

Inspection of Uniforms 8-7.01-P

INSPECT a unit member ensuring his or her uniform is in good condition, properly worn, and that the person meets grooming standards, as presented in the E-PME Study Guide. (Intent: it is not necessary to conduct a formal personnel inspection to meet this requirement. Uniform of the day meets this requirement.)

Uniforms

Wearing your uniform should be a source of pride...pride in yourself, pride in the Coast Guard, and pride in your country.

Uniforms are designed to present a neat, comfortable, and functional military appearance.

Uniform Clothing

Uniform clothing purchased from commercial uniform sources must be produced by a certified manufacturer. While uniforms can be tailored for a better fit, they may not be altered to make them form fitting nor any changes made to the uniform's outward appearance.

Uniforms are to be kept clean, in good repair, and pressed at all times. Caps are to be worn square on the head. Jackets, when worn, are to be buttoned or zipped up at least two-thirds of the way. They should NEVER be worn hanging open. While you may carry items in the pockets, these items should NOT protrude from the pockets nor cause unsightly lines or bulges.

Ribbons and badges are displayed on the left, over the heart.

Uniform Clothing
(continued)

Appropriate uniforms are worn for the following occasions:

| Uniform Type | Occasion |
|---------------------|---|
| Full Dress | Worn year-round when assuming or relinquishing command; participating in Change of Command ceremonies; official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings, solemnities. |
| Tropical Blue Long | Worn year-round at all occasions where coat and tie are not required nor expected or on official business. |
| Operational Dress | Worn in any situation where any form of dress uniform is not required nor more appropriate and while commuting, including brief stops for gas and drive-thru business. It is not a liberty uniform. |

Footwear

Shoes need to be in good condition, shined, and of an authorized style and color: oxfords, pumps, or flats, boots well blackened and edges dressed.

Undergarments

- *Males:* Undershirts, boxers or briefs, and socks are to be worn while in uniform.
- *Females:* Undershirts or bras, underpants, and hosiery or socks are to be worn while in uniform. Bras should not show through the uniform. Hosiery is to match the skin color. A common problem is wearing the wrong color of hosiery or socks.

Jewelry

A limited amount of jewelry may be worn, provided it does not pose a safety hazard, is in good taste, and meets authorized criteria. Specific authorized items include:

- A conservative wrist watch.
- One ring per hand (nested engagement/wedding ring combinations are counted as one when worn together).
- One earring per ear centered on the earlobe of plain gold or silver with a shining or brushed matte finish, plain diamond, or natural white pearl ball studs, 4–6 mm (1/8 to 1/4-inch diameter), with all uniforms. Decorative or combination settings are not authorized. Earrings to be worn only by female members.
- Necklaces, if worn, need to be concealed.

Jewelry (continued)

- Bracelets are limited to medical alert or those required for military purposes. POW/MIA bracelets are authorized.
 - Tie tacks/bars of plain gold or adorned with Coast Guard decoration. The tie bar is to be approximately 3/16 inches wide and must not be visible when wearing the service dress blue coat.
 - Cuff links are to be plain gold or Coast Guard related.
 - Shirt studs are to be plain gold or plain natural white pearl. Colored pearls or decorative settings are not authorized.
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Eyewear

Frame and lens styles cannot be so outlandish as to cause distraction from military bearing.

- Mirrored lenses are prohibited.
 - Retainer straps, plain black and worn snugly against the back of the head, are authorized for flying object damage (FOD) prevention and safety only.
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Brass

All brass is to be polished and scratch-free.

Gear

Briefcases, backpacks, and other gear addressed here may be used provided they present a neat, clean, military appearance, are appropriate for the occasion, and meet Coast Guard specifications.

- Briefcases are to be black, navy blue, or dark brown and carried in the left hand when in uniform.
 - Backpacks are to be black or navy blue and carried in the left hand when in uniform. Backpacks are only authorized to wear when in uniform while a trainee at a training facility or the USCG Academy.
 - Umbrellas are to be plain black or navy blue, expandable, with a straight handle. The umbrella must be carried in the left hand.
 - Cell phones, pagers, and handheld pocket computers can be worn with the Uniform of the Day as required only for military duties. They are to be clipped to the waistband or in a pocket if they do not detract from the uniform appearance. These items are not authorized if participating in ceremonial details.
 - Music Headphones and/or earphones are not to be worn while on duty or when wearing a hat. They may only be worn while commuting as a passenger or using public transportation.
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USCG Operational Dress Uniform

The ODU is similar to the Battle Dress Utility Uniform worn throughout the U.S. military.

The ODU is a solid Coast Guard blue color and is worn with the shirt tucked in. The uniform consists of an ODU top, ODU trousers, black belt with black buckle and tip, a Coast Guard blue crewneck t-shirt and a Coast Guard ball cap.



Embroidered collar devices must be worn on the ODU top by all personnel, E-4 and above as appropriate. Embroidered sew-on nametapes are also required. Embroidered sew-on qualification insignia are required. Metal badges such as Command Master Chief, Recruiting, or other badges are authorized when safe to wear. Insignia on ball caps will be metal or embroidered collar insignia.

Like the Working Blue Uniform, officers and enlisted personnel will wear the ODU when engaged in physical labor and other work where a Dress Uniform might become soiled or damaged.



