforms.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Here are some recent developments with Coast Guard uniforms:

MATERNITY OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU)

ALCOAST 059/06 announced that the maternity ODU is now available to order from UDC.

SUPER BOOT II

Many are unaware that the Super Boot has been substantially improved. Our questionaire has provided us postive feedback, and some substantial changes were made. No more clown looking toes — the new Super Boot II gives you the best combination of materials in one boot — the eight-inch tall upper is constructed of abrasion-resistant nylon fabric and leather. So the break-in time is less than that for an all-leather boot, and heat dissipation is better. You also get the built-in safety of a composite toe that meets the ANSI Z41-1999 standard, and a removable cushion insert for increased comfort.

In the Super Boot II, the GORE-TEX® lining surrounds your foot. Along with being a barrier to water penetration, this lining also resists perspiration and contamination by petroleum, oils, and lubricants. At the same time, it lets perspiration escape the boot, so your feet stay dry and comfortable. And the non-melt Vibram® shipboard sole gives you excellent shock absorbency and traction. The Super Boot II is available from the UDC and is a "sea bag" issue for all recruits.

WINTER DRESS BLUE SHIRT

As I have traveled around to various USCG units, the comment I have heard over and over is, "Please keep the Winter Dress Blue Shirt as an optional item — it is the best looking uniform." Good news — the Winter Dress Blue Shirt is here to stay for the foreseeable future. We are increasing our stock at the UDC so it will be available for you. Ordering information can be found at http://www.uscg.mil/uniforms.

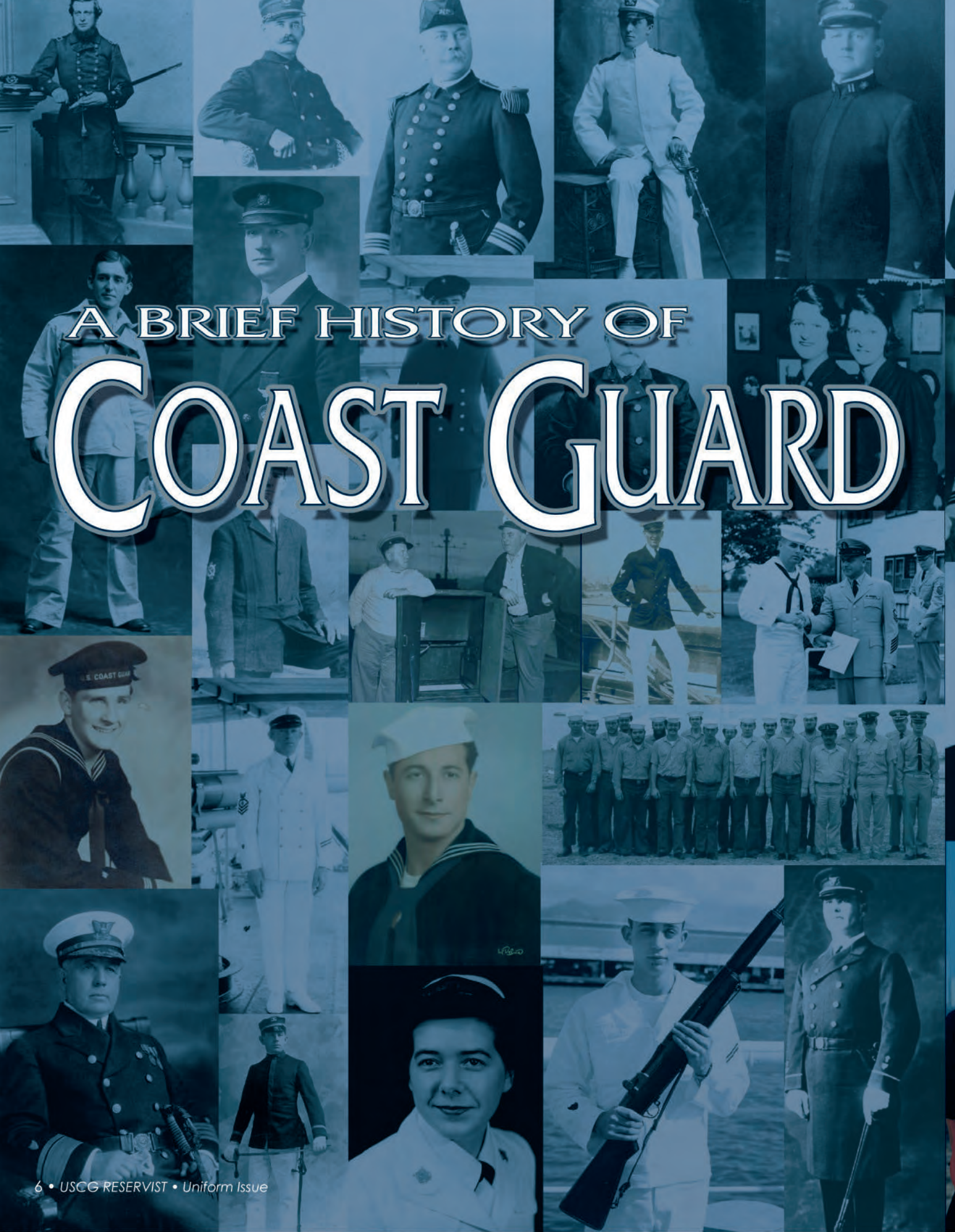
FUTURE PLANS

1. There is significant interest in improvements and changes to the ODU throughout the Coast Guard, and there is ongoing research into those improvements, but currently there are no changes planned in the near future. The request for an "untucked" version ODU has been heard loud and clear and is being explored, to include looking at other service uniforms to see if there is an existing uniform that will fit Coast Guard needs, but there is a large investment in the current ODU and there is simply too much cost to abandon or re-create the ODU. The Uniform Program is investigating the use of a new fabric for ODU's. The fabric will be more oil/lubricant resistant, more color fast, and more wrinkle free.
2. We will be conducting a review of the entire sea bag. We will be looking to replace/update/eliminate items and enhance our offerings.
3. We will look to have more frequent Uniform Board Meetings (five years since the last one is way too long).
4. We will conduct a review of organizational clothing procedures and a review of all optional clothing, with a vision of being more uniform (after all, the definition of uniform is "consistent, always having the same form, not varying"). Our decisions will not be based on anecdotal comments but on factual data, measurements, and feedback.

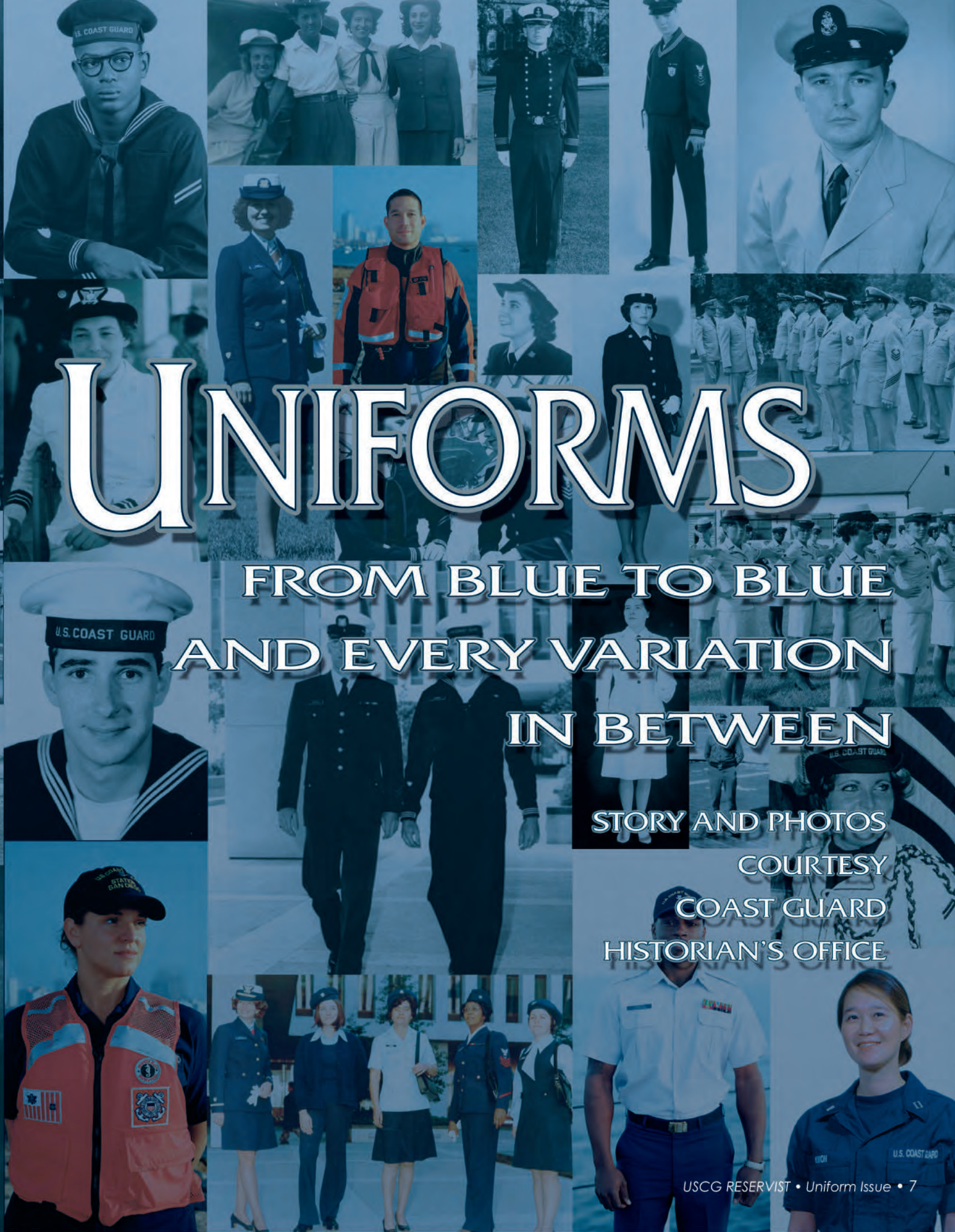
A FINAL WORD

The Uniform Program was recognized recently for their efforts in getting emergency replacement uniforms rapidly to our members who lost everything during the Katrina disaster. Hats off to the Uniform Distribution Center and Uniform Program Staff! I am proud to serve with this team!

The overall message from the Uniform Program is that we desire to be progressive, professional, and financially good stewards. We want you to wear the USCG uniform with pride and will continue working to ensure you have professional uniforms available to you.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF COAST GUARD



UNIFORMS

FROM BLUE TO BLUE AND EVERY VARIATION IN BETWEEN

STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

Ed's note: To see the full text of this article, which includes information on uniforms of the Revenue Service, Life-Saving Service and Lighthouse Service, see the Coast Guard Historian's Web site at: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html (under Uniforms, Medals, Flags and Seals).

From the founding of the Revenue Service in 1790, to the present-day Coast Guard, the military aspect of the service has been unmistakable. Alexander Hamilton emphasized the need for commissioned officers in this naval service. Until the U.S. Navy was reestablished in 1797 - after being disbanded at the close of the American Revolution - the Revenue Service was the nation's only naval entity and there was a definite need for visible symbols of authority. A standardized uniform was the result. The history of these uniforms reflects both the traditions and roles of the Revenue Service and the Coast Guard, as well as the fashions of the day.

The early history of Revenue Service uniforms is vague to non-existent. The scarcity of information is due in part to two fires at the Treasury Department building in Washington. The British destroyed most of the records when they torched government buildings in 1814 and another conflagration in 1833 destroyed even more documents.

The earliest surviving written description of a Revenue Service uniform dates from 1819. The officer was described as outfitted in a "neat and becoming suit of blue, a body coat, trimmed with brass buttons, having for a design an eagle perched upon an anchor surrounded by stars. The pants and vests were blue, with tall, round hats, black cockades, leather stocks and cut and thrust swords."

