

Uniform Wear Guidelines - 9th Western Region CG Auxiliary

23 JUN 10 (updated)

From: DCO Randy D. Podolsky

To: All 9WR Auxiliary Unit Leaders and SLM CG Unit CO/OICs.

In order to clarify current uniform wear policy and assure that no prior directives or deviations are maintained, the DCO has issued this policy guidelines memorandum concerning uniform wear by Auxiliarists in the 9th Western Region.

All Auxiliarists in Ninth Western Region shall fully comply with the Auxiliary Manual M16790.1F (series) (“AUXMAN”) concerning uniform wear. ODU standards published in ALCOAST 223/07 are hereby incorporated in this guideline. (See ALCOAST 223/07 and ALAUX 33/08 and 011/09 below). Subsequent ALAUX/ALCOASTs apply.

The general purpose of this memorandum is to reinforce the notion of clean, crisp, proper and professional uniform wear by all Auxiliarists (it is not an exhaustive source of information).

General Guidelines:

Members should wear the same uniform at a mission or event for a consistent look. Authorized substitutions (eg, Working Blue with ODU; Pull-over with Tropical Blue) apply.

ODU nametapes and insignia are to be rip-stop (ODU material) and full pocket width. All items available in sew-on version must be worn as sew-on only.

Items that are soiled or damaged in a visible and/or detracting way are no longer serviceable and must not be worn.

No Coast Guard shirts, ball caps or other garments may be mixed with Auxiliary uniforms. ALAUX 33/08 and 011/09 specify when CG Unit ball caps may and may not be worn, specifically prohibiting the wear of CG Unit ball caps when performing missions where public interaction is anticipated so as to ensure Auxiliarists are not mistaken as Active Duty member. At no time will Auxiliarists wear CG ball caps or other CG uniform items or markings while not present on a CG unit (and only when authorized by the unit OIC/CO), or during travel to and/or from the unit.

Embroidered Ball Caps will follow all prescribed methods per the ALAUX, and shall NOT indicate a CG units name, in whole or in part.

The ODU and Tropical Blue (or winter version) uniforms are acceptable for meetings. Most CG units wear only the ODU unless otherwise specified for an event.

Outer wear authorized for use with the Auxiliary uniform is as prescribed by the AUXMAN. This includes rain gear as well as winter coats and jackets. No substitutions are authorized.

Footwear as prescribed by the AUXMAN is the only footwear authorized. No substitutions are authorized.

Authorized uniform items may not be worn in conjunction with non-uniform item clothing items. The Auxiliary OPS Polo shirt is not authorized with civilian attire. It is authorized with ODU and Working Blue trousers. Members wishing to be more casual, yet auxiliary oriented, should consider wearing an Auxiliary Association or America's Volunteer Lifesavers, or other moral (non-uniform) shirt with their civilian pants or shorts.

The VE Polo shirt is authorized for Vessel Examiners while conducting exams and may be worn with civilian pants. A presentable and professional look is expected.

The AUXMAN is specific about uniforms when reporting for assignment to duty (section 10A9), "A CG authority may prescribe an Auxiliary uniform as a condition for assignment to a specific duty." The AUXMAN is the prescription for Auxiliary uniform wear by Auxiliarists (including active duty/retirees/civilians when assigned to duty as Auxiliarists), and the authority is the Commandant. Wearing of a military uniform by retirees is authorized by Title 10, U.S. Code Section 772 and governed by DOD directive and military service regulations. Generally, military retirees may wear their military uniform at "official" functions when the dignity of the occasion and good taste dictates. Wearing the military uniform is appropriate for memorial services, weddings, funerals, balls, patriotic or military parades, ceremonies in which any active or reserve United States military unit is participating and functions of military associations. Clearly, the spirit of what is cited is applicable for occasions like the graduation of a son/daughter from boot camp or a military academy and for which the proud mother/father retiree wears their active duty uniform for the rank at which they retired - it is not applicable for a retired CG person who, for example, goes to a boat ramp as an Auxiliarist to conduct VEs (i.e. assigned to duty as an Auxiliarist). The wearing of a CG uniform while performing Auxiliary missions is inappropriate and would lead to confusion not only on the part of the public but also that of the Coast Guard.

It is expected that all members will be the ambassadors of proper uniform wear by politely advising fellow members of minor infractions and deficiencies one-on-one first, while reporting failures to comply or major infractions to their immediate next level of leadership promptly and with specificity as to the nature and location of the problem.

Internet distribution authorized. Wide dissemination to all personnel requested.

