



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO
26 February 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

Subj: OPNAV TASK FORCE U

Encl: (1) OPNAV Task Force U Charter

1. The President of the Navy uniform board, along with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and a select group, will lead a Fleet-wide effort to assess the current uniform regulations and deliver a proposal and implementation timeline for a set of Navy uniforms that will reflect the requirements of a modern Navy of the 21st century. The Task Force will build on the experience and insight from a core group of members drawn from Fleet and shore, across a spectrum of communities and ranks. The Task Force will have the support of the OPNAV staff and other commands Navy-wide in this effort. Enclosure (1) outlines the scope of TASK FORCE U responsibilities and objectives.

2. TASK FORCE U will submit a vision and a set of standards against which to evaluate uniform options for VCNO concurrence by April and deliver a report of recommendations and plan for implementation to the VCNO by 30 September 2003.

WILLIAM J. FALLON
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

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TASK FORCE UNIFORM CHARTER

The rapidly changing nature of the Navy and its missions in the 21st century dictates an in-depth assessment of the uniform requirements of both today's and tomorrow's Sailors. Professional, sensible, cost-effective and adaptable uniforms, codified according to a consistently applied standard, should be the hallmark of a modern Navy equipped to perform a wide range of missions.

Sharp-looking and serviceable uniforms underpin good morale and build esprit de corps. Uniform matters are an emotional issue that consistently surfaces concerns in the areas of fit, expense, comfort, durability, wearability, usefulness, interchangeability, maintenance, limited usefulness, Service recognition, storage, and complexity and inconsistency of application of uniform standards.

TASK FORCE U, to be led by the President of the Navy Uniform Board and an Advisory Group of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, three Fleet Master Chiefs and Sailors of the Year, is chartered to develop a vision and present a set of recommendations and implementation milestones to the CNO for a professional and cost-effective set of Navy uniforms. TASK FORCE U will stand up in March 2003 and deliver its recommendations by 30 September 2003.

VISION: A Navy in which Sailors are afforded a set of uniforms which present a professional appearance which recognizes naval heritage and offers versatility, safety, ease of maintenance, and storage, comfort, utility and cost-effectiveness.

TASK FORCE U will direct the efforts of a small support staff and a larger core group drawn from across officer and enlisted ranks, communities, commands and platforms. Functional support will be derived from NEXCOM and Supply Community commands.

Specific tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluate the usefulness of each uniform item against specific factors with an eye towards reducing numbers of uniform items and increasing interchangeability. The specific factors would include many of the criteria noted above.

- Develop a working uniform for wear at sea or ashore, across all communities, from E-1 through O-10.

- Develop a service uniform for E1 through E6 which can be worn all twelve months of the year.

- Design or update uniforms to accommodate various body shapes and sizes.

- Define the range of uniforms required for every Sailor and carefully examine community-specific and special use uniforms.

- Develop a range of proposals and associated costs/benefits for review and decision by the CNO, along with a Plan of Action and Milestones for implementation

- Streamline and simplify Uniform Regulations into a Fleet-friendly document that supports consistent application and enforcement.

This Task Force has an opportunity to profoundly influence the way the Sailors of the 21st century Navy represent the Nation, as well as improve esprit de corps.