

# NAVY UNIFORM NEWSGRAM

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## Navy Uniforms News

With the fleet rollout of Navy's three new uniforms: Physical Training Uniform (PTU), E-6 and below Service Uniform (SU), and the Navy Working Uniform (NWU), we thought it would be fitting to focus the next three Newsgrams on these uniforms. This Newsgram will concentrate on the NWU.

Over the last several months, the Navy Uniform Matters Office has received numerous questions about the NWU's manner and occasion for wear. The most common questions are in the Q & A section beginning on page 4, followed by the NWU *Fit Guide*.

In concert with our Navy Exchange Uniform Sales Associates, Sailors can use the Fit Guide to help obtain the proper fit when purchasing the NWU. They can also use this guide when preparing for quarters for muster, instruction, and inspection with their division chief or prepping for a command personnel inspection.

## The Boots

The Navy Uniform Matters Office continues to receive questions about which boot Sailors can wear with their NWU. NAVADMIN 343/08 describes the footwear authorized for wear with the NWU:

"Authorized standard footwear worn with the NWU is a black 9" leather (smooth) safety boot (steel-toe) with black laces are issued at RTC Great Lakes and sold at Navy Exchange Uniform Centers. Smooth leather boots will be blackened and buffed. An optional 9" rough side out leather safety boot (steel toe), available at Navy Exchange Uniform Centers, is authorized for wearing ashore." When worn, bootlaces will be tucked inside the boot in a manner to present a sharp military appearance.

### **FROM THE BRIDGE: DISPLAYING A PROUD AND PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE**

The last time your command held a Personnel Inspection, were you ready?

U.S. Navy Regulations outline Navy policy for personnel to be inspected at periodic intervals. Chapter 1, Section 1, Article 1101.3 of U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations prescribes that Navy personnel [Sailors] must present a proud and professional appearance that will reflect positively on the individual, the Navy, and the United States.

~U.S. Navy Regs, Chapter 1,  
Section 1, Article 1101.4

The 9" smooth leather and rough side out leather boots were certified and adapted for Navy use based on the results of a 6-month wear test of the NWU ensemble. Both boots were selected based on their performance for safety, comfort, durability, maintenance, appearance, and shock compression absorbent sole (minimizes foot & ankle injury) features.

Under NAVADMIN 271/09, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) has authorized the wear of the black aviation safety (flight deck) boot while commuting.

## Just The Facts

When selecting your NWU boot please consider the following:

- When trying on a pair of NWU boots, wear a pair of boot socks to help ensure the proper fit.
- Navy Reserve Enlisted Component (RC) Sailors will receive uniforms via their respective Navy Operational Support Centers (NOSC). To ensure standardization across the fleet, enlisted RC Sailors will be issued the NWU 9" black (smooth) leather boot.
- Chapter 6, Section 8, Article 6801 of Uniform Regs states:  
"Organizational clothing is worn with working uniforms only while performing duties for which the garments are designed." Until recently, the only exception was the brown leather flight jacket, which is permitted to be worn with Service Uniforms. However, with the release of NAVADMIN 271/09, Sailors who perform their primary duties on the flight deck/flight line are now authorized to wear the black aviation safety boots with the NWU

not only on the flight line or flight deck but also during their commute to/from home.

- Brown boots and tan boots are not authorized to be worn with the NWU.
- Navy Uniform Regs prescribes that Navy uniform components, equipment and accessories must be certified to meet Navy specifications. Deviation from the approved specification without specific authorization of the CNO is prohibited. Only Navy certified footwear (shoes and boots) are authorized to be worn with Navy uniforms.

## Uniform Change ICO Warfare Insignia

The recent change to Uniforms Regulation policy allowing more than one warfare insignia of the same category does not supersede policy regarding officers wearing enlisted insignia. Specifically, enlisted personnel who qualify for insignia and are subsequently advanced to officer status will continue wearing the enlisted insignia until qualified for a corresponding officer insignia; then replace the enlisted insignia with the officer insignia.