(ALCOAST AND ALAUXs FOLLOW)

To: ALAUX

From: CHDIRAUX

Subj: COAST GUARD UNIT BALL CAP CLARIFICATION -011/09

1. ALAUX 33/08 of 10 November 2008 dealt with several Auxiliary uniform matters. One of these involved the wear of ball caps, specifically Coast Guard unit ball caps. Section 1.C.2. stated:

"If an Auxiliarist is authorized to wear a Coast Guard unit ball cap, such wear shall not extend to activities involving public interaction. This is to ensure that an Auxiliarist is not mistaken by the public as an active member of a Coast Guard unit with commensurate authority. For example, an Auxiliarist may not wear a Coast Guard unit ball cap when performing VSCs."

2. Questions have arisen as to whether or not the conduct of Auxiliary patrols (e.g. - surface patrols on vessel facilities) constitutes "...involving public interaction." The short answer is "Yes, Auxiliary patrols involve public interaction." As further clarification, the following involve public interaction:

- a. Performance of Vessel Examiner (VE) activities involving Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Exams (CFVSE).
- b. Performance of Program Visitor (PV) activities.
- c. Performance of Instructor (IT) activities.
- d. Performance of patrol activities (surface, air, shoreside including missions involving mobile radio facilities).
- e. Performance of Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection (MSSEP) activities.
- f. Performance of public outreach, public affairs, and recruiting activities.

3. Situations in which a Coast Guard unit ball cap may be worn, if authorized, include:

- a. Wear of the cap to, at, and from the unit in the course of providing the direct support for which it is authorized (appropriate for

commuting, stops for gas, and drive-thru services).

b. Wear of the cap to, at, and from flotilla meetings (appropriate for commuting, stops for gas, and drive-thru services).

c. Wear of the cap to, at, and from flotilla fellowship events (appropriate for commuting, stops for gas, and drive-thru services).

4. If there is any doubt about the propriety of wearing a Coast Guard unit ball cap due to potential interaction with the public, then the Auxiliary ball cap shall be worn.

5. These guidelines will be included in the next change to the Auxiliary Manual.

6. The purpose of this list is to keep Auxiliarists as well as all other interested parties abreast of current developments, policies, manuals, etc. All information contained herein and linked is OFFICIAL policy and information.

7. Internet Release and Distribution is Authorized.

8. CG-542, sends

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To: ALAUX

From: CHDIRAUX

Subj: ***CORRECTED*** AUXILIARY UNIFORM ITEMS -33/08

Several questions and concerns about Auxiliary uniform items have recently arisen. The following provisions are in effect to provide clarification and guidance, and they will be incorporated in the next change to the Auxiliary Manual:

1. Ball Caps.

a. Auxiliary Ball Cap (aka - Dark Blue Auxiliary Baseball Cap, per section 10.D.3.b. of the Auxiliary Manual). This is the ball cap most commonly worn by Auxiliarists when a ball cap is authorized with certain uniforms. It can have either "USCG Auxiliary" or "USCG" over the word "Auxiliary" displayed (embroidered) in silver lettering on the front panel

(as an option, Auxiliarists may also have the number of their flotilla, division, or region displayed in the same size lettering, for example "FLOT 11-4"). Auxiliarists must wear either the metal office collar insignia or the member collar insignia on this ball cap (embroidered/sew-on versions may be worn as an option). A few other aspects of wear remain as described in section 10.D.3.b.

b. Coast Guard Unit Ball Cap (aka - Unit Ball Cap, per section 10.D.3.c. of the Auxiliary Manual).

(1) This is the ball cap most commonly worn by Coast Guard active duty and Reserve personnel that represents the unit to which they are currently assigned. The key consideration about an Auxiliarist's wear of a unit ball cap is that they must be authorized to wear it by the unit Commanding Officer. Recurring support is a key aspect of the command's authorization to wear a unit ball cap. Such authorization normally results from recurring support provided by an Auxiliarist to the unit, effectively earning recognition by the command as a crew member. Although an Auxiliarist may live in the surrounding area of a Coast Guard unit, that alone does not provide justification to wear that unit's ball cap - there must be an element of recurring support as defined by the command. Further, like active duty and Reserve counterparts, a unit ball cap is only worn while assigned to that unit. This means that once an Auxiliarist ceases their recurring support of the unit, their authorization to wear the unit ball cap also ends. Auxiliarists must wear either the metal office collar insignia or the member collar insignia on this ball cap (embroidered/sew-on insignia are not an option).

(2) If an Auxiliarist is authorized by a Coast Guard command to wear the Coast Guard unit ball cap, then they may wear it in lieu of the Auxiliary ball cap with any uniform and associated activity for which a ball cap is authorized with exceptions defined below.

c. General Ball Cap Wear Provisions.

