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ALCOAST 291/11

COMDTNOTE 1020

**SUBJ: HONORING OUR PROFESSION - UNIFORM GUIDANCE AND RESULTS OF UNIFORM BOARD NO. 44**

- A. AUXILIARY MANUAL, COMDTINST M16790.1 (SERIES)
- B. UNIFORM REGULATIONS, COMDTINST M1020.6 (SERIES)
- C. MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT MANUAL, COMDTINST M16247.1 (SERIES)

1. THE COAST GUARD UNIFORM IS A SYMBOL OF OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE AS AN ARMED SERVICE AND MUST ALWAYS REFLECT THE PRIDE WE SHARE AS COAST GUARDSMEN. COMMON CONFIGURATION AND UNIFORMITY ARE CORE TO MAINTAINING A PROFESSIONAL MILITARY APPEARANCE BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AS AN ORGANIZATION. IT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITY TO ALWAYS LOOK SHARP IAW UNIFORM STANDARDS. UNIFORM APPEARANCE IS A LEADERSHIP PRIORITY. LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING PERSONNEL WEAR UNIFORMS WITH CONSISTENCY, PROFESSIONALISM, AND PRIDE. OVER THE YEARS, CG UNIFORM REGULATIONS HAVE EXPANDED THE NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR UNIFORM WEAR, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAS CAUSED CONFUSION AND INCONSISTENCY FOR OUR COAST GUARD MEN AND WOMEN. THIS INCONSISTENCY HAS CREATED A CULTURAL TREND THAT HAS LED TO UNIT AND INDIVIDUAL MODIFICATION AND SUBSTITUTION OF UNIFORM ITEMS, SOME UNAUTHORIZED. THIS CULTURE MUST CHANGE. UNDER THE COMMANDANTS GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF HONORING OUR PROFESSION, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD THE UNIFORM BOARD WILL UNDERTAKE AN EFFORT TO TIGHTEN UP UNIFORM STANDARDS AND FIND WAYS TO PROMOTE CONSISTENCY IN OUR UNIFORM REGULATIONS.

2. COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPEARANCE AND UNIFORMITY OF UNIT PERSONNEL AND SHALL PRESCRIBE THE UNIFORM OF THE DAY, USING SUCH TOOLS AS THE PLAN OF THE DAY, PLAN OF THE WEEK OR UNIT INSTRUCTION. OUR PRIDE AND SERVICE CULTURE ENCOURAGE AND REQUIRE US TO CORRECT UNIFORM DISCREPANCIES WHEN OBSERVED. AS A REMINDER, PERSONNEL INSPECTIONS REMAIN AN EFFECTIVE METHOD TO MAINTAIN UNIFORM CONDITION AND APPEARANCE ACROSS OUR SERVICE, AND SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH REGULARITY. USCG AUXILIARY UNIFORMS SHALL BE WORN AS PRESCRIBED IN CHAPTER 11 OF REFERENCE (A).

3. THE COAST GUARD HAS FOUR BASIC UNIFORMS THAT MAKE UP THE UNIFORM OF THE DAY:

A. SERVICE DRESS BLUE (SDB) MAY BE WORN YEAR-ROUND FOR BUSINESS WITHIN THE COAST GUARD AND FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS WHERE CIVILIAN EQUIVALENT IS COAT AND TIE. THE SDB IS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR IN A LIBERTY OR TRAVEL STATUS. AUTHORIZED OUTER WEAR WITH SDB: BRIDGE COAT OR TRENCH COAT WITH COMBINATION CAP. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THE GARRISON CAP AND FOUL WEATHER PARKA (FWP) ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH THE SDB UNIFORM. AS A REMINDER, REFERENCE (B) ALLOWS MEMBERS TO WEAR THE WINDBREAKER IN LIEU OF THE SDB COAT EXCEPT WHEN THE SDB COAT IS MORE APPROPRIATE FOR AN OCCASIONS FORMALITY. COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE SHALL DETERMINE WHEN WEARING THE WINDBREAKER IS APPROPRIATE TO ENSURE UNIFORM CONSISTENCY AND PROFESSIONALISM.

