

4.A. Operation Dress Uniform

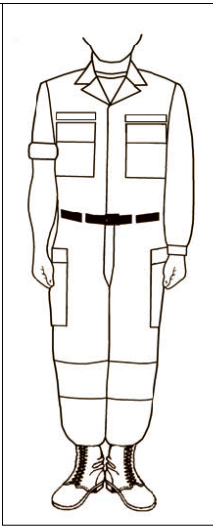
4.A.1. General

This chapter applies to active duty NOAA Corps officers. Director, Commissioned Personnel Center manages the Uniform system for all NOAA Corps officers.

4.A.1.a. Purpose

The NOAA Corps Operation Dress Uniform has been adopted from the U.S. Coast Guard to:

1. Provide officers with safe and well designed uniform for Operational Duty.
2. Set prescribed uniform standards while in an Operation Status.

Operational Dress Uniform (ODU)	
	
Item composing uniform	Comment
Blue ODU Top	Sleeves rolled up (accordion style, with only the cuff showing) or down.
ODU Trousers	Bloused with safety boots, straight with low-topped shoes or boat shoes.
Blue Crew Neck T-Shirt	Blue crew neck t-shirts are 100% cotton.
Collar Insignia	Sew-on cloth insignia are standard and Metal insignia are optional.
Nametape	Cloth nametape is sewn above right pocket. Direct embroidery on the shirt is not authorized.
NOAA Corps ID Tape	Cloth tape with “NOAA Corps” is sewn above left pocket. Direct embroidery on shirt is not authorized.
Qualification Insignia	Most current authorized. A single embroidered insignia is authorized. Direct embroidery on the shirt is not authorized. Metal is optional when not a safety issue.
Miniature Devices	Embroidered device(s) are authorized. Metal is optional when not a safety issue.
Black Socks	Black knee length or mid calf socks are authorized.
Shoes	Safety boots. Low-topped shoes or boat shoes may be prescribed in specific cases or medical reasons.
Black Belt w/ Subdued Buckle	The black belt is made of black webbing with an attached black subdued colored clip end (metal tip) with a subdued black brass open-frame
Head Gear	Ball cap.
Occasions for Wear	Worn while assigned to an operational billet to include (TDY) in any situation where any form of dress uniform is not required or more appropriate and while commuting, including brief stops for gas and drive-thru business.

4.A.2. Headgear

4.A.2.a. Headgear (Ball Caps)

Personnel will wear headgear (be covered) when outdoors and during ceremonies held indoors when appropriate to the ceremony. Wear headgear squarely on the head, bottom edge horizontal. Hair will not be visible below the front brim or visor. Personnel visiting other military organizations will follow the customs for that organization. Personnel may remove their headgear when traveling inside any enclosed vehicle either on or off any NOAA Facility. The wear of headgear while in an enclosed vehicle may be appropriate during ceremonial occasions or may be required by the local regulations of other military services while on board their facilities.

Item	Description	Related Information
<p>WORKING BLUE & UNIT BALL CAPS</p>	<p><u>The standard issue Working Blue Ball Cap</u> Is a dark blue (generic navy blue or approximating Coast Guard blue) material. Rear adjusting tabs are authorized. Cap will have NOAA CORPS permanently affixed in an arch across the front of the cap face in 1/2-inch yellow block type. The lettering shall be placed on the hat to allow proper placement of the required rank insignia. Officers O-5 and above may wear embroidered gold acorns and oak leaves (“scrambled eggs”) on ball cap visors.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform</p> <p>Unit Logos Ball caps with specific unit logos may only be worn in uniform while attached to the unit to which the logo refers.</p> <p><u>Removal of Rank Insignia</u> Commanding officers may temporarily require the removal of rank insignia from ball caps if warranted by local circumstances.</p>
	<p><u>Unit Ball Caps</u> Are of the commercial ball cap type in the same approximate colors as the issue ball cap. Rear adjusting tabs are authorized. Unit name, location, and hull numbers may be permanently affixed to the front face of the cap allowing room for the required rank insignia. No additional lettering, logos, or artwork is allowed. Lettering and “scrambled eggs” are as described for the issue ball cap.</p>	

