Uniforms of the United States Navy

1900-1967

Foreword

Military uniforms have always fascinated most of us. Around them clings something of the character and stirring history of the service they represent. Thus there has long been a need within the Navy as well as in the civilian community for a series of color prints depicting the history of the uniform in the United States Navy. To fill this void, we turned to two men outstanding in this field, Captain James C. Tily, CEC, USN (Ret.) and Mr. H. Charles McBarron.

The text accompanying this set of color lithographs and the one published earlier were written in coordination with this office by Captain Tily, recognized expert on the uniform in the United States Navy. His authoritative book, entitled, *The Uniforms of the United States Navy,* was published in 1964 by Thomas Yoseloff of New York. Thus, what began as an avocation while on active duty has become for Captain Tily full time work in his retirement.

Mr. McBarron, acknowledged leader in the field of military illustration, working from sketches modified by us developed the paintings to illustrate the texts. His masterful productions again have captured the flavor of the times contemporary with the uniforms depicted in each painting and serve also as excellent reproductions of the uniforms themselves.

The Company of Military Historians kindly permitted us to reproduce seven of its plates in our initial issue.

Prior to publishing the first set in this series, we completed arrangements to have these prints available for sale to the general public. Orders should be sent to:

Superintendent of Documents
United States Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C. 20402

Naval Ships and Stations can obtain copies through the Navy's Supply System.

May these colorful prints not only interest and instruct but also inspire millions of Americans to serve our nation with the same dedication and courage as Godfearing men have so nobly in every generation.

E. M. Eller
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)
Director of Naval History (Op-09B9)
and Curator for the Department of the Navy

"We in the Navy have a blue suit waiting for anyone who can wear it. This suit is cut from the fabric of freedom, and it is tailored to the lean and form-fitting style of dedicated purpose set for us by our founding fathers. I don't expect it ever to go out of fashion, but it can if not enough men and women are willing to wear it with pride and respect."

—George W. Anderson

"The dedicated men serving in Navy Blue . . . safeguard the peace and freedom of the world and the future of the American way of life."

—Lyndon B. Johnson

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1900

ALTHOUGH THE Navy's dress in 1900 was basically that of the Spanish-American War period, three major factors caused some changes. First was the 9 May 1899 "Change" to the standing 1897 Uniform Regulations. Labelled "Change", it may be regarded as a new regulation in its entirety. Second, on 17 June 1898, by Act of Congress, the Hospital Corps was established. Last, the rank of Chief Warrant Officer was created on 3 March 1899.

The 1899 "Change" little affected the uniforms for officers. Except for providing distinctive insignia for the rank of Admiral (George Dewey had just been promoted to this newly reinstated rank); slightly altering the chaplain's uniform; and adapting the existing instructions covering officers' uniforms to accommodate the new rank of Chief Warrant Officer, officer uniforms remained as under the 1897 instruction. One corps device of long standing did not appear in the revised instructions effective in 1900. Members of the Engineer Corps were incorporated into the Line and now used the star of the Line as their device instead of the four silver oak leaves which had been the insignia of engineers since the Civil War period. In the enlisted section, modifications dealt chiefly with devices for members of the newly created Hospital Corps.

The Chief Petty Officer Gunner's Mate is shown in the dress white uniform. The white sack coat, a direct descendant of the coat introduced in the 1860's for certain leading petty officers, had five fire-gilt buttons on the breast, all of which were to be buttoned. The rating badge for the white uniform consisted of three chevrons and an arc in scarlet cloth with the eagle and specialty mark enbroidered in blue. The two crossed cannon, still the specialty device for gunner's mates, were first introduced in 1866. The rating badge, worn on the right arm, indicates a member of the starboard watch. The white shirt was to be worn with stiff collar and stiff detachable cuffs, the prevailing style of the period.

An attempt was made by a change of 23 December 1898 to give the chaplain a uniform more closely resembling that of other commissioned officers. Rather than ". . . the dress commonly worn by clergymen . . ." as called for in the 1897 Regulations, chaplains were now permitted to wear a Navy cap with the cap device of a commissioned officer but with black mohair buttons and chin strap. Commanders displayed a black mohair strip on the edge of the cap visor rather than the half inch wide gold lace of other staff officers, or the gold acorns and oak leaves of the senior Line officers. Although not allowed to wear the special and full dress uniforms of other officers, chaplains were permitted to wear a frock coat with certain modifications. The coat was single-breasted with a row of seven black covered buttons, to be worn fully buttoned and with the collar standing. The frock coat for other commissioned officers was double-breasted with two rows of gilt buttons, the collar turned down and the upper part of the lapels showing. Unlike other commissioned officers who wore epaulets or shoulder straps on the frock coat, the chaplain's grade appeared on either side of the standing collar with the gold Latin cross, introduced in the Civil War, behind the rank insignia. In addition, lustrous black braid instead of gold lace was worn on the sleeves as pictured in the accompanying plate showing a Lieutenant Chaplain.

The Line commander is shown in the white service dress uniform. The pattern of the coat with its fly front and standing collar, trimmed with white braid, was exactly the same as the blue service coat trimmed with black braid. Another difference is that shoulder marks, first introduced in 1899 to replace the earlier shoulder straps, were used to indicate officer grades rather than the collar devices worn on service blues. The insignia of the Line commander was as it is today, three stripes of half-inch gold lace with a gold star. Similarly, the cap visor shows the gold oak leaves and acorns of today's commanders and captains.

When the senior warrant officers gained commissioned status, a change in the uniform instructions was necessary to provide means of identifying the new officer rank. Under the 1897 Regulation, warrant officers wore the same frock coat as other officers, except chaplains, with their devices on the collar. Those with twenty years service had the devices in silver and those with less than twenty years service, in gold. The 1899 "Change" directed that the nine button double-breasted frock coat be worn with only the lower six buttons fastened and with the upper part of the lapels turned back. The 1899 instruction also directed that chief warrant officers show on the sleeves of the blue frock and service coats a stripe of half inch wide gold lace interwoven with dark blue silk so that the blue breaks the gold stripe with half inch bars at two inch intervals. Chief warrant officers continued to wear their devices on the collar but now silver devices were worn only by chief warrants. The gold devices were worn by the junior warrant officers, regardless of their years of service. The chief boatswain shown in service blues wears the silver crossed anchors of his specialty on either side of the collar and the gold star of the Line just above the newly introduced sleeve lace. The star of the Line was worn by chief gunners and chief boatswains ¼ of an inch above the sleeve lace; boatswain's mates, gunner's mates and warrant machinists wore the star four inches from the edge of the sleeve. The cap device remained the two crossed gold foul anchors, and in lieu of the half inch wide gold lace chin strap of other commissioned officers, except chaplains, the width of the strap was limited to a quarter of an inch.

General Order No. 493 of 25 June 1898 implemented the Act of Congress which established the Hospital Corps. The ratings of apothecary and bayman were replaced by those of pharmacists, hospital steward, hospital apprentice first class and hospital apprentice. The hospital apprentice first class, rated as a Third Class Petty Officer, is shown with the single scarlet chevron and white eagle, and the new mark of the Hospital Corps, the Geneva Cross in red, instead of the caduceus formerly used to identify enlisted medical personnel. Wearing the rating badge on the left arm indicates that he is assigned to the port watch. As a petty officer, the Corpsman has three stripes of white tape on his cuffs as well as on his collar.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1905–1913

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT'S UNIFORM INSTRUCTIONS of 21 January 1905, for the first time since 1886 were complete with illustrations of the clothing and insignia for both officers and men. The 1897 order had contained illustrations of the clothing of enlisted men only. The 1905 order was a compilation of the 1899 uniform change and of General Order No. 48 of 27 February 1902. The latter, a very comprehensive study, slightly revised the regulations on the dress of chaplains and included a new style white service coat, as that worn today, and a white mess jacket for wear by officers in warm climates.

The Navy's procurement of aeroplanes in 1911 led to the development of an unofficial aviation service uniform. This is another example of changes made without official sanction which later were adopted by the Navy. In late 1912, the few planes and trained personnel were ordered to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for training exercises with the Atlantic Fleet and the Marine Corps. Several of the officers trained in aviation were Marines who had a most practical and serviceable dress for this type of service—the Marine Corps khaki field service uniform. Under existing regulations, Naval officers serving with the Marines were permitted to wear the field uniform. Although the Marines were serving in a naval command, the naval officer commanding the aviation unit directed his naval subordinates to equip themselves with the khaki uniform. The naval personnel wore a khaki coat of the same pattern as the new white service coat, single-breasted with five gilt buttons and a standing collar. Instead of showing their grade on the standing collar as did Marine officers, the naval officers used the shoulder marks prescribed for the white service coat. The lieutenant, Naval Aviator, pictured shows the two half inch wide gold stripes of his grade on the blue shoulder marks with the gold star of the Line above the stripes. Instead of the long trousers prescribed for wear with the white service coat, the naval officers adopted the khaki breeches and leather puttees of the Marine Corps. The cap was fitted with a khaki cover and shows the officers' cap device in front. From this small beginning developed the khaki service uniform of World War II. The unofficial dress was evidently not frowned upon since 1914 photographs of the first naval aviation training facility in Pensacola, Florida, and of the Navy in Vera Cruz in the same year show the unofficial aviation dress.

