

# UNIFORM NEWSGRAM



**NAVADMIN 183/21** - Navy Uniform Policy Update provides updates on recent Navy uniform policy initiatives.

## Earrings for Male Sailors



Male Sailors are authorized to wear earrings while in a leave or liberty status when wearing civilian clothes on and off military installations and when using government transportation, unless prohibited by proper authority. Earrings are not authorized when wearing civilian clothing while performing official duties.

### FAQ

**Q:** Are gauge style holes for earrings allowed?

**A:** No. NAVPERS 15665J Uniforms Regulations Article 2201.8 addresses body mutilation, which is prohibited. Examples of mutilation include, but are not limited to: a split or forked tongue; foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern; enlarged or stretched out holes in ears (other than a normal piercing); intentional scarring on neck, face, or scalp; or intentional burns creating a design or pattern.

## Male Hair Grooming

Male Sailors hair grooming standards are expanded to include bald, flat tops, faded and high and tight hairstyles. Hairstyles may also have squared or rounded gradual tapers in the back of the head. When sideburns are worn, the hair length of the sideburns will not exceed the hair length where it intersects with the haircut. Overall sideburn length limits remain unchanged and sideburns are not authorized with bald hairstyles.

### FAQ

**Q:** Why did the new NAVADMIN address bald hairstyles for men? I thought this was always acceptable.

**A:** Prior to the release of NAVADMIN 183/21, the Navy's grooming standards did not authorize males to wear bald hairstyles except for naturally balding men nor flat tops or high and tight faded hairstyles.



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## Female Hair Grooming



Female hair grooming standards are expanded to authorize very short length hairstyles that show the scalp. Overall, very short length hairstyles will not exceed two inches in bulk and four inches in length anywhere on the head. Very short length hairstyles may also include a taper at the back and side of the head and one straight fore and aft hard part. The lower edge of tapers may be rounded, squared or shapeless. Tapers will extend from the lower hairline at the back and side of the head upward to facilitate gradual blending with longer hair lengths. Hard parts are optional and will not exceed four inches in length and one-eighth of an inch in width. One hard part may be edged, shaved or clipped on the left or right side of the head, positioned above the temple, but no higher than the approximate area where the top and side of the head meet. Bald hairstyles (razor cut or shaved short) remain unauthorized except in the case of medically prescribed treatments and required care.



## FAQ

**Q:** In regards to very short hairstyles for females, the length of hair cannot be longer than four inches. Does this mean that a female cannot grow her hair longer than four inches after having a very short hairstyle?

**A:** Article 2201.1.b(6) of NAVPERS 1566J USN Uniform Regulations states “Very short length hairstyles will not exceed two inches in bulk and four inches in length anywhere on the head. Very short length hairstyles may also include a taper at the back and side of the head and one straight fore and aft hard part.” Basically, if you have a tapered style cut or a hard part, your hair length cannot be more than four inches.

## Medical and Religious Waivered Beards

Male Sailors with an approved modified shaving regimen in line with BUPERSINST 1000.22 or an approved religious accommodation to wear a beard in line with BUPERSINST 1730.11 are authorized to optionally edge (outline or shape) the outer edges of their beards on the face and neck. Edging, outlining or shaping of beards is defined as the light clipping or trimming of hair at the very outer edges of the beard to give a shaped appearance. If irritation, discomfort or skin outbreak occurs, immediately discontinue edging/outlining the beard.



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## Prescription Eyeglasses



Authorized prescription eyeglasses and frames worn in uniform must be silver/gray, black, brown, navy blue, gold or clear/translucent. The frame around the lens can be of a different but authorized color. Frame color can also consist of a combination of two authorized colors. Prescription glasses with transitional lenses are authorized except in military formations. When medically prescribed, other tints are authorized when documented and medically prescribed by the proper military medical care provider. Retainer straps may also be worn for foreign object debris (FOD) prevention only and will be black in color and worn snugly against the head. When not in use, eyeglasses will not be worn on top of the head or hanging around or off the neck. Sailors on deployment on the date of this message will have up to 60 days upon returning to homeport to comply with this policy.

## Sunglasses



Effective 30 October, 2021. Authorized sunglasses worn with the uniform must have solid color frames that may be silver/gray, black, navy blue, brown, tan, gold or green. The frame around the lens can be of a different but authorized color. Lenses will be non-mirrored, black, brown, dark green or dark grey. Sunglasses may have small logos on the frame and/or lens. Retainer straps may also be worn for FOD prevention only and will be black in color and worn snugly against the head. When not in use, sunglasses will not be worn on top of the head or hanging around or off the neck. Sailors on deployment on the date of this message will have up to 60 days upon returning to homeport to comply with this policy.

