NEX
Navy Exchange
AND
YOUR UNIFORM

241

U.S. NAVY BIRTHDAY 1775 - 2016
THE NEX PARTNERS
WITH MORE THAN 40 VENDORS

To provide Sailors with all their U.S. Navy uniform needs. Wearing the Navy uniform is a point of pride, which is why vendors must produce the highest quality uniform possible. All mandatory uniforms are proudly made right here in the USA. And a number of the associates at the companies who make the Navy uniform have also previously served in the military, or are greatly inspired by those who do. You can read more of their personal stories inside.

Here are a few of the U.S. cities where your uniform calls home:

FECHHEIMER BROTHERS

BATES SHOE CO / WOLVERINE

SARANAC GLOVES

Fechheimer Brothers

Belleville, IL

Belleville, IL

NEW YORK, NY & ENFIELD CT

Statesville, NC

Burlington, NC

Burlington, NC

Reidsville, NC

Reidsville, NC

Troy Support (DLA)

Kingform, Hicksville, NY

Selig Enterprises

Sayre Enterprises

Sayre Enterprises

Matthews, NC

Matthews, NC

Lynchburg, VA

Lynchburg, VA

Norfolk, VA

Fleming Island, FL

Fleming Island, FL

Shadowbag Industries

Shadowbag Industries

/ Medal Medic

Irod / Medal Medic

Hialeah, FL

Bernard Cap Co

Bernard Cap Co

Fayetteville, NC

MJ Soffe Co

MJ Soffe Co

Orange Park, FL

Irod

Irod

Fleming Island, FL

Fleming Island, FL

Shadowbag Industries

Shadowbag Industries

/ Medal Medic

Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia, PA

Why your NEX is there to provide you with all your uniform needs.

Whether you're stationed ashore or at sea, your NEX is there to provide you with all your uniform needs. We have over 100 NEX Uniform Shops located around the world as well as our Customer Care Center which is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week to take your uniform order or answer your uniform question. You can even place an order through our on-line store, myNavyExchange.com.

It is our honor to serve you!

Robert J. Bianchi
Rear Admiral, Supply Corps, USN (Ret.)
Chief Executive Officer
Navy Exchange Service Command

Uniform vendors have contributed to this publication. The Navy Exchange Service Command, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Government do not endorse the products or companies listed therein.

DEAR VALUED CUSTOMER:

Your NEX has a long history of providing quality uniforms to our Navy men and women. We know that you want the uniform you wear with pride to reflect the quality befitting a Sailor in the U.S. Navy.

Our Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility in Natick, Mass., conducts testing and evaluation of all uniform items to ensure they meet or exceed Navy quality standards. Their primary mission is to develop uniforms and protective clothing worn by Sailors.

Our NEX Uniform Shop associates know how to fit and tailor a Navy uniform so that you look your best. They also know the Navy Regulations regarding Navy uniforms, so they can ensure you have the proper uniforms and insignia. NEX laundry/dry cleaning and embroidery services will help you maintain your uniform in top shape.

Whether you're stationed ashore or at sea, your NEX is there to provide you with all your uniform needs. We have over 100 NEX Uniform Shops located around the world as well as our Customer Care Center which is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week to take your uniform order or answer your uniform question. You can even place an order through our on-line store, myNavyExchange.com.

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AMERICAN MADE UNIFORMS: MORE THAN 240 YEARS OF NAVY PRIDE

The first uniforms of the American Revolutionary Sailor were nondescript, “consisting of pantaloons often tied at the knee or knee breeches, a jumper or shirt, neckerchief, short waisted jacket and low crowned hats. The short trousers were practical so as not to interfere with a man’s work in the rigging of his ship. Most Sailors went barefoot. A kerchief or bandana was worn either as a sweatband or as a simple closure for the collar,” according to the Naval History and Heritage Command (history.navy.mil).

As we celebrate the Navy’s 241st birthday on October 13th, obviously a lot has changed. This story features the new uniform standards as well as some brand history and stories of personal connections to the Navy from the people behind the trusted labels that help create the look of today’s Sailor.

