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# The Uniforms of the Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy



By Commander H. Lawrence Martin, CHC, USN and Lieutenant William F. R. Gilroy, CHC, USNR

Original from

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# THE UNIFORMS OF THE CHAPLAIN CORPS UNITED STATES NAVY

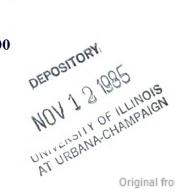


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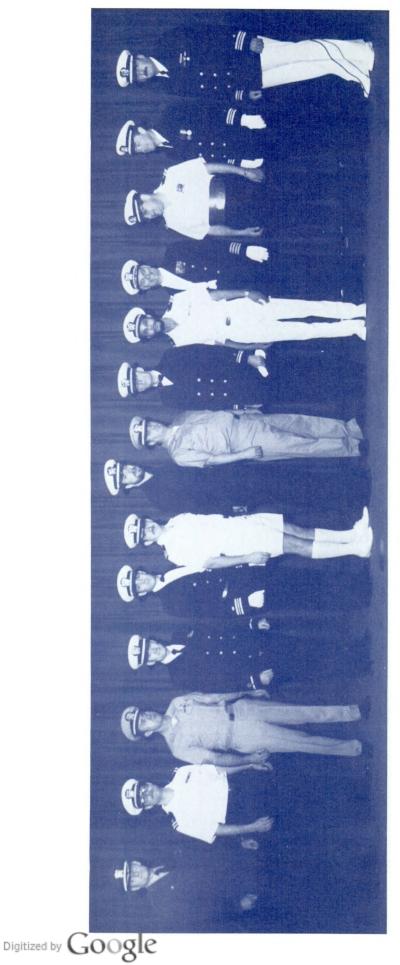
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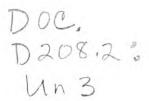
# UNIFORM MALE OFFICERS, U.S. NAVY

Jacket; Tropical White; Winter Working Blue; Working Khaki; Dinner Dress Blue; Summer White; Formal Dress (White Tie); Tropi-Left to right: Aviation, Green Working; Summer Blue (discontinued 1983); Summer Khaki; Service Dress Blue; Dinner Dress Blue cal Dinner Dress Blue; Full Dress Blue; Service Dress Blue (Yankee).

Not shown: Dinner Dress White Jacket; Dinner Dress White; Full Dress White; Service Dress White; Winter Blue; Tropical Khaki.

(Photo courtesy of Captain Richard D. Black, CHC, USN)

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### **FOREWORD**

Uniforms speak with authority, telling whom the wearer represents. They speak of responsibility, denoting what the wearer is ordered and entrusted to accomplish.

Uniforms should be adequate for the purpose intended, which is to say that they should be designed with a view to practicality for the performance of assigned tasks and that they should be durable.

Uniforms should be attractive in appearance, contributing to the morale, pride, and discipline of the organization represented.

All of these factors, if achieved and maintained, call for change and development within the framework of custom and tradition. Chaplains Martin and Gilroy have painstakingly traced the history of the uniforms of the naval chaplaincy from the time when they were first prescribed in 1830 to the latest authority, U. S. Navy Uniform Regulations, 1984, with its changes. In doing this they have assiduously examined every edition of regulations available to them and studied the written works of the most noted authors in the field. They have produced a work which should provide interesting information and instill organizational and patriotic pride.

Appreciation is expressed to those who have assisted the authors in research, particularly the staffs at the Naval Uniform Board and the Naval Historical Center.

NEIL M. STEVENSON Rear Admiral, CHC, USN Chief of Chaplains

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### INTRODUCTION

The uniforms of naval officers have experienced much change and adaptation over the past two centuries. This is not surprising in view of the versatility and fluctuation of civilian modes of dress, environmental conditions in the naval service, and the constant striving for improved style and practicality.

This monograph is devoted to a very general consideration of officer uniforms with particular reference to the uniform of the chaplain.



# FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR

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The earliest officer uniforms identified the naval officer as a gentleman of the maritime profession. The Revolutionary War uniforms were strikingly similar to those of the Royal Navy in that they had a blue and gold scheme with gold lace liberally applied.

With the close of the war, the few remaining ships of the Continental Navy were sold, there being no apparent need for a continuing seaborne military force. Even if there had been, the financial needs of the new nation were so severe that it is unlikely that such a force could have been maintained.

### 1794-1840

There were incidents which led the young nation to seek a means for protection of merchant shipping, thus on 27 March 1794 a bill "to provide a Naval Armament" was signed into law. This occasioned the first naval force under the Constitution, but it was not intended to be the creation of a permanent navy. It was principally aimed at Algeria, but other needs soon presented themselves.

The act of 1794 made provision for both combatant and non-combatant officers. Known today as staff officers, the latter included chaplains, surgeons, surgeon's mates, and pursers.

The Navy's first uniform coat was similar in cut to that of the Army of 1797—a standing turnover collar, buttoned back lapels, and turned-up cuffs. Breeches with stockings and buckled shoes, vests, and cocked hats completed the uniform. Certain features of this first uniform were carried forward for many years, although the style of the uniform itself was changed. Commissioned officers, with some exceptions, continued to have rows of nine buttons on the coats until the Navy's special full-dress coat was abolished after World War I. The number of buttons around the cuffs, and the presence of buttons at other locations on the coat, remained an indication of rank until the Civil War.



The two senior commissioned officers allowed by the acts of 1794 and 1797—captains and lieutenants—were ordered to wear blue coats with buff standing collars, lapels, and cuffs. A captain's coat was to have long lapels, with nine buttons in a row on either side of the breast. A lieutenant's coat was to have half lapels, with six buttons at the lapels, three buttons below the lapel on the right side, and three buttonholes on the left. As one indication of rank, a captain was to wear four buttons around the cuffs, and a lieutenant three. This use of buttons to show rank was also used at the pockets. A captain had four at the pocket flaps, and a lieutenant but three. This "rank by buttons" was employed for many years. <sup>1</sup>

In the 1797 Navy uniform regulations, a captain was directed to wear two gold epaulets; and a lieutenant one, to be placed on the right shoulder. (In the 1813 regulations, if in command, he would wear it on the right shoulder, otherwise on the left shoulder.)<sup>2</sup> Both officers were permitted to wear cocked hats trimmed with gold lace. The hats worn by all other officers listed in 1794 and 1797 were plain. In full dress, captains and lieutenants carried small swords.

