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How to Properly Wear the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU)



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Purpose:

This information is intended for use by Operational personnel and serves as a quick reference for the ODU standards of wear.

This material is in no way intended to replace NOAA Corps policy. Personnel are to adhere to the latest official guidance as prescribed by appropriate authority.



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Uniform of the Day:

“The standard NOAA Corps uniform of the day, regardless of season or location, is Service Dress Blue or Summer White.”

The Director, NOAA Corps or Center Commanding Officers may prescribe alternatives as necessary for specific work assignments or inclement weather.



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Responsibility:

“Commands and personnel in leadership positions at every level are responsible to promote and enforce high standards for uniform appearance.”

All uniform items shall be worn in accordance with applicable directives.



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Footwear:

8” – 10” plain black, safety boots*

**Boots shall be well
blackened and in good
condition**

**Boots may be all leather or
a combination of synthetic
and leather as shown**



*** Safety boots must have a safety
toe that conforms with ANSI
standards Z41-1999**



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Socks:

Black, undecorated plain or ribbed knit

Socks can be knee length or mid calf but any portion above the boot must be black in color.

With trousers properly fitted and bloused, socks will not be visible.





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Trousers:

Bloused atop boots with blousing bands

Attach the “band” around the top of the boot. Pull the trouser cuff over the band and roll the cuff inward, underneath the band. Once the cuff is in place, position the band just above the second eyelet of the boot. Blousing bands and socks should not be visible.

Cord style (shown) and Velcro™ bands are authorized (dark colors).





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T – Shirts:

Coast Guard blue, short sleeve crew neck





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ODU Top :

Worn with sleeves neatly rolled up accordion style or down. Top must be tucked into the trousers

Cloth tapes are centered over the pockets as shown with the width of the tape running the width of the pocket flap. The member's last name goes over the right pocket and NOAA CORPS over the left. Direct embroidery and plastic name tags are prohibited



Dotted lines indicate alignment of tapes with pockets



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ODU Top (continued):

Cloth tapes will consist of background color matching ODU material with white block letters between 1/2" to 3/4" high. Only member's last name is permitted. Tapes will be of the same size and shall be sewn on with matching blue thread at six (6) stitches per inch.



Dotted lines indicate alignment of tapes with pockets



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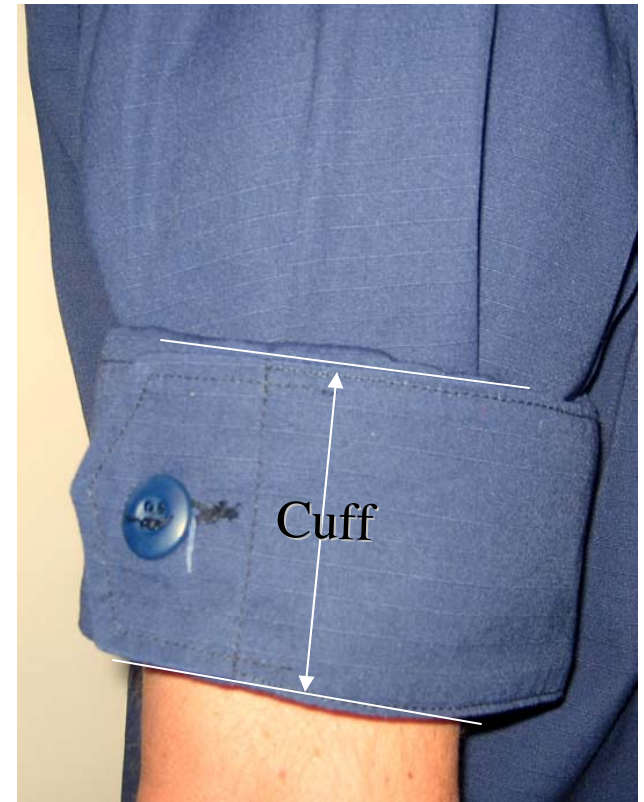


ODU Top - Sleeves

Sleeves may be worn down with cuffs buttoned (or) with sleeves neatly rolled.

When properly rolled, the cuff should be approximately 2” above the elbow (mid-bicep) with only the cuff visible.

To properly roll the sleeves takes some patience and a little practice, but once mastered can be achieved without difficulty. Depending on an individual’s size and sleeve length some sleeves may be rolled with one fold while others will take two.





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ODU Top – Sleeves (continued)

- 1. Fully extend and flatten the sleeve on a level surface.**
- 2. Starting at the cuff turn sleeve inside out to armpit as shown. Take care to flatten the sleeve to remove any irregular folds or creases.**
- 3. To form the fold, roll the sleeve in half again to form two equal segments the width of the “cuff”.**

(continued on next slide)





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ODU Top – Sleeves (continued)

- 4. Next, turn the cuff down over the fold (Pinching the outer edge of the sleeve to begin the fold will help to keep the fabric from slipping).**
- 5. Once in place, take care to flatten the sleeve to remove any irregular folds or creases. When properly done, only the cuff should be visible.**
- 6. To remove the roll, simply pull the lower edge of the cuff downward toward the wrist.**





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ODU Top (continued):

Sew-on cloth grade insignia are standard, metal grade insignia are optional. Both are to be centered on the collar along an imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar point.



Dotted lines included to indicate alignment of collar devices



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Qualification Insignia and Devices:

Only the current or most recent embroidered qualification insignia is to be worn on the ODU. It is sewn centered, directly above the NOAA CORPS tape. Thread will match the insignia background color and shall be a minimum of six stitches per inch. Direct embroidery is not authorized.



Gray oval indicates location for embroidered qualification insignia



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Qualification Insignia and Devices (continued):

An embroidered miniature device is authorized for incumbent CO's/OIC's. Metal is optional when safety is not an issue for concern. The device is to be centered directly above name tape.



Gray circle indicates location for embroidered miniature device



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Ballcap w/ NOAA Corps and grade

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.





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References:

NOAA Corps Uniform Manual – Chapter 4.A.

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/perservices/awards.html>

Commissioned Personnel Center (CPC1)