

## “Permanent Press”

Over the last year, I felt I needed to be more informed on what was happening with the NRM Uniform Program. I wanted to be more pro-active in sharing information not only with my district and division but also to stay in touch with all the committee members. The Garment Gazette is a creative venue that I’m attempting to provide a communication forum.

I’m starting off with two editions a year. If it grows, I’ll look at expanding it to perhaps a quarterly newsletter. I want to establish regular columns that document complaints on particular items, status of new components recommended for the uniform program, and other related uniform news. I would also like to include photos of employees “on-the-job” wearing uniform components. I’ll be looking for photographs that document problems or issues as well as articles or other items of interest pertaining to our uniform program. This newsletter will be emailed to the committee reps. It will be their choice or not if they want to share it with others within their respective divisions. So if



Park Ranger Mary Ann Deeming, conducts an interpretive program at Black Butte Lake, CA.

you have suggestions for articles or a submission for the next newsletter, send it by June 1, to:

Barbara.A.Cooper@usace.army.mil

## Needle & Thread

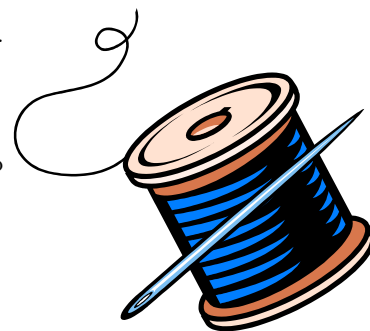
### Advice for Uniform Account Transfers

Will you be promoting or transferring to another project soon? If so, ensure that your uniform account transfers with you. There are two simple steps that must be accomplished. First:

- 1) Have your project uniform coordinator at the “old” project go into your uniform account and “modify” it by selecting the name of the project

- 2) Upon arrival at the “new” project, ensure that the new uniform coordinator “approves” the account to complete the transfer.

It is that simple! Once the transfer is approved, your account is updated with VF Solutions. The shipping of all your new uniform orders will be sent to the correct address.



## The Inside Seam

### New Uniform Items with VF Solutions

Over the last year, several changes to the Uniform Program were recommended. A number of new items have been modified into the contract and are now available on the VF Solutions website.

- A new summer sun hat has been approved to be worn for boat, beach and bike patrol. This hat provides more sun protection for the ears and back of the neck than the ball cap.
- Male and female cargo pants are now available for Class C Wear.
- A new work jacket is now on the website

"I just received my new uniform cargo pants and black turtleneck shirt. They are wonderful."

## Off The Cuff Comments from the Field

A ranger here just received their magnetic nameplate. The magnetic backing contains a piece of plastic that sticks up above the nameplate for applying and removing it. It works fine on the shirt but looks terrible when applied to a jacket or vest. Has anyone else commented on the magnetic name plates from VF Solutions?

Jeff Rose

Saylorville Lake

*The recommendation is to wear the plastic tab on the bottom of the nameplate. I do not recommend the magnetic nameplate on anything other than the shirt. Just about everything else is too thick. Jim Runkles, Uniform Committee Chairperson*

I just wanted to pass on a note to let you know that I just received my new uniform cargo pants and black turtleneck shirt. They are wonderful. You and your team have done an outstanding job in obtaining the new uniform items for us. It seems that you guys hear the bad things, I just want you to hear some good things as well. Keep up the good work.

Bill Jackson, Park Manager -Barren River Lake

(photo not available yet) to go with the bib overalls.

- The new turtlenecks are starting to be seen in the field. The turtlenecks are to be worn under long sleeve shirts.
- After a national vote on the Gateway Website, the trooper hat was replaced with the new winter hat.
- Photos and descriptions of Class B, C and D uniforms are posted on both the Gateway website (<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil>) and VF Solution's website.
- Need an extra 2005 uniform poster, call or email Jim Runkles. He will ship one to whomever needs it.

The cold weather is here and rangers have been wearing their turtlenecks...the comments are coming in as well. They like them for the most part, but after a few washings, the seams are starting to unravel on the bottom of the shirt, threads are loose and the collar stretches out.

Jeff Rose

Saylorville Lake

*Is anyone else having the same problem? I'm only hearing positive comments so far.*

One of our rangers received the new sun hat today. Very favorable comments on the design, color and fit.

Jeff Rose

Saylorville Lake

## Brass Buttons

### Who Is Your Division Uniform Rep?

The Division Uniform Coordinators are here to receive your feedback on the uniform program. If you have a defective garment, an outstanding backorder, a suggestion for a new uniform component or any other concern, please contact the coordinator for your region.

