



U.S. COAST GUARD



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Quick Links

[Human Resources Home](#)

[Be a Part of the Coast Guard:](#)

- »» [Military Careers](#)
- »» [Civilian Opportunities](#)
- »» [Learn about the Reserve](#)
- »» [Coast Guard Academy](#)

[Flag Voice](#)

»» [Biography of the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources](#)

[Future Force](#)

Other Links

[Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#)

[Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)

[Coast Guard Retirees](#)

[Coast Guard News and Information](#)

[Military Locator](#)

MATERNITY UNIFORM SHORTAGE

We have just learned that there is a shortage of Air Force maternity uniforms in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) system as a result of a fabric production problem with their commercial supplier. As background, the Coast Guard adopted the Air Force maternity uniform more than 25 years ago and continues to rely on this uniform today. Unlike most other DoD and Coast Guard uniform items, the Air Force maternity uniform is not produced and distributed through the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP). Instead, it is supported by AAFES and available to our women through direct purchase at AAFES stores or online. For the past few years, our Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) in New Jersey has procured limited quantities of these uniforms directly from the AAFES commercial supplier and stocked them as an added source of supply for our women. However, the UDC has not ordered these uniforms for several months because it needed to work through some contractual issues in question. As a result, Coast Guard women who have requested maternity uniforms from the UDC have been referred to AAFES for purchase without the knowledge that a supply problem was manifesting itself.

We contacted AAFES last week to gain an understanding of the problem and the progress being made to resolve it. It looks like the fabric production problem has been solved. AAFES plans to inspect the first lot of new maternity uniforms within a week or so and anticipates that they will be in a position to restock their exchanges by the end of June if all goes well. Once the manufacturer has satisfied the outstanding AAFES order, the UDC will take steps to replenish its inventory. Realistically, Coast Guard women can expect to have their order filled faster through AAFES in the short-term.

I recognize this unexpected shortage has resulted in both an inconvenience and challenge for some Coast Guard women. Pending the restocking of AAFES, Commanding Officers are authorized to allow Coast Guard women in need of a maternity uniform to wear appropriate civilian maternity attire in the workplace.

I will provide an update as soon as AAFES has been restocked. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

Regards,

RADM Kenneth J. Venuto
Ken Venuto

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