For more than 70 years, the NEX has existed as a service benefit for all service men and women. Nowhere else will you find associates with more training and expertise about your Navy uniform. Many of our in-store tailors have served for decades, because they find immense pride in serving those who serve.

Uniforms are available to be ordered 24/7 either online at myNavyExchange.com or by calling us toll-free from anywhere in the world - and we ship to anywhere in the world. From your first ditty bag issue to your retirement ceremony, the NEX is honored to make these milestones with you.
The Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility (NCTRF), located in Natick, Mass., conducts the testing and evaluation of all uniform items to ensure they meet or exceed Navy quality standards. A team of textile technologists, clothing designers, physiologists and other scientific experts are all involved in conducting the research, design, development, improvement and user assessment studies of protective garments and equipment. Using unique testing equipment and facilities, NCTRF tests uniform fabrics for fire and heat resistance, water immersion and buoyancy, heat and cold stress, ballistic protection, and uniform design and development. NCTRF’s technical teams conduct wear and fit tests, set sizing systems for uniforms, assist store and Recruit Training Center personnel in fit and tailoring techniques, and support a continuous quality assurance program. Improving uniform design, fit, and durability as well as upgrading materials to bring the best to the Sailors is part of the NCTRF mission.

For nearly all Sailors, NEXCOM is a part of their very first experiences in the Navy. From those nerve-wracking first steps off the bus at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., to the proud moment of graduation, the NEX is there - working behind the scenes to support the Sailors. All personal effects - cell phones, jewelry, and even the clothes on their backs - are shipped back home or donated. For now, the enlistees’ only clothes are PT gear, and their sole possession is their sea bag. More than 30,000 recruits are processed annually at Great Lakes, and NEX associates work tirelessly to ensure that each sea bag issued includes the daily essentials these young men and women will need.

Once the last phone call home has been made, recruits are escorted to the NEX barber shop. There, a handful of dedicated barbers work throughout the day to ensure the new recruits meet regulation. Shortly after, NEX Uniform Shop specialists begin fitting the new recruits for their Navy Working Uniform (NWUs) and additional uniforms. Additionally, the NEX takes on the daily task of laundering all towels, uniforms and PT gear used by recruits. When the eight weeks of boot camp draw to a close, the Navy Lodge is there to offer a warm welcome to the loved ones of the proud graduates.
NAVY UNIFORM SUPPORT CENTER
AT YOUR SERVICE 24/7

The Navy Uniform Support Center supports the Sailor in many ways. Our Call Center is open 24/7 and uniforms can be ordered online at any time, because we know that not all Sailors are currently stationed near a NEX. Our knowledgeable Customer Service associates are available to answer any questions you have about your Navy uniform, insignia, order or shipping.

The Navy Uniform Support Center also works closely with the Office of Deceased Affairs to provide uniforms to service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving on active duty. “Providing the correct uniform for deceased service members is our way of rendering ‘the final salute’ to our fallen shipmate,” says NEXCOM associate Marian Nelson. “We handle these calls, sometimes directly from surviving family members, with the utmost respect and urgency – it’s our way of providing comfort and respect at a very difficult time.”

THE NEX
PERSONAL TAILORING SERVICES: WHEN ONLY EXPERT UNIFORM SERVICE WILL DO

Ms. Lewis and Ms. Jones of the NEX Norfolk, Va., Uniform Shop are two uniform experts who have passion and commitment for their work. Between them, Ms. Lewis and Ms. Jones have over 80 years of experience in fitting and tailoring Sailors to help them look their best as they advance through their Navy careers. Despite having over 50 years of experience in textiles and uniforms, Ms. Lewis says she continues to learn something new every day.

For the past three years, Bonnie Hoffman, a NEX Saratoga Springs Associate, has baked and decorated cakes to celebrate her local store’s CPO Events. “Bonnie puts so much time and effort into each one,” says Branch Exchange Manager, Mary Papasso, “They are all one of a kind works of art.”

CPO UNIFORM FITTING EVENTS

Since the NEX is a Sailor’s sole source for Navy-certified uniforms, we cannot help but join in on the excitement around our newly selected Chief Petty Officers. When CPO Selectees visit our Uniform Shops, NEX associates and tailors are on hand ready to fit and measure selectees for their new uniforms. The events have become an exciting annual tradition, with many CPO Selectees and associates sharing in the achievement through cake-cutting events, karaoke competitions and other fun in-store events.

