Some Sailors to receive one-time, targeted allowance for NWU

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy announced a targeted, one-time Clothing Replacement Allowance (CRA) for approximately 45,000 Sailors who did not receive the required amount of Navy Working Uniforms (NWU) or annual allowances.

According to Naval Administrative Message NAVADMIN 358/10 released Oct. 29, active component, Full Time Support and National Call to Service Sailors who entered recruit training between Oct. 1, 2007 and Sept. 30, 2008 will receive a one-time CRA of $368.19. Affected Sailors who entered recruit training between Oct. 1, 2008 and April 26, 2009 will receive a one-time CRA of $524.35. Payments will begin as early as Nov. 15 and will meet leadership's intent to ensure no out-of-pocket expenses are used to meet uniform requirements.

The Navy recognized that selected active component, Full Time Support and National Call to Service Sailors who entered recruit training between Oct. 1, 2007 and April 26, 2009 were not issued NWU components due to a delay in uniform production. Additionally, these Sailors did not receive sufficient allowances to compensate for these changes. These one-time targeted payments are designed to correct this shortfall and ensure all Sailors have the means to purchase the required uniforms or reimburse those who may have already purchased the NWU.

"Navy leadership's goal has always been to ensure our Sailors receive their full entitlement and no one is financially burdened when meeting seabag requirements," explained Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel. "These targeted payments will correct this oversight and bring our junior Sailors up to the appropriate level of uniform entitlement."

Dec. 31, 2010 remains the Navy Working Uniform's mandatory wear date for the entire fleet, as the Navy Utility Uniform (dungarees) will no longer be authorized. Following receipt of the targeted CRA, these affected Sailors will not be expected to have a full complement of the NWU in their seabags until Sept. 30, 2011. For the rest of the fleet not affected by this uniform issue, they are required to have their full NWU complement by the original wear date.

Sailors can learn more about these targeted payments through the following means:

• Bupers Online (BOL). Sailors can log on to BOL at https://www.bol.navy.mil and run an individual review to determine if they will receive a targeted CRA payment. The query hyperlink is named "Navy Working Uniform One-time Targeted Clothing Replacement Allowance Information."

• NPC Customer Service Center (CSC). The NPC CSC is available by e-mail 24/7 via cscmailbox@navy.mil. Place "Navy Working Uniform One-time Targeted Clothing Replacement Allowance Information" in the subject line, and the e-mail must include name, last four digits of your SSN, Unit Identification Code (UIC) and recruit training attendance dates (from DD Form 4/1). Additionally, the NPC CSC is available between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., EST at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672). With the same e-mail information, CSC personnel can run an individual review and answer questions specific to the targeted CRA payment.

CS1 Richard Rieth, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer *USS John S. McCain* (DDG 56), looks through the different components of the Navy Working Uniform at the Navy Exchange uniform shop on board CFAY Feb. 10, the first day the uniform was available in Navy Region Japan.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dominique Pineiro

• Leave and Earning Statement (LES). Sailors will be notified of payment in the remarks section of their LES. This note and payment will be in addition to any eligible anniversary CRA payments.

Sailors who entered recruit training between the specified dates, but do not have a pending payment reflected in their BOL account, should contact the NPC CSC. The CSC will verify the Sailors' recruit training commencement date and provide the Sailor with a response at that time. NPC will then work with the required offices, including the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), to help ensure payment, normally within 30 days.

Navy Exchange stores have sales associates available to help with proper sizing and fit, as well as ample supplies of the NWU to meet demand. If a local exchange does not have a particular item, or if a Sailor is not stationed near an exchange, uniform items can be ordered by calling the Uniform Support Center's toll-free number, 1-800-368-4088, or by going to https://www.navy-nex.com/command/about_us/p-uniformsupport.html.

Sailors should use new electronic leave system for the holidays

By MC1(AW) LaTunya Howard,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

With the holiday season just around the corner, the Navy wants to remind Sailors about the ease of using the new electronic leave (E-Leave) system.

E-Leave allows Sailors to electronically submit leave chits through their chain of command for approval, replacing the traditional paper leave form.

It also offers commands automated leave log management, ensuring pay and entitlements are properly accounted for with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

The new system was introduced, tested and implemented in just a few months. All shore commands, personnel support detachments and command administrators were required to be fully integrated no later than Nov. 1.

"Leave transactions, which account for 20 percent of all Navy pay transactions processed annually, were submitted to DFAS late more than any other pay-impacting event," said Capt. Hank Vitali from the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Personnel Service Delivery Transformaton Office. "E-Leave was developed to reverse this trend. We are 100 percent implemented, 100 percent in timeliness and 99.3 percent accurate with Sailor's E-Leave automated transactions at DFAS Cleveland."

E-Leave significantly reduced the timeframe for routing a leave request when tested recently at NPC.

"Sailors can track it at anytime, and members can elect to receive e-mail notifications throughout the routing process," said Personnel Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Krzysztof Chodnicki, NPC, leave administrator.

Sailors, reviewers and approvers can access E-Leave through a common access card (CAC) log-in to the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System at https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil.

"Commands will have full visibility in the system to identify the status of any Sailor's request and easily track and account for all Sailors on leave," said John Courtney, Navy E-Leave program manager.

Afloat implementation for ships started in October 2010 and will be phased in during a 24-month period. A separate message will provide further instruction for afloat commands.

For more information on E-Leave, read Naval Administrative Messages NAVADMIN 252/10 and 103/10, and, or call NPC Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC or send an e-mail to CSCMailbox@navy.mil.