

Chief Petty Officer Uniform Requirements and Allowances

Attention Chiefs and future Chiefs! Did you know that the special initial clothing allowance (SICA) only pays for items that are mandatory requirements for newly advanced Chiefs? Table 1 lists all required mandatory uniforms each Chief is expected to have in their sea bag immediately upon pinning. Having the required CPO uniforms is relative to knowing what needs to be in your sea bag, understanding your allowances, and knowing what is mandatory versus what is optional.

Your first allowance, SICA, is paid to active, TAR and selected reserve Chiefs upon the date of advancement vice date of frocking (Ref: DoD Financial Management Regulation Vol. 7A, Chapter 29). The SICA covers the cost of the items and respective quantities listed in Table 1. For FY 2026, the SICA rate is \$1324.18 for male CPOs and \$1265.60 for female CPOs. SICA is updated every year on 1 October to align with the new fiscal year's clothing requirements and updated costs.

All CPOs are expected to maintain various uniforms items also worn by junior enlisted personnel E1 - E6. Table 2 lists those E6 items required of a CPO that are supported by an annual clothing allowance (see description provided below). Item quantities to be maintained are relative to mission needs, but there is no mandatory minimum required.



CPO Selectee Uniform Fitting. Photo by:
MC3 Antonio Turretto Ramos
(Source: www.militarynews.com)

Table 1: Mandatory CPO Items (FY26)					Table 2: E6 Items required of a CPO					Common Items Not Supported by Clothing Allowances (Not All-inclusive)
Item	#	Cost \$	#	Cost \$	Item	#	Cost \$	#	Cost \$	
Belt, Black, (No Buckle)	1	11.71			Blousing Straps	2	4.32	2	4.32	- Commercial Khaki Shirt (men) - Dress White Slacks (women) - Brooks Brothers SDB - Brooks Brothers Dress White Shirt and Necktie - Commercial female khaki shirt (tucked-in) - Dinner Dress White/Blue Jacket Uniforms - Jacket, Black Relax Fit
Belt, Khaki, (No Buckle)	1	11.71	1	10.05	Boots, 9	1	152.63	1	152.63	
Belt, White, (No Buckle)	1	9.22	1	8.30	Cap, Utility w/ACE Logo	2	26.84	2	26.84	
Buckle	2	19.04	2	19.04	Drawers, Cotton, White	8				
Cap Covers: Khaki, Poly/Wool	1	22.69	1	21.55	Gloves, Black Leather	1	27.51	1	27.51	
Unisex Combination Hat w/White Cover	1	84.39	1	63.73	Jacket, Fitness Suit	1	61.40	1	61.40	
Cap Device, CPO	1	13.50	1	13.50	Liner, Fleece	1	108.81	1	108.81	
Gloves, White	1	6.71	1	6.71	Mock Turtle Neck	1	34.87	1	34.87	
Insignia: Collar Devices; set	1	18.00	1	18.00	Pants, Fitness Suit	1	58.52	1	58.52	
Rating Badge, Black	1	23.78	1	23.78	Parka, Cold Weather, Bl	1	155.98	1	155.98	
Shoulder Boards, Soft; set	1	9.25	1	9.25	Parka, NWU Type III	1	215.40	1	215.40	- Optional PTU (Shirt/Shorts) - V-Neck Sweater - Rigger Belt - CPO Cutlass & Components - All Skirts - Optional Dess Shoes (brown)/Optional Work Boots - Female Pumps & Flats - Medals, Warfare Devices - Pea Coat/Reefer - All Weather Coat - NWU Shoulder Patches - Commercial T-shirts (White or Coyote Brown) - All other than black leather I-Boot 5 boots (e.g., Coyote Brown boots).
Necktie/Neck Tab, Black	1	8.21	1	8.21	Shirt, Khaki, Poly/Wool	2	99.04			
Shirt, White, CNT	1	45.15	1	45.15	Overblouse, Khaki			2	99.07	
Shirt, White, Poly/Cotton, Lg Slv	1	48.65	1	48.65	Shirt, NWU Type III	3	136.74	3	136.74	
Shoes, White	1	115.00	1	115.00	Socks, 9" Boot	5	8.95	5	8.95	
Socks, White	1	5.39	1	5.39	Socks, Cotton/Nylon, Bl	3	3.18	3	3.18	
Trousers/Slacks:					Trousers, NWU Type III	3	175.23	3	175.23	
Khaki, Poly/Wool	1	97.39	1	97.39	Undershirt, Cotton, Bl	4	16.80	4	16.80	
White, CNT	1	67.65	1	67.65	Undershirt, Cotton, Wh	4	20.40	4	20.40	
Service Dress Blue- Coat/Trsr/Slck	1	439.00	1	439.00	Shoes, Black, Dress	1	65.67	1	65.67	
Service Dress White-Coat	1	224.00	1	224.00	Shirt, PTU	2	19.56	2	19.56	
SDW Collar Devices; set	1	23.23*	1	23.23*	Shorts, PTU	2	30.96	2	30.96	