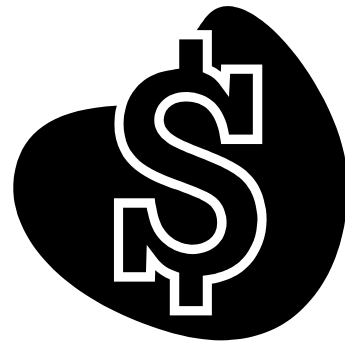
| <u>NAME</u>            | <u>ORGANIZATION</u>                 | <u>PHONE NUMBER</u>  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jim Runkles            | Committee Chairman                  | 541-374-4556         |
| Lloyd (Dean) Bonifacio | Great Lakes & Ohio River Division   | 304-664-3229         |
| Jeff Rose              | Mississippi Valley Division         | 515-276-4656         |
| Ralph Gendron          | North Atlantic Division             | 978-318-8256         |
| Michele Fromdal        | Northwestern Division<br>(NWK, NOW) | 406-526-3411, x 4276 |
| Mark Andreasen         | Northwestern Division               | 406-293-7751         |
| Sara Jernigan          | South Atlantic Division             | 229-768-2516         |
| Barbara Cooper         | South Pacific Division              | 916-557-5279         |
| Susan Haney            | Southwestern Division               | 817-886-1570         |

## The Front Pocket

### What Every Uniformed Employee Should Know

At the 2002 Inter-Agency Uniform Committee meeting, a survey comparing the 1984/85 price list to the price list for that year was reviewed. What we discovered was a 75% average cost increase on the basic components of our uniform. There had not been an increase in the uniform allowance in over eighteen years. The committee's recommendation was to request a \$100 increase to a permanent employee's replacement allowance.

It has taken some time to obtain approval and a budget increase for the program from Headquarters but if you are a permanent employee, you might have noticed that your yearly stipend increased from \$250 to \$350 this fiscal year. The increase can help offset the cost of replacing faded, torn and ill-fitting uniforms as well as acquiring some of the nice outwear garments that have been introduced into the program.

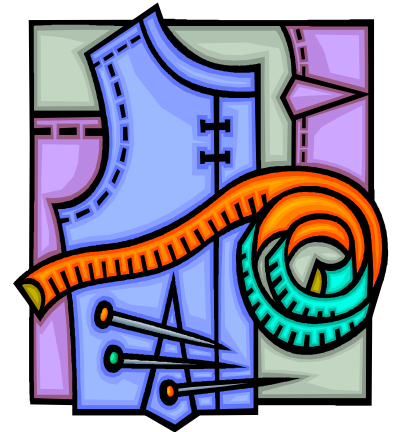


## Measuring the Fit

**Cut-to-Order or Non-Stock Garments** are garments that are not readily available on the shelf. These garments are specifically made once the order is placed (i.e. duty jacket). Certain styles or sizes within a style are handled this way due to an extremely low demand. We do maintain patterns for these items, however since they are not stocked on the shelf, customers should allow 90 to 120 days for delivery.

**Made-(Make)to-Measure** is a garment that is made to an individual's specific size specifications. This is done with a new technology that determines body size by scanning and converts an individual's measurements into a pattern. This option is offered to employees who have special needs in sizing and cannot be accommodated with the sizes offered for that particular style.

This process begins with the employee printing off a **Made-to-Measure** form located in the **Useful Info** section of the website. This is a detailed form with visuals on how to take actual body measurements and information. This process begins with the employee printing off a **Made-to-Measure** form located in the **Useful Info** section of the website. This is a detailed form with visuals on how to take actual body measurements and information on how to submit an order. **Employees should not measure themselves nor should they send in measurements of a finished garment.** It is VF's recommendation to have a tailor take your body measurements and complete this form. Since a pattern is made and retained specifically for you, please allow 90 to 120 days for delivery. Made-to Measure garments CANNOT be returned—they are made based on the measurements you have provided VF Solutions.



Short, tall, large or small? Cut-to-order or Make-To-Measure may be an option to getting the right fit.

## Maternity News



There are now several options for an expecting woman to obtain a uniform during her pregnancy.

VF Solutions has recently modified the maternity top pattern so it is not as voluminous as it once was. The new design contains tie back straps and is better fitting than the older pattern. The current maternity uniform consists of the blouse and trousers. The former jumper has been removed from the program due to low sales and numerous complaints.

An employee that has utilized their full uniform allowance for the year and then discovers she will need a maternity uniform is authorized up to an additional \$350 to help defray the purchase of the maternity uniform items.

The employee also has the option to utilize the Maternity Loaner Program. The Corps as well as a few employees have donated a number of smocks and trousers into this loan program. Employees can make arrangements through Park Ranger, Carrie Richardson by email or phone (559) 673-5151 at her duty station. Employees need only provide size, shipping and contact information to participate in the program. Under this program, the loaner items cannot be significantly altered such as by cutting and the uniform items must be returned at the end of the pregnancy.

If the contractor or loaner program cannot provide maternity wear in a timely manner, civilian attire is authorized. Project funds are authorized for the employee to purchase gray, dark green or black trousers for a similar "uniform look".