B. TROPICAL BLUE UNIFORM MAY BE WORN YEAR-ROUND FOR GENERAL OFFICE WEAR AND VISITS BETWEEN COMMANDS. IT MAY BE WORN IN LIEU OF SDB, BUT NOT TO FUNCTIONS WHERE CIVILIAN DRESS IS COAT AND TIE. THE TROPICAL BLUE UNIFORM IS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR IN A LIBERTY OR TRAVEL STATUS.

AUTHORIZED STANDARD OUTER WEAR WITH THE TROPICAL BLUE UNIFORM IS THE WINDBREAKER OR TRENCH COAT WITH COMBINATION CAP OR GARRISON CAP. COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE THE FWP FOR WEAR WITH THE TROPICAL BLUE UNIFORM IF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DICTATE THE NEED FOR THIS HEAVIER OUTER WEAR. COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE SHALL DETERMINE WHEN WEARING THE FWP WITH THE TROPICAL BLUE UNIFORM IS APPROPRIATE, SHOULD LIMIT ITS USE TO NECESSARY OCCASIONS OR PERIODS, AND SHOULD ENSURE USE IS UNIT-WIDE WHEN PERMITTED. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THE STANDARD BALL CAP OR UNIT BALL CAP ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH THE TROPICAL BLUE UNIFORM.

C. WINTER DRESS BLUE (WDB) MAY BE WORN BETWEEN 01 NOVEMBER-31 MARCH FOR GENERAL OFFICE WEAR AND VISITS BETWEEN COMMANDS. IT IS THE BASIC COLD CLIMATE, NON-OPERATIONAL UNIFORM AND MAY BE WORN IN LIEU OF THE SDB, BUT NOT TO FUNCTIONS WHERE CIVILIAN DRESS IS COAT AND TIE. WDB IS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR IN A LIBERTY OR TRAVEL STATUS. AUTHORIZED STANDARD OUTER WEAR WITH WDB: WINDBREAKER, BRIDGE COAT OR TRENCH COAT WITH COMBINATION CAP OR GARRISON CAP. COMMANDING OFFICERS RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE THE FWP FOR WEAR WITH THE WDB UNIFORM IF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DICTATE THE NEED FOR THIS HEAVIER OUTER WEAR. COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE SHALL DETERMINE WHEN WEARING THE FWP WITH WDB IS APPROPRIATE, SHOULD LIMIT ITS USE TO NECESSARY OCCASIONS OR PERIODS, AND SHOULD ENSURE USE IS UNIT-WIDE WHEN PERMITTED. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THE STANDARD BALL CAP AND UNIT BALL CAP ARE NOT AUTHORIZED WITH WDB. THE DEVELOPMENTAL WDB SHIRT WITH PERMANENT SILICONE CREASES IS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR. THIS UNIFORM WILL BE ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE USCGA CORPS OF CADETS, AND THE NEXT UNIFORM BOARD WILL CONSIDER THE ADDITION OF THIS UNIFORM TO THE SEABAG.

D. OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) MAY BE WORN YEAR-ROUND PRIMARILY AS A FIELD UTILITY AND WATCHSTANDING UNIFORM, AND MAY BE WORN IN AN OFFICE ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE SHALL DESIGNATE SLEEVES UP OR SLEEVES DOWN WHEN PRESCRIBING THE UNIFORM OF THE DAY, AND CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATENESS OF ODU WEAR IN OFFICE SETTINGS THAT ARE HIGHLY REPRESENTATIONAL IN NATURE, WHERE THE TYPE OF INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC DICTATES MORE FORMALITY, OR SETTINGS IN AN INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENT. IN DOD, JOINT OR INTERSERVICE ENVIRONMENTS, WEAR OF THE ODU SHOULD ALIGN WITH THE DOD EQUIVALENT UNIFORM OF THE DAY. THE ODU SHOULD NOT BE WORN FOR VISITS TO CIVILIAN AGENCIES OR NON-COAST GUARD ORGANIZATIONS UNLESS THE PRESCRIBED UNIFORM OF THE DAY IS ODU OR DOD EQUIVALENT AT THE VISIT SITE. HOWEVER, IN SOME CASES THE ODU MAY BE APPROPRIATE DUE TO THE OPERATIONAL NATURE OF THE VISIT OR THE NATURE OF THE WORK TO BE PERFORMED. THE ODU MAY BE WORN FOR COMMUTING TO AND FROM WORK, USING EITHER PRIVATE OR PUBLIC FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION. AUTHORIZED OUTER WEAR WITH ODU: FWP AND STANDARD BALL CAP OR UNIT BALL CAP (AS DEFINED BELOW). ALL COAST GUARDSMEN SHALL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO APPEARANCE WHILE WEARING THE ODU. THE ODU SHALL BE SERVICEABLE, WELL-MAINTAINED, CLEAN, AND NOT FADED OR DISCOLORED. WE CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNTUCKED ODU AND HAVE REACHED THE RIGHT SOLUTION WITH THE LATEST VERSION. ACCORDINGLY, THE NEW DEADLINE FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNTUCKED ODUS IS 01 JULY 2012, AFTER WHICH, TUCKED VERSIONS OF THE ODU WILL NO LONGER BE AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR.

