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**SUBJ: WEARING OF ALTERNATIVE UNIFORMS BY COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL
SAFETY (CFVS) PERSONNEL**

A. COMDTINST 16711.13B

1. THIS MESSAGE AUTHORIZES THE WEAR OF AN ALTERNATIVE UNIFORM FOR CFVS PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN PIERSIDE ACTIVITIES. THE ALTERNATIVE UNIFORM SHALL CONSIST OF "POLO" STYLE SHIRTS, BALL CAPS, UTILITY (WORK) TROUSERS, AND APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR. SHIRTS AND BALL CAPS WILL DISPLAY CFVS PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION. PURSUANT TO REF (A), UNIFORMS FOR CFVS PERSONNEL SHALL ALSO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DISTRICT POLICY. WEAPONS WILL NOT BE WORN.

2. COMMERCIAL FISHING IS OUR NATION'S MOST HAZARDOUS OCCUPATION. THE DOCKSIDE CFVS EXAMINATION PROGRAM IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO MITIGATE HAZARDS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY AND SERVES AS OUR PRIMARY MEANS TO MAKE THE FISHING INDUSTRY A SAFER PLACE TO WORK. DOCKSIDE CFVS EXAMS ARE VOLUNTARY AND CONDUCTED AT THE PLEASURE OF COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN. THESE EXAMS ARE INTENDED TO BE BOTH "NO FAULT" AND "NONADVERSARIAL," ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE NO EXISTING STATUTES MANDATING THAT COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS UNDERGO PERIODIC SAFETY EXAMS. ACCORDINGLY, THE VOLUNTARY CFVS EXAM PROGRAM MUST BE AGGRESSIVELY PROMOTED IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUCCESS.

3. COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS SHALL NOT BE TARGETED FOR AT-SEA BOARDINGS DUE TO DEFICIENCIES DISCOVERED DURING VOLUNTARY DOCKSIDE EXAMS. FURTHERMORE, THERE MUST BE A CLEAR AND RECOGNIZABLE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN COAST GUARD LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS AND THE FUNCTIONS OF THE VOLUNTARY CFVS EXAM PROGRAM. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE FISHERMEN WITH A MECHANISM TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CFVS PERSONNEL AND OTHER COAST GUARD PERSONNEL. TO THIS END, ALTERNATIVE UNIFORM ITEMS WORN BY CFVS PERSONNEL DURING PIERSIDE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE MARKED TO READILY IDENTIFY THE WEARERS AS CFV EXAMINERS. ALTERNATIVE UNIFORM ITEMS THAT CLEARLY IDENTIFY CFV EXAMINERS TO COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN SERVE TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AND SAFETY WITHIN THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

4. ALTERNATIVE UNIFORM ITEMS WITH CFVS PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION MAY BE PURCHASED USING FUNDS PROVIDED TO DISTRICTS BY G-MOC FOR SUPPORT OF THE CFVS PROGRAM. THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED HEREIN WILL BE LATER INCORPORATED INTO REF (A).

5. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ABOVE INFORMATION SHOULD BE REFERRED TO COMDT G-MOC), LT JOE PAITL, (202) 267-0507.

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