



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-5937

4 May 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CAP MEMBERS

FROM: CAP/CC

SUBJECT: CAP Transition to the Airman Battle Uniform (ABU)

1. I am pleased to announce that the Air Force has approved Civil Air Patrol's request to transition to the Airman Battle Uniform. As the official auxiliary of the Air Force CAP has a long history of wearing a USAF style uniform and our transition to the ABU once again brings us in line with our parent service.

2. As a result of negotiations with the Army & Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES), CAP has also been approved to receive a significant number of excess ABUs. This will allow many CAP members to receive the basic ABU shirt and pants at no cost. We are currently working with AAFES to take possession of the excess uniforms and each Wing is establishing a distribution plan. We expect these uniforms to be available to members in the field this summer.

3. The phase in period for wear of the ABU will begin on 15 June 2016. Members will wear the ABU with the dark blue tapes and insignia as outlined in the attached wear instructions. Vanguard will begin accepting orders for the new devices on 15 June 2016. The Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) may continue to be worn until the mandatory phase out date of 15 June 2021. CAP will also begin to transition to dark blue tapes on the Corporate field uniform and BDUs with a mandatory wear date of 15 June 2021. Members are not required to change the tapes on existing uniforms until the mandatory wear date; however, all devices on the uniform must match. The attached wear instructions will constitute regulatory guidance on the wear of the ABU until a revision to CAP Manual 39-1 is released.

3. If you have any comments or concerns, contact Ms Susan Parker, CAP/DP at (334) 953-7748, extension 212 or email sparker@capnhq.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph R. Vazquez".

JOSEPH R. VAZQUEZ
Major General, CAP
Commander

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ABU Wear instructions