



# U.S. COAST GUARD



## Homeland Security

### Flag Voice 205

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### OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) UPDATE

ODU distribution has accelerated significantly since my last update. The team at the Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) has shipped in excess of 5,000 uniforms per week for the past four consecutive weeks. This sharp upturn is due to a combination of workflow process improvements and an increase in the number of core-size uniforms being delivered by the manufacturer. To date, the UDC has distributed more than 40,000 uniforms which is 18% of our overall goal.

We are using the partial shipment option discussed in Flag Voice #203 very judiciously. Less than 10% of the uniforms shipped in the past three weeks were partial shipments. Of those uniforms that were "backordered" pending the receipt of additional inventory, all have already been shipped.

In recent weeks, there has been some questions regarding the status of individual shipments. We are not yet ready to begin large-scale individual shipments. The UDC remains focused on processing large orders to high priority operational units. That said, the UDC does periodically fill smaller, low priority orders when doing so keeps the distribution process at maximum efficiency. These individual-like orders are only filled when the required size(s) coincide with large inventory levels.

The first class of recruits to be issued the ODU as a replacement for the current work and undress uniforms graduated from Training Center Cape May on December 5, 2003. These new members of our workforce will soon be arriving at their first duty station wearing the ODU. Likewise, Officer Candidate School may begin graduating officers in the not too distant future who will have already transitioned to the new uniform. It is not our intention for these newest members of our workforce to have to also purchase the old work and undress uniforms if they are assigned to units that have not yet received their ODU distribution. Unit commanders should allow them to wear the ODU as an appropriate substitute for the work or undress uniform. I recognized that this runs counter to other desire to have a uniform appearance at individual units, but in the interest of fairness to these new members, we need to accommodate their special circumstance.

With ODU distribution now in full swing, it is increasingly important that unit POCs refrain from contacting the UDC directly to check on the status of their ODU order. Every effort is being made to outfit our entire workforce as quickly as possible. 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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