Although the Navy Department was established in 1798, it was not until 27 August 1802 that a uniform instruction was issued. It introduced "blue and gold" for the United States Navy: coats of blue cloth with blue linings, collars and cuffs, and decorations of gold lace.

The order of 1813 effected little change. The instructions of 1820 were also much the same, except that there was a requirement for more elaborate gold lace for captains.

Only a full dress uniform was prescribed in the early regulations. No authorized "service" dress uniform that was convenient and comfortable was available until 1 May 1830. It was in 1830 also that the first attempt was made at specifying details of uniforms in standardization of color and style. Shoulder stripes of gold lace which held epaulets in place were indicative of officer status. When worn without the epaulets the uniform was termed "undress." The full-dress coat prescribed in 1830 was of dark blue, double breasted, with long lapels, nine buttons on each lapel, rolling collar and "made according to the prevailing fashion of citizens for the time."

Another innovation in 1830 was the use of oak leaves and acorns for decoration and for indication of rank. These still appear on the cap visors of senior officers. With the exception of the Chaplain Corps, the devices for staff officers, devices first prescribed in 1830, incorporated oak leaves and acorns.





Captain Joseph J. Nicholson Early Nineteenth Century

NH 47515

Early Full-Dress Uniforms of the Line Community





Rear Admiral David G. Farragut, USN
The Civil War Period

Early Full-Dress Uniforms of the Line Community (Continued)



Commander Richard W. Meade, Jr., USN The Post-Civil War Period

NH 47817

Early Full-Dress Uniforms of the Line Community (Continued)





Lieutenant Commander Wallace Bertholt, USN Before World War I (1914)

NH 51531

Other Full-Dress Uniforms of the Line Community (Continued)

Although chaplains were commissioned officers, no uniform was prescribed for them until 1830. The uniform then prescribed was as follows:

Plain black coat, vest and pantaloons, to be worn over boots or shoes, or black breeches, silk stockings with shoes, coat to have three black covered buttons under the pocket flaps and on the cuffs.<sup>3</sup>

The only suggestions of naval affiliation were the three buttons on the cuffs and at the pockets, which, even so, were not navy buttons. A chaplain was not permitted to wear the cocked hat that was prescribed for other officers, and he was forbidden to wear a sword.

On 12 November 1838 a general order permitted chaplains to wear the official naval buttons which other officers wore. The wearing of vestments at divine services was optional.

### 1841-1860

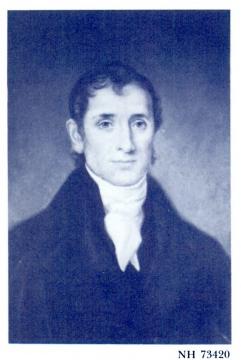
In 1841 the cocked hat for naval officers was beginning to give way to a visored undress blue cloth hat. There was a gold band around the cover and also a chin strap. This hat was so popular that it has with modifications evolved into today's combination hat.

Chaplains could now wear this hat, along with the undress coat of a lieutenant, with a black velvet collar and cuffs; a double-breasted coat with a row of nine buttons, three inches apart, on each side and with three buttons on the cuffs and under the pocket flaps. The wearing of vestments for the conducting of divine worship was optional. The wearing of the sword was not prohibited.

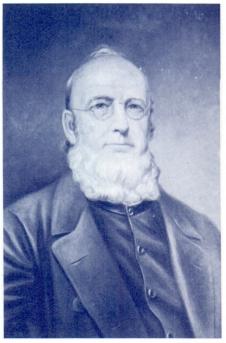
The 1841 regulations also limited colors of cloth to blue and white. White pants and socks were worn in warmer weather, but the blue coat was worn the year round. Uniforms had less elaborate gold embroidery. A trend toward rank devices was established. "Beards must be short, except that whiskers might descend one inch below the ear and in a line to the corners of the mouth."

Shortly after they were permitted to wear the uniform, chaplains began to express dissatisfaction with it and requested a return to the black suit. On 20 January 1844, the Secretary of the Navy issued the following directive:

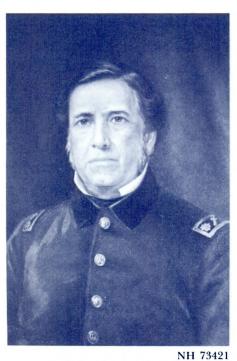




Andrew Hunter c. 1815



NH 73424 Charles Rockwell c. 1835



John L. Lenhart c. 1860



Joseph Stockbridge c. 1870

Early Uniforms of Chaplains

Chaplains shall wear a Black Coat, with a black velvet collar, and the navy button now in use. (They need not, however, provide themselves with new coats until those they now have are worn out.) While performing religious services on the Sabbath, or on other occasions, on board vessels of war or at yards and Shore Stations, they shall wear the Black Silk Gown usually worn by clergymen.

The chaplains liked the black coat, but some objected to the mandatory rule about wearing the black silk gown; whereupon they were permitted by another directive on 23 April 1844 to wear either the black gown, a plain black coat, or "the uniform coat prescribed by that Regulation."

Grooming regulations in 1850 required that hair be short; beards were prohibited. Also in 1850 lightweight materials for the tropics were produced. Distinctive rank devices were in use. Staff corps devices began to be standard, although there was not one for chaplains.

New regulations appeared in 1852 which changed the double-breasted coat for chaplains to a single-breasted one with nine buttons. The standing collar and cuffs were to be of black velvet and without embroidery. In undress, the coat was worn with blue collar and cuffs, the black velvet being reserved for full dress. There were no epaulets for chaplains. The blue cloth cap had no device above the visor.

On 3 March 1853 black covered buttons were substituted for the "navy button," which removed the only distinctive naval insignia from the chaplain's uniform. The single row of nine buttons was the only indication of commissioned rank; otherwise the uniform was the same as that of other officers. The undress uniform had a similar frock coat with a turnover collar. The change is silent on headgear, but perhaps this included the blue cloth cap with the wreath of leaves and acorns.