4.A.2.b. Cold Weather Headgear

Item	Description	<u>Related Information</u>
COLD WEATHER CAP	This hat is an optional item for cold weather use only. It consists of ear and neck flaps, and straps with covered metal snap fasteners worn under the chin or over the top of the hat.	<u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform
KNIT WATCH CAP Insignia Not Worn	The knit watch cap is the approved Navy bell shaped, rib knit, pullover style design or commercial equivalent of knitted navy blue yarn.	<u>Wear With</u> (under operational working conditions only) Operational Dress Uniform

4.A.3. UNDERGARMENTS

All personnel will wear undergarments while in uniform of such color and style as to minimize showing through outer clothing and to preserve the dignity and appearance of the uniform. Blue crew neck t-shirts are 100% cotton and are worn with the Operational Dress uniform. Insulated undershirts have a rounded neck and long sleeves, are navy blue or white, and may be worn only with a long sleeve shirt. Insulated undershirts may be worn with the ODU shirt for cold weather use. Undershirts are required for all personnel.

During high heat conditions, either outdoors or indoors, a command is authorized to relax the Uniform Regulations, authorizing removal of the ODU shirt for temporary heat stress relief.

4.A.4. SHIRTS

Item	Description	<u>Related Information</u>
OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) TOP	The ODU top is a Coast Guard blue variation of the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU). It has two flap closure pockets on each side of the chest and a flap covering the buttons. It is worn tucked into the trousers. Sleeves may worn long or rolled neatly and evenly to the width of the cuff to the mid bicep portion of the upper arm. Sleeves are rolled accordion fashion, so as to leave the outer cuff and	<u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform Local commands may authorize temporary removal of the blouse during high heat situations. The T-shirt

	<p>button showing on the surface of the roll. Start by folding cuff over itself creating a neat fold up to the armpit. Fold sleeve up again, but this time leave about 3” of the first fold exposed. Finally, pull the cuff back down over the entire fold. The 3” cuff is exposed, stopping at about 2” above the elbow. Folds will vary based on the size and length of the arm.</p>	<p>remains tucked into the trousers.</p>
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4.A.5. TROUSERS AND SHORTS

Item	Description	<u>Related Information</u>
<p>OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) TROUSERS</p>	<p>ODU trousers are a CG blue variation of the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU). They have two hip pockets, two back pockets with flaps, and two expandable cargo pockets with flaps. Trouser waist is adjustable. They are bloused above the boot tops when worn with high-topped (8 - 10 inch high) black safety-toe boots. Elasticized or Velcro type blousing bands may be used. Blousing bands should not be visible. May be worn straight leg fashion when low- topped shoes or boat shoes are required.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform</p>
<p>OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) SHORTS</p>	<p>ODU shorts are a CG blue variation of the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU). They have two hip pockets, two back pockets with flaps, and two expandable cargo pockets with flaps. Short waist is adjustable. The ODU short is a converted ODU trouser sewn one inch below the expandable cargo pockets.</p> <p>NOTE: Not authorized on the day of departure from port and arrival to port.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform only underway.</p>

4.A.6. BELTS AND BELT BUCKLES

Item	Description	Related Information
<p>BLACK BELT</p>	<p>The black belt is made of black webbing with an attached black subdued colored clip end (metal tip).</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> ODU Trousers and Shorts</p>
<p>BLACK SUBDUED BUCKLE</p>	<p>The belt buckle is a subdued black brass open-frame buckle designed to reduce reflection. It is worn on a black belt.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> ODU Trousers and Shorts</p>

Manner of Wear For Subdued Black Belt and Buckle:

The black belt is worn with a subdued black open-faced buckle as used by the USMC. The belt and buckle will be oriented in the same manner as the men’s standard belt for both men and women. The metal belt tip will extend past the buckle between 2 to 4 inches.

4.A.7. SHOES AND SOCKS

Shoes are made of smooth leather, combinations of synthetic materials and leather meeting applicable standards, or a high gloss synthetic leather substitute. Shoes with high gloss synthetic upper portions (generally known as Corfams) will not be worn aboard NOAA Corps vessels or aircraft unless specifically authorized by the commanding officer for short-term temporary uses.