(1) If an Auxiliary ball cap is authorized for wear with a uniform, and the uniform is authorized for wear with a mission or activity,

then that ball cap may be worn for that mission or activity. For example, since Undress Blue - Summer (Bravo) is authorized for wear during the conduct of VSCs, then the Auxiliary ball cap may be worn with that uniform when conducting VSCs (inclusive of travel to and from the mission site).

(2) If an Auxiliarist is authorized to wear a Coast Guard unit ball cap, such wear shall not extend to activities involving public interaction. This is to ensure that an Auxiliarist is not mistaken by the public as an active member of a Coast Guard unit with commensurate authority. For example, an Auxiliarist may not wear a Coast Guard unit ball cap when performing VSCs.

(3) An Auxiliarist's home unit is the flotilla. As active duty and Reserve personnel are authorized to wear standard issue Coast Guard blue and unit ball caps with proper uniforms while commuting to and from work (i.e. - home unit), so are Auxiliarists authorized to wear Auxiliary ball caps and Coast Guard unit ball caps, if authorized by the unit command, with proper uniforms while commuting to and from flotilla meetings, a Coast Guard unit to which they provide support (in accordance with unit command policy), and fellowship events (e.g. - flotilla picnic).

(4) Though not specifically addressed in the Auxiliary Manual for wear with Tropical Blue, per section 3.C.1. of the Coast Guard Uniform Manual, Commanding Officers may authorize standard issue Coast Guard blue or unit ball caps for wear on board Coast Guard shore units, small boats, and vessels with the Tropical Blue uniform. Ball cap wear with Tropical Blue is limited to the confines of the local unit and for commuting to and from work, including commuting from the wearer's home unit to a remote work site. Ball caps shall not be worn with Tropical Blue when a higher level of formality is appropriate. Likewise, Auxiliarists may wear an Auxiliary ball cap or Coast Guard unit ball cap, if authorized by the unit command, with the Tropical Blue uniform in accordance with these guidelines, including while commuting to and from flotilla meetings, a Coast Guard unit to which they provide support (in accordance with unit command policy), and fellowship events (e.g. - flotilla picnic).

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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-12//
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS //N01020//
ALCOAST 223/07
COMDTNOTE 1020

SUBJ: OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) CARE AND WEAR POLICY

A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 091300Z AUG 04/ALCOAST 380/04

B. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 251747Z MAY 06/ALCOAST 300/06

C. UNIFORM REGULATIONS, COMDTINST M1020.6 (SERIES)

1. REFS A AND B ARE CANCELLED.

2. THIS ALCOAST CLARIFIES THE PROPER WEAR OF THE ODU. THE ODU IS A GENERAL PURPOSE EVERYDAY UNIFORM THAT IS INTENDED FOR WEAR IN ANY SITUATION THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A DRESS UNIFORM. IN ADDITION, SINCE THIS UNIFORM MAY BE WORN IN MANY OPERATIONAL SITUATIONS, AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SAFETY AND CONSISTENCY IN APPEARANCE, METAL DEVICES OR ATTACHMENTS WILL NO LONGER BE AUTHORIZED.

3. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO THE ODU:

A. WHEN WASHING, ENSURE THAT ALL VELCRO CLOSURES ARE FASTENED TO MINIMIZE COLLECTION OF LINT AND FOREIGN MATTER.

B. THE ODU SHALL BE IRONED WITHOUT MILITARY CREASES. IN ADDITION, COLLARS, LAPELS, SLEEVES, AND POCKETS ON BOTH THE ODU TOP AND TROUSERS SHALL LAY FLAT. GREAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN WHEN IRONING THE ODU. EXCESSIVE HEAT, STARCHING, AND

REPEATED SHARP CREASING CAN RESULT IN WHITENING AND/OR FINISH DAMAGE. IRON THE UNIFORM INSIDE OUT TO MINIMIZE GLOSS OR SHINE.

C. THE ODU UNIFORM WILL BE WORN WITH 8 INCH SAFETY BOOTS, WELL-BLACKENED AND WHEN WORN IN AN OFFICE BOOTS SHALL BE POLISHED TO A SHINE. TUCK AWAY EXCESS LACES SO THEY CAN NOT BE SEEN.

D. THE ODU TROUSERS SHALL BE BLOUSED, WITH EITHER VELCRO OR HOOK TYPE ELASTIC BANDS, BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD BOOT EYELET. CARGO POCKETS MAY BE USED, BUT ITEMS STOWED SHALL NOT TAKE AWAY FROM A SMART MILITARY APPEARANCE.