Prices listed are effective 1 October 2025 through 30 September 2026. Uniform prices are set every Oct 1st. When necessary, prices may be adjusted during the FY.

Standard Cash Clothing

Replacement Allowance (Standard OCRA):

Paid annually during the first 3 years following receipt of SICA and at the end of the advancement anniversary month. The Standard OCRA supports the replacement of E6 clothing items based on their individual wear life.

Special Cash Clothing Replacement Allowance (Special OCRA):

Paid annually to CPOs after their completion of 3 years time-in-rate at the end of the advancement anniversary month. The Special OCRA supports the replacement of CPO uniforms and E6 uniform items required of a CPO based on their individual wear life.

Reserve Chief Petty Officers will receive 18 percent of the Active Duty CPO Special Cash Clothing Replacement Allowance. This allowance is paid annually during the anniversary month of the qualifying member.



Navy Facial Hair Grooming Standards: NAVADMIN 162/26 & 180/26

NAVADMIN 162/26 (Released July 7, 2026)

- Focus: Updates to facial hair grooming standards and medical waiver procedures.
- Safety Rules: Mandates quarterly gas mask fit tests and readiness evaluations for operational environments.
- New Accessions: Requires all Navy applicants to meet grooming standards before entering active service.
- Exclusion: Explicitly states it does not apply to religious accommodation.
- Timeline: 12 consecutive months of shaving accommodation will prompt evaluation for continued service/administrative separation.

NAVADMIN 180/26 (Released July 31, 2026)

- Focus: Expands guidance to cover both religious and medical facial hair accommodation management and tracking.
- Religious Accommodation Reporting: Requires commands to report non-compliant religious waiver statuses to BUPERS-3.
- Accommodation Counseling: Mandatory formal counseling for Sailors at the 6-month medical accommodation/waiver mark.
- Medical Accommodation Tracking and Reporting: Establishes explicit Excel formatting rules for tracking and reporting medical accommodation. By the 15th of each month commencing August 2026.
- Timeline: Announced consideration for administrative separation may start 30 September 2026.

NAVADMIN 180/26 162/26 Commonalities:

- CO Authority: Only Commanding Officers have the authority to officially approve a waiver.
- 90-Day Cap: Medical treatment plans and shaving waivers limited to 90-day increments.
- 12-Months: 12 consecutive months of medical accommodation before mandatory separation evaluation.
- Identification: Sailors required to physically carry CO signed and approved NAVPERS 1000/1 form while in uniform.

Size Modernization: Service Khakis Slacks with Back Pockets

NAVADMIN 194/24 discusses Size Modernization Program (SMP). As announced in reference (b), the SMP is a multiphase five-year uniform improvement program focused on improving the design, form, fit, and function of female uniforms. The objective of the SMP is to deliver modernized uniforms that are of consistent fit and sizing across all Service and Dress uniform types. Phase One efforts of the SMP are concentrated on officer and Chief Petty officer (CPO) Service and Dress slacks, skirts, and shirts/blouses.

Phase One fleet encompasses the following initiative update: Design Features: Redesigned service slacks feature a center-front zipper, side pockets, and newly added back pockets.

Rollout Timeline: Production for new designed female officer/CPO Service Slacks has begun and is available at select Navy Exchange Uniform Customer Service Centers commencing August 2026.

Anchor the Standard: Do It Right, Do It Navy

All Sailors fingernails must be clean and well-groomed.

Nails must not interfere with the performance of duties create a safety hazard or detract from a professional military appearance.

Male Sailors fingernails must not extend past the fingertips.

Female Sailors fingernails may not extend no more than ¼ inch beyond the fingertip, measured from the end of the finger. The tips of the nails may be round, almond/oval, or square in shape. Nail polish may be worn, but colors shall be conservative.

Any sort of pattern/decorative nail polish are examples of unauthorized nail polish colors.

