

ALARACT 016/2015

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SUBJ/ALARACT 016/2015 - THE NEW ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORM (APFU) AND THE NEW BLACK MICROFLEECE CAP

THIS ALARACT MESSAGE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED USAITA ON BEHALF OF THE HQDA DCS G-4 FOR SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

PLEASE DISSEMINATE TO ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, REQUEST THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION

(U) REFERENCES:

REF//A/ ALARACT 209/2014 - THE NEW ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORM (APFU) AND THE NEW BLACK MICROFLEECE CAP (SUPERSEDED).

REF//B/ OPERATIONAL FORCES INTERFACE GROUP REPORT, DATED 3 MAY 12, SUBJECT: TOTAL ARMY SURVEY OF THE IMPROVED PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORM (IPFU) TO ALL 50 STATES AND VARIOUS WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS.

REF//C/ OPERATIONAL FORCES INTERFACE GROUP REPORT, DATED 7 JAN 13, SUBJECT: IPFU PHASE II.

REF//D/ OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF G-4, MEMORANDUM DATED 26 AUG 13, SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY APPROVAL OF THE 144TH ARMY UNIFORM BOARD (AUB) RECOMMENDATIONS.

NOTE: THIS MESSAGE SUPERSEDES ALARACT 209/2014.

1. (U) THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORM (APFU) AND THE NEW BLACK MICROFLEECE CAP.
2. (U) SOLDIERS' FEEDBACK PROMPTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE APFU. TO GAUGE ACCURATELY THE SOLDIERS' OPINIONS, THE ARMY CONDUCTED AN ONLINE SURVEY FROM 6 FEB - 7 MAR 12. THE SURVEY GENERATED MORE THAN 76,000 SOLDIER RESPONSES. THE SOLDIERS' RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED MODIFICATIONS TO THE APPEARANCE, THE ADDITION OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE FABRICS, AND MEASURES TO INCREASE COMFORT AND FIT. FROM 9 - 29 OCT 12, A SECOND SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE SOLDIERS' PREFERENCE FOR COLOR AND DESIGN OF THE FITNESS UNIFORM. MORE THAN 190,000 SOLDIERS VOTED ON 64 DESIGN AND COLOR COMBINATIONS. SOLDIERS ULTIMATELY RECOMMENDED THE BLACK-AND-GOLD ENSEMBLE.
3. (U) THE PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE (PEO) SOLDIER WORKED WITH NATICK SOLDIER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING CENTER TO REDESIGN THE CURRENT IPFU. THE GOAL WAS TO USE HIGH-PERFORMANCE FABRICS IN THE APFU WITHOUT INCREASING THE COST FROM THE IPFU. THE APFU FEATURES 32 IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING IMPROVED

IDENTIFICATION/KEY POCKETS, A REDESIGNED STRETCHABLE LINING IN THE TRUNKS, HEAT MITIGATION AND FEMALE SIZING (PANTS/JACKET). ALL OF THESE CHANGES WERE INCORPORATED BASED ON SOLDIER INPUT. THE ARMY CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL TESTING AS WELL AS USER ASSESSMENTS IN VARIOUS CLIMATIC REGIONS TO OBTAIN SOLDIER FEEDBACK AND TO VALIDATE THE APFU FOR FORM, FIT AND FUNCTION.

4. (U) THE APFU ENSEMBLE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

4.A. APFU JACKET: BLACK WITH GOLD CHEVRON AND ARMY STAR LOGO

4.B. APFU PANTS: BLACK WITH ARMY STAR LOGO

4.C. APFU LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRT: BLACK WITH GOLD "ARMY" LETTERING

4.D. APFU SHORT-SLEEVE T-SHIRT: BLACK WITH GOLD "ARMY" LETTERING

4.E. APFU TRUNKS: BLACK WITH GOLD "ARMY" LETTERING

5. (U) THE APFU ENSEMBLE IS QUICK DRYING, MOISTURE WICKING, AND USES PERFORMANCE FABRICS. THE APFU ENSEMBLE IS NOT REFLECTIVE. THE T-SHIRTS AND TRUNK LINERS WILL NOT HAVE ANTIMICROBIAL CAPABILITIES AT THIS TIME. AFTER FURTHER RESEARCH INTO THE EFFICACY OF ANTIMICROBIAL FABRICS, THE ARMY WILL CONSIDER ADDING THIS CAPABILITY INTO THE APFU.

6. (U) THE ARMY PLANS TO INTRODUCE THE APFU OVER SEVERAL YEARS. THE APFU WILL BE AVAILABLE:

6.A. AT THE ARMY MILITARY CLOTHING STORES (AMCS) IN 1ST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2015 (1QFY15).

