
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CUTLASS

The word “cutlass” is derived from the term “curtal axe,” an ancient, heavy but short weapon. Years ago, the cutlass was used in ship-to-ship melees, in boarding parties and to repel boarders. Many 1860s-model cutlasses are on display at the USS CONSTITUTION Museum in Boston.

Today, the Chief Petty Officer Cutlass is authorized to be worn at official ceremonies by CPO members of the official party when officer members are required to wear swords. The cutlass as described in this article (reference NAVADMIN 070/11) is the only authorized cutlass that can be worn in Full Dress Uniform.



Description:

- The CPO Cutlass blade is made from stainless steel, nickel in color, 26 inches in length. This historical blade has an anodized brass cuillère à pot (soup ladle) hand guard patterned after the Navy’s 1861 cutlass.
- At the base of one side of the blade are four laser-engraved CPO anchors (CPO, SCPO, MCPO and MCPON).
- On the opposite side of the blade are the laser-engraved initials, U.S.N.
- The pommel is brass in color and contains the design of the 1897 CPO cap insignia.
- The cutlass features include a brass-colored hand guard and a black leather handle that is wrapped in gold wire.

Accessories:

- The cutlass is accompanied by a matching leather scabbard with brass top mount and toe plate.
- The buckle is gold-plated in color with two interlocking fasteners. Mounted on the center of the buckle are applicable rank insignia (CPO, SCPO, MCPO or MCPON).
- The adjustable belt is made from black leather with an adjustable shoulder strap.
- The frog is made from black leather and custom-made to fit the CPO Cutlass scabbard.

MANNER OF WEAR

The CPO Cutlass belt and shoulder harness assembly are worn under the dress coat (When properly worn, the belt and strap will not be visible).

- The shoulder harness is worn across the right shoulder diagonally and attaches to the harness rings on the left side of the harness belt.
- The cutlass belt is worn fastened above the trouser or slacks belt line and parallel to the side opening of the dress coat.
- The frog is attached to the left side of the belt and inserted through the side opening of the dress coat.
- The shoulder harness should be adjusted to ensure that the frog does not pull down or up on the dress coat.
- The scabbard is inserted into the frog and positioned by inserting the mounting knob of the scabbard into the corresponding opening in the frog.
- The CPO Cutlass is inserted into the scabbard and worn with the pommel facing up and hand guard facing outward.
- During ceremonies, the CPO Cutlass is not to be drawn. If military courtesy requires a salute, the hand salute is rendered.
- When an overcoat is worn with the full dress blue uniform, the frog extends through the side opening of both the dress coat and the bridge coat.
- How to purchase: Purchase of the CPO Cutlass shall be at the member's expense via special order at Navy Exchange (NEX) Uniform Centers, via the NEX uniform website or by calling the NEX.