## Uniform Change Recommendations

Have a great idea about how to improve Navy uniforms or uniform policy? Uniform Regs, Chapter 1, Section 1, Article 1101.1b provides the guidelines on how to submit a recommendation to Uniform

Regulations. Recommendations should be comprehensive in description and include applicability to the Fleet, associated benefits (uniform improvement, policy update, policy reduction, uniform deletion, etc). Recommendations should, as much as possible, reflect total Navy application with an eye towards standardization and policy reduction. Recommendations are required to be favorably endorsed at each echelon of the chain of command through the Fleet Commander. Fleet level endorsements should include contact information of change proposal subject matter experts. Favorably endorsed recommendations will be presented to the Uniform Board for vote and follow-on endorsement to the CNO.

### **New Uniform Requirements**

Did you know that the standard E1-E6 sea bag requirement for the new Service Uniform is 2 sets (shirt & trouser/slacks), and 4 sets of shirt and trousers for the Navy Working Uniform (NWU)? The mandatory wear date for the new Service Uniform is 31 July 2010 and for the NWU is 31 December 2010.

### **"ASK THE CHIEF!" BACK-PACK FACTS**

Backpacks (Navy Blue or Black) are authorized to be worn across the left shoulder of Service Uniforms to facilitate saluting and both shoulders of Working Uniforms. The bag strap must be worn across the left shoulder (fore and aft) with the bag hanging on the same side of the body. The bag will not be worn diagonally across the body.

~Uniform Regs, Article 2101.3c

### **THE FANTAIL**

Did you know? E6 and below female Sailors wearing the Service Uniform (SU) Overblouse with either the black Relax Fit (Eisenhower style) Jacket or V-neck sweater are required to gently fold up/tuck/roll the Overblouse up into the jacket or sweater. The Overblouse must not extend below the bottom of the jacket or sweater. The authorized slacks worn with the Overblouse is of the same fabric and has side pockets. Dress uniform slacks are not authorized.

~Uniform Regs, Article 3602.1 & .4

# Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Questions and Answers (Q&A)

## 1. Which of the two new Navy Working Uniform boots can I wear onboard ship?

The standard footwear to be worn with the NWU is the new Navy 9" NWU black all leather safety boot. The optional 9" black rough side out safety boot is authorized ashore only.

## 2. Can I wear Flight Deck Boots with the new Navy Working Uniform?

Yes! Normally, uniform components issued under organizational clothing are prescribed as follows: "Organizational clothing that is worn with working uniforms only while performing duties for which the garments are designed." However, under NAVADMIN 271/09, the CNO authorized the wear of flight deck boots while commuting for those whom perform their primary duties on the flight line/deck. **Note:** Neither of the two NWU black 9" boots are flight deck certified -- the outsole is not Foreign Object Damage (FOD) resistant.

## 3. I saw a few Sailors wearing what appears to be a black leather boot with zippers along the side of the boot and a zipper in place of the boot laces. Are those type boots authorized for wear with the Navy Working Uniform?

No, the authorized footwear to be worn with the NWU is the new Navy 9" black NWU leather safety boot or optional 9" black NWU rough side out safety boot (ashore only). Both also have rubber outsoles, speed-lace and eyelet closures. Additionally, Navy uniform components must be certified to meet Navy specifications. As such, only Navy certified footwear (shoes and boots) are authorized to be worn with Navy uniforms. Certified items must contain a certification label with applicable information.

## 4. I also saw a Sailor wearing what appears to be boots with some sort of nylon fabric along the [upper] side of the boot. Are those

## type boots authorized for wear with the Navy Working Uniform?

No, refer to answer 3. Both black NWU leather safety boots utilize leather in the entire upper portion of the boot.

## 5. Can I wear black or white ankle socks with my Navy Working Uniform boot?

Boot socks shall be black and extend above the top of the 9" safety boot to ensure comfort.

## 6. Can I go to a store like Sears or JC Penny to purchase a pair of black 9" leather boots and wear the boots with my NWU? They look just like what is sold in our Navy Exchange Uniform Centers?

No, Navy uniform components must be certified to meet Navy specifications. Deviation from the approved specification without specific authorization of the Chief of Naval Operations is prohibited. Only Navy certified footwear is authorized to be worn with Navy uniforms.

## 7. Because of my unique shoe/boot size, my local Navy Exchange Uniform Center doesn't carry my size boot; can I go out in town and buy a boot similar to the NWU boot?