### 1861-1865

The Civil War brought about major change in the Navy and in the naval uniform. In 1862 the new ranks of rear admiral, commodore, lieutenant commander, and ensign were established. More practical consideration was given to uniform design. Full dress was suspended and the frock coat served all purposes. Staff officers, except chaplains and professors of mathematics, were to wear the same frock coat and gold lace as other officers. Distinctive tropical uniforms were introduced.



In 1863 a star on the sleeve, placed one-fourth inch above the gold lace, was authorized for line officers, complementing the staff officers' distinctive devices.

Chaplains were designated staff officers and were also given relative rank with officers of the line in 1863. As staff officers they were authorized to wear a cap device consisting of a plain anchor within a wreath.

The next year chaplains were given, for the first time, a distinctive corps device—a silver Latin cross which measured ½ inch by ½ inch. It was placed in a sloping position on both the shoulder straps and the cap, with the foot of the cross inclined in a forward position. Chaplains with less than twelve years of service wore the insignia of a lieutenant commander; those with twelve years or more, that of a commander.

The single breasted coat for chaplains, along with that of professors of mathematics, was continued. All other commissioned officers were identical double-breasted coats.

# FROM THE CIVIL WAR THROUGH WORLD WAR I

### 1866-1876

With the issuance of the new uniform regulations of 1 December 1866, it was evident that the war was over. Gold lace again appeared on uniforms; the full-dress coat with standing collar, tails, and epaulets and the cocked hat returned. Permanent progress had been realized, however, with the retention of the rank insignia and corps devices that had been added.

The new regulations called for continued use of the frock coat of 1852 as an undress uniform. The double-breasted coat was restored for ceremonial occasions, but for more casual wear single-breasted sack coats were ordered. Notable progress was made in tropical uniforms.

All commissioned officers, except naval constructors, chaplains, and professors of mathematics, were ordered to wear identical cap devices. The common device showed a silver-embroidered spread eagle (symbolizing the Union) standing on a gold-embroidered foul anchor (designating the maritime service) set in an inclined position. The officers excepted from the order wore the oak-and-olive wreath of previous orders with the corps device as before.

In 1869 there appeared a new cap device for all commissioned officers, "a silver shield with two crossed anchors in gold." A small silver spread eagle was perched on top of the shield. The one worn today is almost identical to it. The eagle faced left (sinister) until 1941, when the device was changed so that the eagle faced right (dexter).

The 1869 regulations also provided for a system of goldlaced rank designation on the sleeves that was very similar to that employed today, one principal difference being that the colors of the various staff corps appeared between the stripes. Staff officers were to wear the same lace and rank devices as the officers with whom they had relative rank.



On 29 March 1869 the Attorney General ruled that the regulations of 13 March 1863, by which chaplains had been granted relative rank with line officers, were not founded upon valid authority of law. Chaplains, along with naval constructors and professors, were then deprived of relative rank, and there was no specific reference to their uniforms in the 1869 regulations. By general reference, however, chaplains were permitted to wear certain articles of the Navy's dress, but they could not wear sleeve lace, shoulder ornaments, or cocked hats. They could be identified as naval officers only by the navy buttons on their coats and by their caps. The General Regulations included the following statement:

Chaplains, when performing divine services, may wear either the vestments of the church to which they belong or the uniform prescribed in the regulations.

In 1870 there was authorized a dress coat for social wear, which was the forerunner of the dinner dress.

Relative rank for chaplains was restored by an Act of Congress on 3 March 1871, but the Navy made no provision for uniforms.

In 1873 an officer's white cap was introduced for hot weather. An option was made between a white cap or the blue cap with a white cover.

An embroidered Latin cross of silver was restored in 1876, and was designated for the chaplain's epaulets, shoulder straps, and for the collar of the sack coat. The sack coat was a single-breasted blue flannel garment with five bright, medium-sized navy buttons down the front. There were no shoulder straps or sleeve rank insignia. Rank was indicated by devices on each side of the standing collar. Staff officers other than chaplains also wore their corps devices on the collar.

### 1877-1896

In 1877 officers were given a new service coat in lieu of the 1866 sack coat. In contrast to popular fashion, it looked more military than civilian. It was single-breasted, with a fly front and a standing collar, and was close-fitted. This coat was worn until after World War I, when the double-breasted coat now worn was adopted.



The sleeve rank designations of 1881 have remained to this day. After that instruction was issued, one chaplain, desiring to be excused from wearing a uniform, made such a request to the Secretary of the Navy, and received the ruling: "Chaplains must wear the uniforms as well as other officers."

The regulations of 1 November 1883 provided for a white service coat of the same pattern as the 1877 blue coat, but with white braid trimming and sleeve stripes. No rank devices were worn on the collar. A white cap or a white helmet was to be worn.

Staff officers were to wear the same lace on the cuff as line officers with whom they had relative rank, with bands of colored cloth between the stripes of gold to designate the respective corps, but there was no such provision for chaplains. The corps device for chaplains was the silver Latin cross, but there were no instructions for its placement.

In these same regulations, the wearing of the uniform by chaplains was once more made optional, but with the following stipulation:

In place of the prescribed uniform chaplains may wear the single-breasted coat, waistcoat, and trousers commonly worn by clergymen, made of black or dark blue cloth.

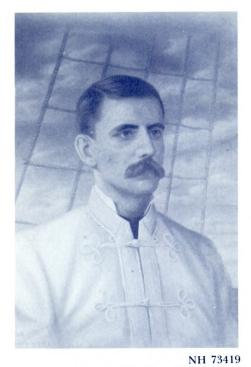
With the prescribing of a full-dress uniform in 1886, regulations stated that it was to be worn by all commissioned officers except chaplains. Other items to be worn by all "except chaplains" were lace on the cuff, epaulets and shoulder knots, chapeau, and shoulder straps. No corps devices were listed for chaplains.

Chaplains shall wear the dress commonly worn by clergymen, consisting of a single-breasted coat, with standing collar, waist-coat, and trousers of black or dark navy-blue cloth, and black, low-crowned soft felt hat.

The regulations of 1893 had essentially the same wording as the above, but added, "a navy cap with black buttons and strap, and without ornaments may be worn."