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“We spend as long as it takes to make our Sailors look their best. Everyone works together to get the best fit possible – with as little alteration as possible.”

— Lisa Jones, Uniform Shop NEX Norfolk

The NEX is your sole source for Navy-certified uniforms. NEX Uniform Shop associates are trained uniform experts who know how to help you select, fit, tailor, hem, embroider and dry clean your uniforms properly - and nobody can do these things better than your NEX.

• Free hemming, available on all newly-purchased Navy uniforms

• Shop online 24/7 at myNavyExchange.com/nex/uniforms or by calling 800.368.4088 from CONUS*, Guam, Hawaii, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. All additional toll-free numbers can be found online.
NEW!
WORKING UNIFORM CHANGE
FOR ALL RANKS

From the Clothing and Textiles supply chain of the Defense Logistics Agency, a long-standing partner with the Navy, every stitch of the newly redesigned NWU is sourced, fabricated and sewn in the USA. DLA’s tradition of producing high quality American-made uniforms dates back to 1800, when their operations were based out of the Schuylkill Arsenal in Pennsylvania.

By the time the Civil War erupted, the arsenal had been repurposed for the manufacture and storage of uniforms and clothing for the Union troops.

Over 10,000 seamstresses and tailors worked tirelessly to offer what comfort and protection they could for those on the front lines. Today, DLA continues to honor the commitment to quality US-made clothing and supplies for our Sailors.

Increased comfort and protection were focal points in designing the NWU Type III. Now even more durable, the NWU Type III will be available at the NEX in 2017.

Today’s uniforms are a far cry from the comparatively simple military garments of the past. The amount of research, development and quality control that goes into each generation of NWUs is truly impressive. Sailor feedback and constant field-testing have contributed to the latest iteration of NWU Type III.

Through several phases, the NWU Type I will be transitioned to the Type III. In addition to featuring a new camouflage pattern, the NWU Type III will be made of a blend of 50% nylon, 50% cotton ripstop. These well-designed enhancements will provide a more comfortable and durable NWU for year-round wear.

Right: Current Navy Working Uniform Type I

Soffe working T-shirts are Made in the USA from 100% ringspun cotton and are as comfortable as they are functional - reducing moisture to keep your skin dry.

A WORKING UNIFORM
THAT WORKS BETTER FOR YOU

Soffe working T-shirts are Made in the USA from 100% ringspun cotton and are as comfortable as they are functional - reducing moisture to keep your skin dry.
Domestically sourced and fabricated by DLA, the enlisted uniforms for both men and women come in a wide array of styles and functions. The women’s Service Dress Blue have been redesigned to feature a discreet zipper on the side of the blouse, as well as a front zipper on the trousers.

Service Dress uniforms are among the quintessential Navy garments. Sailors have donned various forms of the familiar Service Dress White since the early days of the Navy. For the first time since 1941, the Service Dress White will now feature navy blue piping on the yoke. This iteration of the Service Dress White is clean and modern, with a nod to previous generations of Navy uniforms.

The NEX is your sole source for Navy Certified uniforms. Shop online 24/7 at myNavyExchange.com/nex/uniforms.

Sailors test the wearability of the updated Service Dress Blue. A staple of the Service Dress uniform, the White Hat will now be available for both men and women. White piping has been added to the cuffs and yoke of the women’s Service Dress Blue, as well as a discreet side zipper on the blouse. These updated covers are now available at your NEX.

NEW!

DRESS UNIFORM CHANGES FOR E1-E6

RIGHT: Master-at-Arms 1st Class Mary Morrison tries on a White Hat to be worn with the new E1-E6 Service Dress Blue female uniform with a NEXCOM uniform associate during a fit evaluation. New uniform items are currently being evaluated for fit, comfort and durability before the final designs are released fleet-wide.

