

These Boots Were Made For Walking

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Chelsy Alamina

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Public Affairs

Sept. 14, 2012

Ever wonder why the Navy issues separate boots to sailors who work on the flight deck? Crew members on the flight deck work out in the elements unlike those who work below deck. While the most obvious difference between the two is the comfort level (which the flight deck boot takes the trophy for), there are actually many other reasons why many have ditched the regular boot and embraced the flight deck boot.

The soles of the flight deck boots are significantly thicker than those of your standard Navy-issued boot; this ensures the wear and tear on the boot is kept to a minimum. It also allows for more shock absorption while simultaneously giving the wearer more support.

In addition to durability, the flight deck boot's heat resistance is vital. With jet exhaust, heated non-skid and the possibility for a fire, the boot is designed to protect its user from high temperatures. This is accomplished through the thick lining inside the boot and the tough leather coating.

While fire is a major concern, its opposite element can also be hazardous. The tongue of the flight deck boot, which is stitched from all sides, is designed to keep water from flooding into the boot while the tongue of the regular boot is too long and does not produce the same results.

Even though both boots look similar to the untrained eye, a closer study of their properties will reveal just how different they really are.