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**OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) UPDATE**

To date, we have distributed about 170,000 ODUs to our active duty and Reserve workforce. There are currently 965 members on the backorder list awaiting the delivery of critical sizes. After receiving all of the initial rollout orders from our field units in early September, we awarded another contract for the production of several thousand additional uniforms in those sizes that our analysis indicated would be in short supply during the final weeks of the rollout. These additional quantities were scheduled to arrive at the Uniform Distribution Center in mid-September. Unfortunately, hurricane IVAN's path through Alabama resulted in a shutdown and evacuation of the factory. While the factory was not damaged, the manufacturing process and local transportation network have been impacted. The latest estimate from the factory indicates that we should have these critical size uniforms in hand by mid-October.

Those personnel who have not yet received their uniforms can be assured that their order is being tracked and they will receive their uniforms as soon as their specific size arrives. The most common shortages are currently in jacket sizes 38L, 40L, 42R, 44R, 46L, 48R, and 48L, and pants sizes SR (Small Regular). At this point, there is a backlog in all five categories of prioritization.

The complete initial rollout backorder listing is now posted on the UDC website at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/udc>. Members are strongly encouraged to check the UDC website. Those who have not yet received their initial issue and do not see their name on the UDC site should follow the instructions on the website by sending an email to the designated UDC point of contact. The UDC staff will research the matter and work with the member to have their name added to the backorder list as appropriate. Please keep in mind that, on a very busy day, more than 1,000 individual orders are shipped from the UDC. Consequently, the backorder list can be very dynamic.

As indicated in Flag Voice 225, we are pushing very hard to fill all initial rollout orders as soon as possible. The period October-December is still earmarked for finalizing the initial rollout and processing individual sales orders for active duty and Reserve members in need of replacement uniforms. During this period, individual sales will be restricted to those sizes that are in abundance. New accessions remain a priority. The Auxiliary rollout is still scheduled to begin in calendar year 2005 following the receipt of ODUs from a new contract that will be awarded by Defense Supply Center Philadelphia later this month.

Regards,

*RADM Kenneth T. Venuto*  
Ken Venuto

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