



# U.S. COAST GUARD



## Homeland Security

### Flag Voice 202

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### OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM UPDATE

We continue to build our inventory of Operational Dress Uniforms (ODUs) with over 54,000 received to date while simultaneously distributing new uniform. We have distributed over 11,300 ODUs to the field. The manufacturer has adjusted its production flow to better meet our immediate needs for additional core sizes (40 - 46). This will result in an increase in our distribution rate in the coming weeks.

At the request of many unit commanders, we have held off on making partial shipments to units. As a result, there are a number of deliveries that are being deferred pending the arrival of additional core size uniforms. However, there is a practical limit to the number of uniforms that can be processed by the Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) in the remaining eleven-month of our aggressive distribution plan. We may have to reconsider the option of partial shipments in the coming weeks. Should we elect to begin partial shipments in order to expedite delivery to the field, the UDC will maintain a backorder listing. Those members on the list will receive priority consideration until their unit's entire order has been filled. I will inform you if we have to resort to partial shipments. Our strong preference (along with what I know is yours) is to have everyone at each unit in the same uniform.

We recently became aware of a quality control issue involving seam failure (fraying) on a very small number of ODU trousers. This issue has been brought to the attention the manufacturer. The manufacturer has already made adjustments to the assembly process to correct the problem, and has agreed to replace all affected uniforms at no cost to the member. Personnel experiencing such fraying should return their unaltered [only visibly defective] ODUs, along with the original UDC shipping invoice, to the below address via Coast Guard mail. Within the return package, members must include a single sheet of paper with their correct size, quantity of trousers enclosed, a current unit shipping address, and a current daytime phone number (for use by UDC customer service representatives as required).

U.S. Coast Guard  
Uniform Distribution Center  
Attn: ODU Returns Desk  
414 Madison Ave.  
Woodbine, NJ 08270

We've had a few inquiries regarding the distribution of the ODU through the Coast Guard Exchange System (CGES). CGES stores are currently selling a limited quantity of Coast Guard approved ODUs obtained directly from the manufacturer. Contrary to concerns expressed by some, this procurement is not negatively impacting the manufacturer's ability to meet its obligations under the UDC's larger ODU contract. CGES's relatively small production requirement was taken into consideration in the overall manufacturing and distribution plan.

Unit POCs are asked to continue to refrain from contacting the UDC directly to check on the status of their particular ODU order. Uniform questions should be direct to Mr. Robert Gitschier, Uniform System Manger (G-WPM-1), 202-267-0730.

Regards,

*RADM Kenneth T. Venuto*  
Ken Venuto

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