The Civil Engineer Corps commander is shown in the blue frock coat which was worn with epaulets in full dress and with shoulder straps for undress. The three stripes of gold lace indicate his grade and the light blue velvet between the gold stripes indicates that he is a member of the Civil Engineer Corps. In 1905, only officers of the Line showed a device above the sleeve lace, a gold star. The distinctive colored cloths for members of the other staff corps were:

Medical Corps—dark maroon velvet
Pay Corps—white cloth
Construction Corps—dark violet cloth
Professors of Mathematics—olive green cloth

Members of the Chaplain Corps wore stripes of lustrous black braid on the sleeves in lieu of the gold lace of other commissioned officers. The corps device for Civil Engineers, two crossed silver sprigs of two live-oak leaves and an acorn, appears in the center of the gold-edged blue shoulder strap. On either side of the corps device is a silver oak leaf, the mark of an officer in the grade of commander. The corps device was also shown on epaulets and on the collar of the blue service coat. Instead of the embroidered oak leaves and acorns of Line commanders and captains, staff officers of the same rank, except chaplains, had a plain half inch wide band of gold lace on the outer edge of the cap visor. The visor edging for senior chaplains was of black braid.

The Uniform Regulations of 25 January 1913 were the first to include a section on the dress of the Naval Militias of the several States. In 1913, the Navy Department had no jurisdiction over the State Naval Militia units although the land militia was responsible to the War Department. As a result, the 1913 instructions merely recommended a dress for the militia units. The uniform was to be similar to that of the regular Navy with modifications to indicate the non-Federal status of the officers and men. The lieutenant commander is depicted in the blue service uniform of the 1913 order with the modification recommended. Instead of the gold star of a Line officer of the United States Navy, the sleeve shows a gold foul anchor. The cap device is similar to that of the regular Navy but in place of the shield of stars and stripes, the State seal is employed, in this case the seal of the State of Illinois. The collar insignia, the gold oak leaf of the lieutenant commander with the silver foul anchor behind it is identical to that of the regular Navy. USS *Wolverine* long served on the Great Lakes as a training ship for members of the Naval Militia and regular Navy recruits.

The Navy Nurse Corps was established by an Act of Congress of 13 May 1908. Under the law, the Corps was to consist of a superintendent to be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, and as many chief nurses, nurses, and reserve nurses as were deemed necessary. Although the uniforms for members of the Nurse Corps did not appear in the Navy Uniform Regulations until 1941, orders on clothing were issued from time to time by the Surgeon General of the Navy. The first such order which can now be located is dated 1924, but contemporary photographs do permit a good representation of the costume worn before that time. The nurse is shown in the typical white shirtwaist and long skirt of the nursing profession of the early 20th century. A photograph of the first Navy nurses, the so-called "Sacred Twenty", shows the white costume, topped off with a variety of white caps, evidently those awarded by the different nursing schools. The first distinctive device employed to identify members of the Navy Nurse Corps was a round, button-like pin, with a shield of red and white stripes superimposed on a gold foul anchor. Below the shield/anchor device appeared the letters "U.S.N.". Another item usually seen on a Navy nurse's white ward uniform was a gold watch pinned on the left breast. The blue cloak, also typical of the nursing profession, was for outdoor wear.

Under the recommendations of Chapter 9 of the 1913 Regulations, there was little to indicate whether a warrant officer was of the regular or non-regular establishment. The carpenter of the Illinois Naval Militia wore the same gold carpenter's square on the collar of his blue service coat as did his opposite number in the United States Navy, and his cap device, two crossed gold anchors, was that worn by both chief warrant officers and warrant officers of the regular Navy. Only in the case of boatswains, gunners and machinists, warrants and mates, was it possible to determine a man's regular or non-regular status. Men of these ratings in the United States Navy wore a gold star on their sleeve, while those of the militias replaced the star with a gold foul anchor. Only chief warrant officers in 1913 had sleeve lace, half-inch stripes broken at intervals with dark-blue silk weaving.

The 1913 instructions for the dress of enlisted personnel of the State Militias proposed the same uniforms as worn by men of the Navy with the addition of a distinguishing mark, a lozenge with a vertical foul anchor. For blue clothes, the lozenge had a blue field and was outlined in white with a white anchor in the center; the colors were reversed for wear on white clothing. The militia mark was worn half way between wrist and elbow on the sleeve opposite the one on which the rating badge or branch mark was placed. Since the First Class Petty Officer Boatswain's Mate is a member of the seaman branch, the rating badge—three scarlet chevrons, white eagle and specialty mark, two crossed anchors—appear on the right arm. The cap ribbon also was used to show connection with the Naval Militia. If a man were assigned to a ship loaned to the State by the Federal Government, the ribbon showed the name of the vessel flanked by the Militia lozenge. If not assigned to a ship, the ribbon showed the word "Naval Militia" and the initials or abbreviation of the name of the particular State.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1917–1918

TO AUGMENT THE Regular Navy in the event that the United States would become involved in the war raging in Europe, Congress under the Naval Appropriations Act of 3 March 1915, created the Naval Reserve. The legislation made provision for reserve status only for those who had previously served honorably in the Navy. To strengthen the program, an Act of 29 August 1916 permitted the enrollment in the Reserve of other persons whose skills would be of value in time of war. The 1916 act also officially established the Naval Flying Corps to consist of 150 officers and 350 men as a part of the regular establishment. During both World Wars and in the years since, the Naval Reserve has played a major role in the successes of the United States Navy.

The Reserve legislation made no restriction as to the sex of the enrollees, and it was under this broad authority that women were enlisted in World War I, and assigned the rating Yeoman (F), informally called "Yeomanettes". After the end of World War I, membership in the Naval Reserve was limited to male citizens, but on 30 July 1942 the 1938 Naval Reserve Act was amended to permit the enlistment of women as officers and enlisted personnel to release male members of the Navy for sea duty. From the outset women have served well and honorably and since 1948 have become an integral part of the Regular Establishment.

The Yeomanette in the left background, or more properly, Second Class Petty Officer (F) of the "Enrolled Women of the Naval Reserve Force", is shown in the blue uniform prescribed by Change 15 to the 1913 Navy Uniform Regulations. Although the change is undated, it was issued between Change 14 of 12 October 1917 and Change 16 of 10 January 1918. The coats, blue in winter and white in summer, were of the Norfolk style, single-breasted with two lower patch pockets. There were pleats from each shoulder in the back to the hem of the coat as well as in front and the coat was belted around. The buttons were the standard gilt ones of the Navy. The full skirts, fitted over the hips, were long in the style of the period. The white shirtwaist was worn with a black neckerchief when the collar was unbuttoned and without a neckerchief when the collar was closed. The straight brimmed hat was of the "sailor" style, blue felt in winter and rough white straw in summer. The original instructions did not specify the lettering of the hat band but contemporary photographs show either "U. S. Naval Reserve", "U. S. Naval Reserve Force", or "U. S. Navy". High or low black shoes were worn with the blue uniform and white shoes with the summer uniform. The second class petty officer rating badge of a "yeomanette" on the blue jacket was identical to that worn by male yeoman—two scarlet chevrons with two white crossed quills in the vee, the whole surmounted by a white spread eagle. Since yeomen were not members of the seaman branch, the badge was worn on the left sleeve as shown.

The commander is in the official forestry green aviation uniform of 1918. This uniform was the outgrowth of the unofficial dress adopted in 1912-1913 by aviators. The first official recognition of the need for a special dress for the small but expanding naval air arm was a change of 22 June 1917, shortly after the United States entered World War I. Change 11 prescribed a khaki uniform identical to the one previously worn but with drab, woven wool leggings instead of the leather puttees. The change related the uniform directly to that of the Marine Corps for the cloth was to be khaki cotton, as the Marine Corps field uniform. To provide a more adequate uniform for cold weather, Change 12 of 7 September 1917 authorized the uniform to be made of Marine Corps forestry green wool cloth. Change 18 of 1 April 1918 directed that both summer and winter uniforms be forestry green in color, light weight cloth for warm weather wear and wool for winter. Two bellows pockets were added to the coat below the waist line and leather puttees were again authorized. To indicate an officer's grade, the same shoulder marks worn on the white service coat were used. The commander shows the three gold lace stripes with the gold star above them on his marks. Aviators, when flying with their coats removed, were directed to wear the flexible shoulder marks on their khaki shirts so that their rank would be recognized if captured. The cap cover was forestry green to match the coat and the visor shows the gold embroidered oak leaves and acorns of a commander or captain. The leather coat carried by the officer was not considered part of the uniform but flight gear issued to naval aviators.

The lieutenant commander of the Naval Reserve is shown in the blue service uniform. This style coat remained part of an officer's wardrobe until the present double-breasted sack coat was introduced shortly after World War I. The officer's affiliation with the Naval Reserve Force is indicated by the use of the Naval Reserve device on the standing collar behind the gold oak leaf of his grade, instead of the foul anchor of the Line. The device, introduced by Change 10 of 18 January 1917, was metal ". . . similar to the device on the cap of a commissioned officer, except the height shall be 1 inch. . . ." Officers of the Naval Reserve were also directed to wear a special button instead of the gilt eagle buttons of the Regular Navy. The device was a plain anchor, set vertically on the button, with the letters "U.S." above the stock, one on either side of the ring, and the letters "N.R." flanking the stock above the flukes. The sleeve lace, two stripes of half inch wide gold lace with a quarter inch stripe between them, is identical to that worn by a lieutenant commander of the Regular Navy. The gold star above the lace indicates a Line officer and the wings on the left breast indicate that the officer is a qualified naval aviator.

