

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
 Public Health Service

Chapter CC26--Conditions of Service  
 Subchapter CC26.3--Uniforms  
 Personnel INSTRUCTION 1--General Information on Uniforms and Appearance

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Section A. Purpose

The INSTRUCTIONS in this Subchapter prescribe official Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps policy governing PHS commissioned officers' uniforms. This INSTRUCTION provides information of a general or miscellaneous nature, while the remaining INSTRUCTIONS deal with certain specific uniform topics.

### Section B. Authority

42 U.S.C. 216(a) authorizes the President to prescribe uniform regulations for the PHS Commissioned Corps. That authority was delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 11140. The basic Secretarial regulations are contained in INSTRUCTION 1, Subchapter CC46.3, "Uniform Regulations," of this manual. The authority to administer the PHS Commissioned Corps has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Health as on July 23, 2003. (See also on Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegation of Authority dated December, 18, 2003 (68) FR 70507).

18 U.S.C. 702 sets forth criminal penalties for unauthorized possession or wear of the uniform or its distinctive components (see definition in Section C, below).

### Section C. Explanation of Terms

The following descriptions of terms apply unless noted otherwise.

1. Operating Division(s)/Staff Division(s). This term refers to Operating Divisions and Staff Divisions (OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs) of HHS.
2. Device The emblem of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service consisting of a fouled anchor and caduceus crossed as in the seal of the Service (known as the Corps device). In the case of the cap device, a shield with a chief having 13 stars surmounted with a spread eagle, with the head pointing to the right, overlying the crossed fouled anchor and caduceus.
3. Distinctive Component. A part of a uniform which has been designated as being unique to the uniform. Distinctive components may not be worn with civilian attire nor worn by other than active-duty commissioned officers except as specifically provided within this manual. The distinctive components of the PHS uniform are listed in Exhibit I.
4. Insignia. Uniform components which serve to (1) identify the uniform as being that of a particular uniformed service; or (2) identify the grade, rank or other classification of the wearer.
5. Local Uniform Authority (LUA). The official having authority to prescribe the uniforms which may be worn within a given area. This official also determines those matters of uniform policy which are discretionary as set forth in this Subchapter. For the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, the LUA is the Surgeon General. For all other locations, each OPDIV/STAFFDIV shall appoint LUAs.
6. Optional Item. An item which may be worn or used at the discretion of the individual officer unless the LUA has specifically prohibited its wear.
7. Organizational Clothing. Clothing and related equipment which is provided by the OPDIV/STAFFDIV or Non-HHS organizations for use by individual officers as necessary. Organizational clothing is returned to the OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS organizations when an officer leaves the applicable assignment.
8. Prescribable Item. An item whose wear or usage can be required by the LUA. Unless required, such an item is considered optional, and may be worn at the discretion of the individual unless prohibited by the LUA.

9. Required Item. An item of the uniform which is required as part of the basic collection of items for that uniform. An officer wearing a particular uniform will maintain all the required components.
10. Uniform of the Day. The uniform chosen by the LUA as the uniform for general performance of duties at a given location. In addition to the uniform of the day, the LUA may prescribe one or more additional uniforms for particular purposes. Officers not authorized to wear one of the additional uniforms may only wear the uniform of the day. The list of authorized uniforms contained in Exhibit II indicates which uniforms may be chosen as uniform of the day.
11. United States. The geographic area which is made up of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, Wake Island, and any other territories or possessions identified in Title 48 of the United States Code.
12. Working Uniform. A uniform which may be prescribed when working conditions are such that the use of other uniforms would be impractical. Working uniforms are not worn for general usage and are not appropriate for wear in public away from the duty location. Working uniforms are listed in Exhibit II.

#### Section D. Background

1. Purpose of the Uniform. The uniform, with its various insignia and devices, is designed primarily to identify on sight commissioned officers of PHS. It also indicates at a glance the wearer's grade. It serves as a visual indication of the authority and responsibility imposed by law on a commissioned officer.
2. Only Authorized Uniforms to be Worn. All officers in uniform shall wear only the uniform appropriate to their grade; shall wear only regulation uniform items; and shall wear no badges, ribbons or other accoutrements not specifically authorized in accordance with this subchapter.
3. Responsibilities Toward the Uniform. All officials of OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs/Non-HHS organizations to which officers are assigned, having responsibility for the supervision of commissioned officers shall assure that officers under their direction wear the uniform properly and adhere to the grooming standards contained herein. Officers who wear the uniform improperly or who exhibit a careless attitude toward their personal appearance bring discredit to themselves and to the Service and subject themselves to disciplinary action. Therefore, individual officers and officials should exert their personal influence, where necessary, as a means of encouraging fellow officers to wear the uniform properly.
4. Unauthorized Wearing of the Uniform. Wearing the PHS uniform is prohibited under any of the following circumstances:
  - a. at any meeting or demonstration which is a function of, or sponsored by an organization, association, movement, group, or combination of persons which the Attorney General of the United States has designated, pursuant to Executive Order 10450 as amended, as totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive, or as having adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States by unconstitutional means or to violently overthrow the United States government;