## FAQ

**Q:** When do the new rules for glasses and sunglasses go into effect?

**A:** 60 days from the release of NAVADMIN 183/21 i.e. 30 October, 2021.

**Q:** Can the frames of my eyeglasses be multiple colors?

**A:** From Uniform Regulations, NAVPERS 15665J Article 2101.3.d "Frame colors may consist of a combination of two authorized colors to include framing that holds the lens in place."

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## Medically-Prescribed Head Coverings



Male and female Sailors undergoing medically-prescribed health treatment or care that results in a drastic loss of hair, or the scalp becomes too sensitive to wear wigs/hair pieces, military covers, protective head gear or equipment are authorized to wear fabric head coverings (solid colors of black, khaki/tan, navy blue or white). Medically prescribed head coverings will match the color of the military cover prescribed for wear with the uniform being worn. The need to wear fabric head coverings must be medically documented and prescribed by appropriate military healthcare providers.

## FAQ

**Q:** Who decides that a Sailor is authorized to wear a head covering?

**A:** Authorization to wear medical head coverings require medical documentation and prescription by the appropriate military healthcare providers.

## Bracelets, Wristwatches, Smartwatches, and Fitness Trackers

Wristwatch wear in uniform is expanded to include smartwatches and fitness trackers. Only one wristwatch/smartwatch and one fitness tracker can be worn simultaneously and each on a different wrist. When wearing a bracelet, a wristwatch/smartwatch or fitness tracker is not authorized on the same wrist as the bracelet. Authorized wristwatches/smartwatches and fitness tracker colors when wearing a Navy uniform include solid black, brown, dark green, grey, navy blue, tan, white, copper, gold (metal), silver (metal) and gold/silver combination (metal) only. Smartwatches and fitness trackers are subject to applicable security regulations. Bracelets worn while in uniform may consist of natural metals or fabricated materials (e.g., plastic, wood, silicone or stone) and may be solid black, brown, dark green, grey, navy blue, tan, white, copper, gold and silver only.



## FAQ

**Q:** I was told that only E-7 and above can wear gold watches. Is this true?

**A:** No. Watch colors listed in NAVPERS 15665J Article 2201.6.f apply to all Sailors regardless of rank.

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## Accented Names

Sailors whose legal names contain accents are authorized to include and display those accents in the name tags, name patches or name tapes while wearing a uniform.



## FAQ

**Q:** The new NAVADMIN states that accents on nametapes are now authorized. Does that include hyphens?

**A:** Yes. Hyphens are included with the addition of accents to name tags, name patches, and name tapes in uniform.

## NWU II/III Shoulder Patches

Sailors may optionally wear one or two shoulder patches when wearing the NWU Type II/III. When wearing one or two shoulder patches, the Reverse U.S. Flag patch will be worn on the right shoulder pocket flap. Patches worn on the left pocket flap will be an authorized shoulder patch (Command/Unit Logos or Don't Tread on Me). Shoulder patches remain optional for personal purchase and wear with the NWU Type II/III. Command mandated shoulder patches will be procured and issued by the command directing its wear. NWU shoulder patches may be either laser cut or of embroidered construction.



## FAQ

**Q:** Are "green, olive, and tan" the only authorized colors to be used in the design of command patches, or can additional and/or "complimentary" colors, i.e. "red, yellow, gold, blue, etc" also be included in the design?

**A:** Authorized colors for the Command/Unit shoulder patch include green, olive, tan and black. Navy Uniform Regulations NAVPERS 15665J, Article 3603.4a states "Patches will consist of subdued matching colors and NWU pattern less black pixels of the NWU worn (that is, the Camouflage fabric will only contain green, olive, and tan coloring)." Colors not specifically mentioned are not authorized.

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## Female Dress Shoes (Pumps)



The authorized maximum heel height for female dress shoes (pumps) is increased from two and 5/8 inches to three inches. Three inch heels are considered the maximum heel height worn in professional work or business environments. Commercially procured shoes are authorized provided they conform to the guidelines specified in NAVPERS 15665J, U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations for

### FAQ

**Q:** How do I measure heel height on my pumps?

**A:** Measure from the bottom of the heel to where it connects to the shoe. Navy Uniform Regulations NAVPERS 15665J, Article 3501.54.b states heels will be 5/8 inch to 3 inches.