BELOW: Piping will be featured on the cuffs as well as the yoke of the men’s and women’s Service Dress White.
That phrase, familiar to members of the U.S. Navy, also aptly describes Brooks Brothers’ history with the U.S. military. From the company’s founding in 1818, it outfitted soldiers and cadets for military service spanning the globe, on land, air and at sea. Where the U.S. military trained and traveled, Brooks Brothers went with them, including many of the events that shaped history: Union soldiers fighting in the Civil War. Theodore Roosevelt’s charge up San Juan Hill; battling German U-boats in the Atlantic. Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference. Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz’s command of the Pacific Seas. Brooks Brothers continues the tradition today with their line of U.S. Navy Premier Collection uniforms, created using the finest fabrics, components and construction available.

**LOOK YOUR BEST AT YOUR NEXT NAVY FUNCTION**

**PREMIER UNIFORM OPTIONS FOR SERVICE DRESS BLUES FOR OFFICERS AND CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS**

Whether it’s a Change of Command or your shipmate’s wedding, the NEX offers a premier Service Dress Blue uniform option manufactured by Brooks Brothers. The U.S. Navy Premier Collection by Brooks Brothers is a high quality line that includes Service Dress Blue jackets, pants and skirts, non-iron dress shirts as well as formal shirts and silk ties. “There are 12 section supervisors involved in the process of making U.S. Navy uniforms,” says Brooks Brothers Manufacturing Manager Jim Murphy. “Brooks Brothers uses a combination of elite sewing and pressing technology as well as hand sewing to ensure the highest level of quality for the U.S. Navy.”

**ANYTIME ANYWHERE**

I feel a tremendous sense of pride and honor in my role with Brooks Brothers and the U.S. Navy. My grandfather served in the Navy during World War II and I was given his dog tags when I joined Brooks Brothers in this role. Every day when I go to work, I feel connected to my family, our country and generations of service men and women who selflessly give and sacrifice.

— Alexandra Pewley, Military Market Manager, Brooks Brothers

My father was an officer in the U.S. Navy back in the 1940s. I have photos of my dad wearing his various uniforms at the time. Thirteen years ago when I was asked to help develop the new U.S. Navy Premier Collection, I was thrilled and honored — and even more so proud — that my work would honor my father and his service to our country.

— Joanne Martorelli, Head of Global Quality Assurance, Social Compliance and Product Safety, Brooks Brothers

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Bernard Cap Company uses the highest quality standards and an internationally recognized quality control program, which exceeds the 70+ specific steps to produce a single cap. Every Bernard cap produced is 100% Made in the USA.

NEW!

DRESS UNIFORM CHANGES FOR OFFICERS & CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

The new Alternate Combination Cover (ACC) is the one of the most durable and lightweight dress cap ever developed for the Navy. “Every detail was re-thought, tested, and then field tested for feedback to ensure customer satisfaction,” says Larry Weinstein, fifth-generation owner and CEO of Bernard Cap Company, makers of the ACC. “We are proud of our history of working with the NEX for the Navy’s headwear needs – we use the finest American components and only employ highly skilled American workers in our U.S. factory where all of our caps are manufactured.”

Authorized for female Officers and Chief Petty Officers, the Service Dress White uniform will be updated to feature a choker-style collar for women. Shown here on a U.S. Naval Academy midshipman taking the oath of office at the 2016 graduation and commissioning ceremony, the new women’s Service Dress White uniform will be available at your NEX in early 2017.

Visit myNavyExchange.com to see the new Navy Women’s Standards which features jewelry, beauty, handbags and other accessories that meet Navy uniform regulation standards. All products shown are available for delivery worldwide by your NEX – wherever your duty station may be.

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www.myNavyExchange.com/NavyWomensStandards

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NAVY UNIFORM MANUFACTURING
AN AMERICAN-MADE TRADITION

In 1865, Navy uniform manufacturing brand Flying Cross helped establish the standardization of men's uniform sizes, serving both the North and South with uniforms during the Civil War. The Flying Cross brand is still part of the military uniform story today. Angela Milligan, vice president of marketing for Flying Cross, says, “To be a part of the U.S. Navy by way of one of the most visible sources of recognition - the uniform - is an honor we hold dear.” Jim Kelly, Flying Cross’s director of military sales adds, “When your business is manufacturing uniforms for the United States Navy, there is no doubt where these products should be made. They should be made right here in the U.S. We provide great jobs for our American workers and produce high quality products for our Sailors. This is something we are very proud of because our service members deserve only the best.”