The first existing Revenue Service regulations regarding uniforms appeared in 1830, under Treasury Secretary Samuel D. Ingham. It is doubtful that earlier regulations existed and it appears that there had been little uniformity in any event. One old veteran stated that the officers "paid but little attention to dress ... and adapted such patterns as the caprice of the commanding officer selected."

Before 1832, the existence of distinctive Revenue Service uniforms was further clouded by regulations which allowed U.S. Naval officers to hold Revenue Service commissions while on furlough from their own service. Many such officers refused to relinquish their Navy uniforms while commanding their Revenue vessel - a practice no doubt confusing and frustrating to both enlisted and officers.

Under the 1830 regulations, the full dress captain's outfit was blue with nine buttons per lapel, two on the collar, four on the cuffs and six more on the skirts. Yellow braid closed each seam of the coat, the outer seam of the pants and the seams of the nine button buff vest. The high crowned black hat had a black cockade and eagle button on the left.

Revenue Service, circa 1862.

The undress uniform apparently dispensed with the braid and had narrow lace on the shoulders rather than the prescribed epaulettes of the full dress. Lieutenants had fewer buttons on the cuff, three for first lieutenant, two for second lieutenant. In full dress, each wore one epaulette. First lieutenants wore one epaulette on the right shoulder and second lieutenants, one epaulette on the left.

This blue uniform met with immediate criticism and within a year the regulations were altered, doing away with the abundance of yellow braid trim. Shortly afterwards, the collar and cuff buttons were also eliminated.

In 1833 the high hat was replaced by a chapeau - the "fore-and-aft" hat. Rank was designated by gold lace cuff stripes rather than buttons. Captains wore one stripe an inch wide; first lieutenants one stripe a half-inch wide; second lieutenants two half-inch stripes; and third lieutenants wore three one- quarter inch stripes.

Though this uniform was said to have met with general approval by the Revenue Service officers, it raised a storm from the naval side of the sea services. Now that naval officers could no longer hold simultaneous commissions in the Revenue Service (now known as the Revenue Marine), they were not pleased that revenue officer's uniforms were so similar to, and patterned upon, U. S. Navy uniforms.

The controversy was highlighted at a grand ball in Charleston, S.C., shortly after the new uniform regulations were adopted. In attendance were officers of several revenue cutters, as well as Commodore Jesse D. Elliott of the U.S. sloop-of-war Natchez and his staff. In the glitter of the evening, Elliott and staff were literally outshone by the

Lifesaving Service, circa 1912.

appearance of Captain William A. Howard of the Revenue Cutter JACKSON, apparently fresh from Washington arrayed in the new uniform, complete with epaulettes and lace. The new uniform was well placed on Howard, a man of many accomplishments and described as one of the handsomest men of his day. Howard's impression was sufficient to compel Elliott to immediately complain to Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury demanding that the Revenue Service uniform be modified to remove the resemblance to Navy uniforms. In particular, it seems that the wearing of epaulettes was objectionable. Woodbury moved from the Navy to the Treasury Department in 1834 where he immediately moved to correct this situation.

Secretary Woodbury directed a board of revenue officers to design a distinctive uniform without epaulettes. Failing to dissuade them from these shoulder decorations, the secretary retaliated by changing the color to gray. This uniform was apparently unanimously disliked in the Revenue Service. Their argument was the same as that used in the Civil War Confederate Navy: whoever heard of a sailor in a gray uniform? Such was the unpopularity of this gray uniform that within two years it succumbed to its critics and blue returned.

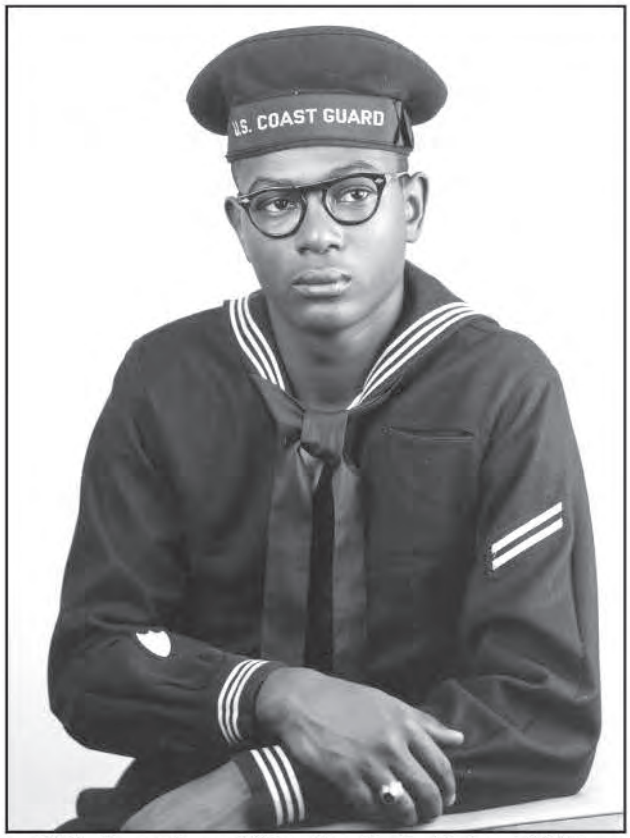
In 1843, regulations described the earliest known Revenue Service sword. This was a straight sword with Roman hilt and spring guard with elaborate engraving on the blade. Decorated with the spread eagle, the national shield, and a blue and gold bullion and silk sword knot, this was called the most handsome the service ever authorized. Prior to this regulation, swords were apparently either Navy type or left to the individual's preference.

In 1844, further means were sought to distinguish the revenue uniform from the Navy's. To accomplish this, the epaulettes, which were described as plain in the earlier regulations, were to be decorated with an anchor surmounting the Treasury shield. The same device was to be on the cap band. With typical service cost consciousness, the same die was to be used for both cap and epaulette devices, with the latter in silver and the cap ornament in gold. Captain Fraser, senior officer of the service at the time, wrote that if all the officers cooperated and had these fabricated at the same place, the cost could be kept down to $5 each.

After a couple of decades of general satisfaction with the uniform, 1871 brought another controversial set of regulations. These called for the reinstatement of the swallowtail coat, this time with seven buttons per lapel and four buttons on the cuffs. These buttons bore the treasury shield with U to the left and S to the right. The vest was also seven-buttoned and the blue or white pants had a black silk cord decorating the outside seam. The undress coat was a seven button double-breasted version of the popular civilian sack coat which was very similar to the modern suit coat.

However, the controversy over these new uniforms did not center on the cut or style, but on the ornaments and devices. Shoulder straps and lace were abandoned and the rolling collar was decorated with a horizontal foul anchor, with the rank perpendicular to the anchor's shank and the letters U. S. R. M. in Old English forming an arc around the upper part of the rank. Epaulettes

U.S. Coast Guard, circa 1920s.



U.S. Coast Guard "Cracker Jacks," circa 1945.

displayed the fouled anchor with the rank. The U.S.R.M. in Old English was also arched over a vertical anchor on the cap. These devices, particularly the Old English letters, were described as the poorest and ugliest ever authorized - and, due to their small size, nearly un-decipherable from a distance. Many officers simply refused to comply with the new regulations.

In two years the objectionable features were discarded officially and shoulder straps were restored. At this time the cap ornament was standardized for all officers. This was the spread eagle with shield grasping a fouled anchor and a semi-circle of thirteen stars. The basic elements of this emblem have remained unchanged ever since, with only the elimination of the stars and re-configuration of the eagle's wings.

New regulations were promulgated in 1878, reverting to the nine button double-breasted frock coat for undress use. The tail coat was retained for full dress. (Note that early in the 1890s, the service discarded the title Revenue Marine and Revenue Cutter Service became the official designation.)

A heavy overcoat was part of the 1908 regulations. This was double- breasted with seven plain buttons on each side and a rolling collar wide enough to protect the ears. Both shoulder marks and sleeve rank were authorized for this, but the sleeve braid was to be black. A boat or deck cloak was also authorized. This was a nearly circular cut of heavy wool, made to hang two inches below the ends of the fingers. It fastened at the neck with a hook and eye and a clasp underneath, and had decorative black braid on its front. Both full dress and service caps had the "scrambled eggs" decoration on the visor for senior officers. Engineers had a gold band one-half inch wide on their visor.

In 1915 the Revenue Service and the Life-Saving Service combined to form the U.S. Coast Guard. The new service soon had its distinctive uniform characteristics. By the 1920s two major changes were seen in Coast Guard uniforms. First was the adoption of the double-breasted service coat similar to that still worn by the U.S. Navy. This was worn without shoulder straps, and rank designations were on the lower sleeve, with the familiar shield device above the rank stripes. Enlisted men, below petty officer, adopted the Navy-style white duck hat, though the traditional Donald Duck flat cap remained standard. The vessel name on the hat ribbon was to read, for example: U.S.S. Manning, C.G.

In 1941, for the first time, Coast Guard uniforms became officially a modification of Navy regulations. The garments themselves were the same as naval uniforms and included the khaki undress combination with sewn-in belt. Both services used the "combination

U.S. Coast Guard Women's Uniforms, circa 1975.

cap": the officer's peaked headgear with interchangeable covers to match khaki, white or winter uniforms. Only the distinguishing corps devices, buttons, shoulder marks, etc., were distinctively Coast Guard. The officer's cap device for the Coast Guard was the most obvious difference. It consisted of a large spread eagle with shield, with a single horizontal anchor held in the eagle's talons. The Naval device had, and still has, a smaller eagle over crossed anchors. Also, the Naval eagle was silver; the Coast Guard's, gold.

The Coast Guard uniform coat also continued to have the national shield placed above the sleeve rank stripes. Coast Guard gilt buttons centered their design on a perpendicular anchor, with a rope like inner-rim. The Naval button consisted of an eagle, facing Dexter over a horizontal anchor.

It should also be noted that the Coast Guard accompanied the Navy in the short-lived adoption of a grey undress uniform. This uniform, which was a dark steel grey, cut in the khaki single breasted pattern, was to be a cost-cutting replacement for both the khaki and double-breasted navy blue (black) uniforms. As with the other uniforms, it was complete with a grey cover for the combination cap. It was adopted in 1943 and phased out in 1947, when it became obvious that the Navy was not interested in abandoning the double-breasted uniform.

The interchangeability with Navy uniforms continued until after the transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Transportation and the subsequent adoption of today's lighter blue, single-breasted uniform. (Today, the only uniforms still identical to the navy's are the officer's summer white service and full dress combinations.) The only non-interchangeable uniform was that of the enlisted surfmen adopted in 1943. This was single-breasted and worn by mounted beach patrols and port security personnel.

The SPAR uniform of World War II was designed like the navy's female uniform although Coast Guard emblems were worn on the lapels. The winter uniform was dark blue; the summer was grey/blue seersucker. There have been few major changes to the women's uniform over the years. Certain items have been phased in and out and there have been modifications to the style and fit but the uniform has remained fairly similar.

The present enlisted uniform marked the first major change in enlisted uniforms in over a century. Dissatisfaction with the old traditional sailor suit jumper goes back decades but tradition held on. Two explanations were given for the change to the blue uniforms under Commandant Chester R. Bender. The first was to create a distinctly different uniform from that of the Navy and to solidify the fact that the Coast Guard was a separate organization. The second reason was to update the uniform to be consistent with contemporary society. The particular shade of blue was chosen because it was different from the shades used by the other services.

Coast Guard uniforms have seen two basic trends in their history. One marked a similarity to the uniforms of the U.S. Navy, the other was to have totally different uniforms from that sister service. Today, the blue uniform is probably the most distinctive since the day of the unloved gray uniform of the 1840s, but today's blues have the distinct advantage of retaining the blue color, as appropriate for a service steeped in serving on the seas.

U.S. Coast Guard Operational Dress Uniform "ODUs," circa 2006.

