

Military Style Blue/White Uniform

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November 2009

HISTORY

History of the Blue/White - 1

- **Mar 06 NB**
 - Approved the basic uniform of aviator shirt and blue AF slacks, blue epaulets and two line blue name tag
- **May 06 NEC**
 - Approved Corporate Service Coat with brushed silver one-line nametag, U.S on the lapels, flight cap with grade on right sides and hat device on left, black windbreaker with metal grade on epaulet, required those wearing to meet grooming standards
- **Aug 06 NB**
 - Announced change to two-line brushed silver name tag on Corporate Service Coat

History of the Blue/White – 2

- **Sep 06 (CAP/CC)**

- Replaced U.S. on the lapels with C.A.P, removed grade from flight cap and moved hat device to the right side, added the metal C.A.P. cutout to the epaulet of the windbreaker

- **Nov 06 NEC**

- Clarified customs and courtesies for the Corporate uniform, stand at attention for the National Anthem and presentation of colors, salute superior officers as necessary

History of the Blue/White - 3

- **Aug 2006**

- HQ USAF/A3/5 General Officer wrote to BoG

- Concerned that the blue/white uniform “does not meet the letter and intent” of policy guidance
- Concerned that it “is not significantly different from the U.S. Armed Forces uniforms to avoid confusion”
- **Directed that all future corporate uniforms to be vetted through USAF, too.** (to ensure distinctiveness)

- BoG Chairman answered

- “CAP/CC is prepared to open dialogue”
- Not necessary “to call a meeting of the BoG”
- Advise EX to address any USAF concerns

- EX has heard nothing; silence is not approval by USAF

History of the Blue/White - 4

- **Jul 07 (CAP/CC)**
 - Added “U.S.” to the “Civil Air Patrol” on both nametags
- **Nov 07 NEC**
 - Removed U.S. from nametags
- **Mar 08 (CAP/CC)**
 - Wear instructions for senior member NCO grades on Corporate uniform and approved black Army-style all weather coat

History of the Blue/White - 5

- **Mar 09 NB**
 - Corporate uniform outer garments including sweaters and parkas, also wear of military ribbons tabled
 - Removal of silver braid defeated
- **Sep 09 NB**
 - Police-style black v-neck and cardigan sweaters approved
- **Nov 09 NEC**
 - Corporate uniform eliminated – phase out date Jan 2011

FACTORS

Factors - 1

1. The current CAP "New Corporate" uniform consisting of dark blue trousers, white aviator shirt was **approved by NB** in March 2006.
2. **However, this uniform was not properly vetted and approved by the U.S. Air Force.**
3. Through **many steps**, the CAP has developed several combinations of uniforms, which sometimes creates confusion relating to the various articles approved for wear. Having so many combinations of uniforms to wear has proven confusing to members who try to stay current with the proper uniform regulation standards.

Factors - 2

4. Many CAP members have expressed a desire to **reduce our uniform inventory** to a more manageable level.
5. CAP-USAF has suggested that CAP **reduce our uniform inventory** to a manageable level. NEC suggestions include two service types of uniforms, to include the current Air Force style uniform, and an approved corporate uniform consisting of the grey slacks/white shirt/blue blazer combination currently worn by CAP members who do not wish to or may not wear the USAF style.
6. In an effort to **facilitate these requests expeditiously and to comply with the request** from the USAF, the NEC chose to remove the CAP "New Corporate" uniform from the CAP inventory at its November 2009 meeting. A "phase out" date of January 2011 was imposed at that time.

Factors - 3

7. Although this action was out of the routine, members of the NEC felt that **there was urgency** to this issue and made the decision to respond.
8. As the Air Force Auxiliary, the **CAP must work "in partnership" with the Air Force**, and maintain a working relationship that is positive and advantageous for both parties.
9. Therefore, the **CAP has the responsibility to continuously strive to improve** ourselves, recognize our failures of the past, **and move forward in a professional manner.**
10. **Members may continue to wear the "Cooper" style (black leather) jacket with the white shirt/grey slacks and blue blazer combination, and cadets may now wear the white shirt/grey slack and blue blazer)combination also.**

Factors - 4

- Knowing **something had to be done**, the NEC took action. If they had deferred their obligation and waited 4 months, **many more senior members could have bought a uniform that needed to be phased out.**
- Corporate style uniforms exist to provide a uniform that is appropriate for:
 - Those who do not meet the weight standards, or
 - those who do not meet the grooming standards, or
 - those who choose to use it because of the circumstances, for example, when meeting with others wearing “suits” – the corporate uniform may be more appropriate.
- Corporate style uniforms do not exist to allow those who may not wear the USAF-style to have a military-looking alternative.

Factors - 5

- What could (perhaps should) have happened?
 - As the USAF “owns” the approval of military-styled uniforms, they could have done anything to any and all uniforms. Reread the slide about August 2006 action – we were supposed to send all (including corporate uniforms) through USAF for approvals now.
 - The NEC has taken action to satisfy the letter and intent of our best partner, the USAF, as the NEC should do for CAP.
 - If CAP does not manage the USAF instructions for uniforms, can CAP manage mission instructions? How do we gain trust and earn respect?

LEGAL REVIEW

Legal Implications - NB

C&B, Article X, “The NB shall have the exclusive power to:

- a. Elect the National Commander and National Vice Commander.
- b. Adopt regulations governing the removal of the National Commander and National Vice Commander.
- c. Establish, increase, and lower national dues for all categories of membership.
- d. Confirm the appointment of the National Chief of Staff, National Legal Officer, National Finance Officer, National Controller, National Inspector General, and National Chief of Chaplain Service.
- e. Approve Hall of Honor nominees and grant Life Membership.

Legal Implications - NEC

C&B, Article XI, NEC:

1. When the National Board is not in session, the National Executive Committee shall be vested with all the powers of the National Board, except those powers which may be reserved exclusively to the National Board.

Therefore, the NEC had responsibility and authority for its actions; they were in order.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Blue/White

- Requesting Vanguard inventory information
- Requesting Vanguard input
- Requesting Membership Services input
- Consideration of phase out timing extended?
 - “temporary approval” from USAF for more time?

Standardized Grey

- Future needs:
 - A consistent grey for pants/skirts – all sizes
 - A consistent blue for blazers – all sizes
 - Heavyweight and lightweight fabrics
 - For all of the above, need to be readily available
- Considerations:
 - Review what's readily available (lowers costs)
 - Corporate uniform may not be military in style
 - Must de-conflict with any other organizations, too