General Order 423 of 20 April 1894 specified that all staff officers, "except chaplains," would wear the same width of gold lace as prescribed for line officers with whom they had relative rank. Apparently chaplains could not indicate their relative rank.<sup>5</sup>





George A. Crawford c. 1885



Charles H. Parks c. 1895



Curtis H. Dickins c. 1902



Frederick Schweitzer 1918

Uniforms of Chaplains of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries



### 1897-1912

The regulations of 1897, which authorized gold braid on the visors of commanders and above, stated that, as in 1886, chaplains were to wear the dress of clergymen, but they were still permitted to wear a "navy cap with black buttons and strap, without ornaments ..." This was a negligible concession, because merchant seamen or yachtsmen had the same privilege.

The addenda to the above regulations, dated 23 December 1898, again allowed chaplains to wear a uniform that identified them with the Navy. Although chaplains were not permitted to wear the full-dress coat, they were allowed to have frock and service coats. The frock coat did not have the double-breasted cut, with navy buttons, but was single-breasted, with black covered buttons. This coat was a return to pre-Civil War days.

Sleeve ornaments for the chaplains' frock and service coats were stripes of lustrous black braid in lieu of the gold lace of other commissioned officers. The silver cross was to be used as a corps device on the standing collar of the blue service coat, placed in a fifteen degree inclined position. The visor decorations were in line with the sleeve ornaments, that is, they were of black mohair instead of gold lace. The chin strap was also black. Chaplains could not wear epaulets, cocked hats, or shoulder straps.

The earlier provision allowing chaplains, while conducting divine worship services, to wear the vestments of their respective churches was repeated.

The regulations of 1899 authorized shoulder marks (unofficially referred to as "shoulder boards") for all officers except chaplains, chief warrant officers, warrant officers, mates, and clerks. The shoulder marks were similar to those of today.

Other than the prohibition of shoulder marks as mentioned above, the uniform requirements for chaplains called for the frock coat (to be worn completely buttoned), plain blue or white trousers, and blue cap (with white cover if ordered). The undress uniform was the same. The service dress uniform would be "blue or white service coat, plain blue or white trousers, and blue cap (with white cover or helmet if ordered)." The corps device was again to be the Latin cross. The wearing of the sword was not prohibited.

"Addenda to Uniform Regulations No. 1" of 12 July 1899 directed that the word "relative" be removed from the original



instruction. This gave staff officers actual rank rather than relative rank.

General Order No. 48 (Revised) of 27 February 1902 changed the style of the white service coat to that worn at present. The general cut of the coat and the standing collar were retained, but the coat was to be fastened with five gilt buttons and the white braid decoration was to be eliminated. Chaplains were denied shoulder marks, but a correction to the order, issued 22 October 1902, permitted chaplains to wear them on both the mess jacket and the white service coat, without the stars. The stripes were made of lustrous black mohair braid instead of the gold lace of other commissioned officers.

The regulations of 1905 abolished shoulder straps. Notable changes to those regulations, No. 3 of 24 March 1908 and No. 4 of 12 October 1908 respectively, permitted chaplains to wear gilt navy buttons instead of the flat white or black ones and to wear the double-breasted frock coat worn by other officers.

### 1913-1918

In the regulations of 1913 chaplains were again required to wear the single-breasted frock coat, with six black covered buttons in a single row in contrast to the two rows of five navy buttons on the frock coats of other officers. The inclined cross was displayed on the collar. Rank was indicated by stripes of black braid on the sleeves of blue coats.

A temporary change in the 1913 order abolished shoulder marks. Rank was indicated on the overcoat by means of black braid. Metal devices would show rank and corps on mess and white service jackets. This was the first use of metal insignia which later came to be worn on khaki shirts and on some jackets and coats.

The 1913 uniform regulations also brought about the use of working uniforms for officers, which at first were dungarees, and introduced a system of distinctions between the Regular Navy and Naval Reserve and Naval Militia. These distinctions, however, were abolished during the next decade, which included a major war.

Changes in the 1913 uniform regulations restored the use of shoulder marks instead of the metal devices mentioned above, reverting to the 1905 order. Chaplains continued to wear the black braid stripes.



In 1912 the naval aviation community had begun to wear, unofficially, a khaki copy of the Navy's white service coat, with breeches and puttees of the Marine Corps, and a cap with a khaki cover. The first official uniform for aviation duty was authorized by Change No. 11 of 22 June 1917. It was identical with the unofficial uniform except that the breeches were to be worn with leggings of drab woven wool. In Change No. 12 of 7 September 1917, the color of the winter uniform was changed to the forestry green cloth of the Marine Corps.

Change No. 19 in the uniform regulations, dated 26 June 1918, authorized for chaplains gold braid on the sleeves with "between the gold braid on the sleeves with

Change No. 19 in the uniform regulations, dated 26 June 1918, authorized for chaplains gold braid on the sleeves with "lustrous black cloth" between the gold braid as the distinguishing mark of the Chaplain Corps. This same rule applied to shoulder marks. Chaplains could wear the cap worn by other staff officers.

Change in the frock coat was deferred until after the war. (This privilege was granted on 17 March 1919 in Change No. 27 which specified for chaplains the double-breasted service coat with the roll collar.)

When David Goldberg was appointed as an acting chaplain 30 October 1917, he was the first Jewish chaplain in the Navy, and no corps device for Jewish chaplains had been adopted. He had no alternative but to wear the Latin cross that was worn by Christian chaplains. The newly formed Jewish Welfare Board had no committee relating to the armed forces, hence he had no one to intercede for him.