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ORMS

A CATALOG OF UNIFORMS OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE

OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (MEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Worn in any situation where any form of dress uniform is not required or more appropriate and while commuting, including brief stops for gas and drive-thru business. It is not a liberty uniform.

HEAD GEAR
Ball cap

CG BLUE ODU TOP
Sleeves rolled up (accordion style, with only the cuff showing) or down.

CG BLUE CREW NECK T-SHIRT

COLLAR INSIGNIA
Metal insignia are standard. Sew-on cloth insignia are optional.

NAME TAPE
Cloth name tape is sewn above right pocket. Velcro type nametape authorized as optional item. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

USCG ID TAPE
Cloth tape with "U. S. Coast Guard" is sewn above left pocket. Velcro® type tape authorized as optional item. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most current authorized. A single embroidered insignia is authorized. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs and OinCs. Metal is optional when not a safety issue.

IDENTIFICATION BADGE
Authorized for incumbent only.

BLACK BELT W/SUBDUED BUCKLE

ODU TROUSERS
Bloused with safety boots, straight with low-topped shoes or boat shoes.

BLACK SOCKS

BOOTS
Safety boots. Low-topped shoes or boat shoes may be prescribed in specific cases or medical reasons.

OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (WOMEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Worn in any situation where any form of dress uniform is not required or more appropriate and while commuting, including brief stops for gas and drive-thru business. It is not a liberty uniform.

HEAD GEAR
Ball cap

CG BLUE ODU TOP
Sleeves rolled up (accordion style, with only the cuff showing) or down.

CG BLUE CREW NECK T-SHIRT

COLLAR INSIGNIA
Metal insignia are standard. Sew-on cloth insignia are optional.

NAME TAPE
Cloth name tape is sewn above right pocket. Velcro type nametape authorized as optional item. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

USCG ID TAPE
Cloth tape with "U. S. Coast Guard" is sewn above left pocket. Velcro® type tape authorized as optional item. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most current authorized. A single embroidered insignia is authorized. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs and OinCs. Metal is optional when not a safety issue.

IDENTIFICATION BADGE
Authorized for incumbent only.

BLACK BELT W/SUBDUED BUCKLE

ODU TROUSERS
Bloused with safety boots, straight with low-topped shoes or boat shoes.

BLACK SOCKS

BOOTS
Safety boots. Low-topped shoes or boat shoes may be prescribed in specific cases or medical reasons.

TROPICAL BLUE LONG (MEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Worn year-round at all occasions where coat and tie are not required or expected.

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap, garrison cap, or ball cap.

LIGHT BLUE SHIRT SHORT SLEEVE
Military creases optional.

SHOULDER BOARDS (OFFICERS)
Enhanced shoulder boards are required.

COLLAR INSIGNIA (ENLISTED)
Collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top & bottom collar edges & center of device is one (1) inch and parallel from the forward edge.

NAME TAG
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of right pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

LONG TROUSERS

BLACK SOCKS
Socks are worn with oxfords.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES

TROPICAL BLUE LONG (WOMEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR
Worn year-round at all occasions where coat and tie are not required or expected.

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap, garrison cap, or ball cap.

LIGHT BLUE SHIRT SHORT SLEEVE
Military creases optional

SHOULDER BOARDS (OFFICERS)
Enhanced shoulder boards are required.

COLLAR INSIGNIA (ENLISTED)
Collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top & bottom collar edges & center of device is one (1) inch and parallel from the forward edge.

NAME TAG
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag .

MINIATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard

IDENTIFICATION BADGES
Device is centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag. Except DoD badges which are worn centered 1/4 inch above top edge of ribbons.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag/ribbons with most recently earned device placed inboard

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

LONG TROUSERS/SKIRT

BLACK SOCKS OR HOSIERY
Socks are worn with oxfords, may wear hosiery with oxfords or pumps. When hosiery is worn with a skirt it will be plain and approximate the wearer's flesh color. Black or flesh colored hosiery, including knee-high stockings, may be worn with oxfords or pumps when wearing trousers.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES OR PUMPS
Oxfords or pumps are worn with either trousers or skirt for women.

WINTER DRESS BLUE (MEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR
Worn in lieu of Service Dress Blue Bravo to compensate for climate variation. May not be worn to functions that civilians would wear coat and tie.

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap, garrison cap, or ball cap.

DARK BLUE SHIRT LONG SLEEVE.
Also called CPO Shirt. Military creases optional.

COLLAR INSIGNIA (OFFICER & ENLISTED)
Collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top & bottom collar edges & center of device is one (1) inch and parallel from the forward edge.

TIE
Blue four-in-hand required. Tie clip or tie bar optional.

NAME TAG
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of right pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

LONG TROUSERS

BLACK SOCKS
Socks are worn with oxfords.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES

WINTER DRESS BLUE (WOMEN)

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap, garrison cap, or ball cap.

DARK BLUE SHIRT LONG SLEEVE.
Also called CPO Shirt. Military creases optional.

COLLAR INSIGNIA (OFFICER & ENLISTED)
Collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top & bottom collar edges & center of device is one (1) inch and parallel from the forward edge.

TIE
Blue four-in-hand required. Tie clip or tie bar optional.

NAME TAG
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES
Device is centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag. Except DoD badges which are worn centered 1/4 inch above top edge of ribbons.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag/ribbons with most recently earned device placed inboard.

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

LONG TROUSERS/SKIRT

BLACK SOCKS OR HOSIERY
Socks are worn with oxfords, may wear hosiery with oxfords or pumps. When hosiery is worn with a skirt it will be plain and approximate the wearer's flesh color. Black or flesh colored hosiery, including knee-high stockings, may be worn with oxfords or pumps when wearing trousers.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES OR PUMPS
Oxfords or pumps are worn with either trousers or skirt for women.

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR
Worn in lieu of Service Dress Blue Bravo to compensate for climate variation. May not be worn to functions that civilians would wear coat and tie.

SERVICE DRESS BLUE (MEN) DRESS

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Worn year-round by all personnel for all business and social occasions where civilian equivalent is coat and tie.

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap or garrison cap.

SDB JACKET

LIGHT BLUE SHIRT
Long or short sleeve.

SHOULDER BOARDS (OFFICER ONLY)
Worn on Light Blue shirt.

COLLAR INSIGNIA (ENLISTED ONLY)
Collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top & bottom collar edges & center of device is one (1) inch and parallel from the forward edge.

TIE
Blue four-in-hand required. Tie clip or tie bar optional.

NAMETAG
Centered with bottom edge 1/4″ over right pocket.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4″ over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES (FULL SIZE)
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of right pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

LONG TROUSERS

BLACK SOCKS
Socks are worn with oxfords.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES

SERVICE DRESS BLUE (WOMEN)

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap or garrison cap.

SDB JACKET

LIGHT BLUE SHIRT
Long or short sleeve.

SHOULDER BOARDS (OFFICER ONLY)
Worn on Light Blue shirt.

COLLAR INSIGNIA (ENLISTED ONLY)
Collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top & bottom collar edges & center of device is one (1) inch and parallel from the forward edge.

TIE
Blue tab tie.

NAMETAG
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES (FULL SIZE)
Device is centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag. Except DoD badges which are worn centered 1/4 inch above top edge of ribbons.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag/ribbons with most recently earned device placed inboard.

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

LONG TROUSERS/SKIRT

BLACK SOCKS OR HOSIERY
Socks are worn with oxfords, may wear hosiery with oxfords or pumps. When hosiery is worn with a skirt it will be plain and approximate the wearer's flesh color. Black or flesh colored hosiery, including knee-high stockings, may be worn with oxfords or pumps when wearing trousers.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES OR PUMPS
Oxfords or pumps are worn with either trousers or skirt for women.

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR
Worn year-round by all personnel for all business and social occasions where civilian equivalent is coat and tie.

FULL DRESS BLUE (MEN)

FDBS

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Worn year-round when assuming or relinquishing command, participating in Change of Command ceremonies, official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings and/or solemnities.

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap.

SDB JACKET

LONG SLEEVE WHITE SHIRT

SHOULDER BOARDS/COLLAR INSIGNIA
None

TIE
Blue four-in-hand required. Tie clip or tie bar optional.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

FUL SIZE MEDALS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

FULL SIZE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES (FULL SIZE)
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of right pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

WHITE GLOVES

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

SWORD
Worn with sword belt. Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.

LONG TROUSERS

BLACK SOCKS
Socks are worn with oxfords.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES

FULL DRESS BLUE (WOMEN)

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap.

SDB JACKET

LONG SLEEVE WHITE SHIRT

SHOULDER BOARDS/COLLAR INSIGNIA
None

TIE
Blue tab tie.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

FUL SIZE MEDALS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

FULL SIZE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES (FULL SIZE)
Device is centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag. Except DoD badges which are worn centered 1/4 inch above top edge of ribbons.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag/ribbons with most recently earned device placed inboard.

WHITE GLOVES

BLACK BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

SWORD
Worn with sword belt. Women must wear trousers when sword is worn. Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.

LONG TROUSERS/SKIRT

BLACK SOCKS OR HOSIERY
Socks are worn with oxfords, may wear hosiery with oxfords or pumps. When hosiery is worn with a skirt it will be plain and approximate the wearer's flesh color. Black or flesh colored hosiery, including knee-high stockings, may be worn with oxfords or pumps when wearing trousers.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES OR PUMPS
Oxfords or pumps are worn with either trousers or skirt for women.

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR
Worn year-round when assuming or relinquishing command, participating in Change of Command ceremonies, official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings and/or solemnities.

DINNER DRESS BLUE JACKET (MEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Official winter evening functions when civilians wear black tie with tuxedos and almost any formal event such as formal dances, formal wedding guest, theater, opera, receptions, etc. Prescribed for O-4 and above. Optional for O-3 and below.

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap.

DRESS COAT

DRESS COAT BUTTONS
Substitute CG buttons for Navy buttons

WHITE SHIRT
soft pleated long sleeve or standard long sleeve optional.

SHOULDER BOARDS/COLLAR INSIGNIA
None

TIE
Black bow tie

SMALL MEDALS
Centered 3″ below left lapel notch.

MINATURE QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Center the insignia on the wearer's left lapel approximately 1/4″ above small medals

MINATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below bottom edge of small medals.

MINATURE IDENTIFICATION BADGES
Centered 3″ below right lapel notch.

WHITE GLOVES
At prescribing officer's discretion.

WHITE SUSPENDERS
Optional .

GOLD CUMMERBUND

DRESS TROUSERS

BLACK SOCKS
Socks are worn with oxfords.

BLACK OXFORD SHOES

DINNER DRESS BLUE (WOMEN) JACKET

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap, tiara optional.

DRESS COAT

DRESS COAT BUTTONS
Substitute CG buttons for Navy buttons.

WHITE SHIRT
Pleated long sleeve.

SHOULDER BOARDS/COLLAR INSIGNIA
None.

TIE
Black formal dress necktie.

SMALL MEDALS
Centered left lapel 1/3 of distance between shoulder & bottom hem of jacket.

MINATURE QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Center the insignia on the wearer's left lapel approximately 1/4" above small medals.

MINATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below bottom edge of small medals.

MINATURE IDENTIFICATION BADGES
Centered on right lapel equal in position of qualification insignia.

WHITE GLOVES
At prescribing officer's discretion.

GOLD CUMMERBUND

BLUE FORMAL SKIRT/SLACKS
Slacks optional.

BLACK HOSIERY
Hosiery are worn with pumps or flats.

BLACK PUMPS OR FLATS
Pumps or flats are worn with formal dress skirt or slacks.

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR
Official winter evening functions when civilians wear black tie with tuxedos and almost any formal event such as formal dances, formal wedding guest, theater, opera, receptions, etc. Prescribed for O-4 and above. Optional for O-3 and below.