The lieutenant is shown in the summer khaki uniform of June 1917 with the most unsatisfactory wrap leggings. The cut of the coat is identical to the white service coat with only the upper breast pockets. The lower bellows pockets were not introduced until 1918. Aviators' wings were first described in Change 12 of 7 September 1917 as ". . . a winged foul anchor with the letters 'U.S.' " None of this type seems to have been worn, for Change 14 of 12 October 1917 directed that the "U.S." be removed. The shield with vertical stripes and a plain field mounted on the anchor then became part of the device—still the mark of a naval aviator. The khaki covered cap is shown without the grommet, a practice initiated in World War I and carried forward under some circumstances. Although the uniform was modified several times during the war, officers were permitted to wear older style uniforms so long as they were serviceable, until the aviation dress was abolished in 1923.

Under the original 1913 Uniform Regulations, the only "working" uniform authorized was the dungaree suit. The wearing of dungarees was limited to duty aboard cruising vessels, submarines and torpedo boats by officers and men assigned to the engineer force or to duty in gun turrets. Dungarees could be worn only when working in areas where a standard uniform would be soiled. The original suit consisted of a pull-over jumper of blue denim and trousers of the same material. Change 17 of 18 March 1918 replaced the jumper with a single-breasted, five button coat. The change provided a more suitable dress for officers and men who had to remove the dungarees when leaving work areas. No provision was made for the display of an officer's grade nor an enlisted man's rating on the dungaree suit. The March 1918 uniform change introduced a new series of specialty marks for enlisted men assigned to the aviation service. The rapid growth of the Navy's air arm indicated the need for new skills and ratings which gave great impetus to a vigorous training program. Aviation specialists were classified under the old, established ratings of quartermaster, carpenter's mate and machinist's mate. The existing devices with the addition of wings were used for the new ratings. An aviation quartermaster showed the ship's wheel with wings; winged crossed axes were used for aviation carpenter's mates. Instead of the old three bladed ship's propeller, aviation machinists showed a winged two bladed aeroplane propeller. To identify men in training for aviation ratings, the apprentice badge, a single carrick bend knot, had an eagle perched on the center of the knot.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1917–1918

THE PROVISION of a white, warm weather uniform and some form of evening or dinner dress clothing for officers of the United States Navy was a long, slow process. Enlisted men had been provided with a white uniform for warm weather early in the history of the United States Navy. An officer was not permitted to wear a white coat or jacket until 1852 when a white drill jacket could be worn in the tropics as service dress when at sea, except at general muster, or when in charge of the deck. For warm weather duty, blue coats or jackets of light weight cloth were allowed and could be worn with white trousers. Finally in 1883, a white uniform was authorized, one that could be worn under all conditions when a service dress was proper, afloat or ashore.

With reference to a special evening dress uniform for social affairs, it was not until 1866 that a blue costume was authorized. The coat was patterned on the prevailing civilian full dress coat and was worn with insignia of grade and corps on the collar. By 1897, the evening full dress coat was worn with all the accessories: sleeve lace and shoulder ornaments. After the War with Spain, when warm climate duty became more prevalent, a suitable dinner dress for officers was authorized. A white mess jacket, to be worn with full dress laced trousers for dinner dress, or with either blue or white trousers for mess dress, was introduced by General Order No. 48 in June 1901. The Assistant Paymaster, with the grade of lieutenant, is shown in the 1913 version of the mess jacket. On each side are shown two medium sized gilt Navy buttons. The jacket is held together at the waist by two buttons connected by a ring. The shoulder marks are the non-rigid type, stiffened with horsehair introduced in 1899 to replace the old shoulder straps and show the two stripes of gold lace of a lieutenant with the white cloth of the Supply Corps between them. The shirt was plain white, starched, and fastened with two or three plain gold studs. The bow tie of the period was worn with a stiff standing collar with square corners. The white waist coat with a rolling collar was fastened with four small gilt Navy buttons. The plain blue high waisted trousers worn in mess dress were close fitting over the buttocks and without pockets except a watch pocket on either side. The black shoes were of patent leather. Under the 1913 instructions, gold laced trousers could not be worn with the white mess jacket. The officer's cap with a white cover was specified for mess dress.

"Women of the Naval Reserve Force" were provided with both white and blue uniforms. The cut was identical, the Norfolk type coat with pleats down the front and back and the wide cloth belt. In warm weather when the coat was removed, the collar of the shirt waist was usually unfastened and a black neckerchief was worn. The buttons of the shirtwaist were plain white pearl, ⅜" in diameter. There was a pocket on the left side of the waist only. The full white skirt, according to the illustration which accompanied Change 15, issued between 12 October 1917 and 10 January 1918, was to have a pocket on either side. However, all available photographs of Yeomanettes show pockets only on the left side. The white straw hat is banded with a black ribbon marked in gold, "U.S. Navy". Although the instructions for enlisted men of the Naval Reserve directed that they show the words "U.S. Naval Reserve Force" on cap ribbons, many photographs show Yeomanettes with "U.S. Navy" and "U.S. Naval Reserve" on their hats. No provision was made for the display of a rating badge on the sleeves of the shirtwaist, so the Yeomanette's rating cannot be determined when the coat is removed. However, on either the blue or white coat, a Third Class Petty Officer Yeoman (F) would show a single chevron, the spread eagle and the crossed quills, specialty mark of all yeomen. White canvas or buckskin shoes were worn with the white uniform.

The white service uniform worn by the commander originated in 1883. It was tailored like the single-breasted, fly front blue service coat of 1877 and trimmed with white braid on the collar, down the front edges, around the bottom and down the back seams. In 1883 only grade was shown by means of stripes of white braid on the sleeves. In 1897 the same coat was worn but with shoulder straps to indicate both grade and corps. By General Order No. 48 of June 1901, the style of the coat was changed. It was single-breasted, buttoned with five large gilt Navy buttons and retained the standing collar which was plain. Grade and corps were shown by means of the shoulder marks introduced in 1899. The white service coat of 1901 is basically that worn today. The commander is shown in the 1913 version of the white service uniform. The shoulder marks show the three stripes of half inch wide gold lace of his grade with the gold star of the Line above them. Under the 1913 order, the diameter of the top of the cap was to be but a half-inch greater than the base, so the overhang was less than it is today. The embroidered oak leaves and acorns indicate an officer of the Line of the grade of captain or commander as they do today. With white trousers, either white canvas or buckskin shoes could be worn.

The Navy Nurse is in the white ward uniform—shirtwaist, full, starched skirt, white stockings and shoes, and a white cap. One thing which distinguishes her from a civilian nurse is the insignia of the Navy Nurse Corps on either side of the open shirtwaist collar. The device toward the end of the first World War was the gold foul anchor on which a gold oak leaf and acorn had been placed, the whole surmounted by the letters "N.N.C." in silver. The white cap is without any indication of the nurse's relative position in her Corps and is like that worn by many civilian nurses of the period.

The white dress uniform worn by the Third Class Seaman is quite similar to that described in the 1840 Uniform Regulations in that the collar and cuffs are faced with blue cloth. The 1913 instructions directed that the collar and cuffs of the white dress jumper be faced with blue flannel, while the undress whites omitted the blue facing. The white dress jumper for all enlisted men had three rows of white tape on the collar, but the number of rows of tape on the blue cuffs varied. Petty officers showed three rows of tape; Second Class seamen, hospital apprentices and baker as well as Third and Fourth Class ship's cooks had two rows; and Third Class seamen and mess attendants had but one stripe of tape in the center of the blue cuff. The white jumper was not gathered in at the waist but hung loose. The white trousers were cut as the blues but had a fly front instead of a drop fall. The dress was completed with a black neckerchief (omitted in undress whites), a white cotton drill hat and black shoes.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1918–1919

IN TIME OF WAR, there are always changes in military dress, and during the period of the first World War, the dress of the Navy of the United States was no exception. The incorporation of reserve personnel into active service, the changing weapons of war, the influence of the dress of our allies and the changing styles of civilian clothing are all reflected in the many official modifications of the Navy Uniform Regulations of 1913. The changes were so voluminous in the first years of the order's existence that a revised edition was issued on 20 January 1917. Changes continued to be made until 1921, just prior to the release of the new uniform instructions of 1922.

When the Hospital Corps was established in 1898, pharmacists were to be appointed as warrant officers and no provision was made for lower ratings in this medical specialty. Congress in 1916 provided for the ratings of chief pharmacists and for pharmacists, first, second and third class. Change 8 of 13 October 1916 directed that the distinguishing mark for this new type of petty officer be the red Geneva Cross of the Hospital Corps. The Third Class Petty Officer Pharmacist's Mate shown in the background, displays the single scarlet chevron on his rate with the white spread eagle and the red Geneva Cross on the left arm. Only members of the seaman's branch wore rating badges on the right arm. The collars of the full dress blue overshirt for all enlisted men, other than chief petty officers, displayed three rows of white tape. The cuffs of petty officers were also decorated with three rows of tape. The cuffs of other enlisted men showed two or a single stripe, depending on their rate. It is to be noticed that the overshirt, now called a jumper, does not hang straight down as it does today. Under the 1913 instructions, the shirt had a draw string in the bottom seam, which was pulled tight at the waist, so the shirt hung in blouse-fashion.