## Male Swimwear

Authorized male swimwear when conducting physical training or the semi-annual Physical Readiness Test is expanded to include performance/competition swimwear.

### FAQ

**Q:** What article covers performance/competition swimwear?

**A:** Uniform Regulations, NAVPERS 15665J Article 3601.9 covers performance/competition swimwear.

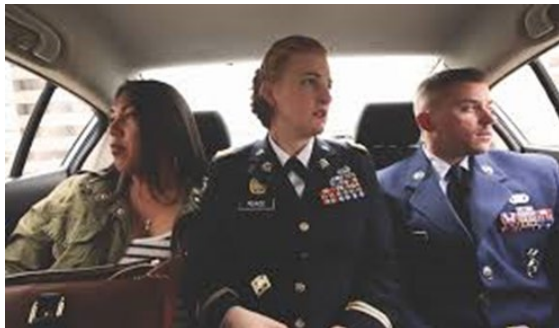


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## Military Covers while in a POV



The requirement to wear a cover while in uniform when entering, exiting and driving on military installations in a POV is rescinded. As a military courtesy, covers should be worn by the driver of a POV when entering a military installation if required to return a salute. Covers will remain worn when in uniform while transiting in military or government vehicles unless impractical for safety or security reasons.

### FAQ

**Q:** It seems that officers are required to wear their cover while in a POV every time they enter a military installation. Is there a situation that an officer would not have to wear their cover entering a military installation?

**A:** An officer would not have to wear a cover if the gate guard were a civilian, as they would not be saluting.

## Command Insignia

Authorization to wear the incumbent Command Insignia has been extended to include all eligible officers. This policy change authorizes eligible flag officers to wear the appropriate Command Insignia in the incumbent position on Navy uniforms. Only one incumbent Command Insignia may be worn on the uniform.



Command-at-Sea



Command Ashore/  
Project Manager

### FAQ

**Q:** Is there a situation where an officer could wear a Command-at-Sea insignia at the same time as a command Ashore/Project Manager insignia?

**A:** No. Navy Uniform Regulations NAVPERS 15665J, Article 5201.b states "Only one incumbent command insignia may be worn."

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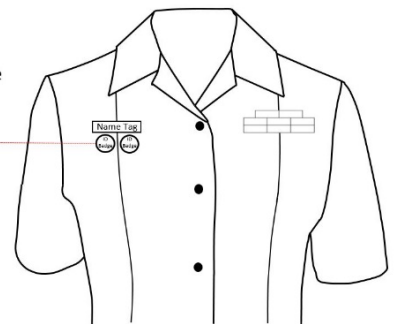
## Dual ID Badge Optional Wear

The optional wear of two ID badges is approved for all eligible Sailors. Dual ID badge wear is authorized on all Service, Service Dress, Full Dress and Dinner/Formal Dress uniforms.

- (1) Manner of wear for men. On uniforms with pocket flaps, center one badge on each pocket between the lower point of the flap and bottom of the pocket, midway between the sides. On pockets without flaps, center one badge on each pocket. On Full Dress Uniforms, center the ID badge on the right in a position corresponding to the level of the ID badge on the left. On Dinner/Formal Dress Uniforms, Sailors may place two ID badges on the right breast area of the uniform, so that the badges are upright and the bottom of the badges are aligned with the top of the lowest row of miniature medals, place a one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch gap between the badges.
- (2) Manner of wear for women. To provide equal visibility of ID badges worn on female uniforms, ID badges will be worn on the right side of the uniform. On pockets with flaps, center ID badges next to each other, horizontally, one-fourth of an inch above the right pocket or one-fourth of an inch above the name tag or ribbons (for Full Dress). For uniforms without pockets or pocket flaps, place the ID badges in the same relative location as in the manner of wear of uniforms with pocket flaps. If maximum visibility is not achieved when placing the ID badges above the pocket, female Sailors may optionally wear two ID badges one-fourth inch below the top of the pocket or same relative area corresponding to uniforms without pockets. On Dinner/Formal Dress Uniforms, Sailors may place two ID badges on the right breast area of the uniform, so that the badges are upright and the bottom of the badges are aligned with the top of the lowest row of miniature medals, place a one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch gap between the badges.



ID Badges in same relative location as uniform with pocket flaps 1/8 to 1/4 inch gap between badges



Badges aligned 1/4 inch below top of pocket, 1/8 to 1/4 inch gap between badges

