

## Division 20 Uniform Waiver Process

Commanders,

Please review this entire message carefully. Always use the CoL/M....this includes your Station OIC/OIA via your AUC (Vern Scott for Ft. Macon, Bill Flynn for Hobucken and Fred Jelinek for Emerald Isle). Do not deviate from AuxMan uniform policies without the explicit, written approval from your OIC/OIA (a brief email is perfect). I have discussed uniform issues with OTO Jack Williams, noting that for health reasons, quite a number of us have trouble wearing boots or boat shoes (bunions, arthritis, prior surgery with or without hardware still in place, etc); some have had past skin cancers (including the deadliest form, melanoma) and have been advised to take extra caution to prevent further skin damage from the sun, including clothing that has had built in SPF 30-40; etc. OTO Williams has used his chain of leadership (up, down and across), has discussed these issues with CG Station Emerald Isle OIC Clint Spivey and has provided the following guidance (in far fewer words than I am going to use):

### Footwear:

Issue - Per AuxMan, ODU's are to be worn with boots. Only exception is on surface patrols when dark brown or navy blue boat shoes may be worn. Nowhere in AuxMan are athletic shoes (all white or all black) authorized.

Solution - If authorized by the OIA/OIC, athletic shoes (all black or all white) may be worn with ODU's. However, everyone shall have the SAME color shoe (socks still black) so as to provide a uniform appearance.

NOTE: Though I did not specifically discuss with BOSN Williams, I am going to assume that a similar wavier for health reasons (not merely for personal preference) could be requested, on a case by case basis, to wear black orthopedic shoes or black athletic shoes with the Tropical Blue uniform.

### Aux Hot Weather Uniform:

Issue - Per AuxMan, the Aux Hot Weather Uniform shirt is the short sleeve Aux navy blue T-shirt or short sleeve Aux navy blue polo shirt. No other type of shirt (under or over the T-shirt) is authorized.

Solution - If authorized by the OIA/OIC, long sleeve, navy blue shirt (built in SPF optional), may be worn in place of the currently authorized short sleeve Aux shirts. These shirts would not need to have "USCG Auxiliary" written on the shirt and likely would have a small company logo on the front that would be completely covered by PPE. Again, everyone on that crew shall have the SAME style shirt so as to provide a uniform appearance.

### Wool blend uniform trousers:

Issue - Per AuxMan, the only trousers allowed with the Tropical blue (and Winter Dress Blue, Service Dress Blue, Dinner Dress Blue, etc) are those trousers available from official uniform distribution centers. Those trousers are a blend of polyester and wool. A few of our members have a severe skin allergy to wool and wool blends and cannot wear the authorized uniform trousers.

Solution - If authorized by the OIA/OIC, navy blue trousers indistinguishable from the currently authorized uniform trousers may be worn by those members with documented allergy to wool or wool blend fabrics. Great care must be taken to assure that the trousers truly are indistinguishable from the CG uniform trouser: remove any visible tags/logos, carefully monitor rate of fading (cotton and cotton blends fade at a faster rate than wool), etc. Again, the key is a uniform appearance.

Many thanks to OTO Williams in listening to our concerns and granting the flexibility to our local OIAs and OICs in resolving them. Please use this process wisely. If it is abused, it will likely be lost and even more difficult (if not impossible) to ever regain.

Reminder: Electronic newsletters travel far beyond our Division. Thus, any photo that shows Aux in uniforms not authorized by AuxMan will not be approved for publication. You will have to be certain the photo does not reveal the footwear or hot weather shirt exemptions if authorized as above. Because the waivers are local and newsletters are potentially national, photos showing Aux in such uniforms will generate a multitude of questions. We need to keep this simple, keep local waivers local.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Barbara Pohlman, DCDR 20 (initially sent via email 4-21-2018)

**Process: Member requests waiver from FC. If in agreement, FC emails Station AUC (contact) who in turn, gets review and approval from Station OIC. FC notifies VFC, FSO-HR, FSO-OP, FSO-PA, and FSO-PE about waiver.**