Although Goldberg appeared to be willing to make the best of the situation, his fellow clergy were not, and he was severely criticized by them. Acting in the light of such criticism, and upon the consensus of a Conference of the Jewish Welfare Board which met in Chicago 26 June–4 July 1918, Goldberg requested of the Navy Department in a letter dated 5 July 1918 that he be permitted to wear the shepherd's crook. (This was the insignia used by Army chaplains during the period 1880–1898 before the cross was adopted by that branch.) His request was approved.<sup>6</sup>

Chaplain Corps historian Clifford M. Drury, in speaking of changes effected in chaplain's uniforms during the period of World War I, gave the following summation:

Thus, about twenty years after chaplains were denied the right to wear the full uniform and insignia worn by other officers in the Navy, they regained the privilege of wearing the official button, gold braid and the frock coat. Only one discriminatory ruling re-



mained and that was the regulation forbidding chaplains to wear the complete full dress uniform. However, the chaplains of 1919 were so pleased to be permitted to wear the same service uniform with insignia and the same dress coat as their brother officers, they said little about the continuing discrimination.<sup>7</sup>



### FROM WORLD WAR I TO THE PRESENT

### 1918-1940

Immediately after the Armistice ending World War I was signed, the Navy Department issued "Change in Uniform Regulations, No. 25" of 16 November 1918. This directive removed the colored cloth of the various staff corps from between the gold-laced rank stripes on the sleeves and shoulders marks, to be effective 1 July 1921. It further directed that the corps devices be worn above the upper stripe of the lace and in the same position as the star that designated line officers. The devices were to be small enough to be contained within an inch and an eighth in diameter and were to be in gold embroidery. This system is in use today.

Both line and staff officers in the rank of commander and above were directed to wear the oak leaf and acorn embroidery on the visors of the cap.

Change No. 25 also established new insignia for the Chaplain Corps:

Art. 79—The collar shall bear devices indicating rank and corps as follows:

(k) Commissioned staff officers, ... same as for line officers with whom they rank but the appropriate corps devices, embroidered in gold, surcharged upon the anchors.

Art. 119—Embroidered Corps Devices on Epaulets (cancelled old articles 119–125)

(d) Chaplains: A Latin cross, inclined at an angle of 45 degrees, the top toward the stock of the anchor, embroidered in gold. Chaplains of the Jewish faith may substitute the shepherd's crook for the cross.

Art. 133—Shoulder marks. For all officers, for wear on the white service coat, mess jacket, and overcoat. The corps device will be the foul anchor, in the case of staff officers, surcharged with the appropriate corps device.<sup>8</sup>

This required that chaplains, instead of wearing only the cross behind the rank insignia on the collar, now wore the cross superimposed on the fouled anchor.



The double-breasted blue coat that is in use today was introduced by Change No. 27 of 17 March 1919. It was described as of "dark navy-blue cloth or serge, double-breasted, with rolling, turndown collar . . ." There were to be two rows of buttons with three in each row. A shirt with a stiff turndown collar was to be worn, and the tie was to be a black four-in-hand. The insignia of rank and corps was moved from the collar to the sleeves. An identical arrangement was required for the shoulder marks. On 13 November 1919 Change No. 28 stated:

Chaplains shall wear a Latin cross, embroidered in gold the long arm 1" long, the short arm \(^{9}\)16" long, and each arm \(^{3}\)16" wide; to be inclined toward the rear, the longer arm, making an angle of 60° with the upper stripe of lace.

The special full-dress body coat was omitted in 1922 and the frock coat with epaulets, cocked hat, full-dress sword belt, sword and gold-laced trousers became the full dress uniform. Chaplains were not permitted to wear this uniform. They were expressly permitted to wear the vestments of their churches as occasion demanded.

The uniform instructions issued on 20 September 1922 contained no instructions for an aviation uniform. In 1925 a working uniform was authorized for naval aviators and others who were detailed to duty involving flying. It was updated from the one used before, being single-breasted and having a roll collar vice the original standing one. Forestry green material was used in winter and khaki for summer wear. Rank was indicated by black mohair sleeve stripes. Stars were in black silk.

In 1922 the distinctions in uniform between regulars and non-regulars, introduced in 1913, were eliminated.

In 1935 the regulations omitted instructions for the Naval Militia, stipulating one uniform for all, which would correspond to that worn by those of the Regular Navy.

There was no reference to the Jewish insignia in the 1922 regulations. Chaplain Goldberg had resigned 11 December 1919 and entered the Naval Reserve. The Uniform Board had noted that there was no Jewish chaplain then on active duty and assumed that there was none in the Naval Reserve. This did not affect Chaplain Goldberg, however; for although he remained in the Naval Reserve until he retired in March of 1941, he never wore the uniform in a reserve status.

When H. Cerf Straus accepted a Naval Reserve commission in December of 1931, the question of insignia was again raised.

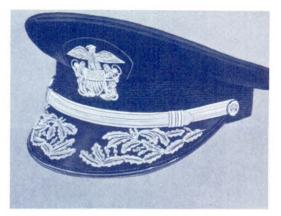




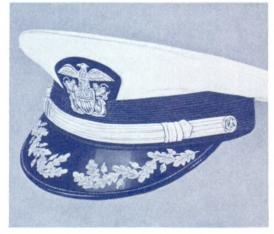
Lieutenant Clinton A. Neyman, CHC, USN in Service Dress Blue Uniform c. 1922



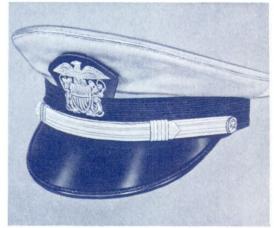
Lieutenant Francies V. Mitchell, CHC, USNR Service Dress Blue Uniform 1985



Officers of Flag Rank

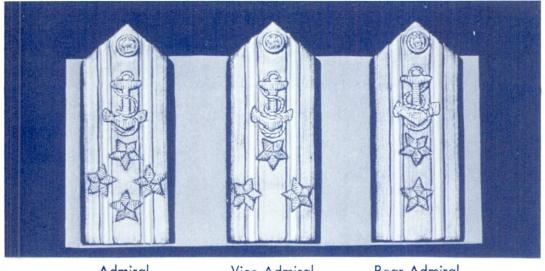


Captains and Commanders



Lieutenant Commanders and Lower Ranks
OFFICER'S CAPS

Regulations of 1941





Regulations of 1941



The Chief of Chaplains recommended that Rabbi Straus submit an official request for permission to wear the shepherd's crook in lieu of the Latin cross. He made the request on 1 February 1932, and it was approved.<sup>9</sup>

### 1941-1946

In time the Chaplains Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel felt that the shepherd's crook was not distinctive enough to serve as a suitable symbol of the Jewish faith; and so on 3 March 1941, Chief of Chaplains Robert D. Workman, with the concurrence of the Jewish Welfare Board, recommended the following, which was approved and appeared in the Uniform Regulations of 1941:

For Chaplains of the Jewish faith the corps device shall consist of the Star of David above and attached to the top center of the Tablets of the Law, to be approximately 1¼ inches high, to be set with the longer axis of the device perpendicular to the upper stripe of lace.