In spite of the fact that official instructions for the uniforms of members of the Navy Nurse Corps prior to 1924 have not been located, there are many good, contemporary photographs and some notes. The outdoor uniform consisted of a dark-blue Norfolk coat, a full blue skirt, a blue cape to be worn buttoned and belted and a blue hat. Photographs of Navy nurses of World War I taken by the Army Signal Corps in 1918 show this costume and have been used as the basis for the illustration. On either side of the cape collar is the insignia of the Corps, a gold oak leaf and acorn superimposed on a gold foul anchor. A photograph of Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee, Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps during the war, shows her in a blue coat with a standing collar. The coat is very similar to military coats of the period, buttoned up the front with black buttons and with the Corps device on either side of the collar. Her hat is not the dark blue felt hat shown in the Signal Corps photographs but a stiff felt "sailor" type hat. The ribbons on both hats are black.

The lieutenant commander of the Supply Corps is depicted in the new blue service coat. By a Uniform Change 27 of 17 March 1919, the present day double-breasted blue service coat was authorized to replace the single-breasted fly front coat first authorized in 1877. The sack coat was similar to that worn by officers of the British Navy during the war and in keeping with the civilian clothing of the period. The coat was to be worn with a plain white shirt, a stiff turndown collar and a black four-in-hand tie. It is to be noted that the white cloth, used since 1869 to identify members of the Supply Corps (then the Pay Corps) does not appear between the stripes of sleeve lace. Under a change of 16 November 1918, the colored cloth was removed from the sleeves of all staff officers and their corps device was to be worn above the upper stripe of lace in the same manner as officers of the Line had worn the gold star since 1863. The same change was made with reference to the shoulder marks—the device replaced the colored Corps cloth. The fly front blue service coat could be worn until 1 January 1921 but all uniforms purchased after receipt of the March 1919 order were to be of the new double-breasted pattern.

After so many years of being deprived of most of the insignia and gold lace of the other commissioned officers of the Navy, chaplains were finally permitted to wear a uniform more like that of other officers. A change of 26 June 1918 directed chaplains to use gold lace on the sleeves of their blue coats to indicate their grade and to employ the lustrous black braid, which had formerly shown their grade, as a Corps cloth for chaplains. The cap of a chaplain was to be identical to that of other staff officers. The chin strap, formerly black braid, was to be gold lace. Chaplains of the rank of captain and commander, who had earlier shown a band of half inch wide black braid on the visor of their caps, now showed the gold lace of the other senior staff corps officers. The chaplain with the grade of commander is shown in the blue undress uniform—blue frock coat, blue trousers, and a cap with a white cover. Between the three stripes of half inch gold lace on his sleeves is the lustrous black braid, the distinguishing color of the Chaplain Corps. The frock coat had five buttons on each breast; only the lower four buttoned and the uppermost remained visible. Although Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels on 7 October 1917 had advised that officers would not be required to possess any uniforms except blue and white service dress, the wearing of the more formal uniforms was permitted on certain occasions.

An area of frequent change in the 1913 Navy Uniform Regulations was that covering the dress of members of the Naval Militia, the National Volunteer Force and the Naval Reserve Force. Various methods were used to indicate non-regular status. Under the first instructions of the Naval Militia, a staff officer was to have a break in the center of the distinctive corps cloth on the sleeves of blue uniforms. To provide a uniform for members of the newly created Naval Reserve, Change 10 was issued in January 1917 directing that these officers wear the Naval Reserve Force device, a miniature cap insignia in lieu of the corps device of the U.S. Navy or the star of an officer of the Line. In the case of a Reserve staff officer, the distinctive Corps cloth between the sleeve lace would not be broken as had been done for the Militia earlier. Change 20, undated but issued between 26 June and 2 July 1918, issued new instructions to cover the identification of Naval Reserve staff officers. The cloth to indicate the Corps affiliation was to be broken in the center for the distance of an inch and one half. Reserve staff officers could now show their appropriate corps devices on the standing collar of the blue service coat instead of the special insignia introduced in 1917. The officer pictured is a Medical Corps lieutenant, U.S. Naval Reserve Force. The dark maroon cloth of the Medical Corps is broken in the center between the two half inch wide gold lace stripes of his grade. The device of the Medical Corps, the gold oak leaf with a silver acorn superimposed, is shown on his collar behind the two silver bars of his grade. It would not be until the 1920's that both regular and reserve officers would wear the same uniforms and insignia.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1922–1931

AS COULD BE EXPECTED, the first uniform instruction released after the end of World War I included items of dress developed during the war, restored some of the more formal and decorative uniforms suspended during hostilities and dropped some articles of clothing. A Bureau of Navigation Circular Letter of 13 October 1922 notified all hands that a new regulation would soon be issued and indicated some of the changes to be made. The special full dress body coat with tails, which had been introduced in 1802, was dropped. The frock coat, originally the undress coat, was to become the most formal coat of the Navy. Another important change was the abolishment of the aviation uniform, unofficially adopted in 1912-1913 and made part of the official instructions in 1917 when Naval Air was coming into its own. It is difficult, at this late date, to find a valid reason for doing away with a most serviceable uniform and providing nothing but dungarees for a working dress! Before too many years, the aviation uniform would be back in the official regulations.

The Chief Boatswain's Mate is shown in the white dress uniform of the 1922 order. The double-breasted coat had four gilt Navy buttons on each side. Although the coat was similar to that of the 1913 Regulations, the new version reflected the change in styling of the officer's blue sack coat, adopted in 1919, for the lapels were longer and the coat shorter. The boatswain can be identified as one qualified for submarine service for the right sleeve shows a distinctive device. The insignia shows the bow of a submarine, flanked by horizontal dolphins. The use of dolphins to identify members of the Navy's underseas service is most appropriate for this fish is at home on the surface and underwater. On white clothing, the device was embroidered in blue; on a blue uniform, the embroidery would be in white. The rating badge is typical for a chief petty officer, three chevrons, an arc, an eagle and a specialty mark, in the case of a Boatswain's Mate, two crossed anchors. On the white uniform, all portions of the rating badge are in blue. For wear on a blue coat, the chevrons and arc would be in scarlet cloth, the eagle and specialty mark, white. The chief's cap was identical to that of a commissioned officer. The device was the gilt foul anchor on which the letters "U.S.N." in silver had been placed, first introduced in 1897 and still employed by chief petty officers. Instead of the gold lace chin strap of a commissioned officer, chiefs had straps of black patent leather. The white shirt followed the pattern set by the introduction of the officer's blue sack coat, namely, white with a turndown collar and a black four-in-hand tie instead of the standing collar and bow tie of the 1913 instructions.

The lack of a suitable uniform for aviation duty had been a matter of concern and discussion ever since the Bureau of Navigation had advised that it would be dropped in October 1922. On 22 June 1924, the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics directed a letter to the Secretary of the Navy strongly recommending the authorization of a kahki uniform for summer wear and a heavier one for cold weather. He suggested that such a uniform could be used to advantage by all officers whose duties involved working with machinery. This idea became a reality just prior to World War II! A working dress was authorized on 8 April 1925 for "Naval Aviators, Observers and Other Officers detailed to duty involving flying." The newly authorized coat was not like that of the recent war but a modification of the new service blue sack coat. The self-belted, single-breasted khaki coat was fastened with three bronzed buttons, had a rolling collar, notched lapels, a pocket on either breast and two lower bellows pockets. The forestry green winter coat was similar but had bellows pleats in the back at the shoulders to permit a greater freedom of movement. Instead of using shoulder marks as in World War I, black braid was use on the sleeves to indicate grade with the star of the Line embroidered in black above the stripes. Under the 1925 change, only breeches and puttees were to be worn with the aviation coats. A change of 1 May 1929 permitted regular trousers to be worn. With both the summer and winter uniforms, a soft collared kahki shirt and black tie were worn. The commander shows the three black braid stripes of his grade on the sleeves and the star of the Line. The cap visor displays the gold embroidery for all officers of the grade of commander and captain. The device to indicate an officer qualified for aviation duty is worn on the left breast. It is like that used in 1917 and could be either a bronzed, gold-plated pin-on device or one of gold embroidery, sewed to the coat.

The Navy Uniform Regulations of 20 September 1922 when finally released, made no provision for members of the Navy Nurse Corps. A separate publication, "Uniform Regulations, United States Navy Nurse Corps," was issued in 1924 and modified in 1927 and 1929. The coat of the outdoor uniform was blue-black, double-breasted with three black buttons on each forepart. The cut was similar to the male officers' sack coat with a roll collar and notched lapels. Black silk braid was used on the sleeves to indicate the nurses' grades. The Superintendent of the Corps showed two stripes of half-inch wide braid with a quarter inch wide stripe between them; assistant superintendents, two half-inch wide stripes; chief nurses, one half-inch wide stripe and one quarter-inch wide stripe, and nurses, a single half-inch wide braid. An embroidered corps device, the gold foul anchor with the gold oak leaves and acorn on it with the letters "N.N.C." on top, was sewed on either end of the collar. The white shirtwaist was of silk or cotton and had a stand-up, turndown collar. A black silk or satin tie was worn, tied four-in-hand. The gored skirt under the 1924 order was to reach not more than 10 inches from the deck; this was changed in 1929 to permit the skirt to be 12 inches from the deck. The blue-black plush hat bore a close resemblance to civilian women's headpieces of the 1920's. The display of a metal corps device on the right side of the front gave the hat a military touch. The same metal device was displayed on the collar of the white outdoor coat, similar in cut to the blues, and on the collar points of the waist of the white ward uniform. Black shoes and stockings were worn with the blue uniform; white shoes and stockings with both the ward uniform and the outdoor whites.