No, refer to answer 6. Navy Exchange Uniform Centers have a special measurement program to help meet the unique needs of those customers who have special uniform requirements. Ask one of the Sales Associates or Department Managers for assistance with ordering uniform components under this program.

## 8. The khakis want to know if they will be able to wear their brown flight deck boots with the Digital NWU's?

Brown or tan footwear issued under Chapter 6, Section 8, Article 6803 of Navy Uniform Regs as Flight Clothing is not authorized to be worn with the NWU.

**9. How should my NWU Shirt fit when wearing my NWU?**

To ensure proper length, the following guidelines apply when wearing the Navy Working Uniform shirt. Length: The bottom edge of the NWU shirt must extend to the bottom of the crotch area and no lower than the middle of the cargo pocket flap. Sleeve length shall not be shorter than the wrist bone or extend 1" beyond the wrist bone when fastened. See the NWU Fit Guide on the last page.

**10. Can I wear my command or Navy ball cap with my NWU?**

No, authorized head gear to be worn with the NWU is the eight point cap. The Navy Knit Watch Cap, when authorized by appropriate authority, will be worn during cold weather conditions.

**11. Can I tuck my NWU trousers into my NWU boots?**

No, the NWU trouser legs shall be bloused with blousing straps so the blouse covers the top three rows of boot eyelets.

**12. Are female Sailors authorized to carry a handbag with the NWU?**

Yes, women may wear plain black civilian handbags on their NWU while in uniform in the manner outlined in article 3501.25 of Navy Uniform Regs or can carry a civilian bag in hand.

**13. While wearing the NWU parka, does the zipper have to be completely zipped up?**

As with all Navy outerwear jackets, the Parka will be worn zipped at least 3/4 of the way up.

**14. Can I wear a blue T-shirt similar to the NWU undershirt I purchased from my local department store with my NWU?**

No, the only authorized T-shirt worn with the NWU is the 100% cotton, blue crewneck undershirt that is sold at Navy Exchange Uniform Centers. No other T-shirts are authorized to be worn with the NWU.

**15. I am a staff member at a major flag level command. Can I wear the aiguillettes with the Navy Working Uniform (NWU)?**

No, Aiguillettes are not authorized to be worn with the NWU, wash khakis, or dungarees. Generally, only service and dress uniforms are authorized to have the aiguillettes affixed. For more information, see Navy Uniform Regulations paragraph 5401.3c.

# NAVY WORKING UNIFORM QUICK FIT GUIDE

## 8-Point Cover:

- Square on head, not resting on ears
- Visor just above eye level & parallel to deck

## T-Shirt & Mockneck Sweater:

- Collar should fit comfortably around neck.
- Mockneck Sweater sleeve length shall not extend beyond the length of the NWU shirt sleeve

## Trouser:

- Trousers worn at waistline with belt.



## Shirt Length:

- Shirt length must extend to the bottom of the crotch
- But not lower than the middle of the cargo pocket flap.
- No gapping at blouse front, both sides of shirt opening must overlap

## Trouser Blousing:

- Blouse trousers using blousing straps. The blousing straps should be affixed between the 3rd and 4th eyelets from the top.

## NWU Boots:

- Boot laces must be tied and tucked into the cuff of the boots.
- Boots should be worn with boot socks.
- Smooth finish boots are authorized for shore and shipboard use.
- Rough-out boots are authorized for shore duty only.



## Warfare Insignia:

- Primary warfare insignia shall be sewn centered and flush with the top of the US Navy tape. The fabric strip shall be sewn with a 1/4 inch border on the left and right of the embroidery.



## Sleeve Rolling:

- 3-inch wide band covered with fabric side out and cuff clearly visible.
- 2 inches above elbow



## Parka and Fleece:

- Sized in accordance with blouse. To determine correct size both parka and fleece should be worn simultaneously.



## Sleeve Length:

- When shirt cuff is fastened length of sleeve should cover the wrist bone, but not extend further than the first knuckle at the base of the thumb.

## Trouser:

- Trouser length should be long enough to touch deck when not wearing boots.

**\*All buttons and closures shall be secured**  
**\*Recommend uniforms be washed inside out**

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