



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS, MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
20 WEST 12TH STREET
SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA 55155-2004

NGMN-CM

3 January 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minnesota Army National Guard Winter Uniform Policy

1. **Purpose.** This memorandum provides guidance regarding the appropriate cold weather uniform for all Soldiers of the Minnesota Army National Guard. This policy will serve as the primary direction for winter uniform standard as we transition from the Generation II to the Generation III cold weather system.

2. **References.**

- a. Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia.
- b. ALARACT # 302/2008, Wear Policy for the Generation III Extended Cold Weather Clothing System.
- c. Technical Manual 10-8415-236-10, Extended Cold Weather Clothing System Generation III (ECWCS GEN III).

3. **Proponent.** The proponent for this policy is the State Command Sergeant Major.

4. **Policy.** Your uniform identifies you as a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard and the United States Army. This is a proud organization; we wear our uniform appropriately with pride and dignity. Therefore, a neat and well groomed appearance by Soldiers is fundamental and contributes to building the pride and esprit essential to an effective military force. It is the duty of all Soldiers; traditional, active guard reserve, and technicians to take pride in their appearance at all times. Commanders, 1SGs, and CSMs at all levels are responsible to ensure that military personnel under their command present a neat and soldierly appearance and wear the uniform in accordance with AR 670-1, ALARACTs, and applicable Technical Manuals.

5. **Winter Uniform.** The winter uniform is worn from 15 October to 1 April or outside this window if the temperature falls to 32° F and below. The uniform is based on the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS), Generation II or Generation III systems. The system worn is dependent on what the soldier has been issued.

6. **Components.** The ECWCS Generation II and III components are intended as a breathable multi-layered, versatile, and insulating system distinct from the Army Combat Uniform (ACU). However, some components are intended for wear over the ACU.

- a. There are three prescribed uniform combinations in the GEN II or GEN III inventory that are authorized for wear over the Army Combat Uniform (ACU):

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(1) Fleece Cold Weather Jacket: Worn as an insulation or outer layer.

(2) Soft Shell Cold Weather Jacket. Worn as an outer layer with or without the fleece jacket.

(3) Extended Cold Weather Gore-Tex Parka (GEN II): Worn as an outer layer with or without the fleece jacket.

b. The following items are not intended or authorized for wear with the Army Combat Uniform (ACU):

(1) Wind Cold Weather Jacket.

(2) Extreme Cold/Wet Weather Jacket and Trousers.

(3) Extreme Cold Weather Parka and Trousers.

c. In addition to the Army Combat Uniform (ACU), GEN II, or GEN III systems referenced above, Soldiers are authorized to wear the following:

(1) Headgear. The ACU patrol cap, Green Polartec fleece cap or Balaclava are authorized for wear with the ECWCS GEN II or GEN III system. The Green Polar fleece cap and Balaclava are not worn when the ACU is the outer garment.

(2) Gloves. Army issue black leather gloves with inserts or Army issue black/foilage green intermediate cold weather gloves are authorized for wear with or without ECWCS GEN II and GEN III. NOMEX gloves are not authorized for wear when the ACU is the outer garment.

7. **Safety.** Prevention of cold weather injuries is every Soldier and leader responsibility. Cold weather injuries can be prevented with proper clothing, good training, and common sense. The winter uniform is worn in accordance with the Army standards in order to present a professional appearance without sacrificing the safety of our Soldiers.

8. The point of contact for this policy is Command Sergeant Major Edward Scott Mills at edward.scott.mills@us.army.mil or by phone at 651-268-8922.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:



EDWARD S. MILLS
CSM, MN ARNG
State Command Sergeant Major

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