Under the 1922 instruction, chaplains were permitted to wear all items of clothing prescribed for commissioned officers except the gold laced, full dress trousers, the cocked hat, epaulets and the sword. As authorized shortly after World War I chaplains showed their grade on the sleeves with gold lace, and, as other staff officers, displayed their corps device, the Latin cross in gold, above the lace. The Chaplain Corps lieutenant is wearing a white shirt with the detachable stiff turndown collar specified by the regulations. Shirts could not be worn with soft collars and this remained in effect until just prior to World War II when shirts with attached semi-stiff collars were permitted.

When the 1922 order was released, the working dress for officers assigned to the submarine service remained as it had been under the 1913 instructions—dungarees. Six years after the aviation dress was reinstated, a suitable and serviceable uniform was authorized for submariners. Change 7 of 31 March 1931 permitted a khaki uniform similar to that of aviators but with long trousers and black instead of brown shoes. Originally, the wearing of the khaki uniform was restricted to officers serving in submarines or at submarine bases, but in 1939 it was extended to Chief Petty Officers. The lieutenant, qualified to command submarines, shows the stripes of his grade in black mohair on his sleeves with the star of the Line in black silk above them and the submarine device on his left breast. The device is a bronzed, gold-plated metal pin, showing the bow view of a submarine proceeding on the surface with the bow rudders rigged for diving. The submarine is flanked by horizontal dolphins, their heads resting on the upper edge of the rudders. The device is similar to the embroidered one worn by enlisted personnel qualified for submarine service.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1941

A NEW EDITION of the Navy Uniform Regulations, approved by Secretary Frank Knox, was issued on 31 May 1941. In general, the descriptions of the items of the uniform were those of the 1922 instruction for there had been little change in the style of civilian clothing, which usually has some bearing on the cut of the naval uniform. Actually, a new regulation is never truly "new" but is rather a composite of the earlier order and the many changes made since its initial issue.

The Drum Major is shown in the full dress, single-breasted, dark blue coat, trimmed with gold colored frogs and scarlet cuffs and collar which were first introduced in 1933. Although old ships' logs indicate that bands had been established in the early days of the Navy, an official uniform for musicians did not appear in the Uniform Regulations until 1886. This uniform was blue, the coat trimmed with scarlet frogs and cloth. The 1897 bandsman's uniform, shown in an earlier painting in this series, consisted of a scarlet tunic trimmed with yellow lace and white braid and skyblue trousers. Under the 1913 instructions, Navy bandsmen wore the full dress uniform of enlisted personnel of the Marine Corps with minor changes to indicate that they were part of a naval unit. The 1941 full dress uniform resembled the one first prescribed in 1886.

Although the musician's 1941 blue coat was single-breasted, it had three rows of six Navy gilt buttons. The three buttons in each horizontal row were connected by gold colored silk or rayon cord. The scarlet collar showed the letters "USN" in gilt on either side and the pointed scarlet cuffs were closed with three small buttons. The front edge of the coat, the skirts and the back seams from the lower edge to the waistline, were piped with yellow flannel. Two gilt buttons showed on the waistline in back at the seams. The sleeve device for all musicians was a lyre surcharged on an anchor, all in gold colored embroidery. The device was worn on both sleeves between the elbow and shoulder. In full dress, the drum major showed three chevrons below the device, points down, with a gold star below the point. The white leather dress belt had a spread eagle on the waist plate. The dark blue trousers were trimmed with an inch wide stripe of scarlet cloth piped with yellow on the outer seams. The cap was stiff framed, standing and flaring throughout its circumference, with a dark blue cover. The scarlet cap band was trimmed with narrow yellow braid at top and bottom, with a half-inch wide band of yellow silk in the center. The yellow band was broken in front for the cap device—the lyre/anchor of the sleeves. The visor and chin strap were black. In other than full dress, bandsmen wore the blue or white uniforms of chief petty officers.

Until the issuance of the 1886 uniform instructions, the only prescribed outer clothing for enlisted personnel in cold weather was a vest and a short blue cloth overcoat or "pea jacket" introduced in 1866. The 1941 double-breasted, finger length pea jacket with its black buttons was very similar to that of 1886 except that the two lower pockets were omitted on the front. The pockets now were at the side seams. The man's cap ribbon indicates that he is a member of the Naval Reserve on training duty. Instructions stated that men of the regular component show the words "U.S. Navy" on the cap ribbon, while men of the Reserve, on an inactive status or on training duty, would show "U.S. Naval Reserve". The lettering on the black bands was in gold.

The captain's overcoat is basically that of the 1922 order, which in turn was a modification of the World War I bridge coat. The 1913 outer coat had been worn completely buttoned, using black buttons. Gilt buttons were first permitted in November 1919 when the style of the overcoat was modified to bring it in closer agreement with the newly introduced double-breasted sack service coat. The first mention of an overcoat for officers appeared in the 1841 uniform instructions. In 1941, as in 1913, rank was shown on the sleeves with black braid with shoulder marks indicating both rank and corps. The white shirt shown is a modification of the 1913 order, for now white shirts with attached semi-stiff collars could be worn instead of the detachable stiff collars of the earlier orders. The cap with a blue cover, indicates "Service Dress, Blue A". The gold embroidery on the cap bill is that of a captain or commander.

The frock coat worn by the rear admiral in full dress is the 20th century version of the coat introduced in 1830 for undress. The same coat later was used for dress. When the special full dress coat, cut to the waist in front and with tails, was suspended in 1917 for the duration of hostilities, it was never reinstated. Under the 1922 order, the frock coat was to be used for full dress, dress and undress, and this carried over into the 1941 instructions. The double-breasted coat had five Navy gilt buttons on each side, worn with only the lower four buttoned. Rank was indicated on the sleeves with gold lace, in this case a two-inch wide stripe with a half-inch wide stripe above it. The star of the Line, or the device of a Navy staff corps showed above the lace. In full dress, epaulets were worn. Those of a rear admiral, Line, showed two stars on the pad and a gold foul anchor on the strap. The full dress belt of flag officers was of dark navy-blue webbing, backed with leather, with three one-quarter inch wide gold stripes woven into the webbing. Belts for captains and commanders showed seven stripes of one-sixteenth inch wide gold and for junior officers, five stripes. The sword slings for all commissioned officers were trimmed with three stripes of gold weaving, three-eighths of an inch wide. The full dress trousers for all other commissioned officers, except chief warrant officers, showed gold lace on the outer seams. This practice was initiated in 1852. The width of the lace varies with grade—an inch and three quarters wide for flag officers; an inch and a half for captains and commanders; and one inch for all others. Although a cloak had long been part of an officer's wardrobe, it did not appear in Navy Uniform Regulations until 1852. The cloak was to be worn ". . . on boats, or when epaulets are worn, if rendered necessary by cold or wet weather." The 1941 boat cloak was dark blue, lined with black silk or a similar material, with a black velvet collar. The collar was secured with hooks and eyes and the cloak was secured over the breast by black silk frogs. The trim of the cocked hat indicated rank. Flag officers had inch and a half wide lace on the fans and a loop of the same width lace over the black cockade. The fans of all other officers were trimmed with black silk and the cockade loop was of the width of the trouser lace.

Although uniforms for members of the Navy Nurse Corps had been prescribed by competent authority prior to 1941, they did not appear in an official Navy Uniform Regulation until that edition. Chapter XVII made provision for an indoor or ward uniform and for protective clothing for wear out of doors but did not include a formal street dress. The indoor white uniform was a skirt attached to a bodice at the waistline with a detachable white belt. The corps device was worn on either side of the tips of the opened collar. The device was the earlier one, a gold plated brass oak leaf with an acorn superimposed on a gold foul anchor. Over the device, the letters "N.N.C." in bright silver were placed. The nurse's indoor white cap indicated her relative position in the Corps. The black velvet band of the Superintendent showed two stripes of quarter inch wide gold lace with an eighth inch stripe between them; Assistant Superintendents showed two quarter inch stripes; Principal Chief Nurses, one quarter inch stripe and one an eighth of an inch wide; Chief Nurses, one quarter inch stripe; and nurses who had completed their probationary period, an eighth inch wide stripe. Nurses still on probation showed no lace on the black velvet. The outdoor hat was of dark blue fur felt worn with a metal pin on device on the right side of center. The blue cape was lined with maroon cloth and had a black velvet collar. The collar was closed with hooks and eyes and the cape fastened over the breast with black frogs. Under the 1941 instruction, only white shoes and stockings were authorized for nurses. In March 1942, shortly after the United States entered World War II, complete outdoor uniforms, both blue and white, were prescribed for the Nurse Corps.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1942–1943

THE 1941 Navy Uniforms in addition to a section on working uniforms, provided for tropical dress. The Navy's world-wide activities prior to the entrance of the United States into World War II, many of which were in tropical and semi-tropical climates, indicated that some form of clothing, other than the white service dress of earlier instructions, was necessary. The basic tropical uniform for officers and chief petty officers consisted of shorts and short-sleeved, roll collar shirts. Shirts and shorts were either white or khaki. The head piece was the standard cap, worn with white or khaki cover, to match the uniform. Enlisted men, other than chiefs, wore shorts and white undershirts. All personnel could wear white or khaki helmets in lieu of caps or enlisted men's white hats. Under the original instructions, no device was worn on the helmets by officers or chiefs, but in 1943, officers were directed to wear miniature cap devices. Officers and chiefs wore white shoes with the white tropical uniform and black with the khakis. Officers, however, were permitted to wear tan shoes with khakis. Enlisted men wore black shoes with both white and khaki dress. An officer's rank was indicated in both white and khaki dress by means of miniature pin-on collar devices. A line officer showed rank devices on both collar points, while a staff officer had the corps device on the left one. Rating badges were not worn on the tropical shirts by chief petty officers so that their only means of identification was the cap device, the standard anchor/USN insignia on the front of their caps.

