

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



UNIFORM REGULATIONS

COMDTINST M1020.6E

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1	General Uniform Policy
Section A	General Information
Section B	Authority to Prescribe
Section C	Coast Guard Uniform Board
Chapter 2	Appearance and Grooming
Section A	Military Appearance
Section B	Grooming Standards
Chapter 3	Uniforms
Section A	Uniform Requirements
Section B	Uniforms and Components
Section C	Individual Uniform Items
Section D	Grade/Rank Insignia
Section E	Qualification Insignia, Devices and Badges
Section F	Nametags and Nametapes
Section G	Medals, Ribbons, and Awards
Section H	Sword and Sword Accessories
Section I	Brassards and Armbands
Section J	Funerals
Section K	Wedding Attire
Section L	Graduation Ceremonies
Section M	Military Uniform Equivalents
Chapter 4	Special Uniforms and Clothing
Section A	Ceremonial Uniforms
Section B	Duty as an Aide, Adjutant, or Executive Assistant
Section C	Special Program Uniforms
Section D	Organizational Clothing
Section E	U. S. Coast Guard Tartan

Chapter 1 – General Uniform Policy

1.A. General Information

- 1.A.1. Policy
- 1.A.2. Enforcement
- 1.A.3. Optional Uniform Items
- 1.A.4. Command Authority and Responsibility

1.B. Authority to Prescribe

- 1.B.1. Setting the Uniform of the Day
- 1.B.2. When Uniform is Optional or Prohibited
- 1.B.3. Wear of Uniform by Retired or Separated Personnel

1.C. Coast Guard Uniform Board

- 1.C.1. Uniform Board Composition and Process
- 1.C.2. Making Uniform Suggestions

1.A. General Information

1.A.1. Policy

The U.S. Coast Guard Uniform Regulations provide descriptions of all authorized U.S. Coast Guard uniforms and components, and guidance for all Coast Guard activities prescribing uniform wear in order to present a consistent Coast Guard image world-wide. In cases when a further determination of the appropriateness of any uniform item, grooming, or appearance standard is necessary, refer the matter to Commandant (G-WPM-1) for review and determination.

1.A.2. Implementation

These regulations define the composition of authorized uniforms and appearance standards. Coast Guard uniforms are distinctive visual evidence of the authority and responsibility vested in their wearer by the United States. The prescribing authority determines when and where the uniforms in this Manual are appropriate for wear. Coast Guard personnel must present a proud and professional appearance that will reflect positively on the individual, the Coast Guard and the United States. All personnel shall comply with these regulations and be available to teach others the correct wear of Coast Guard uniforms. Exemplary military appearance should be the norm for uniformed personnel.

1.A.3. Optional Uniform Items

Optional uniform items are items which are authorized to be worn, but which members are not required to own. The purpose of specifying some items as optional is to provide some flexibility of choice and individual comfort in uniforms, while holding down the cost that would be incurred by individuals or the Government if all were required. Because members are not required to have optional items, those items may not be specified for wear by prescribing authorities. Additionally, optional items may not be appropriate for wear on all occasions or in all locations. Some restrictions on wear may be set by prescribing officials, who are responsible for determining appropriate uniforms for the various seasons, functions, and situations in their region. Individuals may wear optional items at their discretion, except when these regulations or prescribing authorities specifically prohibit their wear. Special clothing items authorized for safety, health, security, or law enforcement purposes may be issued as organizational clothing. See Chapter 4.D.

1.A.4. Command Authority and Responsibility

Commands have the authority and responsibility to render judgments regarding appropriate appearance and are ultimately responsible for enforcing these regulations in the spirit and intent described above. Interpretations will be made in accordance with the traditions and discipline inherent to the Coast Guard and the Armed Forces of the United States. Since it is impossible to predict (and therefore regulate) future fads and fashion, commands shall maintain a conservative stance in interpretation of these regulations, while concurrently forwarding recommended changes via the Uniform Board process (see Section 1.C.) for those items/changes that are considered worthy of service-wide adoption. Nothing shall interfere or take precedence over a command's discretion and responsibility to make an on-site, temporary correction when these regulations conflict with the health and safety of their assigned personnel.

1.B. Authority to Prescribe

1.B.1. Setting the Uniform of the Day

The standard Coast Guard uniform of the day, regardless of season or location, is Service Dress Blue (bravo) or Tropical Blue Long. For the Military District of Washington, D. C., the uniform of the day is established by the Chief of Staff. District commanders may prescribe the uniform for the season, day, or special occasion for personnel within the geographical limits of their District. Commands in any locality within the District are authorized to amend the District's standard uniform of the day when necessary due to short-term local variations in weather or climate. Other uniforms, such as Working Blue, Operational Dress, or authorized organizational clothing shall be worn as required by the work or duties being performed.

- Area, Military Logistics Commands (MLC), District, and local commanders have the authority to require the wear of Service Dress Blue as needed.
- The Superintendent, Coast Guard Academy, shall prescribe the uniform for wear by all trainees and permanent detail.
- The Commanding Officer, Training Center Cape May, shall prescribe the uniform for wear by all trainees and permanent detail.
- The Coast Guard Honor Guard and Coast Guard Band are authorized distinctive uniforms as outlined in Chapter 4. Other distinctive uniforms, such as for local security forces, drill teams, and funeral details, are authorized with approval of the cognizant District Commander, and will conform to the special uniform standards outlined in Chapter 4.

Use the following criteria as a guide for times when Service Dress Blue is more appropriate than Tropical Blue Long:

- When a participant or guest at ceremonies or functions for which the military or civilian host requires the use of their equivalent of service dress blue.
- When permanently or temporarily assigned at the facility of another military service which observes seasonal uniform changes, per the local regulations.
- When a participant or guest in any ceremony or function in which a higher level of formality is traditional or normal.
- When attending official or social functions after 1800, Dinner Dress or Service Dress Blue may be more appropriate.
- When participating in hearings at the state, federal, or international level.
- When serving as Coast Guard or military representative at military funerals.
- Whenever the dignity, gravity, or grandeur of a situation indicates a need for a more formal appearance.
- When honoring U.S. or foreign dignitaries.
- When indicated by military protocol.
- If otherwise unsure of the correct uniform for an occasion, request direction from higher authority or from Commandant (G-WPM-1).