Chaplain Workman notified Chaplain Straus, who had reported for active duty in February of 1941, of the change in a letter dated 6 May, but Chaplain Straus was unable to obtain the insignia until after the attack on Pearl Harbor.<sup>10</sup>

The 1931 Change No. 7 had authorized a khaki working uniform for submariners, with trousers instead of the breeches used by the aviation community. This order brought back the pin-on devices that had been used in 1913.

In 1941 chaplains serving with the U. S. Marine Corps were permitted to wear the field uniform of the Marine Corps, but with the Navy insignia.

As the demand for work uniforms for officers increased, an ALNAV of 27 February 1941 permitted the wearing of khakis by all officers, subject to the discretion of commanding officers. Shoulder marks replaced sleeve stripes on the khaki service jacket in April of 1941. In order to indicate rank when the coat was removed, collar devices were prescribed on 31 May 1941. At the same time white and khaki tropical uniforms with corresponding cap or helmet and open collar were prescribed. The khaki uniform was well received by naval personnel.

By a letter of 16 April 1943, the Bureau of Naval Personnel directed that the color of the khaki uniform be changed to a slate gray for camouflage purposes and that the uniform be





Jewish Uniform Insignia Above, right, is the shepherd's crook, which was worn by only two chaplains—David Goldberg, 1918–19; and Herbert Cerf Straus, 1932–41. Above, left, is the device combining the Star of David and the Tablets of the Law, which was approved in 1941. The Roman numerals were replaced by Hebrew letters in 1984. (Official photograph, U.S. Navy)



Left, Commander Elihu H. Rickel, CHC, USN, wears the uniform with the 1941 change in Jewish insignia.

worn with the same color of shoulder marks and cap and that there be a black braid chin strap. The shoes and necktie would continue to be black. Indications of rank and corps were to be in black braid and embroidery. Gold braid was permitted a few months later.

There was strenuous objection to this uniform, and khakis were re-instated with ALNAV No. 406 of 16 October 1946. Grays were to be worn only until 15 October of 1948, except that shipboard personnel and members of the Naval Reserve during training periods could wear them until 15 October 1949.

On 15 May 1944 officers serving with Navy aviation units were permitted to wear the winter working uniform when that uniform was the prescribed uniform of the day.

Navy regulation of nurses' uniforms came in 1941. Prior to that time these uniforms had been prescribed by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and were quite similar to civilian dress, except a pin-on device denoting naval affiliation and a rank device had been added to the cap in 1924. A tight-fitting cloche hat was introduced in 1929.

Uniforms for women were upgraded during World War II and became the foundation for present styles, with skirts and single-breasted coats in both the blue and white uniforms. (Nurses retained a double-breasted blue jacket until 1948.) Slacks in lieu of skirts were authorized for work uniforms.

#### 1947-1974

The uniform regulations of 2 May 1947 mainly retained the wartime dress of the Navy with service uniforms being the mainstay. The formal dress of 1941 was denied to chaplains and then suspended altogether during the war: frock coat, gold laced trousers, cocked hats, and epaulets. The white mess dress jacket was dropped, and the service dress blue uniform with bow tie was worn for evening social dress. Uniforms conformed to the original nautical colors except for the aviation community, which retained aviation green. Blue covers were eliminated in 1956.

Dress for formal occasions has since been restored, tracing the pattern that existed after the Civil War and World War I. Chaplains may wear these uniforms.

The regulations of 1947 stated:





80-G-320526

Chief of Chaplains Robert D. Workman in helmet and work khaki visiting commands in the South Pacific during World War II.



Captain Milton S. Ernstmeyer, CHC, USN, in Dinner Dress.

On Roughing It, and Dressing Up Chaplains may wear the vestments of the church to which they belong on occasions requiring them. When taking part in church services naval personnel may wear the vestments of the church.

This stipulation has appeared in essence in all regulations since, except that from 1959 and since the reading has been, "Chaplains may uncover or wear the vestments..."; and in regard to other naval personnel, "as appropriate" has been added.

The regulations of 1947 prescribed changes in the size of corps devices for chaplains. The Latin cross was to be one inch long for the long arm, 5% inch for the short arm and 1/4 inch for the width of each of the arms. The Jewish corps device was to be approximately 11/4 inches high.

In Change No. 5 to the 1947 Uniform Regulations, dated 14 February 1949, brown shoes and socks were prescribed for the khaki uniform and the aviation working uniform.

Metal pin-on devices to indicate corps were to be approximately 5% the size of the sleeve devices. They were to be of gold. The metal devices were to be worn on the left collar tip with the center of the insignia approximately one inch from the front edge of the collar. Γhe cross was to be set inclined to the rear, with the longer

arm making an angle of 60° with a horizontal plane.

In the regulations of 1951, the Latin cross for the sleeve was unchanged; the Jewish corps device for the sleeve was to be 3/4 inch wide. Collar insignia were given these sizes:

The long arm of the cross shall be  $^{11}/_{16}"$  in length, the short arm  $^{7}/_{16}"$ , width of each arm  $^{1}/_{8}"$ .... The device to be worn by chaplains of the Jewish faith shall be  $^{13}/_{16}"$  high over-all, width of Tablets  $^{17}/_{32}"$ , diameter of star  $^{1}/_{4}"$ .

These are the sizes in use today. On the sleeves they are to be ½ inch from the stripes, the cross to be inclined 60° and the Jewish insignia to be placed in an upright position. On shirt collars the Jewish metal device has the longer dimension of the device at right angles to the upper edge of the collar, with the star uppermost.

There was much dispute about the position of the Latin cross on the long-sleeved khaki shirt until a change was made in 1974 and incorporated into the regulations of 1978. The collar device was to be positioned in the same manner as the grade insignia, i.e., straight with the edge of the collar rather than inclined at a 60° angle.