- b. during or in connection with political activities, private employment, or commercial interest that implies official sponsorship by the Commissioned Corps of the activity or interest;
- c. when participating in activities which are not part of an officer's official duties such as picket lines, marches, rallies, or any public demonstration which implies the Commissioned Corps supports the principles of the demonstration or activity (unless authorized in advance by the Director of the Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO) or the Surgeon General (SG));
- d. when wearing of the uniform would discredit any or all of the uniformed services; or, using the inherent prestige and traditions represented by the uniform to promote privately held convictions on public issues or for personal gain; or, while attending or participating in a demonstration, assembly, or activity knowing that a purpose of attending the demonstration, assembly, or activity is to support personal or partisan views on political, social, economic, or religious issues. Exceptions are: (1) when the activity is authorized in advance by the Director of OCCO or the SG and (2) when incident to attending or participating in a bona fide religious service or observance.

#### Section E. Officers' Appearance

1. General. The primary consideration is to have a neatly groomed appearance while wearing PHS uniforms. Grooming standards are based on several elements including neatness, cleanliness, safety, image and appearance. The standards established here are not intended to be overly restrictive nor are they designed to isolate PHS officers from society. The limits set forth are reasonable and ensure that personal appearance contributes to a favorable uniformed image. The difference between men's and women's grooming policies recognizes the difference between the sexes; sideburns for men, different hairstyles and cosmetics for women. Establishing identical grooming and personal appearance standards for men and women would not be in the PHS' best interest and is not a factor in the assurance of equal opportunity.

2. Smartness and Image. PHS personnel must set and maintain high standards of smartness in uniform appearance. The Uniformed Service image reflected by attention to detail, while wearing your uniform, is a key element in the public image of the PHS.

Cleanliness. Uniforms shall be kept scrupulously clean, with lace, devices, and insignia bright and free from tarnish and corrosion.

3. Articles.

- a. NO ARTICLES SHALL PROTRUDE FROM OR BE VISIBLE ON THE UNIFORM, including such items as electronic pagers, cellular phones, or personal digital assistants devices (except those issued by the OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS organization when required for the performance of duty and one personal device), pencils, pens, watch chains, key chain fobs, pins, jewelry, combs, large wallets, cigars, cigarettes, pipes, or similar items. (Jewelry, tie clasps, cuff links, shirt studs, and earrings shall be worn as prescribed elsewhere in these policies). When an electronic pager, cellular phone or personal digital assistant device is to be worn, they are to be worn neatly. When wearing a "service or working" uniform, that item must be worn on either side behind the elbow so as not to be visible from the front. When wearing a "dress" uniform, the devices should not be visible (i.e., front, side or rear, bulging, or protruding). In addition, the wear of these devices should not interfere with proper

rendering of military courtesies and honors. (DoD requires hands free devices when driving onto a military installation.)

Bags, (e.g., briefcases, gym bags, backpacks, laptop bags, lunch bags, suitcases, and garment bags (This does not include women's handbags/purses.) shall be hand carried with the following exceptions: (1) backpacks/gym bags/laptop bags/garment bags may be worn when riding a bicycle or motorcycle; (2) backpacks/gym bags/laptop bags/garment bags may be worn on the left shoulder when wearing "service or working" uniforms; and (3) backpacks may be worn over both shoulders when wearing "working" uniforms. All hand carried bags and other bags, when possible, shall be carried or placed on the left side to facilitate saluting. All bags must conceal their contents and be either black or navy blue. No ornamentation on the bags is allowed except an official PHS logo in yellow or the bag manufacturer's logo, (provided the bag manufacturer's logo is small and does not distract from the uniform). Commercial and OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS organizations to which officers are assigned logos are not authorized except that a bag issued by the Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, Society of American Military Engineers or the Reserve Officers Association may be carried during their annual meetings, but not thereafter. **All bags used while in "dress" uniform must be hand carried.** (See Exhibit IV table for Dress uniforms). Women's handbags shall be carried over the left shoulder or forearm, placing the top of the handbag at waist level with all uniforms (see handbag description). Suitcases and luggage while traveling in uniform are not included in this INSTRUCTION.