FULL DRESS WHITE (MEN & WOMEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

(Officers only)
Official summer or tropical uniform when assuming or relinquishing command participating in Change of Command ceremonies, official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings, and solemnities.

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap.

SDW JACKET

LONG SLEEVE WHITE SHIRT
For women, long or short sleeve.

HARD SHOULDER BOARDS

TIE
Women: blue tab tie. Men: none

RIBBONS
Men: Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

FULL SIZE MEDALS
Centered with bottom edge of bottom ribbon bar 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

FULL SIZE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard

IDENTIFICATION BADGES (FULL SIZE)
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of right pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard

WHITE GLOVES

WHITE BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

SWORD
Worn with sword belt. Women must wear trousers when sword is worn. Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear the sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.

WHIITE TROUSERS/WHITE SKIRT

WHITE SOCKS OR HOSIERY
Socks are worn with oxfords, hosiery with pumps.

WHITE OXFORD SHOES
Oxfords are worn with trousers

WHITE PUMPS
Pumps are worn with either trousers or skirt for women.

SERVICE DRESS WHITE (MEN & WOMEN)

HEAD GEAR
Combination cap.

SDW JACKET

LONG SLEEVE WHITE SHIRT
For women, long or short sleeve.

HARD SHOULDER BOARDS

TIE
Women: blue tab tie. Men: none

NAMETAG
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

RIBBONS
Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch above ribbons or top of pocket on the left.
Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4 inch below upper edge of pocket flap.
If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4 inch above nametag on right hand pocket.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Device is centered 1/4 inch below top edge of left pocket flap.
If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4 inch below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard

IDENTIFICATION BADGES (FULL SIZE)
Device is centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag. Except DoD badges which are worn centered 1/4 inch above top edge of ribbons.
If wearing two formerly earned devices: Devices are symmetrically centered 1/4 inch above top edge of nametag/ribbons with most recently earned device placed inboard

WHITE GLOVES

WHITE BELT WITH BRASS BUCKLE

SWORD
Worn with sword belt. Women must wear trousers when sword is worn. Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear the sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.

WHIITE TROUSERS/WHITE SKIRT

WHITE SOCKS OR HOSIERY
Socks are worn with oxfords, hosiery with pumps.

WHITE OXFORD SHOES
Oxfords are worn with trousers

WHITE PUMPS
Pumps are worn with either trousers or skirt for women.

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR
(Officers only)
Official summer or tropical uniform for official, business, social functions and ceremonies when senior officer wishes to pay special honor to the occasion, parades, reviews, evening socials.

CAMOUFLAGE UTILITY UNIFORM (MEN & WOMEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Subject to the uniform policies of the local Operational Commander, CUUs are authorized for wear by USCG personnel assigned to the following units, teams, or detachments: (1) Port Security Units (PSU). (2) International Maritime Law Enforcement Team (IMLET). (3) Composite Naval Coastal Warfare Units (CNCWU)/ Harbor Defense Command (HDC). (4) Coast Guard Liaison Officers to DOD. (5) LEDETs when deployed with units wearing CUUs. (6) Coast Guard personnel participating in DOD marksmanship programs. (7) Coast Guard personnel who directly support the operations or training of these units may wear CUUs while performing those duties.

HEAD GEAR
Naval block style (8-point) cap, combat helmet, jungle hat, cold weather cap. (Unit ball caps or other types of unit distinctive covers will not be worn, except by personnel participating in marksmanship events.)

CUU COAT/SHIRT
Camouflage utility coat/shirt is to be worn outside the waistband of the utility trousers. When rolled, sleeves will be rolled with the inside out.

DESERT BROWN CREW NECK COTTON T-SHIRT

COLLAR INSIGNIA
Subdued insignia are standard.

NAME TAPE
Cloth name tape is sewn above right pocket. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

USCG ID TAPE
Cloth tape with "U. S. Coast Guard" is sewn above left pocket. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

UNIT PATCH
Unit patches may be worn at the discretion of the commanding officer of a commissioned Port Security Unit.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most current authorized. A single embroidered insignia is authorized.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs and OinCs. Metal is optional when not a safety issue.

IDENTIFICATION BADGE
Authorized for incumbent only.

BLACK BELT W/SUBDUED BUCKLE

CUU TROUSERS
Shall be of the same material and camouflage pattern as the utility coat/shirt. The trouser leg will be bloused with garters so that the blouse covers the top row of hooks or eyelets on the boots.

OLIVE GREEN OR BLACK SOCKS

SHOES
Combat boots, jungle boots or combination combat/safety boots.

DESERT CAMOUFLAGE UTILITY (MEN & WOMEN)

OCCASIONS FOR WEAR

Subject to the uniform policies of the local Operational Commander, CUUs are authorized for wear by USCG personnel assigned to the following units, teams, or detachments: (1)Port Security Units (PSU). (2) International Maritime Law Enforcement Team (IMLET). (3) Composite Naval Coastal Warfare Units (CNCWU)/ Harbor Defense Command (HDC). (4) Coast Guard Liaison Officers to DOD. (5) LEDETs when deployed with units wearing CUUs. (6) Coast Guard personnel participating in DOD marksmanship programs. (7) Coast Guard personnel who directly support the operations or training of these units may wear CUUs while performing those duties.

HEAD GEAR
Navy block style (8-point) cap, combat helmet, desert hat, cold weather cap. (Unit ball caps or other types of unit distinctive covers will not be worn, except by personnel participating in marksmanship events.)

DCU COAT/SHIRT
Camouflage utility coat/shirt is to be worn outside the waistband of the utility trousers. When rolled, sleeves will be rolled with the inside out.

DESERT BROWN CREW NECK COTTON T-SHIRT

COLLAR INSIGNIA
Subdued insignia are standard.

NAME TAPE
Cloth name tape is sewn above right pocket. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

USCG ID TAPE
Cloth tape with "U. S. Coast Guard" is sewn above left pocket. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.

UNIT PATCH
Unit patches may be worn at the discretion of the commanding officer of a commissioned Port Security Unit.

QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA
Most current authorized. A single embroidered insignia is authorized.

MINIATURE DEVICES
Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs and OinCs. Metal is optional when not a safety issue.

IDENTIFICATION BADGE
Authorized for incumbent only.

BLACK BELT W/SUBDUED BUCKLE

DCU TROUSERS
Shall be of the same material and camouflage pattern as the utility coat/shirt. The trouser leg will be bloused with garters so that the blouse covers the top row of hooks or eyelets on the boots.

OLIVE GREEN OR BLACK SOCKS

SHOES
Combat boots, jungle boots or combination combat/safety boots.

UNIFORM HEADGEAR COVERS

MEN'S COMBINATION CAP: For wear with all uniforms (Except ODUs). Consists of a military cap with a black visor, rigid standing front, flaring circular rim, a detachable plain white cover (cloth or vinyl) over the crown framework in a smooth and wrinkle free manner, and a blue cap band and mount for attaching the large cap insignia. Officers wear a metal or embroidered eagle. Chiefs wear the enlarged version of the collar insignia. Enlisted wear the Coast Guard medallion. One-half inch chin straps are worn, gold for officers and black patent leather or plastic for enlisted, with the chinstrap grommet positioned to the wearer's left. Rain Covers are optional for both officers and enlisted and are clear plastic with an elasticized bottom edge. Visor ornamentation is required for senior officers O-5 and above. For Flag Officers, the visor is covered in two rows of gold acorns and oak leaves. For captains and commanders, the visor is covered in one row.

WOMEN'S COMBINATION CAP: For wear with all uniforms (Except ODUs). Consists of a stiffened oval crown with detachable white cover, a blue cap band that is 1-1/4 inches wide with integral mount for insignia and a blue brim. The brim is rolled at the sides and flat in the front and back. Two blue streamers are attached to the band at the back and a blue cap band and mount for attaching the large cap insignia. Officers wear a metal or embroidered eagle. Chiefs wear the enlarged version of the collar insignia. Enlisted wear the Coast Guard medallion. For all officers, chinstraps are 1/2 inch wide, faced with gold lace. Rain Covers are optional for both officers and enlisted and are clear plastic with an elasticized bottom edge. Visor ornamentation is required for senior officers O-5 and above. Flag Officers wear a double row of oak leaves and acorns on the hatband. For captains and commanders, the hatband has one row of gold oak leaves and acorns.

GARRISON CAP: For wear with Service Dress Blue Bravo, Tropical Blue Long, and Winter Dress Blue. A fore and aft style cap made of Coast Guard Blue serge fabric. Men and women wear the same style garrison cap. When cap is not worn, it is carried under the belt on the right side of the body with the Coast Guard insignia facing outward. The center of the insignia are placed 1-1/2 inches from the bottom of the cap, and 2 inches right or left of the front crease. Officer's wear two insignia, the left insignia on the garrison cap shall consist of the miniature version of the eagle worn on the combination cap and the right insignia shall be of the same design as the collar insignia. Enlisted wear only one insignia, positioned on the right side of the cap. For chief petty officers E-7 through E-9 and MCPO-CG, the insignia shall consist of the miniature version of the anchor worn on the combination cover. For enlisted personnel E-4 through E-6, the garrison cap insignia shall consist of the collar grade rank insignia. For enlisted personnel E-3 and below the garrison cap insignia shall consist of the miniature version of the silver and gold Coast Guard medallion.

BALL CAP: All personnel E-4 and above shall wear rank/grade collar insignia on the working blue and unit ball cap. The insignia worn on the working blue and unit ball cap may be standard metal or embroidered collar insignia. All insignia shall be 1 to 1-1/4 inches above the visor or centered on the front of the cap so as not to interfere with the lettering. Captain insignia is worn with the Eagle facing the wearer's right. For enlisted personnel E-3 and below, the insignia shall consist of the silver and gold Coast Guard medallion that is also worn on the garrison cap.

COLD WEATHER CAP:
For all officers, the insignia worn on the Cold Weather Cap shall be the miniature version of the eagle that is worn on the combination cap. For chief petty officers E-7 through E-9 and MCPO-CG, the insignia shall consist of the miniature version of the anchor worn on the combination cap. For enlisted personnel E-6 and below, the insignia shall consist of the silver and gold CG medallion that is also worn on the garrison cap by E-3 and below.

COMBAT UTILITY COVER: The naval block style (i.e. USMC/USN "8-point") CUU cover will be worn. The appropriate rank/rate insignia will be worn centered on the front of the camouflage utility cap by all officers, chief petty officers and petty officers. The bottom of the insignia will be 1-1/4 inch from the visor. Officers wear the regular size bright metal grade insignia. For captains, the head of the eagle will face to the wearer's right. Subdued devices may be worn for operational or field necessity when the appropriate authority dictates. Master chief, senior chief, and chief petty officers wear the subdued cap device used with the garrison cap. First, second, and third class petty officers wear the subdued petty officer cap device. Embrioidered cap insignia are optional. E-3 and below do not wear a cap device.

UNIFORM OUTERWEAR COATS

CARDIGAN SWEATER:

The Air Force button front cardigan style sweater, of acrylic/wool blend material with epaulets. Wear with Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long, Winter Dress Blue and Operational Dress Uniform.
May be worn buttoned or unbuttoned.
Officers wear enhanced shoulder boards. Enlisted do not wear rank.
Authorized for wear in and outdoors within the limits of the Coast Guard unit/activity, and may be worn under other outerwear when traveling between Coast Guard units or between work and home (as long as it does not extend below the bottom of the outerwear.)

WOOLY-PULLY SWEATER:

The Wooly-Pully sweater is made from 100 percent wool or synthetic yarns in a rib knit V-neck design with epaulets. Wear with Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long, Winter Dress Blue and Operational Dress Uniform.
Officers wear enhanced shoulder boards. Enlisted do not wear insignia.
The sweater may be worn in lieu of the Service Dress Blue coat while indoors or outdoors unless the coat is more appropriate.
When wearing the sweater with any opened collared shirt, wear the collar on the outside.
The sweater may be worn under the trench coat, reefer coat, and the poly/wool windbreaker as long as it does not extend below the coat bottom.