Item	Description	Related Information
DRESS SHOES	<u>Men - Oxfords</u> The men’s dress shoe is made of smooth black or white leather or a synthetic substitute of the lace-up plain oxford style. They will have heels, no higher than one inch and be of low cut plain style without decoration. There will be no stitching or seams across the toe. The sole edges, heels, and laces must be the same color as the shoe.	<u>Wear Black Shoes With Operational Dress Uniform</u>
DRESS SHOES	<u>Women - Oxfords</u> Are smooth black or white leather or a synthetic leather substitute. They are a lace-up plain oxford style. Shoes with plain toe or a seam around the toe are authorized. The heels will be no higher than one inch. The sole edges, heels, and laces must be the same color as the shoe.	<u>Wear Black Shoes With Operational Dress Uniform</u>
SAFETY SHOES	The safety shoes are high top (plain black, 8” to 10” high) safety boots with a reinforced safety toe. Safety shoes must be worn while performing work that requires protection of the feet. Protective footwear must comply with the National Safety Council’s American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Document Number ANSI Z41-1999 (as updated on 9/11/02).	<u>Wear With Operational Dress Uniform</u>

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BOAT SHOES	The boat shoe is a dark brown leather low cut shoe of moccasin type construction, and functional rawhide lacing with 6 to 10 brass eyelets (evenly divided per side). The sole shall be slip resistant and made of non-marking material.	<u>Wear With</u> (when authorized for small boat and Ship operations only) Operational Dress Uniform
OVERSHOES	Overshoes are an optional item consisting of plain low cut black rubbers, high-top overshoes, or black rain/snow boots, free from adornment. The boot top will not be higher than the kneecap. Button, snap, zipper, hook and loop (Velcro type), etc. fasteners are allowed.	<u>Wear With</u> All Uniforms
SOCKS	Black socks are made of undecorated, plain or ribbed knitted material. Knee length or mid calf socks are authorized.	<u>Wear With</u> All blue trousers (except when wearing pumps or flats)
BOOT SOCKS	Boot socks are made of undecorated, plain or ribbed knitted material designed for heavy-duty use with boots.	All visible portions of boot socks must be black.

4.A.8. OUTERWEAR

Only approved outerwear will be worn. When wearing outerwear with buttons and/or a belt, all will be fastened. When wearing any outerwear with zippers, they shall be zipped a minimum of two-thirds closed. Pregnant women may adjust outerwear closure as needed to prevent discomfort.

Item	Description	Related Information
WOOLY PULLY SWEATER	The Wooly-Pully sweater is blue and made from 100 percent wool or synthetic yarns in a rib knit V-neck design with epaulets.	<u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform When wearing the sweater with any opened collared shirt, wear the collar on the outside. The sweater may be worn under the poly/wool windbreaker as long as it does not extend below the coat bottom.

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<p>CARDIGAN SWEATER</p>	<p>The Air Force button front cardigan style sweater, of acrylic/wool blend material with epaulets.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform</p> <p>May be worn buttoned <u>or</u> unbuttoned. Authorized for wear in and outdoors within the limits of the NOAA unit/activity, and may be worn under other outerwear when traveling between NOAA units or between work and home (as long as it does not extend below the bottom of the outerwear.)</p>
<p>WINDBREAKER</p>	<p>The Air Force single-breasted polyester/wool blend material jacket with, plain collar, epaulets, zippered front closure, and a welt pocket on each forepart and removable vest style quilted liner.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform</p>
<p>ALL WEATHER PARKA</p>	<p>The all weather parka is fully waterproof with removable liner. It is of upper thigh length with Coast Guard blue laminated supplex nylon and Gore-Tex outer shell with foldaway hood and a wind stopping polar-fleece zip-in liner which also serves as a stand-alone jacket and is rated for use in temperatures down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. It has a tab on the front for placement of collar device size rank insignia.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform</p> <p>May be worn commuting work to home with ODU uniforms. The liner may be worn without the parka as a middleweight jacket within the confines of the wearers unit with the ODU uniform.</p>
<p>EARMUFFS</p>	<p>Earmuffs are of plain, unadorned design and dark blue or black.</p>	<p><u>Wear With</u> All uniforms</p> <p>Wear the band either under the headgear or with the headband to the rear of the head/neck below the headgear.</p>

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GLOVES	Black gloves are made of plain leather or other suitable material, with matching stitching.	<u>Wear With</u> All uniforms
SCARVES	Blue scarf is of conventional size and made of tightly dark blue woven wool, silk, or synthetic material of plain, unadorned design.	<u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform Tuck scarves into the outer-garment they are worn with.

4.A.9. MATERNITY UNIFORMS (ODU)

Authorized NOAA Corps Maternity Uniforms consist of:

- Maternity Operational Dress
- Trench Coat or All Weather Parka (AWP)

Appropriate civilian attire on those occasions that would normally require formal or dinner dress uniforms.