E. A PRACTICE THAT HAS CREPT INTO OUR SERVICE IS THE GRANTING OF CASUAL OR DRESS DOWN DAYS WHERE MILITARY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES IN LIEU OF THE UNIFORM OF THE DAY. THIS PRACTICE IS NO LONGER AUTHORIZED SINCE IT IS INCONSISTENT WITH PARAGRAPH 1. THIS CHANGE DOES NOT ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF REFERENCE (B) AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATE WEAR OF CIVILIAN CLOTHES FOR OFFICIAL DUTIES UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

4. RESULTS OF UNIFORM BOARD NO. 44 EFFECTIVE 01 OCT 2011 INCLUDE BALL CAPS. THE UNIFORM BOARD HAS IDENTIFIED A NEED TO ELIMINATE THE WIDE VARIETY OF STYLES AND SHADES OF BALL CAPS, PROVIDE A MORE UNIFORM APPEARANCE IN THE ODU, AND OFFER A LOWER COST, MORE AVAILABLE/REPLACEABLE COVER FOR CG PERSONNEL. THIS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY AUTHORIZING ONLY TWO SOURCES (UDC AND CGES) OF BALL CAPS AND THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A STANDARDIZED BALL CAP TO BE WORN IN TWO CONFIGURATIONS:

A. CONFIGURATION 1 - USCG STANDARD BALL CAP: THIS BALL CAP WILL BE MADE OF ODU MATERIAL WITH SPECIFIC COLOR/DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS AND DISPLAY U.S. COAST GUARD. THE STANDARD BALL CAP WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH THE UDC AND CGES STORES. THESE BALL CAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN NOMINAL AMOUNTS BEGINNING 01 JULY. MEMBERS CAN EXPECT FULL STOCK AVAILABILITY BY 01 SEP. THIS IS THE OFFICIAL USCG UNIFORM BALL CAP FOR WEAR WITH THE ODU AT ALL TIMES AND IS REQUIRED TO BE WORN WHILE ON TDY OR VISITING OTHER UNITS/LOCATIONS OUTSIDE THE MEMBERS ASSIGNED UNIT AOR. THE METAL COLLAR INSIGNIA LISTED IN REFERENCE (B) WILL BE WORN ON THE CAP. FOR SENIOR OFFICERS, OAK LEAVES AND ACORNS (SCRAMBLED EGGS) ARE NO LONGER AUTHORIZED ON THE STANDARD BALL CAP. IN ADDITION, ALL ENLISTED MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A ONE TIME INCREASE TO THEIR CLOTHING MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (CMA) IN THE COMING MONTHS TO PURCHASE THE NEW STANDARD BALL CAP.