TRENCH COAT:

A coat made of CG blue polyester/ cotton water-repellent material. It is double-breasted with four-button closure, shoulder epaulets, belted waist, and has a removable liner of either a quilted or pile insulating material. The trench coat should extend to a point approximately 2 inches below the back of the knee when standing upright.

Officers wear large rank insignia on epaulets. Enlisted do not wear insignia.

Wear with ALL uniforms (except ODU).

WINDBREAKER:

The Air Force single-breasted polyester/wool blend material jacket with, plain collar, epaulets, zippered front closure, and a welt pocket on each forepart and removable vest style quilted liner. Wear with Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long, Winter Dress Blue and Operational Dress Uniform.

Officers wear large rank insignia on epaulets. E-7 and above wear collar device on the collar. E-6 and below, do not wear rank.

May be worn in lieu of the service dress blue coat except when the service dress blue coat is more appropriate for an occasion's formality.

ALL WEATHER PARKA:

The all weather parka is fully waterproof with removable liner. It is upper thigh length with a Coast Guard blue laminated supplex nylon and Gore-Tex• outer shell with foldaway hood and a wind stopping polar-fleece zip-in liner which also serves as a stand-alone jacket and is rated for use in temperatures down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

It has a tab on the front for placement of collar device size rank insignia.

Wear with Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long, Winter Dress Blue and Operational Dress Uniform.

May be worn in lieu of the service dress blue coat except when the service dress blue coat is more appropriate for an occasion's formality. May be worn commuting work to home with ODU uniforms. The liner may be worn without the parka as a middleweight jacket within the confines of the wearers unit with the ODU.

BRIDGE COAT:

A calf length double-breasted coat made of wool-Melton type fabric in Coast Guard blue with a double row of four 35-ligne buttons and two ornamental belt sections attached by gold buttons at the rear waist of the coat.

Hard shoulder boards are worn.

Wear with Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long and Winter Dress Blue.

NOTE: For officer wear only. This coat is only available for purchase at the CG Academy.

REEFER COAT:

A coat made of Coast Guard blue certified material. It is double-breasted, hip length, with convertible collar, set-in pockets and a double row of three 35-ligne Coast Guard gilt buttons in each fore part.

Officers wear hard shoulder boards. Enlisted do not wear rank.

Wear with Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long, Winter Dress Blue.

NOTE: The reefer coat is no longer available for purchase, but may be worn until no longer serviceable.

UNIFORM FOOTWEAR SHOES

MEN'S OXFORDS:

The men's dress shoe is made of smooth black or white leather or a synthetic substitute (Corfam®) of the lace-up plain oxford style. They will have heels, no higher than one inch and be of low cut plain style without decoration. There will be no stitching or seams across the toe. The sole edges, heels, and laces must be the same color as the shoe. Wear Black Shoes with Formal Dress, Dinner Dress, Full Dress Blue, Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long and Operational Dress Uniform. Wear white shoes with Full Dress White and Service Dress White.

WOMEN'S OXFORDS:

The women's dress shoe is made of smooth black or white leather or a synthetic substitute (Corfam®) of the lace-up plain oxford style. Shoes with plain toe or a seam around the toe are authorized. The heels will be no higher than one inch. The sole edges, heels, and laces must be the same color as the shoe. Wear Black Shoes with Formal Dress, Dinner Dress, Full Dress Blue, Service Dress Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue Long and Operational Dress Uniform. Wear white shoes with Full Dress White and Service Dress White.

WOMEN'S PUMPS – BLACK:

Plain in style, with no decoration, made of smooth black leather or synthetic, with a closed heel and toe. The heel may be 1 to 2-5/8 inches high and no less than 1/2 inch wide at the floor. A flat wedge style sole which rises 1 inch is authorized. Sole edges, and heels will be the same color as the shoe. Wear Black Pumps with Dinner Dress Uniforms, Full Dress Blue, Service Dress Blue (Bravo) and Tropical Blue Long.

WOMEN'S PUMPS – WHITE:

Plain in style, with no decoration, made of smooth white leather or synthetic, with a closed heel and toe. The heel may be 1 to 2-5/8 inches high and no less than 1/2 inch wide at the floor. A flat wedge style sole which rises 1 inch is authorized. Sole edges, and heels will be the same color as the shoe. Wear white pumps with Full Dress White and Service Dress White.

SAFETY BOOTS:

The safety shoes are high top (plain black, 8" to 10" high) safety boots with a reinforced safety toe. Safety shoes must be worn while performing work that requires protection of the feet. Protective footwear must comply with the National Safety Council's American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Document.

BOAT SHOES:

The boat shoe is a dark brown leather low cut shoe of moccasin type construction, and functional rawhide lacing with 6 to 10 brass eyelets (evenly divided per side). The sole shall be white, slip resistant, non-marking material. Wear with (when authorized for small boat and cutter operations only): Operational Dress Uniform.

UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

BLACK BELT:
The black belt is made of black webbing with an attached brass or brass colored or subdued clip end (metal tip). Wear colored clip end with Dress Blue Trousers, Undress Trousers and wear subdued clip end with ODU Trousers.

BRASS BELT BUCKLE:
The standard belt buckle is unadorned brass or brass colored metal. It is worn on the black belt with Dress Blue trousers, and on the white belt with White Dress trousers.

BLACK SUBDUED BUCKLE:
The belt buckle is a subdued black brass open-frame buckle designed to reduce reflection. It is worn on a black belt. Wear with ODU Trousers.

GLOVES:
Black gloves are made of plain leather or other suitable material, with matching stitching. Wear with all uniforms.

White gloves are made of plain white cotton or synthetic material, with matching stitching. Wear with Formal Dress, Full Dress Blue and Full Dress White.
NOTE: White gloves may be required for other ceremonial purposes.

WHITE BELT:
The white belt is made of white webbing with an attached brass or brass colored clip end (metal tip). Wear with Dress White trousers.

SCARVES:
White scarf is of conventional size and made of tightly woven wool, silk, or synthetic material of plain, unadorned design. Wear with all uniforms.
Tuck scarves into the outer garment.

Blue scarf is of conventional size and made of tightly dark blue woven wool, silk, or synthetic material of plain, unadorned design. Wear with Operational Dress Uniform.
Tuck scarves into the outer garment.

BLOUSING BANDS:
Elastic or Velcro® bands used to blouse Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) trouser legs over safety shoes. Wear with Operational Dress Uniform.
NOTE: Do not use when wearing oxfords or boat shoes.

HANDBAGS:
Standard Handbag: A handbag of plain, unadorned black or white (as appropriate) leather or synthetic material, envelope style not more than 11 inches wide, 8 inches high, and 5 inches deep. It may have a detachable shoulder strap and may be used with or without the strap. The strap will be adjustable for wearing over the shoulder or carrying over the arm. Wear with Full Dress Blue, Dinner Dress, Service Dress Blue (Bravo) and Tropical Blue Long.

Dress Handbag: The dress handbag used with the Formal Dress or Dinner Dress Jacket uniforms is a small clutch type black/white bag, (as appropriate) preferably with a collapsible handle.

SUSPENDERS (Men only):
Suspenders without design or ornamentation are authorized. Plain white suspenders are worn with Formal Dress, Dinner Dress Jackets, and other white jackets or coats. Plain black are worn with other blue jackets or coats.
NOTE: Suspenders are not worn without the appropriate jacket or coat.

UMBRELLA:
Is of the telescoping type shaft with a straight handle and made of plain black or dark blue material. Must be carried in the left hand. Can be used with all uniforms.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE U.S. COAST GUARD

Prisoner of War Medal

Good Conduct Medal

Navy Good Conduct Medal

Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal

Army Good Conduct Medal

Air Force Good Conduct Medal

Reserve Good Conduct Medal

Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal

Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal

Reserve Components Achievement Medal

Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal

Enlisted Person of the Year Ribbon

Navy Expeditionary Medal

Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Antarctica Service Medal

Arctic Service Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Sothwest Asia Service Medal

Kosovo Campaign Medal

Afganistan Campaign Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Korea Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

DOT 9-11 Ribbon

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Special Operations Service Ribbon

Sea Service Deployment Ribbon

Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon

Restricted Duty Ribbon

Navy Overseas Service Ribbon

Army Overseas Service Ribbon

Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (Short Tour)

Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (Long Tour)

Navy Artic Service Ribbon

Naval Reserve Seas Service Ribbon

Army NCO Professional Military Graduate Ribbon

Air Force NCO Professional Military Graduate Ribbon

Basic Training Honor Graduate Ribbon

Air Force Basic Training Honor Graduate Ribbon

Recruiting Service Ribbon

Armed Force Reserve Medal

Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation

Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation

U.N. Medal

NATO Medal

NATO Kosovo Medal

Multinational Force & Observers Medal

Inter-American Defense Board Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon

Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon

RIBBON DEVICES

5/16 Gold Star

5/16 Silver Star

3/16 Bronze Star

3/16 Silver Star

Silver Oak Leaf

Bronze Oak Leaf

Combat

Expert Rifle/Pistol

Sharp Shooter Rifle/Pistol

Mobilization

Numeral

Operational

Hurricane

Silver Hourglass

Bronze Hourglass

Silver Wintered Over

Gold Wintered Over

Bronze Wintered Over

This chart is a comprehensive and ordered list of all Coast Guard, Dept. of Homeland Security, Dept. of Transportation and Dept. of Defense medals and ribbons authorized for wear on Coast Guard uniforms. For official guidance, please refer to the Medal and Awards Manual. (COMDT Instruction M1650.25 series)

QUALIFICATION BADGES, DEVICES & INSIGNIA PINS

DEVICES

Command Afloat

Command Ashore

Officer in Charge Afloat

Officer in Charge Ashore

INSIGNIA

Port Security (Officer)

Cutterman (Officer)

Surface Warfare (Officer)

Port Security (Enlisted)

Cutterman (Enlisted)

Surface Warfare (Enlisted)

Boat Force Operations (Advanced)

Marine Safety

Law Enforcement Detachment/ Tactical Law Enforcement Team

Boat Force Operations

Surfman

Coxswain

Combat Action Badge

Diving Officer

Master Diver

First Class Diver

Second Class Diver

Scuba Diver
(officer)

Scuba Diver
(Enlisted)

BADGES

Presidential Service

Vice Presidential Service

Office of the Secretary of
Defense

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Commandant's Staff

Special Agent

Company Commander

Honor Guard

Physician Assistant/
Nurse Practitioner

Recruiting
(School Graduate)

Recruiting

Master Chief Petty Officer
of the Coast Guard

Master Chief Petty Officer
of the Coast Guard
Reserve Force

Area Master Chief

Command Master Chief
(Comandant designated)

Rating Force
Master Chief

Command
Master Chief

Command
Senior Chief

Command
Chief

GRADE/SPECIALTY INSIGNIA OFFICERS

FLAG OFFICERS

O-10
Admiral

O-9
Vice Admiral

O-8
Rear Admiral
Upper Half

O-7
Rear Admiral
Lower Half

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

O-6
Captain

O-5
Commander

O-4
Lieutenant
Commander

O-3
Lieutenant

O-2
Lieutenant
Junior Grade

O-1
Ensign

WARRANT OFFICERS & SPECIALTIES

CWO4
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4

CWO3
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

CWO2
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Bandmaster

Boatswain

Communications

Electronics

Finance & Supply

Info. Systems Specialist

Investigator

Marine Safety Specialist

Material Maintenance

Medical Administration

Naval Engineering

Operations Sys. Specialist

Personnel Administration

Public Information

Port Safety & Security

Weapons

RATE/PAYGRADE INSIGNIA

ENLISTED RATINGS

Boatswain's Mate (BM)

Damage Controlman (DC)

Electrician's Mate (EM)