The captain, Naval Aviator, is shown in the official 1941 white tropical uniform with one exception. Instead of the white covered cap or helmet, his headpiece is a white garrison cap. This cap was authorized in January 1941, to be blue, white, khaki or forestry green to match the uniform. Under the 1943 change, all commissioned officers, except aviators, wore a miniature cap device on the left side and a rank device on the right. Until 28 August 1943, aviators wore a miniature aviation device on the left side of the garrison cap. Then, they assumed the cap device used by all other officers. Under the original 1941 instruction, the garrison cap was to be worn only by commissioned and warrant Naval Aviators and by chief petty officer designated as Naval Aviation Pilots. The cap was to be either green or khaki to match the winter or summer aviation uniform.

The white service uniform, worn by the commander, Supply Corps, is the outgrowth of the white drill, double-breasted jacket introduced in 1852 for wear with light weight blue trousers in tropical climates. The style of the coat, as shown, became effective in June 1901, under General Order No. 48, when the former white coat trimmed with white braid was abolished. Under usual conditions, the visor of an officer in the grade of commander, would be decorated with gold embroidered oak leaves and acorns. Under a change of 2 January 1943, officers were directed to wear caps with polished black visors, except for formal occasions. Chin straps were to be black braid instead of gold lace. These changes were brought about by the difficulty in obtaining gold lace during wartime. The shortage of lace also brought about a modification of the gold lace sleeve stripes. "Half lace", that is from seam to seam on the outer side of the sleeves, was to be worn.

The Navy's Construction Battalions were organized in 1942 to perform construction work overseas, replacing the civilian employees of the contractors who had been building the Navy's bases in the Atlantic and Pacific prior to the outbreak of the war. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, it was evident that civilians could not be employed in combat areas. A civilian bearing arms and resisting attack would be considered a guerrilla and so be liable to immediate execution. The organization of the first three Construction Battalions was authorized on 5 January 1942 by the Bureau of Naval Personnel. The total strength was to be roughly 3000 officers and men, to be drawn from those experienced in the building trades. Before the war was over, a peak of nearly 259,000 was reached. The Navy's construction men saw action in every area of combat, and their slogan of "Can Do" was well deserved. Construction Battalions soon became "C.Bs." and in turn, "SeaBees".

Chapter XI of the 1941 Regulations prescribed a working uniform for officers and men. The chapter had two sections; first, dungarees for both officers and men, and second, a cotton khaki uniform for officers and chief petty officers. The khaki uniform was derived from the aviators' dress of World War I, reinstated in 1925 for aviators and extended to submariners in 1931. The chief petty officer is shown in dungarees which were to be worn only when the work involved would soil a more formal uniform. The complete dungaree uniform consisted of a blue denim jumper; trousers of similar material, worn with a black belt; a soft-collared blue chambray shirt, and a head cover. The chief surveyor, with the jumper removed, holding a level rod for the Civil Engineer officer who is acting as chief of a survey party, can be identified as a chief petty officer only by the device on his khaki covered cap. It would not be for many years, and under a new uniform instruction, that rating badges for dungarees in dark blue against the lighter blue of the denim or chambray would be authorized. A chief surveyor, on blues or whites, would use as his specialty mark a measuring scale (target on a cut-off section of a level rod). This same device is used today.

From the creation of the Nurse Corps in 1908 until World War II, nurses, although part of the Regular Establishment, had had no rank status. A Bureau of Medicine and Surgery publication of January 1943 advised that under an Act of Congress of 3 July 1942, Navy nurses were to have relative rank with male commissioned officers as follows:

Superintendent—lieutenant commander
Ass't Superintendent—lieutenant
Chief Nurse—lieutenant (junior grade)
Nurse—ensign.

The same publication, under the heading "Special Notice", further advised that the President had signed a bill on 22 December 1942, giving the Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps the relative rank of captain, and such Assistant Superintendents as might be designated by the Secretary of the Navy, the relative rank of either commander or lieutenant commander. In spite of the "Special Notice", the January 1943 publication described the insignia to be worn only for the relative ranks of ensign to lieutenant commander. Another document of August 1943, however, did state that the rank device to be worn by the Superintendent was the silver eagle of a captain. The Assistant Superintendents were divided into three groups: those with the relative rank of commander, a silver oak leaf as a device; lieutenant commander, gold oak leaves; and lieutenants, two silver bars. It is interesting to note that the term and status "relative rank" had been done away with in 1899 when male staff officers were given "rank"!

The chief nurse with the relative rank of a lieutenant (junior grade) is shown in the white service uniform described in the August 1943 instructions. The single-breasted coat has three gilt Navy buttons and four outside pockets, the lower two being of the bellows type. The blue flexible shoulder marks show only the stripe and a half of the wearer's grade and no corps device. A metal grade device, a silver bar, is worn on the right collar tip and a miniature Nurse Corps insignia, on the left. The white visorless covered cap was circular in shape at the top. The black mohair cap band was an inch and a half wide in front, tapering to three-quarters of an inch behind. A Nurse Corps metal device was worn as a cap insignia. White hose and shoes were specified for wear with the white uniform.

The 1943 tropical khaki uniform is worn by the lieutenant of the Civil Engineer Corps. The shirt and shorts are of the same pattern as the whites worn by the Naval Aviator, but a khaki helmet is worn instead of a garrison cap. The helmet is decorated with the miniature gold and silver cap device authorized in April 1943. Although the basic 1941 instructions required black shoes with khakis, brown shoes could be worn by officers. Both short and long socks were permitted with the tropical uniforms, the colors to match the uniform.

UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
1943–1944

UNDER THE 1922 Regulations, a dungaree working uniform was provided for both officers and men but its use was very limited. Modifications in 1925 and 1931 provided a suitable working uniform for aviators and submariners. Later the order was expanded to permit officers on duty at air stations and submarine bases, other than those qualified as flyers or submariners, to wear greens or khakis. As tension grew prior to the entrance of the United States into World War II, the use of the khaki uniform was broadened to include officers performing duties for which the standard blue or white service uniforms were not suitable. An "AlNav" of 21 February 1941 authorized the wearing of the khaki uniform by all officers, at the discretion of their commanding officers. This change was a boon to all officers and especially to those of the Civil Engineer Corps who were engaged in a world-wide construction program. A message of 25 April 1941 directed that khakis be worn with gilt buttons and shoulder marks, doing away with the bronze buttons and black sleeve markings of the earlier orders. The 1941 Regulations carried forward the recent changes and also permitted officers to indicate their rank and corps on the khaki shirt collar tips. Line officers wore rank insiginia on both sides, while staff officers indicated grade on the right and corps on the left side. The metal pin-on devices were ⅝th the size of the embroidered ones shown on the sleeves of the blue coats.

The creation of the WAVES (Women Accepted for Emergency Service) on 30 July 1942 required changes to provide uniforms for this latest addition to the personnel of the United States Navy. The first instructions for women's uniforms, March 1943, provided blue and white service uniforms and a working dress. An "All Hands" letter of 16 April 1943 initiated a drastic change in the working uniform of both men and women The letter advised that the khaki uniform would be replaced by one of slate gray with black-blue plastic buttons, flexible gray cloth shoulder marks with grade and corps devices in black. Tradition dies hard and the idea of the new uniform was not too well received! After years of "blue and gold" and a distinct liking for the rather new khakis, any change seemed unnecessary. While the change to grays at first affected male officers, in time it modified the dress of WAVES and Navy nurses.

The lieutenant is shown in the new gray uniform. The basis for the change in color can be found in a letter of 7 April 1943 from the Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel to the Secretary of the Navy, via the Commander in Chief and Chief of Naval Operations. Two reasons were given for the proposed change: first, to "conform to the simplicity and utility of officers' uniforms in the Army and Marine Corps . . ." and second, ". . . to obtain a uniform more suitable for our present shipboard camouflage . . . ." The first reason is a bit difficult to understand for neither the Army nor Marines had gray uniforms. The second is a bit easier to understand. Admiral King in his endorsement, recommended approval ". . . to stabilize the 'whole working uniform' situation . . . ." Secretary Knox approved the change on April 16th. An additional reason was the substitution of plastic and cloth for the metals so vitally needed in the war effort. The slate-gray coat was the same in pattern as the former khaki, except the two lower patch pockets were to be a bit smaller. The blue-black plastic buttons were of the same pattern as the gilt ones they were to replace. The flexible shoulder marks, similar in stiffness to those introduced in 1897, were to be of gray cloth with grade stripes and device in black embroidery. The gray shirt was to be worn with collar devices. The gray covered cap was to have a plain black visor for all grades and a black braid chin strap. Officially, shoes were to be black, but during the transition period, tan shoes could be worn. Until the gray uniform was in full production, khakis could be worn, and officers were advised that a study was being made to determine if khakis could be dyed gray. The latter project did not meet with success!