B. CONFIGURATION 2 - THE UNIT BALL CAP: COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE MAY AUTHORIZE THE WEAR OF UNIT BALL CAPS ON THEIR UNITS. THE UNIT BALL CAP WILL BE MADE OF ODU MATERIAL WITH COLOR/DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS (THE SAME AS THE STANDARD BALL CAP). A STANDARD UNIT NAME DISPLAY FORMAT, LETTER AND FONT TYPE/SIZE WILL BE SPECIFIED TO CGES AND THE SAME AS THE STANDARD BALL CAP. AS WITH THE STANDARD BALL CAP, THE METAL COLLAR INSIGNIA LISTED IN REFERENCE (B) WILL BE WORN ON THE UNIT BALL CAP. FOR SENIOR OFFICERS, OAK LEAVES AND ACORNS (SCRAMBLED EGGS) ARE NO LONGER AUTHORIZED ON UNIT BALL CAP. NO OTHER MARKINGS OR ATTACHMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED ON THE UNIT BALL CAP. THESE BALL CAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH THE CGES. AS A REMINDER, UNIT BALL CAPS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR PURCHASE USING APPROPRIATED FUNDS. COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE CAN NOT REQUIRE MEMBERS TO PURCHASE THE UNIT BALL CAP, AS THE STANDARD BALL CAP IS A SEA BAG ITEM, AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UDC, AND CAN BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WITH THE ODU.

5. RESULTS OF UNIFORM BOARD NO. 44 EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, INCLUDE:

A. THE HOT WEATHER UNIFORM IS NO LONGER AUTHORIZED. LONG ODU TROUSERS AND 8-10 INCH NON-MARKING SAFETY BOOTS ARE REQUIRED FOR SAFETY REASONS AT ALL TIMES. COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE ARE AUTHORIZED TO ALLOW REMOVAL OF THE ODU BLOUSE WHEN PERSONNEL ARE ENGAGED IN DEMANDING, PROLONGED OPERATIONS IN HIGH TEMPERATURES. IN ALL CASES, THE COAST GUARD DARK BLUE CREW NECK

T-SHIRT SHALL BE WORN EMBROIDERED WITH THE WORDS U.S. COAST GUARD ACROSS THE FRONT LEFT CHEST IN WHITE 3/4 INCH TALL BLOCK-STYLE LETTERS. THIS RELAXED ODU WEAR IS NOT INTENDED FOR ROUTINE WEAR IN THE OFFICE ENVIRONMENT OR PUBLIC. IT IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WHILE COMMUTING TO AND FROM WORK, INCLUDING IN PRIVATE VEHICLES. FOR USCG AUX MEMBERS, REFERENCE (A) APPLIES.

B. REFERENCE (C) AUTHORIZES WEARING OF BROWN DECK SHOES AS BOARDING TEAM ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING FOR CERTAIN BOARDING OPERATIONS. BROWN DECK SHOES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH THE UNIFORM OF THE DAY OTHER THAN DURING ACTUAL BOARDING OPERATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN REFERENCE (C).

C. RATING FORCE MASTER CHIEFS ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE SEW-ON RFMC IDENTIFICATION BADGE ON THE ODU.

D. THE FWP FLEECE LINER OR OTHER LINERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED AS A STAND ALONE JACKET AT ANY TIME. THE FWP LINER WILL BE ADDED AS A SEA BAG REQUIREMENT AND PROVIDED WITH THE FWP UPON INITIAL ISSUE. IN ADDITION, ALL ENLISTED MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A ONE TIME INCREASE TO THEIR CLOTHING MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (CMA) IN THE COMING MONTHS TO PURCHASE THE FWP LINER.

E. MINOR TAILORING TO THE ODU IS AUTHORIZED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BETTER FIT, HOWEVER THE ODU DESIGN MAY NOT BE ALTERED. ALTERATIONS SUCH AS PERMANENTLY SEWN ROLLED UP SLEEVES OR SEWN-IN BLOUSING BANDS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED.

F. THE TIARA IS NO LONGER AUTHORIZED AS PART OF THE OPTIONAL ITEMS FOR FEMALE DRESS UNIFORMS.

G. PUMPS ARE AN OPTIONAL ITEM FOR FEMALE DRESS UNIFORMS AND SHALL BE WORN AS LISTED IN REFERENCE (B).

6. INFORMATION ON ITEMS REVIEWED BY A UNIFORM BOARD IS AVAILABLE AT [HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/HR/UDC/](http://www.uscg.mil/hr/udc/). POLICY QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO CWO R. ENNIS AT 202-475-5369 OR ROCKWOOD.L.ENNIS(AT)USCG.MIL. THESE CHANGES WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE NEXT CHANGE TO REFERENCE (B).

7. RELEASED BY RADM RONALD T. HEWITT, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES.

8. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.