Glasses.Prescription Glasses. No eccentric or faddish glasses are permitted. Retainer straps are authorized for foreign object damage risk and safety only. If retainer straps are required, they shall be plain, black and worn snugly against the back of the head.

Sunglasses. Conservative sunglasses are permitted, except indoors or in organized formations. Retainer straps are authorized for foreign object damage risk and safety only. If retainer straps are required, they shall be plain, black and worn snugly against the back of the head.

Contact lenses. Tinted contact lenses must be a natural color (blue, green, brown, etc.).

Undergarments. Appropriate undergarments shall be worn to preserve the dignity and appearance of the uniform.

Military Creases. Military creases on shirts are an individual option. Sewn-in creases that are added by the officer are not authorized. Military creases are formed on the shirt by pressing two vertical creases on the front of the shirt, and three evenly spaced vertical creases on the back of the shirt.

Tailoring of the Uniforms. Uniforms may be tailored to provide a well-fitting, professional uniformed or military bearing. They shall not be altered to the extent of detracting from a uniform or military appearance, nor shall they be tailored to the point of presenting tight form fit.

Care of the Uniform. The longest service of the various uniform articles can be attained only by proper care and maintenance. This information is presented to help prolong the useful life and distinguished appearance of uniforms and equipment . Even new, properly fitted uniforms

will not continue to look their best or keep their shape unless you care for them properly. Carrying large or heavy objects in pockets will quickly destroy the shape of the best uniform. Uniforms should be stored on hangers. If uniforms are to be stored for a long time, they should be cleaned thoroughly, then packed away in an airtight plastic bag with a packet of desiccant (drying agent) for maximum preservation. Dry cleaning and/or machine-washing uniforms should occur frequently. A highly pressed uniform looks best. Uniforms should never be worn with visibly old stains. Embroidered insignia may be kept bright by occasional scrubbing with a nailbrush and a diluted ammonia solution. This should be done as soon as a tarnished look is noted. Metal insignia should be cleaned with regular soap to look bright.

#### 4. Personal Appearance

##### a. Hair.

Men. Hair shall be neat and clean and present a groomed appearance. Hair above the ears and around the neck shall be tapered from the lower hairline upwards at least 3/4 inch and outwards not greater than 3/4 inch to blend smoothly with the hair style. Hair on the back of the neck must not touch the collar. Hair shall be no longer than 4 inches and may not touch the ears, collar, extend below the eyebrows when the headgear is removed, show under the front edge of the headgear, or interfere with properly wearing any headgear. The bulk of hair may not exceed approximately 2 inches. Bulk is defined as the distance that the mass of hair protrudes from the scalp. Hair coloring must look natural and complement the individual. Faddish styles and the array of outrageous colors available for hair are not authorized. The unique quality and texture for curled, kinked, waved, and straight hair are recognized, and in some cases the 3/4 inch taper at the back of the neck may be difficult to attain. In those cases hair must present a graduated appearance and may combine the taper with a line at the back of the neck. One (cut, clipped, or shaved) natural, narrow, fore and aft part is authorized. Varying hairstyles, including afro, are permitted if these styles meet the criteria of maximum lengths and bulk, tapered neck and sides, and do not interfere with properly wearing PHS head gear. Plaited or braided hair shall not be worn while in uniform or in duty status. Keep sideburns neatly trimmed and tailored in the same manner as the haircut. Sideburns shall not extend below a point level with the middle of the ear, shall be of even width (not flared) and shall end on a horizontal line.