E. THE ODU T-SHIRT SHALL BE IN GOOD CONDITION WITH NO TEARS OR STAINS. DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES, MORE RESEARCH IS REQUIRED BEFORE A WICKABLE T-SHIRT IS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH THE ODU.

F. ALL ACCESSORIES SHALL BE IN GOOD REPAIR AND WORN AS FOLLOWS:

1. AFTER 15 JULY 2007, ALL ACCESSORIES WORN ON THE ODU SHALL BE EMBROIDERED.

2. COLLAR RANK AND SPECIALTY INSIGNIA CAN BE METAL (STANDARD UNTIL 15 JULY 2007) OR EMBROIDERED (CURRENTLY OPTIONAL, BECOMING STANDARD AFTER 15 JULY 2007). NO MIXING OF STYLES IS AUTHORIZED. INSIGNIA SHALL NOT BE SCRATCHED, BENT, TORN OR DISFIGURED IN ANY WAY. ALL COLLAR RANK INSIGNIAS, WITH EXCEPTION OF EMBROIDERED O3 AND O6, SHALL BE PLACED ON THE IMAGINARY LINE BISECTING THE ANGLE OF THE COLLAR WITH THE

BASE OF THE INSIGNIA (NOT THE EMBROIDERED PATCH) APPROX 1 1/8 INCH FROM COLLAR POINT. DUE TO THEIR HORIZONTAL FORMAT, EMBROIDERED O3 AND O6 RANK INSIGNIA SHALL BE PLACED 1 1/2 INCHES FROM THE POINT.

3. QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA SHALL BE CENTERED DIRECTLY ABOVE THE U.S. COAST GUARD NAMETAPE ON THE WEARERS LEFT HAND POCKET. ONLY ONE EMBROIDERED QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA IS AUTHORIZED. METAL INSIGNIAS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED. EMBROIDERED INSIGNIA SHALL BE THE SAME SIZE AS THE METAL INSIGNIA, CENTERED ON A TAPE THE FULL WIDTH OF THE POCKET. THE TAPE SHALL NOT EXCEED THE WIDTH OF THE POCKET. TEMPORARY QUALIFICATION INSIGNIAS SHALL NOT BE WORN ON THE ODU.

4. INCUMBENT COS AND OICS ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE EMBROIDERED COMMAND ASHORE OR AFLOAT DEVICES CENTERED DIRECTLY ABOVE THE MEMBERS NAMETAPE ON THE WEARERS RIGHT HAND POCKET. METAL DEVICES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED. EMBROIDERED DEVICES SHALL BE THE SAME SIZE AS THE METAL INSIGNIA, CENTERED ON THE POCKET.

5. SINCE THESE POSITIONS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE COMMAND CADRE, INCUMBENT GOLD AND SILVER BADGE COMMAND CHIEFS ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THEIR RESPECTIVE BADGES (EMBROIDERED ONLY) ON THE ODU. MENS BADGES SHALL BE WORN CENTERED ON THE WEARERS LEFT POCKET. WOMENS BADGES SHALL BE WORN ABOVE THE NAME TAPE OF THE RIGHT POCKET.

G. THE BUCKLE AND BELT TIP OF THE STANDARD 1 1/4 INCH BLACK ODU BELT MUST NOT BE CHIPPED OR DISCOLORED. THE BITTER END SHALL EXTEND 2-4 INCHES PAST THE BELT BUCKLE ON THE WEARERS LEFT.

H. THE BASIC RIGGERS BELT (NSN: 8415-01-526-5551), ALSO KNOWN AS THE BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM (BDU) BELT, CAN BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE UDC AND MAY BE WORN AS AN OPTIONAL ITEM ON THE ODU. THIS BELT IS A 1 3/4 INCH BLACK NYLON BELT. WHEN WORN, THE BITTER END SHALL EXTEND 2-4 INCHES PAST THE BELT BUCKLE ON THE WEARERS LEFT. (THIS WILL REQUIRE THE BELT BE PASSED THROUGH THE BELT LOOPS FROM THE RIGHT, THE OPPOSITE OF OTHER MENS BELTS). THE BASIC RIGGERS BELT COMES IN ONE LENGTH AND NEEDS TO BE CUT TO SIZE. TO DETERMINE THE CORRECT BELT LENGTH, LACE THE BELT THROUGH BELT LOOPS, PASS IT BEHIND THE BELT BAR, THEN FEED IT BACK THROUGH AND OVER THE BELT BAR. FINALLY, PULL TO SECURE. NEXT, MARK THE BELT SO THAT NO MORE THAN 4 INCHES EXTEND PAST THE BUCKLE. MAKE A STRAIGHT CUT ALONG THIS MARK. SEW THE BITTER END TO AVOID UNRAVELING. THE "BLACK HAWK" RIGGERS BELT IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR GENERAL WEAR, BUT MAY BE WORN AS ORGANIZATIONAL EQUIPMENT DURING TACTICAL MISSIONS.