The nurse, member of whose corps had been granted relative rank in 1942, is shown in the slate-gray uniform authorized on 2 May 1944. It was a one-piece double-breasted dress with notched lapels and a rolling collar. On the right side of the collar is the indication of grade, in this case the two silver bars of a lieutenant. On the left collar tip is the metal miniature device of the Nurse Corps. The device had been modified by an order of 30 June 1944 which removed the silver letters "N.N.C." leaving the gold spread oak leaf and acorn superimposed on a gold foul anchor. The gray uniform was to be worn with black shoes, beige stockings and gray gloves. The purse was black cordé without a handle. With the gray working uniform, either the standard, circular, visorless cap of the Corps with a commissioned officer's device, authorized in May 1944, or a garrison cap could be worn. The gray garrison cap had a miniature cap device on the left side and the two silver bars of a lieutenant on the right.

The commander, Civil Engineer, is shown later in World War II wearing the khaki working uniform of January 1941. The blue covered shoulder marks show the three gold lace stripes of his grade with the device of the Civil Engineer Corps above them. The device consisted of two sprigs of live-oak in gold embroidery with a silver acorn at the stem of each sprig. The shape of the device was roughly that of a diamond. The cap visor shows the oak leaf and acorn embroidery of officers of the grade of captain or commander. Under the original 1941 instruction, rank and corps devices were not to be worn on the khaki shirt collar unless the coat was removed. In 1941, either black or brown shoes could be worn with khakis.

The First Class Petty Officer WAVE Yeoman, is wearing the gray and white working uniform prescribed by the Bureau of Naval Personnel in October 1943. The basic uniform was a gray cotton seersucker shirtwaist dress with a matching jacket. The dress had a short collar with rounded ends, the collar being worn over the jacket. The jacket had peaked lapels, but no collar. On the rounded end of the coat lapel is shown the device of the WAVES—a three bladed propeller on which a foul anchor was superimposed. The whole device was of a size to be inscribed in a circle an inch and a half in diameter. On the gray working uniform, the propeller was navy blue and the anchor the lighter shade called "Reserve" blue. The jacket was fastened with four blue-black plastic buttons. The rating badge consists of three chevrons, an eagle and the specialty mark, two crossed quills. All portions of the badge were in navy blue. The badge was worn on the left arm to indicate that the wearer is of other than the seaman's branch of the Navy. The hat for enlisted women, except chief petty officers, had a brim of navy blue cotton or woolen cloth and was worn with blue, white or gray covers. The brim was turned up in the back, close to the body of the hat, and gradually sloped down to the front. The brim in front was not to be turned up. The dark navy blue cap ribbon was marked in gilt letters, "U.S. Navy". The cap for officers and chiefs had the brim up on the sides and straight in front and back. Black shoes and beige stockings were prescribed for wear with grays.

A modification of the gray working uniform is shown in the dress of the Naval Aviator captain. Under the change which replaced the khakis with the grays, a transition period was allowed. During this time, either the standard blue shoulder marks or the new ones could be worn. Further, either gilt or blue-black plastic buttons were permitted. A message of 8 June 1943 directed that the gold embroidered visor caps could be worn on formal occassions only; another message of August 1943 made their wearing optional. The Secretary of the Navy on 7 March 1944 directed that gilt buttons could not be worn, only the plastic ones. It was difficult to keep abreast of the changes and modifications of the gray working dress! The captain is shown in the "optional" uniform—gilt buttons, standard blue shoulder marks with four gold lace stripes of his grade and the gold star of the Line; and a cap with an embroidered visor and gold lace chin strap. The cap cover is gray to match the uniform; the shoes, black. On either side of his collar is the insignia of his grade, the silver spread eagle. The gray uniform remained in the official uniform instructions until 1949. Prior to its abolishment, it could be worn either with gilt buttons and standard shoulder marks, or the plastic buttons and gray marks of the original order.

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ANEW, or more properly, up-to-date, uniform instruction was approved on 6 April 1959 to incorporate the many changes to the former 1951 order. In format, the 1959 regulation followed the earlier one, but instead of including illustrations of insignia, devices and uniforms in the pertinent sections, all illustrative material was placed in appendixes. To illustrate the various uniforms in Appendix A, photographs of dressed male and female manikins were used. As a result, in many cases the details of the cut or devices are not clear. The insignia, accessories and awards in Appendix B are indicated by means of line drawings and photographs. In effect, the method of illustrating the instructions reverted to the style employed through the 1941 Regulations.

Under the 1951 Regulations, only two service uniforms were provided for women. The 1959 edition added a light blue uniform for both officers and enlisted personnel. The light blue and white striped, corded dacron/cotton uniform was to be used as a counterpart of the khaki service uniform worn by male officers and chief petty officers. The short sleeved jacket was worn open at the neck with the collar and lapels turned back. No shirt was worn with this jacket which was trimmed with navy blue piping and closed with four blue Navy eagle buttons. Women officers wore pin-on insignia of grade and/or corps on the collar points; enlisted women wore marks or rating badges on the sleeves. The device of the Second Class Petty Officer Yeoman is, as it had been for many years, two chevrons, a spread eagle and the two crossed quills as the specialty mark. On the light blue uniform, the rating badge was embroidered entirely in dark blue and set just ahead of the center line of the left sleeve. The skirt, of the same material as the jacket, according to the regulation, was to come to the middle of the calf of the wearer's leg. The shoes were black and the stockings the usual beige. The cap is very similar to that introduced for wear by officers of the newly created WAVES in 1943 and was worn with a cover to match the jacket. The cap device for enlisted women other than chief petty officers, was a gold colored foul anchor superimposed on a silver three-bladed propeller. This device was originally used as a corps device by the WAVES. The same device with the anchor in white silk and the propeller in light blue was worn by enlisted women, except chief petty officers, on the navy blue service uniform on the rounded ends of the collar. A plain black handbag of leather or synthetic material was carried when the blue uniforms were worn. A similar white bag was carried when the white uniform was worn. The bags had detachable shoulder straps so they could be slung from the shoulder or carried in the hand.

The blue service coat, prescribed for all women of the United States Navy, both officers and enlisted, is single-breasted, straight backed, easy fitting in front, with a rounded collar which overlaps the half-peaked lapels. The instructions state that the blue coats for officers and chief petty officers are to be of a dark blue cloth, and those for enlisted women, other than chiefs, navy blue. The lieutenant commander nurse is shown in "Service Dress, Blue C" of the 1959 order, now known as "Service Dress, Blue, modified". The blue coat is worn with a white skirt, hat with white cover, white dress shoes, beige stockings and a black handbag. Grade is indicated in the same way as for male officers, by gold lace on the sleeves, with a star of the Line or a corps device above the lace. In the case of the officer pictured, the cuffs show two half inch wide stripes of gold lace with a quarter-inch stripe between them, and the device is that of the Nurse Corps, a gold spread oak leaf. The white summer coat is similar in cut to the blue one shown, but instead of gold sleeve lace, white braid is used with the device embroidered in yellow. The hat is the basic one for all Navy women. Officers display the standard cap device, two crossed gold foul anchors, surmounted by a silver shield with a silver spread eagle above. The white shirt has short sleeves and is worn with a black tie, tied with a square knot.

The third class petty officer of the Hospital Corps is depicted in the long, white tropical uniform. This modification of the earlier white tropical uniform of shorts and undershirt to be worn by enlisted personnel, provides a practical dress for work in warm areas where shorts would not be suitable. The trousers are those specified for use with the white service uniform. The short sleeved shirt has an open notched collar, forming a Vee neck. There are pockets on either side of the shirt and the rating badge is worn on the left sleeve so placed that the rear edge coincides with the center line of the sleeve. Only chief petty officers have their rating badges centered on the sleeve. The rating badge of the Third Class Petty Officer Hospital Corpsman, is made up of a single chevron, a spread eagle and the caduceus is employed as the specialty mark. All embroidery is in blue on the white shirt. The use of the caduceus as the specialty mark for hospital corpsmen is a reversion to the device used to identify apothecaries under the 1897 Uniform Regulations. When the Hospital Corps was established in 1898, the red Geneva Cross was adopted as the corps device for all rated men. The use of the caduceus for members of the Hospital Corps began with the 1951 Regulations. A white belt with a brass buckle is used with white trousers and black shoes are worn with all uniforms by enlisted men, except chief petty officers. Male enlisted personnel except chief petty officers, wear a white hat with all uniforms. Until 1 April 1963, a blue flat hat had been authorized for wear with Service Dress, Blue A, Full Dress, Blue A, and Working, Undress, Blue A uniforms.

The blue service uniform for male officers in 1961 was basically the same as the one introduced at the end of World War I, except for modifications in cut to stay in reasonable conformity with civilian styling. The officer shown in Service Dress, Blue B, blue coat, blue trousers and a white cap cover, displays the grade of captain on his sleeves, four stripes of half-inch gold lace with the gold star of the Line above them. The four aiguillette loops on the left shoulder indicate he is serving either as naval attaché or as a naval aide. Normally aiguillettes are not worn outside of the area of accreditation, but can be worn at the request of the officer to whom assigned. Dress aiguillettes, worn with the blue service uniform, consist of four loops of aiguillette cord, two of which are covered with gold or gilt thread and dark blue silk by means of braiding, and two loops of unplaited yellow cord. On the plaited cords, the dark blue is so inserted that it forms spiral bands approximately 3/16ths of an inch wide, at intervals of 7/16ths of an inch. The blue and gold cords end with gilt metal pencils on which silver anchors have been mounted. The only naval officers to wear aiguillettes on the right shoulder are the Aide to the President and Aides to the White House. The aiguillettes of these officers are entirely gold, the blue plaiting being omitted.