- The ODU is worn with boots. The ODU trousers will be bloused using blousing bands. In instances where boat shoes or other low-cut shoes are required for specific operational purposes, such as small boat crew operations, the trousers will be worn without blousing and will be hemmed to the proper length for Coast Guard trousers.
- The ODU top will be worn over a solid Coast Guard blue crew neck t-shirt. The top must be worn tucked into the trousers. Sleeves may be worn down and buttoned at the wrist or rolled up properly.
- A sleeve is rolled with the cuff button again by pulling the sleeve inside out over itself creating a neat fold almost to the armpit. Pull the sleeve inside-out again, but this time leave about five inches of the first fold exposed. Repeat this fold. Finally, pull the cuff back down over the last fold.
- When the sleeves are rolled, the outside of the cuff is exposed, forming a roll about three inches wide stopping at a point about two inches above the elbow. With a little practice you'll learn where to make your folds based on the length and size of your arm. Sleeves rolled this way look squared-away, but they're also practical; you can cover your arms quickly if you need to.
- Boot Socks are made of undercoated, plain or, ribbed material designed for heavy-duty use with boots. All visible portions of boot socks must be black.

***USCG Operational
Dress Uniform
(continued)***



The ODU top may be temporarily removed in the unit for hot weather comfort, at the discretion of your local command. The Coast Guard blue tee shirt is not an official uniform shirt unless it's worn with shorts, low cut black boots or brown deck shoes, and white socks as part of the official Hot Weather Uniform. When worn in this manner, the words U.S. Coast Guard must be stenciled on the left chest of the tee shirt in three-quarter inch white block letters.

The ODU is authorized for wear by all Coast Guard personnel including active duty, reserve, and auxiliary members.

Additional Resource

Additional (untestable) information on this subject can be found in COMDINST M1020.6E, Uniform Regulations Manual.

Good Grooming

In addition to uniform care, regulations dictate good grooming practices.

Hair

Hair is to be neat, clean, and present a well-groomed appearance, and cannot interfere with the proper wearing of military headgear. Hair coloring, if used, must look natural. Shaved portions of the scalp, other than the neckline, are not permitted. Frequent problems encountered are with hair length.

- Men's hair above the ears and around the neck is to be tapered from the lower natural hairline upwards at least 3/4-inch and outward not greater than 3/4-inch to blend with the hairstyle. A cleanly-shaven scalp is authorized. Hair cannot exceed bulk criteria (no more than 1 ½ inches from scalp), be longer than 4 inches, touch the ears or collar, or extend below the eyebrows when headgear is removed.

Hair (continued)

- Women's hair is to be neatly arranged and cannot exceed bulk criteria of 2 inches. While the back of the hair can touch the bottom edge of the collar, it cannot fall below. Hair cannot show under the front brim of the cap nor extend below the eyebrows when headgear is removed. A single ponytail is authorized, but *all* long hair is to be neatly and inconspicuously fastened, pinned, or secured to the head. Ponytails that fall above the bottom edge of the collar may be pulled through the back opening of the working blue or unit ball cap. Multiple braids shall be of uniform dimension, small in diameter, and tightly interwoven in symmetrical fore and aft rows that minimize scalp exposure and present a neat, professional, well-groomed appearance. Hair shall not extend below the eyebrows.

Wigs/Hairpieces

Only women are permitted to wear wigs or hairpieces. If worn, wigs/hairpieces are to be of a good quality, conservative style, fit properly, and conform to natural hair standards. Cannot be worn if it could present a safety or flying object damage (FOD) hazard.

Face

Facial Hair:

- Men must be clean-shaven; however, mustaches are permitted except when assigned to Ceremonial Honor Guard. Mustaches must be well-groomed and neatly trimmed, and cannot extend below the top of the upper lip or beyond the corners of the mouth. They cannot interfere with any mask-to-skin seal on equipment.
- When Pseudofolliculitis Barbae (PFB) is diagnosed by a medical doctor, commanding officers of officers-in-charge may grant permanent shaving waivers for a beard. However, facial hair cannot exceed ¼-inch in length.
- Sideburns are permitted provided they are neatly trimmed and the base is not flared but clean shaven.
- Sideburns and mustaches failing to meet criteria are a common grooming problem.

Cosmetics:

- Cosmetics need to be conservative and of a color that enhances natural features.
 - Lipstick colors are to be conservative (no bright colors) and compliment the wearer.
 - Eccentricities in cosmetics color and manner of wear are not allowed when in uniform.
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Fingernails

Men:

Fingernails are to be clean and not extend past the fingertips. They cannot be colored.

Women:

Fingernails are to be clean and not extend more than ¼-inch beyond the fingertip. While nail polish can be worn, colors are to be conservative and neutral. Decorative nail art is not authorized.

Inspecting a Member

When you are ready to inspect a unit member, approach your supervisor and request that he or she observe your performance.

During the inspection, ensure that:

- His or her uniform is in good condition
- The uniform is worn properly
- He or she meets the grooming standards presented in this E-PME Study Guide.

Remember, you do not have to conduct a formal personnel inspection to meet this requirement. Inspecting the uniform of the day will suffice.
