

MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q1. What is Task Force Uniform?

A1. Task Force Uniform is a multi-phased initiative that involves a comprehensive and on-going review of all Navy uniforms and regulations. The charter for Task Force Uniform (TFU) is to deliver proposals and implementation decisions on Navy uniforms that reflect the Sailor of the 21st century. The vision of Task Force Uniform is to give Sailors a cost-effective set of uniforms that present a professional appearance, recognize naval heritage, and offer versatility, safety, ease of maintenance/storage and comfort. The vision is to also provide a more user-friendly uniform regulations manual that supports compliance and enforcement.

Q2. What is the primary purpose of TFU?

A2. Specific tasks included development of alternatives for a working uniform for E-1 through O-10, to be worn at sea or ashore, across all communities and a year-round service uniform for E-6 and below; to evaluate the usefulness of each uniform item against specific factors, with an eye toward reducing the number of uniform items and increasing interchangeability; and to streamline and simplify the uniform regulations into an easily understood and enforceable document.

Q3. What new uniforms has the CNO approved?

A3. CNO has approved two uniforms:

- 1) A single Navy working uniform for wear by all sailors E-1 to O-10 -- at sea and ashore and across all communities. This BDU-style uniform will feature three color variants: a predominantly blue digital pattern for the majority of our navy and shipboard use; and a woodland digital pattern and a desert digital pattern for sailors serving in units requiring those types of uniforms. It will include an eight-point soft cover and black smooth leather boots. Black suede no-shine boots will be authorized for optional wear for those assigned to non-shipboard duty commands. Boots appropriate for the woodland and desert uniform will be introduced.

- 2) A single year-round service uniform for sailors E-6 and below. The service uniform will be comprised of a short-sleeved khaki shirt and/or blouse, and black trousers and/or optional skirt. Miniature silver anodized metal rank insignia for petty officers will be worn on shirt and blouse collars. This uniform will include a black Eisenhower-style jacket with a knit stand-up collar and epaulets, on which petty officers will wear large silver anodized metal rank insignia. Those entitled to wear gold chevrons will continue to wear gold chevrons as the jacket's large metal rank insignia.

Q4. What criteria were used in making these recommendations /changes?

A4. The recommendations were made based on interviews with Sailors, command site visits, comprehensive research and data collected from two Navy-wide uniform surveys. The surveys collected feedback from more than 60,000 Sailors throughout the Fleet. Other key factors that went into the decisions were survey data received from Sailors who participated in a 7 month wear test.

Q5. What were the surveys based on?

A5. The initial survey was developed and based on the Task Force Uniform charter, and the four core tasks outlined in it. The survey did not encompass every uniform issue in the fleet. The specific tasks for the task force included:

1. Develop alternatives for a working uniform for E-1 through O-10, to be worn at sea or ashore, across all communities.
2. Develop a service uniform for E-1 through E-6 which can be worn year round.
3. Evaluate the usefulness of each uniform item against specific factors, with an eye toward reducing the number of uniform items and increasing interchangeability.
4. Streamline and simplify the uniform regulations into an easily understood and enforceable document.

Q6. How will the changes be implemented?

A6. The uniform regulation and policy recommendations approved by CNO will be announced and implemented via NAVADMIN message traffic.

Q7. Why are we making uniform changes again?

A7. In the past we have made minor quality improvements to Navy uniforms with limited scope. This transformational change is based on ensuring we have the right uniforms for Sailors of the 21st century. We listened to Sailors and their concerns, and made the changes based on their desires and the mission requirements of the Navy.

Q8. Will the Cracker Jack uniform go away?

A8. Task Force Uniform is a multi-phased initiative that involves a comprehensive and on-going review of all Navy uniforms and regulations. Currently the jumper uniforms are under review for improvements in fabric, fit and appearance only.

Q9. What will it cost me to convert?

A9. Sailors entitled to a clothing replacement allowance will receive the reflective amount of any potential cost changes.

Q10. When can I start wearing the new uniforms?

A10. Sailors assigned to Type 2 duty will be the first to receive the new uniform. It is expected to be available starting Summer 08.

Q11. Is this the final phase of uniform changes?

A11. Phase two of TFU will consider the cost and feasibility of additional uniform options, to include a service dress khaki uniform for chiefs and officers; the use of a ceremonial cutlass for chiefs; and a service-wide physical training uniform. TFU will continue efforts already underway to evaluate and study current officer and enlisted dress uniforms, and investigate the practicality of improving the all-weather coat.

Q12. What is the cost/budget for the new uniforms?

A12. The total projected cost of TFU is \$433M over the 24 month rollout period, which spreads over Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. Included in the \$433M is \$224M in Navy MPN program implementation costs.