The Master Chief Petty Officer, Utilitiesman, is shown in the khaki service uniform. Of particular interest is the standard rating badge of a chief petty officer, but the addition of silver stars above the eagle's wings. Pay grades E-8 for Senior Chief Petty Officer and E-9 for Master Chief Petty Officers were established by Congress in 1958 by an amendment to the Career Compensation Act of 1949 to provide for the recognition and promotion of outstanding chiefs. The 1959 Uniform Regulations describe the special devices to be employed to identify the newly created ratings for superior petty officers. Their rating badges were to be identical with those long used for chief petty officers with the addition of stars. For a master chief, two stars are used, one above each wing of the eagle; a senior chief shows one star above the eagle's head. Under the 1959 order, all chief petty officers were to wear metal insignia, miniature cap devices, on the tips of the collars of khaki, blue flannel and tropical white shirts. A change of 31 October 1959, directed that a master chief show a silver star on either side of the ring of the gold foul anchor and a senior chief have a single star directly above the anchor ring. The device, like that of the cap, had the letters "USN" in silver on the anchor. On service dress khakis, the three chevrons and arc are in blue and the eagle, specialty mark and stars in silver. When a Chief Petty Officer Construction Electrician is promoted to Master Chief, he is designated Utilitiesman although he retains the device for a construction electrician, namely a telephone pole with an electric spark superimposed. The chief shows four navy blue stripes, set at an angle on the left sleeve cuff, indicating sixteen years service. The cap is covered with khaki to match the uniform and is identical with the cap worn by commissioned officers except that the chin strap is black patent leather instead of gold lace. The cap device, the foul anchor with USN, is basically that introduced in 1897 as a means of identifying the then newly established rating of Chief Petty Officer.

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1967

AS COULD BE EXPECTED, the 1959 Navy Uniform Regulations were modified almost as soon as they were released in printed form, as has been true of the uniform instructions since their inception. Advanced changes to the basic regulations today are issued as required by a Bureau of Naval Personnel "Notice" to all ships and stations; major revisions which include new and substitute pages and possibly a few pen and ink corrections are printed by the Government Printing Office (GPO). The first change was issued on 31 October 1961; Change 2 on 25 January 1963; Change 3 on 1 April 1964; and Change 4 on 16 September 1966.

Uniforms for midshipmen first appeared in the instructions issued by the Marine Committee of the Continental Congress in September 1776. The dress of midshipmen continued to appear in official Navy Department instructions until the 1883 order was released. This regulation covers the dress of ". . . Naval Cadets who have completed the four year's course at the Naval Academy . . . ." When the Naval Academy was established in 1845, the Superintendent was authorized to issue uniform instructions for midshipmen, following in general the existing regulations for other officers. The instructions of 1886 and 1897 included uniforms only for cadets who had completed their education at the Academy and were now awaiting promotion to the grade of ensign. The 1905 and 1913 orders made provision for insignia and devices for midshipmen, leaving the day to day clothing regulations to the Superintendent. Article 18 of the 1922 regulations directed that the uniform for midshipmen, under orders issued by the Naval Academy, conform to the general terms of the official order covering other officers and men. This carried forward in the 1941 instruction, while the 1947 Navy Uniform Regulations referred only to "Aviation Midshipmen" and "Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps Midshipmen", leaving the dress of midshipmen at the Academy to the Superintendent. The 1951 instruction, for the first time in years, included a section, Chapter 4, on "Naval Academy Midshipmen". The 1959 order included the dress of midshipmen and authorized the Superintendent to prescribe such items of uniform and insignia, in addition to those covered by the official regulations, as might be required within the limits of the U.S. Naval Academy or at activities outside the Academy in which the Detachment of Midshipmen participated as a body.

Midshipmen wear the full dress blue uniform as "Evening Dress, Blue". The short double-breasted blue jacket with a standing collar and nine gilt buttons on each breast is very similar to the undress jacket introduced in 1802. The nine button arrangement recalls the early dress of officers of the U.S. Navy and the gold lace trim on the top and front edges of the standing collar reverts to the 1852 uniform order. A plain gold anchor, a mark of midshipmen since 1830, is worn in a horizontal position on either side of the collar. Midshipmen Petty Officers wear a rating badge made up of an eagle, anchor, chevrons and stars on the upper right arm. The device to identify a Brigade Chief Petty Officer consists of a spread eagle perched on the stock of a foul anchor, three chevrons and two arcs, connecting the upper chevron ends, forming an arch and four stars above the device. The stars, eagle and anchor are embroidered in gold thread; the chevrons and arc are in gold lace. The stripe of yellow silk around the three buttoned cuffs indicates that the midshipman is of the First Class. The blue trousers are high waisted. The cap, worn with either blue or white covers, shows the cap device of midshipmen, a metal gold foul anchor. The chin strap is $\frac{3}{8}$" wide gold lace secured with gilt buttons.

The Navy's "Evening Dress" uniforms had their origin in 1866 when dress uniforms, discarded during the Civil War, were reinstated. The first uniform instruction after the war not only restored the full dress body coat, but for the first time authorized a uniform for ". . . Officers in their social intercourse within the United States, (upon occasions requiring them to appear in evening dress) . . . ." The coat was to be cut in the prevailing style of civilian full dress coats with five gilt buttons on each breast. The coat was worn without sleeve lace, shoulder straps or epaulets, and collar devices were employed to indicate grade and specialty. An evening dress coat continued in the uniform instructions through those of 1941 when it was worn with sleeve lace. Under the 1947 order, both the full dress frock coat and the evening dress coat were omitted. The blue service uniform with a black bow tie was to be worn at social affairs when civilians would wear evening clothes. When the 1951 regulations were released, the evening dress uniform was restored and continued under the 1959 order. As in 1866, the blue evening dress coat is a military copy of the civilian full dress coat with three gilt Navy buttons on each side, two small buttons at the waistline in back and with sleeve lace. A stiff, plain bosomed, or piqued shirt is worn with plain gold studs, a winged collar and square-ended white bow tie. The commander pictured shows the three stripes of half-inch gold lace of his grade with the gold star of the Line above them. Miniature medals are worn on the left lapel of the uniform. The blue trousers are high-waisted and the white vest of conventional pattern has three Navy buttons. In "Evening Dress, Blue" the standard white cap cover is worn. Under a directive of 18 December 1962, however, the blue cap cover remains as an optional item of uniform apparel.

The dinner dress uniform for chief petty officers consists of the service blue coat, of the same style as worn by commissioned officers, blue trousers and the standard cap with white cover. Instead of the stiff bosomed shirt and winged collar worn by officers in evening dress, chiefs wear a plain white shirt with either a semi-stiff or stiff collar, attached or detachable, and a black bow tie. The rating badge with the specialty mark of a boatswain, the long employed crossed anchors, shows the eagle and mark in silver and the three chevrons and arc in gold. The gold and silver device and the gold lace stripes rather than the usual scarlet stripes on the sleeve indicate that the chief has had not less than 12 years continuous honorable active duty and has qualified for successive awards of the Navy Good Conduct Medal. The chief is pictured wearing his campaign ribbons as required by the original 1959 regulations; change 3 directs the wearing of miniature medals.

The "Dinner Dress Blue Jacket" uniform worn by the lieutenant of the Supply Corps was approved by the Secretary of the Navy in November 1958 and is described in detail in the 1959 Uniform Regulations. The jacket is basically a blue version of the white mess jacket first introduced in 1901. The jacket is cut like the evening dress coat without the tails and with the same button arrangement on the breast. Instead of the shoulder marks used on the 1901 white mess jacket to indicate an officer's status, grade and specialty are shown by means of gold lace sleeve stripes and an embroidered device. In this case, the two stripes of half-inch gold lace and the gold sprig of live-oak and three silver acorns indicate that the officer is a lieutenant of the Supply Corps. The stiff white shirt is worn with a stiff turn-down collar and black bow tie. The original 1959 instructions directed that a plain, black, pleated cummerbund be worn with the high-waisted blue trousers. Change 1 substituted a pleated gold cummerbund and also permitted the wearing of a soft front white dress shirt instead of the original stiff one. The current regulations also provide a white mess jacket with two navy buttons on each forepart to be worn with shoulder marks. This is the present day version of the 1901 jacket but now is worn with a black cummerbund instead of the original white vest.

An evening dress uniform was authorized for women officers in October 1948 and carried forward under the 1959 order. In the original 1959 order, the blue-black jacket was Eton styled, single-breasted with a rounded collar overlapping the half-peaked lapels. The collar/lapel cut was like that of the women's blue service uniform. Grade and corps were shown on the sleeves in gold lace and embroidery. Under Change 2, the collar became the narrow shawl type and an inch wide strip of black velvet was employed to show officer status instead of the gold lace with the star of the Line or the appropriate corps device embroidered in gold above the black stripe. Grade and corps insignia are embroidered on the collar points of the white, short-sleeved, ruffled shirt. The necktie is crescent shaped of black velvet ribbon, graduating to each edge from an inch width in the center. The skirt for evening dress was floor length and circular topped by a dark blue cummerbund. Change 2 introduced dinner dress jackets for women officers. The evening dress jacket is worn with a skirt of conventional length. The head piece for both evening and dinner dress jacket is a crescent shaped tiara of black velvet, with an officer's cap device embroidered in the center of the brim, which is turned up in front. Women officers of the grades of captain and commander have oak leaves and acorns embroidered on either side of the device. In 1963, women officers were given white evening dress and dinner dress jacket uniforms. The patterns are like the blues, but the white jackets and skirts are worn with a white cummerbund and white braid replaces the black velvet worn on the sleeves of the blue jackets.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1967 O—268-460