



# RAINBOW JERSEYS

A GUIDE TO THE COLOR-CODED WARDROBE ON A U.S. NAVY FLIGHT DECK

THE CREW OF USS LANGLEY (CV 1), THE U.S. NAVY'S FIRST AIRCRAFT CARRIER, CREATED A HOST OF INNOVATIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF VARIOUS COLORED JERSEYS FOR THE FLIGHT DECK TEAMS. THEIR INITIATIVE IN THE EARLY 1920s ESTABLISHED A LASTING SYSTEM. IN TODAY'S NAVY, SAILORS STILL USE COLOR-CODED JERSEYS TO ENSURE ORDER AND SAFETY ARE MAINTAINED ON THE FLIGHT DECK.



- PLANE HANDLERS
- AIRCRAFT ELEVATOR OPERATORS
- TRACTOR DRIVERS
- PHONE TALKERS

Blue shirts are the most predominant crew on the flight deck. They operate motorized gear such as tractors and forklifts, chock and chain aircraft to the flight deck, and operate aircraft elevators.

# BLUE



- AVIATION FUELS

Affectionately referred to as "Grapes," or "fuelies," purple shirts refuel all aircraft and monitor all fuel onboard.

# PURPLE



- CATAPULT AND ARRESTING GEAR PERSONNEL
- AIR WING MAINTENANCE
- GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT
- MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS
- HELICOPTER LANDING SIGNALS ENLISTED SAILORS

Mostly maintenance personnel, green shirts operate and maintain all aircraft launch and recovery equipment and perform all support equipment and aircraft-related maintenance.

# GREEN



- AIRCRAFT DIRECTORS
- CATAPULT AND ARRESTING GEAR OFFICERS
- AIR BOSS
- MINI-BOSS

Aircraft directors are known as yellow shirts and responsible for the safe movement of aircraft on the flight deck and in the hangar bay.

# YELLOW



- ORDNANCEMEN
- CRASH AND SALVAGE CREWS
- EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

Ordnancemen load aircraft with all bombs, missiles, mines and ammunition. They also make up the crash and salvage teams responsible for aircraft firefighting, rescue, and salvage operations.

# RED



- AIR WING PLANE CAPTAINS

Responsible for the safety and integrity of aircraft, including the pre- and post-flight preparation, Plane Captains wear brown shirts. Also known as "brake riders," they man the cockpit during repositioning on the flight deck and hangar deck.

# BROWN



- QUALITY CONTROL
- LANDING SIGNAL OFFICERS
- AIR TRANSFER OFFICERS
- LIQUID OXYGEN CREW
- SAFETY
- MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

White shirts consist of safety and medical personnel, catapult final checkers and catapult and arresting gear quality-assurance inspectors, and administrative personnel.

# WHITE