Electronics Technician (ET)

Food Service Specialist (FS)

Gunner's Mate (GM)

Health Services Technician (HS)

Information Specialist (IT)

Investigator (IV)

Machinery Technician (MK)

Marine Science Technician (MST)

Musician (MU)

Operations Specialist (OS)

Port Security Specialist (PS)

Public Affairs Specialist (PA)

Storekeeper (SK)

Yeoman (YN)

SENIOR ENLISTED

MCPO-CG

Master Chief Petty Officer of the USCG

E-9

Master Chief Petty Officer

E-8

Senior Chief Petty Officer

E-7

Chief Petty Officer

PETTY OFFICERS

E-6

Petty Officer 1st Class

E-5

Petty Officer 2nd Class

E-4

Petty Officer 3rd Class

E-3

Seaman (Rated)

NON-RATES

E-3 Seaman

E-2 Seaman Apprentice

E-1 Seaman Recruit

U.S. MILITARY UNIFORMS
TABLE OF EQUIVALENTS

Coast Guard	Navy	Marine Corps
Operational Dress (ODU) (Worn Year Round)	Dungarees with Blue Chambray Shirt/ Winter Work Khaki	Utility
Tropical Blue Long (Trops) (Worn Year Round)	Summer Khaki/ Whites	Service C
Winter Dress Blue (Normally 1 Nov – 31 Mar, or as local prescribing authority dictates)	Winter Blue/ Aviation Working Green	Service B
Service Dress Blue (Bravo) (SDB) (Worn Year Round)	Service Dress Blue	Service A
Service Dress White (SDW) (Summer/Tropical)	Service Dress White	
Full Dress Blue (FDB) (Worn Year Round)	Full Dress Blue	Dress Blue A or B
Full Dress White (Summer/Tropical) (Officers only)	Full Dress White	Dress White A or B
Dinner Dress Blue (Winter)	Dinner Dress Blue	Dress Blue A
Dinner Dress White (Summer) (Officers only)	Dinner Dress White	Dress White A
Dinner Dress Blue Jacket (Winter)	Dinner Dress Blue Jacket	Evening Dress
Dinner Dress White Jacket (Summer)	Dinner Dress White Jacket	Mess Dress
Formal Dress Blue (Worn Year Round)	Formal Dress	Evening Dress

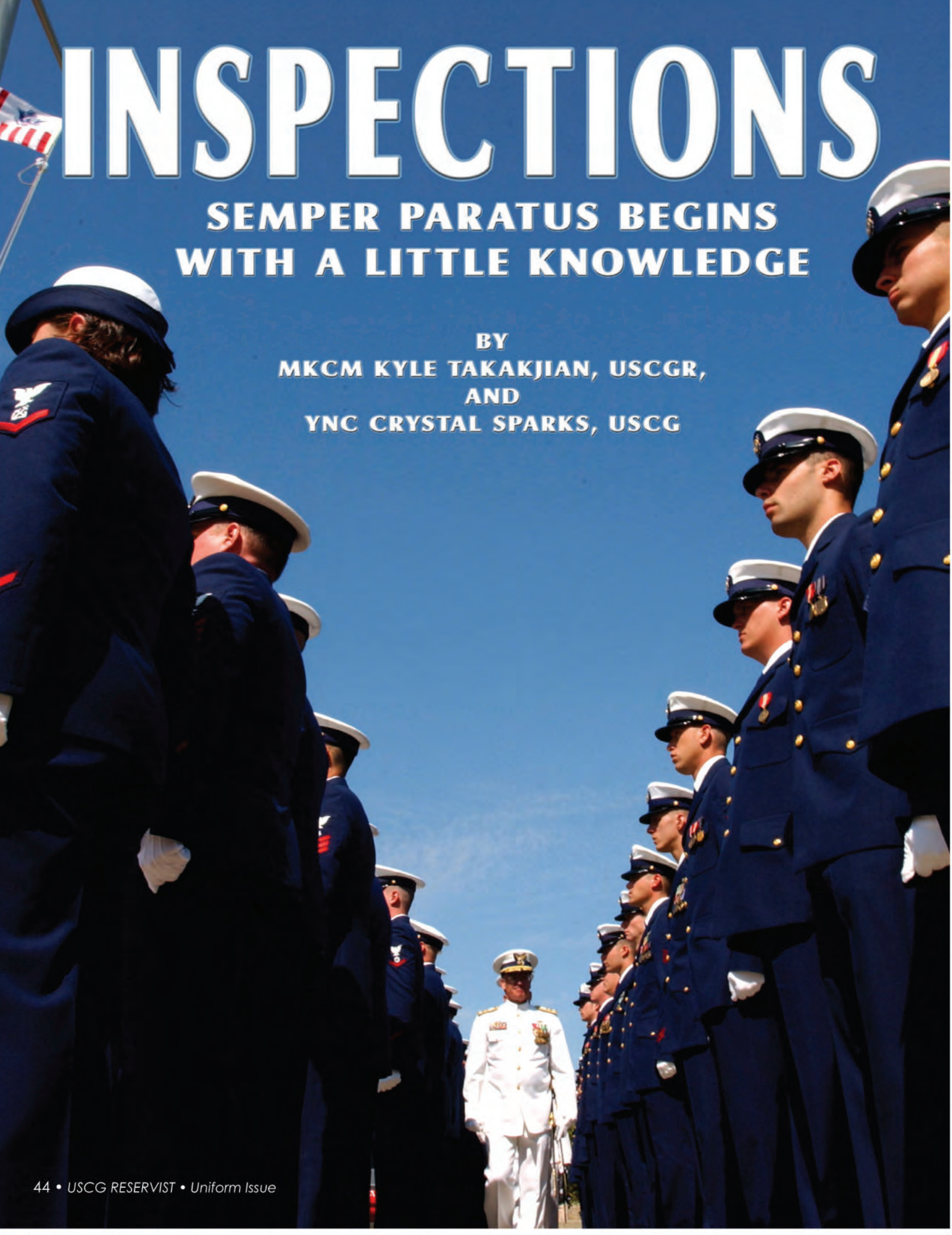
Source: CWO2 Tarvin Greene, Commandant (CG-122)

Army	Air Force	When Worn
Battle Dress	Utility	When working at unit or plant environment, when in environments where soiling of clothing is expected. May be worn commuting and brief stops for gas or drive-thru. This is not a liberty uniform.
Class B Army Green	Service Uniform	To compensate for climate variations as per prescribing authority and where coat and tie are not required or expected.
Class A Army Green Army White	Service Dress	Business and informal social occasions as correct for local custom.
Class A Army Green/Blue	Ceremonial Dress Blue	Worn year-round for Change of Command ceremonies, parades, and reviews when special honors are being paid, such as official visits of and to U.S. and foreign officials.
Army White	Ceremonial Dress White	
Army Blue (bow-tie)	Ceremonial Dress Blue	Same as Dinner/Mess Dress but less formal occasions requiring more formality than service uniforms.
Army White (bow-tie)	Ceremonial Dress White	
Blue Mess Dress White Mess Dress	Blue Mess Dress	Equivalent to black tie. Winter/summer evening formal functions, dinners, dinner dances or club affairs.
Blue Mess or Evening Dress	Blue Formal Dress	Equivalent to white tie. Official formal evening functions after 6:00 PM such as state occasions and diplomatic service.

INSPECTIONS

SEMPER PARATUS BEGINS WITH A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE

BY
MKCM KYLE TAKAKJIAN, USCGR,
AND
YNC CRYSTAL SPARKS, USCG



OK, so your commanding officer or officer in charge has just announced that next month there will be a uniform inspection. What do you do — panic, go on vacation, retire? Of course not, but there are strategies you can use, even today, to have an outstanding uniform and serve as an example for all Coast Guard members around you. What we are going to focus on in this article is how to make your uniforms look professional and razor sharp. For the purposes of this article we will look at the Tropical Blue Long uniform. However, many of the tips discussed can be applied to other uniforms as well.

START PREPARING EARLY

If you take it one step at a time, preparing for a Personnel Inspection (PI) is really very simple. The first step is to begin your preparations several weeks in advance and know what is expected. The Coast Guard Uniform Regulations, COMDINST M1020.6E (series), available both in hard copy and on-line, as well as this issue of the Reservist, are the best resources available for all your uniform questions. They contain everything you need to know about what is required for each Coast Guard uniform.

To begin with, let's break out that Tupperware box that you keep all the accessories in — it's probably been some time since you gave them a look with your most critical eye. What are we talking about? In short, your cover (combination or garrison), collar devices, name tag, ribbons, qualification insignia, devices and badges, belt, shoes, and your ID card. Yes, in a proper and full inspection, even your ID card will be checked. Let's go down the checklist:

COVER

Is your combination cap shaped properly and does it sit correctly on your head? Is the brim curved evenly and clean? Is the hat device centered and correct? What about the cover itself — is the white really white? If not, consider cleaning or replacing as needed. For covers with chin straps, are the eagles on your buttons flying, which really means right side up? If not, turn them clockwise to tighten and align correctly. Is your garrison cap clean, or dingy? Is it the correct size? Are your insignia shiny and pinned correctly? Check the Uniform Regulations to ensure their proper placement.

COLLAR DEVICES

How about the collar devices, are they clean and shiny? Many tours at sea will bring that greenish tint to the devices, not what you're striving for during an inspection. When you place them on the collar, check the Uniform Regulations for proper placement, and use a ruler to get them positioned exactly as required.

NAME TAG

If the name tag you intend to use has seen better days, order a new one. Have you ever seen a name tag that appears dull and has a build up on it? To clean it up and get rid of some of the scratches, here is a helpful little tip. Put a dab of Brasso on a cloth towel and place on a hard surface. Rub the name tag vigorously back and forth over the Brasso, trying to keep the motions straight, for a couple of minutes. Wipe the excess Brasso off and use some rubbing alcohol on a cotton swab to clean the letters and the back. Buff on a clean towel and coat with a little Pledge. This is referred to as burning a name tag. Remember, when you put it on your uniform, it's centered one-quarter inch above the right pocket (again, use your ruler).

RIBBONS

You can make a great impression by the manner in which your ribbons and devices are worn. First of all, is your ribbon bar up to date? Take a good look at how the ribbons look together. Are they worn out or faded? Are devices and attachments missing or tilted? Are they in the correct precedence? If they are tired and need replacing or updating, consider having a set professionally made. Ribbons are centered one-quarter inch above the left pocket. Don't forget that the Uniform Regulations provide guidance for all of your accompanying qualification and designation badges.

BELT & BUCKLE

How about that belt and buckle? Take a look, how does that brass look? Is it scratched and dented, or when you view it from the

Photos courtesy Coast Guard Visual Imagery Database.

UNIFORM CLOTHING

Now that all of the items that go on, below or on top of the uniform are taken care of, what about the uniform itself? A couple weeks prior to inspection, turn in your uniform for alterations and cleaning. When you pick it up, go over it thoroughly checking for loose threads, proper placement of sewn-on items, and to ensure all your buttons survived the white water rafting trip it just took through the cleaners.

For shirts, they should be clean and pressed. Is your shirt faded or do you have ring around the collar?

Have you ever noticed a shirt on someone's uniform that is tailored and snug to the belt line both in the front and rear? The trick here is shirt stays. They are neat little devices that pull your shirt down and keep it from pulling up in the front and rear. Two in front and two in the rear work great. One hint: crisscross them on the lower half before attaching them to your socks; this helps them fit snugly on your leg. Yes, they do take some getting used to; however, in presenting a sharp uniform, nothing beats them. Your pants also should be checked. Are they worn at the pockets? Are they too tight or too loose? The bottom of the belt should rest directly on the top of your hipbone, not under it or way above. With the belt sitting at it's correct position, the front of the pant should drape to the second eyelet of the shoe (counting from the tip of the shoe) — with no breaks in the front crease!