I. THE STANDARD OR UNIT BALL CAP SHALL BE WELL-FORMED AND IN GOOD CONDITION WITH NO SOILING, FADING OR TEARS, NOR WILL IT CONTAIN ANY DEVICES OR PINS BEYOND THE COLLAR INSIGNIA OR CG SHIELD AS APPROPRIATE FOR RANK. ALSO, NO ADDITIONAL WRITING ON EITHER THE FRONT OR REAR OF THE CAP IS AUTHORIZED.

4. MANNER OF WEAR: THE ODU IS NOT A LIBERTY UNIFORM AND SHALL NOT BE WORN AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR COVERALLS. HOWEVER, IT CAN BE WORN DURING THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZED CIRCUMSTANCES:

A. WHILE TRAVELING IN GOVERNMENT VEHICLES, VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, ON ORDERS IN A COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCE, OR WHILE TRAVELING ON ORDERS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY (IF APPROVED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY).

B. WHILE COMMUTING, TO INCLUDE MASS TRANSIT, DURING INFORMAL OFF BASE LUNCHES, VISITS TO DOD FACILITIES OR FOR SHORT STOPS IN CONVENIENCE OR RETAIL STORES.

C. WHILE IN AN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AT OTHER DOD AGENCIES (AS DIRECTED BY THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER).

D. THE ODU TOP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNIFORM. IT SHALL ONLY BE REMOVED TEMPORARILY, WHEN WORKING IN EXCESSIVELY HOT CONDITIONS OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE.

E. THE ODU IS AUTHORIZED FOR OFFICE WEAR AT THE COMMANDING OFFICERS DISCRETION.

5. THE ODU HOT WEATHER VERSION IS OPTIONAL AND OR ORGANIZATIONAL DEPENDING ON COMMANDS DIRECTION. THE ODU HOT WEATHER UNIFORM MAY BE AUTHORIZED BY THE AREA, DISTRICT, OR MLC COMMANDER WHEN EXTREME WORK ENVIRONMENTS REQUIRE IT. THIS PRESCRIBING AUTHORITY CAN NOT BE DELEGATED. COMMANDS SHALL BE JUDICIOUS WHEN EMPLOYING THIS OPTION TO ENSURE A PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE. THE HOT WEATHER UNIFORM IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR ROUTINE WEAR IN THE OFFICE. IT IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WHILE COMMUTING TO AND FROM WORK OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC SETTING. THE HOT WEATHER UNIFORM CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A. ODU TOP IAW PARAGRAPHS 1-3 ABOVE.

B. ODU SHORTS (ODU TROUSERS HEMMED AT THE KNEE OR 1 INCH ABOVE THE KNEE) WORN WITH EITHER THE STANDARD ODU OR OPTIONAL RIGGERS BELT. COMMERCIALY PROCURED SHORTS ARE NOT CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED.

C. ODU T-SHIRT.

D. BLACK CREW LENGTH SOCKS.

E. LOW TOP SAFETY SHOES MUST COMPLY WITH ANSI Z41-1999.

F. COMMERCIAL ODU SHORTS ARE NOT ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND CAN NOT BE PURCHASED WITH UNIT FUNDS.

6. WHEN WEARING THE MATERNITY ODU: NAMETAPES, U.S. COAST GUARD NAMETAPE, AND QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA ARE TO BE WORN ON THE MATERNITY ODU IN THE SAME RELATIVE AREA AS ON THE STANDARD ODU. MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN PLACEMENT ARE AUTHORIZED TO PREVENT DISCOMFORT AND TO PRESENT AN ORDERLY AND BALANCED APPEARANCE.

7. WORK CONTINUES ON THE UNTUCKED VERSION OF THE ODU. THIS VERSION, WHICH WILL ALSO HAVE AN ENHANCED (WRINKLE RESISTANT, OIL AND FADE RESISTANT) MATERIAL IS STILL BEING DEVELOPED, ALTHOUGH SOME PROTOTYPES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED FOR INITIAL TESTING. A SERVICE WIDE AVAILABILITY DATE IS STILL UNKNOWN.

8. ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS ALCOAST WILL BE INCORPORATED IN A FUTURE CHANGE TO REF C.

9. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

10. RELEASED BY CURTIS B. ODOM, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.