6.B. DURING THE APFU INTRODUCTION, DRILL SERGEANTS ON ACTIVE DUTY AND ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PLATOON SERGEANTS ARE AUTHORIZED TO OBTAIN THEIR SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE OF THE APFU FROM THEIR LOCAL AMCS ON 16 FEB 15 (2QFY15).

6.C. FOR INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING (IET) SOLDIERS IN 3QFY15 FROM THE CLOTHING INITIAL ISSUE POINT (CIIP) LOCATIONS.

6.D. FOR THE ARMY DIRECT ORDERING (ADO), ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, ARMY RESERVE AND SENIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (SROTC) SOLDIERS IN 4QFY15. NON-ACTIVE DUTY USAR AND ARNG WILL RECEIVE APFU USING THE ISSUE-AND-KIND.

7. (U) THE WEAR-OUT DATE FOR THE IPFU IS 30 SEP 17. THE MANDATORY POSSESSION DATE FOR THE APFU IS 1 OCT 17 (1QFY18).

8. (U) FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ARMY IS INTRODUCING TWO PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORMS: THE ISSUE (CLOTHING BAG) AND OPTIONAL APFU. THE AMCS WILL SELL THE OPTIONAL APFU AND WILL COST SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THE ISSUE APFU. SOLDIERS MAY PURCHASE THE OPTIONAL APFU WITH PERSONAL FUNDS. THE OPTIONAL AND ISSUE APFU ARE VERY SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE AND FEATURES. HOWEVER, THE OPTIONAL APFU IS MADE FROM DIFFERENT FABRICS, HAS A PANT LINER AND A BRIEF-STYLE TRUNK LINER. THE OPTIONAL APFU WILL BE AVAILABLE IN AMCS STARTING 2QFY15 (29 JAN 15). THIS WILL ALLOW

SOLDIERS AN OPTION TO PROCURE AN APFU IN ANOTHER FABRIC. THE ISSUE AND OPTIONAL APFU INCLUDES UNISEX AND FEMALE SIZES FOR THE JACKET AND PANTS.

9. (U) SOLDIERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR A MIXTURE OF ISSUE AND OPTIONAL APFU COMPONENTS AT THE SAME TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY CAN WEAR OPTIONAL APFU TRUNKS WITH THE ISSUE APFU T-SHIRT. SOLDIERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO MIX THE WEAR OF APFU COMPONENTS WITH THE IPFU COMPONENTS AT THE SAME TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, SOLDIERS MAY NOT WEAR THE APFU T-SHIRT WITH THE IPFU TRUNKS. SOLDIERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE APFU AS PRESCRIBED FOR THE IPFU IN ARMY REGULATION 670-1 AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PAMPHLET 670-1 (UNTIL REVISIONS OF THESE PUBLICATIONS ARE RELEASED).

10. (U) THE BLACK MICROFLEECE CAP WILL BE THE PRESCRIBED CAP FOR WEAR WITH THE APFU AND AVAILABLE:

10.A. AT AMCS IN 1QFY15.

10.B. DURING THE BLACK MICRO FLEECE CAP INTRODUCTON, DRILL SERGEANTS AND ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PLATOON SERGEANTS ARE AUTHORIZED TO OBTAIN THEIR SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE OF THE APFU FROM THEIR LOCAL AMCS IN 16 FEB 15 (2QFY15).

10.C. FOR IET SOLDIERS IN 3QFY15 FROM THE CIIP.

10.D. FOR THE ADO, THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, ARMY RESERVE AND SROTC SOLDIERS IN 4QFY15.

11. (U) THE WEAR-OUT DATE FOR THE GREEN MICROFLEECE CAP IS 30 SEP 17. THE MANDATORY POSSESSION DATE FOR THE BLACK MICROFLEECE CAP IS 1 OCT 17, (1QFY18).

12. (U) HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (HQDA) POINT OF CONTACT ARE MAJ DANNY PADELLO, DSN 224-2178, COMMERCIAL (703) 614-2718, OR E-MAIL: [DANIEL.E.PADELLO.MIL@MAIL.MIL](mailto:DANIEL.E.PADELLO.MIL@MAIL.MIL), OR MS. SHIRLEY BRYANT-HARPER, DSN 224-0956, COMMERCIAL (703) 614-0956, OR E-MAIL: [SHIRLEY.B.BRYANT-HARPER.CIV@MAIL.MIL](mailto:SHIRLEY.B.BRYANT-HARPER.CIV@MAIL.MIL).

13. (U) THIS MESSAGE WILL EXPIRE ON 22 AUG 15, UNLESS SUPERSEDED BY OFFICIAL GUIDANCE FROM HQDA.