Women. Hairstyles shall not consist of any outrageous colors available for hair or faddish styles, to include shaved portions of the scalp (other than the neckline), or have designs cut or braided into the hair. Hair coloring must look natural and complement the individual. Hair cuts and styles shall present a balanced appearance. Lopsided and extremely asymmetrical styles are not authorized. Ponytails, pigtailed, widely spaced individual hanging locks and braids, which protrude from the head, are not authorized. Multiple braids are authorized. Braided hairstyles shall be conservative and conform to the guidelines listed herein. When a hairstyle of multiple braids is worn, braids shall be of uniform dimension, small in diameter (approximately 1/4 inch), and tightly interwoven to present a neatly, professional, well-groomed appearance. Foreign material (e.g., beads or decorative items) shall not be braided into the hair. Short hair may be braided in symmetrical fore and aft rows (corn rowing), which minimize scalp exposure. Corn row ends shall not protrude from the head, and shall be secured only with inconspicuous, plain fabric covered bands or rubber bands that match the color of the hair. Dreadlocks (unkempt, twisted, matted individual parts of hair) are prohibited in uniform

or in civilian clothes on duty. Appropriateness of a hairstyle shall also be judged by its appearance when headgear is worn. All headgear shall fit snugly and comfortably around the largest part of the head without distortion or excessive gaps. Hair shall not show from under the front of the brim of the combination cap, garrison, or command ball caps. Hairstyles which do not allow headgear to be worn in this manner, or which interfere with the proper wear of protective masks or equipment are prohibited. When in uniform, the hair may touch, but not fall below a horizontal line level with the lower edge of the collar shall be neatly and inconspicuously fastened, pinned, or secured to the head. Long hair, including braids, which fall below the edge of the collar shall be neatly and inconspicuously fastened, pinned, or secured to the head. No portion of the bulk of the hair as measured from the scalp will exceed approximately 2 inches. A maximum of two or three small barrettes/combs/clips, similar to hair color, may be used in the hair. Additional bobby pins or rubber or elastic covered bands matching the hair color may be used to hold the hair in place, if necessary. Fabric elastic bands (scrunchies) are not authorized. Hair ornaments shall not present a safety or foreign object damage hazard. Hairnets shall not be worn unless authorized for a specific type of duty.

- b. Facial Hair. If a beard and/or mustache is worn, it shall be neatly trimmed and groomed at all times, so as to avoid a ragged appearance. A beard may be either full or partial; however, patches or spots of facial hair are not considered a beard and are not authorized. The bulk of a beard (the distance that the mass of the facial hair protrudes from the skin) shall not exceed one-half inch, and the length of individual facial hair shall not exceed one inch.

When a mustache is worn with a beard it shall blend smoothly into the beard. When worn without a beard, the mustache's ends shall not extend downward beyond the corners of the mouth nor outward more than one-quarter inch beyond the corners of the mouth. No portion of a mustache may extend below the lip line of the upper lip. The LUA may restrict the wearing of facial hair by certain persons when sanitation and safety considerations weigh against the wearing of such hair (i.e., mask fitting or respirator wear).

- c. Hairpieces. Wigs or hairpieces shall be of good quality and fit, present a natural appearance and conform to the grooming standards set forth in these policies. They shall not interfere with the proper performance of duty nor present a safety or foreign object damage risk hazard.

Men. Active-duty personnel while in uniform or duty status may only wear wigs or hairpieces for cosmetic reasons to cover natural baldness or physical disfigurements.

Women. Wigs or hairpieces meeting women's grooming standards are authorized for wear by active-duty personnel while in uniform or duty status.

- d. Cosmetics.

Women. Cosmetics may be applied in good taste so that colors blend with natural skin tone and enhance natural features. Exaggerated or faddish cosmetic styles are not authorized with the uniform and shall not be worn. Care should be taken to avoid an artificial appearance. Lipstick colors shall be conservative and complement the individual. Long false eyelashes shall not be worn when in uniform.

Men. Cosmetics are not authorized for men.

e. Fingernails.

Men. Fingernails may not extend past fingertips. They shall be kept clean.

Women. Fingernails shall not exceed 1/4 inch measured from the fingertips. They shall be kept clean. Nail polish may be worn, but colors shall be conservative and complement the skin tone. A conservative color is one which contributes to the wearer's natural skin tone. Conservative colors are generally inconspicuous and do not detract from the professional appearance while in uniform.

f. Jewelry. Conservative jewelry is authorized for all personnel and shall be in good taste while in uniform. Eccentricities or faddishness are not permitted. Jewelry shall not present a safety or foreign object damage risk hazard. Jewelry shall not be worn on thumbs.

g. Rings. While in uniform, only one ring per hand is authorized, plus a wedding/engagement ring set. Rings are not authorized for wear on thumbs.

h. Earrings.

Men. Not authorized while in uniform. Additionally, earrings are not authorized in civilian attire when in a duty status or while participating in any organized PHS activity. In addition, earrings are not permitted when riding within any military vehicle or visiting any base or other place under military jurisdiction while in a duty status.