The reefer and a lightweight raincoat were introduced in 1959. The reefer was permitted with service dress blue in 1969.

#### 1975-1984

U. S. Navy Uniform Regulations, 1975 eliminated service dress khaki and tropical khaki long (with ribbons) from the male officers' uniform requirements. Khaki working (with tie) was also discontinued; the long-sleeved khaki shirt was re-



Lieutenant Mary A. Collins-Stauffer, CHC, USNR, in Service Dress White Uniform





Commander George S. Rentz, CHC, USN in Service Dress White Uniform

(From a painting by Roma Christine Harlan)



Commander John J. O'Connor, CHC, USN in Service Dress Khaki Uniform 1969

(Chaplain O'Connor served as Chief of Chaplains 1975-79)

tained for wear only with aviation green working. This resulted in the designation "working khaki." Brown shoes remained optional only until 30 June 1976, when black shoes or black safety shoes were to be substituted. Both brown and tan gloves were deleted.

Khaki garrison caps were authorized as optional wear with tropical khaki and working khaki uniforms unless the combination cap was prescribed. Also, the uniform belt one and one-quarter inches wide made of cloth or cloth webbing material was re-established for male officers. Tie width was standardized at  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

The 1975 regulations also changed the position of miniature medals on formal and dinner dress jackets. They were to be placed three inches below the notch and centered on the lapel.

The blue vest appeared in 1975. With gilt buttons, it can be worn with service dress blue without jacket in work spaces.

Service dress blue (yankee) also was introduced in 1975. This uniform consisted of white trousers, shoes and socks, worn with the other components of service dress blue.

The winter working blue shirt became a required uniform item as of 1 October 1976. Winter working blue consisted of blue trousers, long-sleeved blue shirt, black shoes, and necktie as required. The reefer, overcoat, and raincoat were authorized with winter blue; the blue jacket (wind-breaker) was added in 1978. This uniform became winter blue and was authorized for leave and liberty when ribbons and a tie were worn.

Collar devices on the blue shirt were to be centered one inch from the front and upper edges of the collar, except that for flag ranks the first star should be centered one inch from the front and upper edges of the collar and positioned with the vertical axis of the insignia at right angle to the upper edge of the collar. This applied whether or not the collar was closed.

Changes in 1978 included the redesignation of tropical white long as summer whites, the omission of the necktie with winter working blue, the authorization of the command ball cap with any working uniform, and the wearing of half Wellington boots with service dress blue, winter blue and the working uniforms.

Change 1 of 26 March 1979 established the tropical dinner dress blue uniform. This consists of the summer white shirt, blue dress trousers, combination white cap, black shoes and socks, gold cummerbund, miniature medals, and shoulder marks.



Long-sleeved white shirts with epaulets, for indoor wear when the jacket is not worn, were approved in 1980.

Summer blue, with blue dress trousers and the white shirt from the tropical white long uniform, appeared in 1981. Considered not dressy enough it was discontinued 1 April 1983.

Another 1981 innovation was the cardigan sweater, which may be worn within immediate working spaces.

Medal shoulder insignia for women officers were prescribed for shoulder straps of the blue overcoat, the raincoat, and the lightweight blue raincoat.

In 1981 the rank of commodore admiral was established. Also in 1981 vests were not authorized with epauletted shirts. The long sleeved khaki uniform was authorized. The blue jacket was authorized to be worn with summer blue, winter blue, and winter working blue. Summer khaki was reintroduced for officers.

The blue working ball cap, made of standard navy blue fabric, was worn with any working uniform onboard ship or station as authorized by prescribing authority. It was deleted in 1984, when a number of other changes were made:

Public display of affection when in uniform was prohibited. Exemplary military appearance for those in leadership position was demanded.

The long-sleeved summer khaki shirt was deleted.

Uniforms for naval personnel serving with Marine Corps units were changed to correspond to Marine Corps regulations.

The Chaplain Corps insignia for Jewish chaplains established the use of Hebrew letters in lieu of Roman numerals.

The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon was added.

The rank title "commodore admiral" was changed to "commodore."

Beards were not authorized for persons in high visibility positions of leadership; mustaches continued as an option; grooming standards were made more explicit. (Note: An interim change on 14 December 1984 prohibited beards altogether.)

A blue all-weather coat was authorized (BUPERS NOTE 1020 of 25 May).









Working Khaki (Long sleeved shirt and tie discontinued in 1975; since 1984 with short sleeves)



Winter Blue (Shirt became a required uniform item in 1976)

Some Other Uniforms of Naval Officers

#### CONCLUSION

The uniforms presently worn in the naval service are in a long line of custom and tradition. Listed below are the times of origin of several uniforms and uniform components used today:

- 1841 The combination hat
- 1850 Distinctive rank devices; beginning of standardization of corps devices
- 1863 A star on the sleeve, placed one-fourth inch above the gold lace, to designate line officers
- 1869 Identical cap device for all commissioned officers (almost the same as the one presently in use)
- 1869 Gold lace on sleeves similar to that of today
- 1881 Sleeve rank designations that have remained until now
- 1897 Gold lace on caps of officers in the rank of commander and above
- 1899 Actual rank for staff officers
- 1899 Shoulder marks (used continuously since then, except for a brief suspension by the 1913 regulations)
- 1902 The service dress white coat
- 1913 Working uniforms for officers
- 1918 Placement of corps devices above the upper stripe of lace on sleeves
- 1919 The double-breasted blue coat
- 1941 White and khaki tropical uniforms

By way of summary, the uniforms of chaplains have had the following development:

- 1830 The first service dress uniform for chaplains was prescribed.
- 1838 Chaplains could wear the official naval buttons which other officers wore.
- 1838 The wearing of church vestments while conducting worship services was listed as optional.
- 1844 The wearing of the uniform became optional.
- 1853 Black covered buttons were substituted for the "navy button" on chaplains' uniforms.
- 1863 Chaplains were given relative rank (this was taken away in 1869 and restored in 1871.