Maternity uniforms may be worn during pregnancy and up to 60 days after returning from maternity leave. Commanding officers may authorize pregnant women to wear civilian clothing when there is no uniform equivalent or when the Maternity uniforms no longer fit comfortably. The type of civilian clothing must be comparable to the uniform the individual would normally wear. Mixing of civilian attire and military uniform is not authorized.

Wear rank and other insignia, badges, and nametags in the same manner on maternity uniforms as on the corresponding uniforms they replace. Minor adjustments in placement are authorized to prevent discomfort and to present an orderly and balanced appearance.

MATERNITY OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM TOP	A dark Coast Guard blue long sleeved maternity shirt that follows the overall style of the Operational Dress Uniform top.	<u>Wear Instead Of</u> Standard Operational Dress Uniform Worn with the Maternity ODU trousers.
MATERNITY OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM TROUSERS	A dark Coast Guard blue maternity trouser that follows the overall style of the Operational Dress Uniform trousers.	<u>Wear Instead Of</u> Standard Operational Dress Uniform Worn with the maternity ODU top.

4.A.10. MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

Item	Description	Related Information
BLOUSING BANDS	Elastic or Velcro bands used to blouse Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) trouser legs over safety shoes.	<u>Wear With</u> Operational Dress Uniform Do not use when wearing oxfords or boat shoes.
UMBRELLA	Is of the telescoping type shaft with a straight handle and made of plain black or dark blue material. Must be carried in the left hand.	<u>Wear With</u> All uniforms

4.A.11. CLOTH NAMETAPES

When cloth nametapes are worn, both the wearer's nametape and the "NOAA CORPS" nametape will be worn. The cloth nametape with the wearer's last name will be centered directly above the wearer's right chest pocket. The "NOAA CORPS" nametape will be centered directly above the wearer's left chest pocket. The cloth nametapes will consist of a background color matching the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) shirt with white block letters between ½ and ¾ inch high only the last name will be represented on the name tape. Both nametapes will be the same height and the width will be the same as the width of the chest pocket. Tapes will be sewn on with matching blue thread, using a minimum of six stitches per inch. Cloth nametapes are the standard. Velcro type nametapes are optional.

4.A.12. GRADE/RANK INSIGNIA

Although embroidered sew-on cloth collar insignia are standard, metal collar insignia are optional on the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) Uniform.

During wartime or other emergency conditions, the senior officer present may require subdued insignia for all personnel when the wearing of normal bright finish insignia would be considered hazardous.

All Weather Parka




Smaller metal collar rank insignia is worn centered on rank tab on front of parka.

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Collar rank insignia is centered on the collar, along an imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar point and centered one inch from each side of the collar.

<p><u>ODU and Unit Ball Cap</u> The insignia worn on the working blue and unit ball cap may be standard metal or embroidered collar insignia. All insignia shall be 1 to 1¼ inches above the visor or centered on the front of the cap so as not to interfere with the lettering. Captain insignia is worn with the Eagle facing the wearer’s right.</p>	
<p><u>Cold Weather Caps</u> For all officers, the insignia worn on the Cold Weather Cap shall be the miniature version of the combination cap device.</p>	<p>Image of Cold Weather Cap</p>

4.A.13. QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA

Embroidered or medal insignia are worn to indicate a special qualification or designation. NOAA Corps officers who, while a member of the NOAA Corps, have earned qualification insignia from another Uniformed Service are authorized to wear said insignia on the NOAA Corps uniform as described in this section. The individual NOAA Corps officer is responsible to provide proof of authority to wear another United States military service’s qualification insignia for inclusion in their service record as appropriate. When multiple levels of qualification are attained, the more advanced qualification is worn in lieu of the previous.

A single embroidered insignia is worn on the Operational Dress Uniform Uniform. The single insignia should represent the highest earned or most current qualification. A command insignia may be worn only by officers who are currently serving in a commanding officer position. Embroidered insignia should be obtained from NOAA Corps approved sources only, i.e., NOAA Corps approved contract vendors. Sew the insignia directly above the NOAA Corps identification tape using thread the same color as the background of the insignia. Sew on the insignia by machine or hand at a minimum of six stitches per inch. The width of qualification insignia embroidered patches should extend ¼ inch beyond the end of the embroidered device.