Yokosuka Navy Exchange rolls out Navy Working Uniform

By MCSN Mike Mulcare, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's (CFAY) Navy Exchange (NEX) rolled out the new Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Feb. 10.

Released in January 2009, the NWU will replace working utilities, tropical working uniforms, wash khakis, winter working blue, aviation working green, and non-tactical and environmental usage of camouflage utility uniforms.

With CFAY NEX Fleet Store purchases increasing to more than 1,840 transactions in a single day, Sailors are seeking the NWU in vast numbers.

"We sold more than $121,000 worth of NWU items in one day," said CFAY NEX Fleet Store Manager Joanne Nadeau. "The main thing we do is take care of the Sailor because that is our job and number one priority."

Sailors from on board CFAY try on the new Navy Working Uniform (NWU) at the Fleet Exchange Feb. 11. Released in January 2009, the NWU will replace working utilities, tropical working uniforms, wash khakis, winter working blue, aviation working green, and non-tactical and environmental usage of camouflage utility uniforms.
U.S. Navy photo by MCC(SW/AW) Eric Hannah

Nadeau said the store is well stocked with more than 84 pallets of NWU items.

For sizing assistance, Sailors can seek help from one of the NEX sales clerks, some of whom have previously worked at a NEX facility selling the uniform. Commands can even schedule times to come in for a fitting.

According to CFAY NEX Fleet Exchange Sales Clerk Mitch Lymn, the new uniform is fairly easy to size. Lymn said the pants have an elastic band, making sizing easy, and the blouses generally take one or two fittings before a Sailor finds the right size.

San Diego-based Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Arlin Landry said his command is already scheduled for a fitting session. He says he's excited that the new uniforms are available and ready to get his junior Sailors fitted.

The Navy authorized the NWU for wear January 2009, and Sailors may still wear predating working uniforms until December 2010.

Two new NWUs to hit fleet in 2011

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Two new Navy Working Uniforms (NWU) will hit the fleet in fiscal year 2011. The first, NWU Type II, a desert digital camouflage uniform of four colors with the anchor, Constitution and eagle (ACE) logo embedded in the print, will be worn by special warfare operators and Sailors who support them during deployment and deployment training exercises.

The second, NWU Type III, is a woodland digital camouflage uniform which also has four colors and the ACE logo embedded in the print. It will be the standard camouflage uniform worn in non-desert environments and stateside.

Both uniforms, announced in NAVADMIN 374/09, are organizational clothing provided to Sailors by commands authorized to issue them.

The unisex uniforms will begin conformance testing to validate design, fit and wear later in fiscal year 2010. Fleet implementation is expected to begin in late 2011.

Sailors can get complete information on the new NWU Type II and Type III uniforms in NAVADMIN 374/09 available at www.npc.navy.mil.

Cupid helps Sailor pop the question to fiancée on *GW* bridge

By MC2 Brendan R. Morgan,
***USS George Washington* Public Affairs**

When Jubeliz Maldonado came aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) Feb. 5, she thought her boyfriend, Aviation Ordnanceman Seaman Xavier Rodriguez-Rivas, would simply be giving her a tour of the ship. What Maldonado did not know was that it was a ploy by her boyfriend to ask her a life-changing question.

"I had no idea he was going to propose," said Maldonado.

"I wanted to do something special, something she wouldn't forget. I set it up so we would take a tour of the ship," said Rodriguez-Rivas as he recounted getting on one knee to pop the question. "At the end we went up to the bridge and I proposed to her while she was sitting in the captain's chair."

Maldonado said it took him six weeks to plan the proposal with a little help from his friends and, of course, Cupid – Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW) Keshawn Cupid, that is.

"He said he wanted to ask his girlfriend to marry him and I told him the best place to do it would be on the bridge," said Cupid, Rodriguez-Rivas's supervisor.

Living up to his name, Cupid helped the young airman plan for his girlfriend's arrival, including getting Maldonado to Japan and making hotel and transportation arrangements, all of which were difficult for Rodriguez-Rivas because he has only been in Japan for such a short time.

AOAN Xavier Rodriguez-Rivas proposes to his girlfriend, Jubeliz Maldonado, sitting in the captain's chair on the navigation bridge aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Feb. 5. Maldonado said "Yes."
U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Rachel N. Hatch

Though the two had talked about marriage in the future, Maldonado said the bridge of the ship was the last place she ever expected to be proposed to. But on this day, the highly coveted captain's chair on the bridge of a 100-ton aircraft carrier became the place where a young woman said "yes," to the proposal of a young man.

Rodriguez-Rivas says he knew he would marry Maldonado the day they met at a mall in Kissimmee, Fla. After more than three years of dating, the couple plans to wed in Florida in April. In the mean time, Maldonado says she's enjoying her visit by looking around her future home of Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan.

"It's really exciting, just from what I've seen in the past couple of days, and I love it over here already," she said.

Rodriguez-Rivas says that while his new fiancée was nervous about becoming a military spouse and moving to Japan, after seeing where she'll be living, she is looking forward to her new life.

"I'm ready for it. I just want to be the best wife I can be and support him as much as I can," she said.