

Our Enduring Duty to America's Service Members and Their Families

EASING UNIFORM COSTS AND IMPROVING UNIFORM QUALITY FOR THE ENLISTED FORCE

SEPT. 13, 2024

INITIATIVE: This initiative directs the secretaries of the military departments and the director of the Defense Logistics Agency to review the quality of the enlisted force's standard-issue uniform clothing. It also directs the undersecretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness, in coordination with the secretaries of the military departments, to review the sufficiency of the cash clothing replacement allowances payable to the enlisted force.

- **WHAT IS IT?** The military departments will conduct a review of the standard-issue uniform clothing provided to the enlisted force to determine if the items meet their intended wear life. A separate, but parallel review, led by the undersecretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness in coordination with the military departments, will assess whether the annual cash clothing replacement allowance paid to enlisted members is sufficient to offset the cost of replacing uniforms as they wear out over the course of their normal use.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** The reviews will help to ensure that the uniform clothing issued to the enlisted force – such as camouflage utility uniforms – is well-made, reliable and performs as expected, and that the cash replacement allowance is sufficient so that enlisted service members do not have to pay extraordinary out-of-pocket costs to replace standard-issue uniform clothing.
- **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** While “eligibility” doesn’t directly apply to these reviews, ensuring that the uniform clothing issued to the enlisted force is well-made, reliable and performs as expected, and that the cash replacement allowance is sufficient for enlisted service members to replace uniform items without extraordinary out-of-pocket costs, is at the heart of the reviews. Moreover, the results of the reviews will ultimately impact the well-being and readiness of every enlisted member of the force, from the new E-1 entering basic training to the most seasoned senior E-9 at the pinnacle of their career.
- **WHAT IS STANDARD-ISSUE UNIFORM CLOTHING?** Standard-issue uniform clothing is provided without cost to enlisted service members in their clothing bag or seabag at basic training. These clothing items – their issued uniform items – are designed to be worn by enlisted service members while performing military duties and include everything from coats, shirts/blouses, pants/trousers, skirts and fitness gear, to hats, belts, shoes, boots, ties and insignia.
- **WHEN WILL THE REVIEW BE COMPLETED?** The quality review of the standard-issued uniform clothing will be performed by April 2025. The review of the enlisted cash uniform replacement allowance rates will be finished by September 2025.

For more information on the cash clothing replacement allowance, please see the Defense Department's Financial Management Regulation, Volume 7A, Chapter 29: https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/fmr/current/07a/07a_29.pdf.