- 1864 Chaplains were given a distinctive corps device.
- 1881 The wearing of the uniform by chaplains was required.
- 1883 The wearing of the uniform by chaplains became optional.
- 1886 Chaplains were restricted to clerical dress.
- 1893 In addition to clerical dress, chaplains were permitted to wear a navy cap with black buttons and without ornamentation.
- 1897 Chaplains were again permitted to wear the uniform.
- 1898 Sleeve ornaments for chaplains consisted of stripes of lustrous black braid in lieu of gold lace; black braid was used in lieu of gold lace on caps.
- 1902 Chaplains could wear shoulder marks, but with lustrous black mohair braid instead of the gold lace worn by other commissioned officers.
- 1908 Chaplains were directed to wear gilt navy buttons and the double-breasted frock coat worn by other officers.
- 1913 Chaplains were again required to wear the single-breasted frock coat, with six black covered buttons in a single row in contrast to the two rows of five navy buttons on the frock coats of other officers.
- 1918 Chaplains could wear the cap prescribed for other staff officers.
- 1918 Chaplains could wear gold braid on the sleeves with lustrous black cloth between the gold braid; the same rule applied to shoulder marks (The lustrous black cloth was removed in 1921).
- 1918 The first corps device for Jewish chaplains was approved.
- 1941 Chaplains assigned to the Marine Corps could wear the field uniform as required of Marine Corps officers.
- 1944 Chaplains serving with Navy aviation units were permitted to wear the winter working uniforms when prescribed.
- 1959 Chaplains assigned to Marine Corps units were permitted to wear the prescribed uniform.

"Why are they always changing the uniforms?" is a question often heard in military circles. While much can be said for consistency and constancy, certainly from the administrative, supply, and economic points of view, the need for change is inevitable and apparent.

Times change. Grooming practices in vogue today are not necessarily so tomorrow. With the increasing number of women on active duty, there is a greater need to achieve conformity in men's and women's uniforms. Uniform designs, especially those of women, must not be too far removed from civilian clothing styles.



Circumstances change. This occasions constant attention being given to what is safe, convenient, comfortable, and practical.

Technology changes. The production of new fabrics in itself calls for continuing review and evaluation.

What, then, is constant? The need for clarification of requirements. The challenge to naval personnel to appear before each other and the general public in uniforms that proudly denote professionalism and authority. In the past chaplains have met this challenge by their dress and demeanor, and they will continue to do so.

### **NOTES**

1. James C. Tily, The Uniforms of the United States Navy (New York:

Thomas Yoseloff, 1964), pp. 56, 58.

2. This practice continued until 1845, when lieutenants were permitted to wear epaulets on both shoulders. See Robert H. Rankin, *Uniforms of the Sea Services: A Pictorial History* (Annapolis, Maryland: United States Naval Institute, 1962), pp. 47, 59.

3. Tily, The Uniforms of the United States Navy, p. 79.

4. Rankin, Uniforms of the Sea Services, p. 58.

5. Fay A. Garrett, "History of the Insignia of the Staff Corps of the United States Navy" (Library, Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.), p. 2.

6. Clifford M. Drury, *The History of the Chaplain Corps, United States Navy*, 2 vols. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1949–50), I:169–70.

- 7. Ibid., p. 194.
- 8. Ibid., p. 193.
- 9. Ibid., p. 230.
- 10. Drury, The History of the Chaplain Corps, United States Navy, II: 11.



## **APPENDIX**

# THE PLACEMENT OF THE CROSS ON THE NAVY CHAPLAIN'S UNIFORM

The question often arises as to why the cross on the uniform of the Navy chaplain (Christian) is in an inclined position. It has been so since its adoption in 1864 (except for the change on the long-sleeved shirt collar in 1974), and there is no known record of why this is so. Some have speculated that it was placed in that position for better fit on the contour of the collar, but it was worn on the cap long before it was worn on the collar. There has been some dissatisfaction with its placement, as is illustrated by the comments of retired Chaplain (Captain) William W. Edel in an interview 17–19 November 1980 by one of the authors. (Captain Edel at this writing is the oldest known living Navy chaplain.)

M: ... I would not want us to leave our discussion of your career without thinking of some of the ways in which you have been innovative. Of course, we've already mentioned the three-way altar and other ways in which you moved out in areas that had not been explored before. But there are three or four items which I would like to mention right now. For a good while, even during the period of time that I've been associated with the Navy, there has been discussion in regard to how the cross ought to be worn on the Navy uniform. I note that you were thinking about that a long time ago because we have here a letter from you in August of 1942, addressed to the Chief of Naval Personnel, in which you are making certain recommendations in regard to the placing of the cross on the uniform. You gave reasons for your recommended change. The cross, you said, is a Christian symbol and as such it should be upright rather than inclined as it is now. You said that if a cross that is leaning backward is a symbol of anything, it's a symbol of compliance, of submission, of defeat; and then you pointed out that a cross set perpendicular to the stripes would present a clean symmetrical design. A cross reclining at an angle spoils the symmetry of the design and appears off center and out of balance. No other corps of commissioned officers, you pointed out, wears a corps design that is set askew. And then you mentioned that the angle at which the cross is set originated when the cross was first placed on the stand-up collar of the old uniform blouse, which is not used any more, and that when one bends the arm of the Navy blue uniform, the cross then is placed in a supine position. And then finally in the nomenclature of western cattle branding—I would never have thought of this—a cross placed at such an angle would be known as a lazy cross. A device that can be so described, you said, is not a proper device to represent the Chaplain Corps. A cross set perpendicular to the stripes could not be described in such derogatory terms. Do you have any vivid recollection of how much discussion your letter elicited?

- E: As far as I know, it didn't elicit any. I never received an answer to it and nobody ever mentioned it to me again. I have mentioned it to a great many chaplains. I have never found one who would object to the cross being made perpendicular to the stripes, and I think it still should be changed and made upright as I indicated in my letter. Perhaps just to be contrary, in the last ten years of my active duty I always wore the cross on my blue uniforms perpendicular to the stripes. I wouldn't wear a lazy cross.
- M: We have constant discussion of propriety of the uniform and its wearing. I hope that this will receive all the discussion that it deserves.
- E: You, as historian of the Corps, might bring that letter in its entirety to the attention of the proper authorities and even to the attention of the Uniform Board so that we might get something out of it.



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