When Navy veteran John Kindregan stepped off the USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) for the last time in 1981, he knew that he would always have a great love for the Navy wherever his next steps led. Kindregan now owns Neptune Garment Company, one of the last remaining garment manufacturers located in the South End of Boston.

Kindregan is proud of the fact that he employs American workers to make the jackets and bridge coats for the U.S. Navy. “Nobody takes care of the Sailors better than the NEX. They bend over backwards to serve our men and women in uniform.”

RELAXED FIT JACKET
MADE BY A FELLOW NAVY VETERAN

One of the ways we ensure our garments meet the highest quality standards for our customers is through our rigorous quality inspection program. All U.S. Navy garments must pass our check points from beginning to end with a 100% inspection rate. — John Karnes, Plant Manager, Flying Cross

The NEX is a truly great organization with great people, and I am happy to be a part of their Navy uniform history for the past 35 years. — John Kindregan

BELOW: Captain Robert Gantt, SC, USN (Ret) and Petty Officer Josh Devoisha, a NEXCOM associate, wear the relaxed fit jacket from Neptune Garment Company.
The modern military has transformed the way Sailors train to maintain peak physical performance. Circuit training, kettlebells, and plyometric exercises are all utilized to keep our troops functionally fit. Created using high-performance fabrics and detailed attention to human biomechanics, New Balance PT clothing works on the road, trail, or in the gym.

The New Balance certified optional short sleeve and long sleeve technical running shirts wick sweat to the outer layer and away from the body, giving you better moisture evaporation while helping you to feel cooler during your workouts. The New Balance certified optional running shorts have a 7” inseam for freedom of movement and a soft hand for comfort.

Soffe has produced American-made military garments since the 1960s. Whether it’s polyester performance garments, fleece, or their signature reinforced collar T-shirts, domestic manufacturing is a core part of the Soffe DNA. Always looking for ways to improve and innovate, Soffe has updated their sweats and fleece with reflective logos to match the current PT uniform logo. This modification serves not only to complement the existing PT uniforms but improves the Sailor’s safety and visibility when training in low-light conditions.

Soffe’s reflective Navy logo serves both form and function - it coordinates with the existing short sleeve PT gear, and it also improves the wearer’s visibility in low-light. Look for the updated sweats and fleeces soon at your NEX.
The military veteran at the helm of Vanguard Industries, Bill Gershen, realizes the sacrifices made by service members and that each award is a badge of honor. It is this understanding that drives the Vanguard commitment and dedication to providing quality products that exceed all government standards – and it has been this way for Vanguard’s more than 100-year history.

With a complete line of all U.S. Navy insignia, including the premier silver bullion hand embroidered rating badge, a significant amount of care and detail goes into each piece of Vanguard insignia. These craftsmen and craftswomen have put a great deal of pride into supporting our Sailors – not only out of patriotic duty, but because as veterans and military family members themselves, they feel like they are making a difference in the lives of their colleagues, friends, sons and daughters.

I had the great privilege of serving in the U.S. Navy for 27 years. Upon my retirement, I joined the Vanguard team. I know the feeling of pride and honor that wearing the uniform brings and am proud to continue the Vanguard tradition of supporting our Sailors whenever and wherever their mission may be.

— SHCM John McClain USN, Ret., General Manager Vanguard East

HAND-CRAFTED INSIGNIA
BECAUSE YOU’VE EARNED IT

Serving in Stride:
Put Your Best Foot Forward

For 130 years, Bates has designed and manufactured footwear using 100% USA materials and workers from Big Rapids, Mich. Throughout the company’s history, Bates has been dedicated to supporting our military, having manufactured more than one million shoes for our troops during WWII. Like the men and women who serve, Bates is also committed with producing superior quality footwear. Every pair of Bates shoes made is hand crafted with over 100 manufacturing steps from material cutting to final packaging.

— Gail Taylor, Director of Operations (Big Rapids Factory)
SEE MORE ONLINE! Visit us to see videos and other uniform partner content at myNavyExchange.com/nex/uniforms and, as always, you can shop online 24/7 or at your local Navy Exchange.

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