If wearing a skirt, ensure that the hemline is no higher than the crease in the back of the knee or lower than three inches below the crease in the back of the knee.

How about your Bravo jacket? Is it clean and does it fit properly? If not, have it cleaned or altered.

Finally, place your uniform in a garment bag for safekeeping.

top, can you see years of caked-up Brasso inside the buckle? Generally speaking, there are three types of buckles you might see during inspections: common brass plated which looks good for the shortest period of time, officer brass which is plated with a high luster and looks fine when new, and polished bare brass. Side by side, you can spot polished brass any day and it looks terrific. So the next time you're in front of the TV, get out the Nevr-Dull or Brasso and make your buckle shine.

SHOES

Of course we can't forget our shoes. If you have the shiny plastic kind (Corfams) it may take less time to bring them up to inspection standards. However, even if you have leather, fear not — a little work and they can shine just as well. Do you recall your boot camp lessons on shoe shinning? Try a cotton ball, with just enough water to make it moist, rub in that polish until the luster begins. Once you have them shinning nicely, give them one more coat with parade polish and you should be in good shape. Additionally, for a finishing touch, you can use edge dressing on the edges of the soles. It might take two coats, but it really makes a shoe stand out.

HAIR

Uniform Regulations state that hair must not fall below the eyebrows, ears, or extend below the front of properly worn headgear. A proper haircut is tapered, not blocked and is no more than 1 1/2 inches in bulk. If men choose to grow a moustache, ensure it doesn't extend below the top of the upper lip and it can't extend beyond the corners of the mouth. Sideburns cannot extend below a point level with the bottom of the ear opening. Women should ensure hair is no more than two inches in bulk and hair must not fall below the bottom edge of the collar.

ID CARD

Remember we mentioned your ID card? Well the reason they are inspected is to ensure they are up to date (paygrade, expiration date and medical information). Why medical information? The blood type information can provide critical information should you be injured or incapacitated, and it needs to be legible and accurate. Remember, if you look the night before the inspection, it's not enough time to have a replacement made.

INSPECTION DAY

On inspection day, bring that Tupperware box with a lint roller, shoe polish, soft cloth and sewing kit (for the button that pops) with you. If you have spare ribbons, devices and attachments, bring them too. You never know when a shipmate will be in need at the last minute.

So, what should I expect at an inspection and what will they look for? The Reviewing Party should check the proper wear of your uniform, compliance with Coast Guard Regulations, and your attention to detail. Do not chew gum or wear a cell phone.

Before you depart for inspection, double check your gig line, run a lint roller over your entire uniform, put your ID card in your pocket, then have a shipmate check you over one last time.

You've already checked your cover and it's spotless, right? When standing inspection, ensure it's squarely on the head and parallel to deck. Hair shall not be visible below the front brim.

Did you secure all loose threads and put on a crisply pressed shirt? A common critical mistake that will get you noticed in the worst way is improper placement of collar devices. So double-check your measurements! Are your ribbons and name tag clean, up to date, and positioned properly?

Check your trousers for worn, improper fit and possible missed belt loops. Your belt should be clean and cut properly so when it's worn with the trousers the belt tab isn't peaking from behind the belt or brass. Make sure your shoes are properly laced, not cracked, and heels are not worn down.

During the inspection, remain at attention and answer any questions asked using proper military courtesy. The Reviewing Party will look to see that you are within proper uniform and grooming standards, a recorder will write down any deficiencies and will inform you of any after the inspection. Sometimes, the person inspecting you may mention a deficiency verbally as you're inspected. But after reading this article and putting it to practice, hopefully there won't be any.

A FINAL WORD

These tips are meant to help you prepare an inspection-perfect uniform. Many of these tips are applicable to other uniforms as well. Leaving your preparation to the night before just won't help. Get started on it now, review the Uniform Regulations COMDINST M1020.6E (series), and when you do get the word that an inspection is coming, you won't have to scramble.

Editor's Note: *Master Chief Takakjian served as a Company Chief Petty Officer at the Coast Guard Academy from July 2003 until July 2005 and is currently stationed at ISC Boston(fp) where he is an instructor. Chief Sparks was a Company Commander and Company Commander School Chief at Training Center Cape May from June 2002 through July 2005, and is currently stationed in the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Office at Headquarters.*

HOW TO ROLL YOUR ODU SLEEVES

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

Sleeves may be worn down with cuffs buttoned or with sleeves neatly rolled.

When properly rolled, the cuff should be approximately 2″ above the elbow (mid-bicep) with only the cuff visible.

To properly roll the sleeves takes some patience and a little practice, but once mastered can be achieved without difficulty. Depending on an individual's size and sleeve length some sleeves may be rolled with one fold while others will take two.

1. Fully extend and flatten the sleeve on a level surface.

2. Starting at the cuff turn sleeve inside out to armpit as shown. Take care to flatten the sleeve to remove any irregular folds or creases.

3.

To form the fold, roll the sleeve in half again to form two equal segments the width of the "cuff."

4.

Next, turn the cuff down over the fold. Pinching the outer edge of the sleeve to begin the fold will help to keep the fabric from slipping.

5.

Once in place, take care to flatten the sleeve to remove any irregular folds or creases. When properly done, only the cuff should be visible.

NOTE: *To remove the roll, simply pull the lower edge of the cuff downward toward the wrist.*

UNIFORMS

UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION CENTER (UDC)

TWO NEW JERSEY SITES DISTRIBUTE USCG WARES

What do you do when you need a uniform item? You pay a visit to the Coast Guard's Uniform Distribution Center (UDC). The UDC is the primary source for all Coast Guard uniforms.

The primary mission of the Uniform Distribution Center is to supply sea bag uniform items to all recruits. They also service the Coast Guard Academy, clothing lockers, reservists and auxiliarists with standard sea bag and optional uniform items. UDC also supplies all members of the Coast Guard based abroad.

UDC opened its doors at Cape May in 1988 as a central ordering facility for shipping and receiving of Coast Guard uniform items. Prior to that time, Cape May was a clothing locker much like others currently in the Coast Guard. As the need for uniform items continued to grow, Cape May's facility quickly became too small for such a large operation. In 1997, the UDC moved the majority of its operations to Woodbine, 23 miles north of Cape May in south central New Jersey.

The UDC in Woodbine currently leases several warehouse spaces along with several office spaces. All together, UDC Woodbine utilizes approximately 41,000 square feet. Meanwhile, UDC Cape May uses approximately two-thirds of the Dempsey Hall building, which includes office spaces, a warehouse, and two issue rooms. Although the UDC is physically located in both Woodbine and Cape May, it is considered one command.

The UDC employs approximately 30 members including three Coast Guard officers: Manager LT Mike Bowman, two chief warrant officers and 27 civilian employees ranging from WG-5 to GS-9. Woodbine, being the larger facility, has 20 members while Cape May has 10 members.

"The UDC is more labor intensive than most would believe as all telephone orders for the Coast Guard, including TRACEN Cape May, Coast Guard Academy, reservists, and auxiliarists are placed through three customer service reps," said CWO2 Dave Mcloughlin, Assistant Manager of UDC. "These three reps, who work out of the Woodbine site, take between 250 and 650 calls on any given day. This number does not include fax orders that the three reps enter as well."

During an average month, UDC sells and/or issues approximately 60,000 uniform items valued at $700,000. The UDC currently stocks 2,712 items. So, the next time you need a uniform item, check out the UDC's web site: www.uscg.mil/uniforms.

"SERVICING THOSE WHO SERVE"

UDC & CGES PRICE DISPARITY EXPLAINED

After checking out your local Coast Guard Exchange and buying some uniform items you realize that some of the prices on items are the same as those you obtained from the Uniform Distribution Center (UDC), but a few appear higher or different. Why?

The Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities (NAFI) Manual (COMDTINST M7010.5A) states: "In order to make required uniform items readily available to service members, CGES sells, at cost, military uniforms, which are brought from the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center. CGES is reimbursed from appropriated funds for operating costs associated with the sale of issue uniform items."

"That is 100 percent correct," said Mr. John Reiley, Director of Merchandise for the Coast Guard Exchange System (CGES). "The different prices people see are items that the CGES purchases commercially, not from UDC. An example of this is the light blue Creighton shirts. The Creighton shirt costs more than the standard light blue shirts we buy from UDC."

Reiley says that CGES tries to charge a fair and equitable price to the member. Part of that mark-up goes back to the Coast Guard community to support Coast Guard Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR).

The bottom line is that UDC products sold to patrons at Coast Guard Exchanges should be the exact same price as those you buy directly from UDC. If you ever discover a price disparity, CGES would like to know. Please contact your local CGES manager or SKC Benny Rodriguez, CGES (G-WPX), 870 Greenbrier Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320-2681; 757-420-2480; benny.rodriguez@uscg.mil

Cut Here

Uniform Distribution Center
STANDARD ORDER FORM

TO ORDER ONLINE GO TO: WWW.USCG.MIL/UNIFORMS

Date _____

Rate/Rank Name

_____ _____

Employee ID (EMPLID) or Auxiliary #

_____

Note: Social Security are NOT acceptable!

Current Status (Check One)

- ☐ USCG Active Duty
- ☐ Active Reserve
- ☐ USCG Reserve
- ☐ USCG Retired
- ☐ USCG Auxiliary
- ☐ Other: _____

Contact Information

Phone _____ Ext. _____

Fax _____

(For order confirmation)

Home / Unit Address

_____

_____

_____

Form of Payment

(Do not use this form for Government Credit Cards)

- ☐ Charge to Pay (Active Duty Only)
- ☐ Check or Money Order (Make Payable to U.S. Coast Guard)
- ☐ Credit Card
  - ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Cards ☐ DISCOVER NOVUS

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Completed Forms should be sent to:

U.S. Coast Guard
Uniform Distribution Center
ATTN: Customer Service
414 Madison Ave.
Woodbine, NJ 08270

Ship to Address (if different)

_____

_____

_____

NO.	UDC STOCK NUMBER	QTY.	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	LAST NAME FOR NAME TAPE OR NAME TAG
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					

Cut Here

PLACING AN ORDER WITH UDC

All items that the UDC carries are indicated in their Stock Book located on their web site:
www.uscg.mil/uniforms

SHOP ON-LINE

Just visit **www.uscg.mil/uniforms** and visit their all new online store. The entire warehouse is at your fingertips.

FAX ORDERS

Orders may be faxed 24 hours a day, seven days a week including holidays. Uniform orders can be faxed to the UDC using the same order form mentioned above. Please fax your order only once to avoid duplicate orders. If you do not receive your order within seven business days, please call (800) 874-6841 to check the status of your order.

Please fax your orders to: (609) 861-7930.

PHONE ORDERS

Phone orders may be placed from 0800 to 1530, Monday-Friday, Eastern Standard Time. You may use your personal MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express, or the Charge-To-Pay method (Coast Guard Active Duty members only). To reduce your phone holding time, have a list of items needed and your specific measurements.

To place a phone order call: (800) 874-6841 or (609) 861-1221.

ORDERS BY MAIL

Uniform orders can be mailed to the UDC by filling out the order form located on their web site, or they can mail or fax the form to you by calling their toll free number. Include check, money order, or credit card information with your order form. If paying by check or money order, please make payable to "U.S. COAST GUARD" for the exact amount of your order. Consult the Stock Book for the correct prices and stock numbers.

Mail your order form to:

U.S. Coast Guard
Uniform Distribution Center
ATTN: Customer Service
414 Madison Ave.
Woodbine, NJ 08270

SPECIAL ORDERS

If the UDC does not stock a size that you require, then you may request that item by completing a special order form for your required items. The forms are located on the UDC's web site and must be faxed or mailed. While every order is expedited, the average completion time to fill a special order is approximately three months. You may call (609) 861-7934 for assistance.

GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARD ORDERS

The UDC cannot accept government credit card orders over the phone. These orders need to be faxed or mailed on a Procurement Request (form DOT F 4200.1.2CG). Please ensure the Procurement Request includes all of the following information:

- The unit's name
- OPFAC number (cost center code)
- Ship to address
- Point of contact with telephone number
- Government credit card account number
- Card expiration date
- Printed name, exactly as it appears on the credit card
- Cardholder's signature.

OVER-THE-COUNTER SALES

The UDC has two locations to serve you. Both accept personal MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express, money orders (for the exact amount of the purchase), or the Charge-To-Pay method.

- Woodbine, NJ: Over-the-counter sales at the UDC's main warehouse are open from 0730 to 1500, Monday-Friday, excluding holidays.
- TRACEN Cape May: Due to recruit issues, over-the-counter sales at Training Center Cape May are limited to Thursdays from 0730 to 1500. Times are subject to change without notice, depending on TRACEN's recruit issue requirements. Please call (609) 898-6744 to check availability.

UNIFORM CLOTHING DESIGN & TECHNICAL OFFICE (CDTO)

SMALL STAFF MAKES BIG IMPACT ON USCG UNIFORM

BY LCDR LISA SCHULZ, USCGR

The All Weather Parka (AWP) and the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) are the Coast Guard's newest uniforms. How did "they" know that the windbreaker wasn't warm enough for subzero temperatures and that the working blues needed to be replaced?

"They" are the Coast Guard's Uniform Clothing Design and Technical Office (CDTO). In short, it is responsible for designing and developing uniform items to better fit the needs of today's Coast Guard. The CDTO is a small shop, so small in fact, that most of the Coast Guard do not know they exist. On staff are a textile technologist, a clothing designer, a quality assurance specialist, a program assistant and a Chief Clothing Designer. Together, they have more than 100 years of industry experience.

Where the magic happens. The entrance to the Coast Guard's Uniform Clothing Design and Technical Office (CDTO) located in the U.S. Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.

Located in the U.S. Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., the Coast Guard is the smallest CDTO of the armed services. However, being co-located is a plus, giving the Coast Guard full access to the military uniform testing facilities from every service. Using high-tech gadgets that test everything from the material's tensile strength to performance in the most extreme conditions, the CDTO is quite literally on the cutting edge of design and development.

While small in size, the CDTO is big on innovation. Responding to input from the field, it has brought style and increased functionality to the Coast Guard uniform. In the 1980s, the CDTO was the first among the armed services to design a regular and athletic fit for the Service Dress Bravo (SDB) blouse, the goal was to accommodate a wider variety of body shapes and sizes. In the 1990s, the CDTO completely revamped the women's SDB jacket and necktie to have a more flattering and practical fit. Recently, the CDTO developed the AWP and ODU as the latest additions to the Coast Guard wardrobe.

Because the AWP was designed for extreme cold weather conditions, the CDTO rigorously tested it at cold-weather simulation facilities at Natick, Mass. and subjected the AWP to extensive field testing in Alaska. After approval, the AWP went into production and is now available to Coast Guard personnel.

The ODU went from the drawing board to the field in under 18 months, making it the fastest uniform redesign in the history of all military services. RADM Kenneth Venuto, then Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, described what happened.

"In an effort to provide a better fitting uniform for all of our members, we made a decision early in the acquisition process to contract for the production of both even and odd size uniforms (e.g. 38, 39, 40, 41, etc.), each in several different lengths/cuts (S, M, L, XL, etc.). There will be 82 different size tops and 27 different size trousers available."

The wide array of sizes turned out to be a double-edged sword. From the perspective of fit, this gave more people a well-fitting, ready-made uniform that needed little tailoring. From a logistics perspective, it could have sunk the distribution chain. However, the CDTO worked closely with the manufacturer and the Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) to ensure minimal delays and backorders. In the first 14 months of production, more than 150,000 sets of ODUs were distributed.

While Coasties carefully add insignia name tapes to newly-ordered ODUs, and crews in Alaska don their AWPs to ward off the chill, the crew at the CDTO is busy testing zippers, durability, and fade control of future uniforms.

UNIFORM QUESTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Ed's note: In preparation for this special issue, The Reservist asked readers to send in questions, suggestions and comments. We wanted to share some of them with our readers. Responses are printed in italics after each letter. They were researched and written by CWO2 Tarvin Greene who works on uniform policy and procedures in the Military Policy and Standards Division (CG-122) at Headquarters.

OTHER SERVICE INSIGNIA

There are many Coasties who wonder why DOD breast insignia earned while a member of another branch of service cannot be worn unless earned in the USCG. I think this policy makes sense from a standpoint that the USCG does not want to cloud up its uniforms with insignia that are not universal (example: Army folks wearing a Marine Safety insignia or USCG members wearing a finance badge earned in the Air Force would be quite odd). However, why not allow for these "universal" badges (ex: airborne, diver's badges, naval aircrew) to be worn regardless of branch earned. The same insignia would be awarded whether in the USCG or if it was previously earned while serving in another branch.

— LTJG Pete Reeves

I do not understand why Coasties can not wear service devices from the DOD. For example, there is one DOD school for airborne training for all the services. If a Coast Guardsman earned their jump wings while a member of another branch of service, why can't they wear their wings?

— PS2 Shane Woodward

Please clarify the wearing of devices from other services on the Coast Guard uniform. There seems to be a lot of confusion expressed on Fred's Place about this issue.

— Norm Kiaunis

ANSWER: *Many members have prior service and during that time earned some valuable skills. If a person earned a qualification insignia in another service prior to becoming a member of the Coast Guard, they are not authorized to wear the insignia on the Coast Guard uniform. However, if a person earned their insignia while a member of the Coast Guard and it is directly connected to the performance of operational missions from another United States military service, they are authorized to wear the insignia in accordance with the Uniform Regulations (COMDTINST M1020.6E). The individual member is responsible for providing proof of authority to wear another service's qualification insignia for placement in their service record.*

FOUL WEATHER JACKETS

Please include information on foul weather jackets. Presently all I have been issued is an ESU Seattle commercially acquired coat with an ESU logo on it. We are being told by our local FOT that it is now against uniform regulations. Some clarification would really help us out here.

— ET1 David Heath

ANSWER: *The topic of foul-weather gear is big for military members (Active, Reserve, and Auxiliary). Currently, a member can purchase (on their own) an All Weather Parka (AWP — see UDC's Web site for purchasing info). If he/she chooses not to purchase the All Weather Parka, the work jacket and windbreaker are both authorized for wear when wearing the ODU. If a heavier jacket is needed or the price is too high for member's expense, the member's command can purchase AWPs for the unit at the command's expense. This type of purchase is called organizational clothing. The clothing must be visibly marked as per the Uniform Regulations Manual and the command will be held accountable. The AWP should be turned in to the unit prior to the member's departure. If the AWP is more than what is needed, the command can purchase a lighter rain jacket, but it should follow the organizational clothing guidelines.*

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

Would it be possible to run updated info on the Armed Forces Reserve Medal? We are constantly getting questions on this and the number of awards a member can have (i.e., if they have been recalled more than once). I think it would be a good item to run. Thank you.

— SCPO Gail Owens

ANSWER:

a. ***ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.*** *The Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) is awarded for honorable and satisfactory service as a member or former member of one or more of the Reserve components of*

the Armed Forces of the United States, including the Coast Guard Reserve, as follows:

(1) For satisfactory service for a period of 10 years. Such years of service must have been performed within a period of 12 consecutive years. Service in a regular component of the Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard, is excluded, except active duty service performed by members of a reserve component will be included. Any period during which Reserve service is interrupted by one or more of the following will be excluded in computing, but will not be considered as a break in the period of 12 years:

(a) Service in a regular component of the Armed Forces.

(b) During tenure of office by a state official chosen by the voters of the entire state, territory, or possession.

(c) During tenure of office as a member of the legislative body of the United States or of any state, territory, or possession.

(d) While serving as Judge of a Court of Record of the United States or of any state, territory, possession, or the District of Columbia.

(2) On or after 1 August 1990, the member was called to active duty and served under sections 12301(A), 12302, 12304, 12406 of Title 10 U.S.C., or Chapter 15, or, in the case of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Section 712 of title 14 U.S.C.

(3) On or after 1 August 1990, the member volunteered and served on active duty in support of specific U.S. Military Operations or contingencies designated by the Secretary of Defense, as defined in Section 101(A)(13) of Title 10 U.S.C.

b. DEVICES AND METHOD OF WEARING. The following devices are authorized for wear on the AFRM:

(1) Mobilization ("M") Device. The "M" device is authorized for members who qualified for the AFRM under subparagraphs 5.11.a.(1) through (3), above. Coast Guard Reserve members who receive orders changing their current duty status (legal authority under which they perform duty), their duty location, or assignment to support a contingency operation are eligible for the award.

(2) Hourglass Device. The 10-year hourglass device is authorized for wear on the AFRM to denote each succeeding 10-year period as follows:

(a) A bronze hourglass shall be award upon completion of the first 10-year period award.

(b) A silver hourglass shall be awarded upon completion of the second 10-year period award.

(c) A gold hourglass shall be awarded upon completion of the third 10-year period award.

(d) A gold hourglass, followed by a bronze hourglass, shall be awarded upon completion of the fourth 10-year period award. If no "M" device is authorized, the appropriate hourglass shall be positioned in the center of the ribbon. If no hourglass is authorized, the "M" device shall be positioned in the center of the ribbon, followed by Arabic numerals indicating the number of times the device has been awarded, starting with the second award. (No number is worn for the first award.) If both, the hourglass or hourglasses shall be positioned in first position on the ribbon (at the wearer's right), the "M" device in the middle position, and the number of times the "M" device has been awarded in the remaining position (at the wearer's left).

c. ISSUANCE, PROCUREMENT, AND VERIFICATION OF ENTITLEMENT. Unit commanding officers are delegated the authority to award the AFRM to eligible personnel. Commands unable to verify qualifying service for individuals claiming entitlement to this medal who have not received it may submit requests for verification and issuance to Commandant (CG-122).

GOLD AND PEWTER BOAT FORCES PIN

I earned the Pewter Boat Forces Pin while serving at Stations Georgetown and Tybee Island, Ga. Since reporting for my second stint of Title 10 at MOL Charleston, I was wondering what qualifies a member for the Gold and Pewter Boat Forces Pin, thinking that I might try to earn it while I was here this time if possible.

— PS1 Robert Young

ANSWER: *The full requirements are in the Boat Forces Operations Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS), COMDTINST M16114.30. Here is an excerpt from the manual. "Personnel who desire to wear the boat force operations insignia (silver with gold tone) and have not previously qualified must:*

1. Complete all required tasks and any additional sections of this PQS.

2. Be recommended for certification by the unit's PQS instructors.

3. Receive final written certification from the CO/OIC.

A copy of this PQS shall be maintained in the member's training record."

COLLAR DEVICES AND LIGHT BLUE SHIRT

The collar stay in the light blue shirt always makes it difficult to affix the collar device. I have seen some burn holes in the collar/stay. My solution, which I have submitted in the past, is to switch to soft shoulder boards.

— David Linder

ANSWER: *Actually, several people sent in the same suggestion. This was on the agenda for the recent uniform policy board but no decision has been made yet.*

RUBBER WRIST BANDS?

Do the Uniform Regulations specifically state that members cannot wear the rubber wristbands? We have a member on our team that has one, but I cannot find it in the manual that states he cannot wear it in uniform. Help!

— CWO Andrew Doody

ANSWER: *There are only two types of bracelets allowed in uniform — a medical alert bracelet and a POW/MIA bracelet. Even though it might be for a great cause, "rubber wrist bands" are not allowed while in uniform. This can be found in the Uniform Regulations (COMDTINST M1020.6E), Section 2.A.1 (see "Bracelets" in the chart).*

"Coast Guard personnel must present a proud and professional appearance that will reflect positively on the individual, the Coast Guard and the United States."

— COMDTINST M1020.6 (series)

A

U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVIST

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