

For years Coast Guard members have requested that the ODU be enhanced by un-tucking the coat. The dilemma was that the current ODU coat was designed to be tucked in. Another significant concern was the large amount of current ODU inventory on hand and how to deplete it if a new uniform (un-tucked version) came on line. Last summer, Admiral Allen and MCPOCG Bowen began conversations with the Uniform Program to move to an un-tucked version of the ODU.

In Oct 06 we worked with an apparel manufacturer to create prototype un-tucked ODU uniforms of the type currently worn by our sister armed services - Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and USCG in a new, enhanced Coast Guard Blue fabric. After a thorough review the decision was made to go with the Marine pants and the modified USCG top. Both the Army and the Marines currently use a two pocket version of the ODU top. Both versions were considered but the modified USCG top was chosen. The cut of the modified ODU top was almost identical with the other two and less alteration was needed, e.g. we didn't need the slanted pockets present on the Marine top or the extra paraphernalia on the sleeves present on the Army top.

The new ODU uniform will feature:

- Better soil, lubricant and stain resistance
- Improved Colorfastness to laundering [minimal fading]
- Wrinkle Resistance – minimizes need for ironing
- Improved Durability – greater strength retention

There are no plans for a tucked version. Law Enforcement policy program personnel are examining options to take the place of keepers for the weapons belt. This will not be a difficult problem, there are several options available.

The new ODU will not have an “initial issue” program similar to the original ODU. Once available, the new ODU will be available for purchase, and there will necessarily be a long transition period where both versions will be authorized. This strategy is not new and was used in the late 1970s when we transitioned from the Navy work uniform to the old blue work uniform.

Current ODU Timeline and Rollout Schedule

<u>ODU Test Site:</u> Sector Woods Hole	
Spec availability (DRAFT)	1 MAY 07 (see G-ACS)
Try-on of stock sizes for pattern determination	1-15 MAY 07
ODU Field test for 90 days to commence	08 JUN 07
First ODU survey	15 JUL 07
Completion of 90 Field test	08 SEP 07
Spec package to G-ACS (FINAL)	30 SEP 07
Anticipated contract award	
Acquisition of fabric by winning contractor	
First article activity	
Delivery of uniform production run	
Available at UDC to purchase as optional clothing	31 March 2008

Untucked ODU Modifications from Tucked ODU

Fabric

- 1) Improved soil and stain resistance to grease, diesel fuel and oil
- 2) Fabric shade more colorfast to the Coast Guard shade for a longer period of time
- 3) More wrinkle resistant (not wrinkle free or durable permanent press)
- 4) Additional strength in fabric

Shirt

- 1) Re-sized shirt that is wider and shorter to be worn untucked
- 2) Embroidered Coast Guard Shield on right pocket and cuffs
 - Security feature
 - Intended as CG uniqueness
- 3) Inside pencil pocket on button facing
 - Additional area to hide pencil/pen
- 4) Nylon B thread used at abrasive wear areas
 - Heavy thread that won't wear out
- 5) X-Stitch on buttons
 - To prevent buttons from falling off
- 6) Elimination of bottom button and buttonhole
- 7) Inclusion of heavy-duty Hook & Loop Velcro w/strength and contamination resistance

Trouser

- 1) USMC Trouser with zipper fly and two-piece waistband
 - Holds the belt better
- 2) Wide belt loops
 - To better accommodate up to a 1 ½ width belt, including the Riggers Belt
- 3) Embroidered Coast Guard Shield on pocket flaps
- 4) Buttonholes on bottom turn-up
 - Offers an alternative way to blouse material around the boots
- 5) Nylon B thread used at abrasive wear areas
- 6) X-Stitch on buttons
- 7) Heavy thread for extra strength in stress area
- 8) Double-stitch seat and knees for reinforcement (vice single stitch)
- 9) Tuck seat patch on inside
- 10) Seat seam overlap is uneven for comfort

11) Elasticized cargo pockets with drain holes at bottom of pocket

- Automatically eliminates water from pockets
- Back pocket flaps and cargo flaps now have buttons & button holes that are stronger and longer lasting than Hook & Loop Velcro

12) Bar-tack across seam for reinforcement

13) Additional pant sizes for better fit

14) Better sizing for females