Women. One gold earring per ear (centered on the earlobe) may be worn while in uniform. Earrings shall be 4mm-6mm (approximately 1/8-1/4 inch), plain with shiny or brushed matte finish, screw-on or with posts. Small single pearl earrings are authorized for wear with Dinner and Formal Dress uniforms.

i. Body Piercing/Jewelry. Not authorized while in uniform. No articles, other than the earrings for women specified above, shall be attached to or through the ear, nose, or any other body part. Additionally, body piercing/jewelry is not authorized in civilian attire when in a duty status or while participating in any organized PHS activity. In addition, body piercing/jewelry is not permitted when riding within any military vehicle or visiting any base or other place under military jurisdiction while in a duty status.

j. Necklaces/Choker. While in uniform, only one necklace may be worn and it shall not be visible.

k. Wristwatch/Bracelets. While in uniform, only one of each may be worn and may be worn on the same or different arms. Ankle bracelets are not authorized while in uniform.

m. Tattoos/Body art/Brands

No Tattoos/Body art/Brands on the head, face, neck, or scalp are permitted. Tattoos/Body art/Brands elsewhere on the body that are prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the PHS are prohibited. For example, Tattoos/Body art/Brands that are excessive, obscene, sexually explicit or advocate or symbolize sex, gender,



racial, religious, ethnic or national origin discrimination are prohibited. In addition, Tattoos/Body art/Brands that advocate or symbolize gang affiliation, supremacist or extremist groups, or drug use are prohibited. Tattoos/Body art/Brands will not be visible through or outside the uniform clothing. Waivers may be requested from OSG for prior service and existing tattoos.

n. Mutilation

Intentional body mutilation, piercing/branding/intentional scarring on the head, face, neck or scalp are prohibited. Some examples are: (1) A split or forked tongue; (2) foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern; (3) enlarged or stretched out holes in ears (other than a normal piercing); and (4) Intentional body mutilation, piercing/branding/intentional scarring that is visible through or outside the uniform clothing. Waivers may be requested from the OSG for prior service and existing body mutilation, piercing/branding, intentional scarring.

o. Dental Ornamentation.

The use of gold, platinum or other veneers or caps for purposes of ornamentation are prohibited. Teeth, whether natural, capped or veneer, will not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, etc. Waivers may be requested from the OSG for prior service and existing dental ornamentation.

Section F. Guidance to Local Uniform Authorities (LUAs)

1. Designation of LUAs. The Surgeon General is the LUA for the Washington/Baltimore Metropolitan area.
  - a. Each OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organization shall designate one or more LUAs to exercise the uniform prescribing authority within particular portions of the OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organization area of responsibility. The OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organization operates within the limitations of PHS Commissioned Corps rules involving uniforms, and the LUA operates within the limitations of the OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organization rules on uniforms.
  - b. Each OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organization shall provide a list of designated LUA's ([http://dcp.psc.gov/DCP\\_pubs.asp](http://dcp.psc.gov/DCP_pubs.asp)) and their associated geographic areas of responsibility to the OCCO/OSG. The list should include a phone number that can be called for information regarding uniform directives in the area(s). The OCCO/OSG shall be notified when changes are made to the list.
  - c. Care must be taken to insure that no officer comes under the authority of more than one LUA within the same OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organization. Uniform authority is to be exercised on a geographic basis. A LUA determines policy for all OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organization officers within the assigned area. If a LUA's area includes multiple towns, installations, etc., the LUA may prescribe different requirements for the various areas involved. In the case of multiple OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organizations in the same geographic area, it is strongly advised that the LUAs concerned cooperate and issue a single uniform

directive to all officers in the area. Alternatively, the OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organizations may agree to have one of the LUAs act for all OPDIV/STAFFDIV/Non-HHS Organizations in the area. See Special Uniforms Situation INSTRUCTION 7 Section C for LUA guideline regarding the Battle Dress Uniform.

2. Selection of Uniforms.

- a. Refer to Exhibit II while reading this paragraph. Generally, one uniform of the day should be chosen for each duty station location. The uniform of the day must be selected from among the "General Purpose Service Uniforms" in the Exhibit. This will be the uniform used for general office work and travel within the local area. Service Dress Blue (SDB) is always acceptable in a normal office setting. Additional uniforms may be selected from the "Working Uniforms" in the list and prescribed for officers in working environments that make the Service uniform unsuitable. The LUA determines when a shift is made between the summer and winter uniforms, if a shift is appropriate for the area involved. The Formal, Dinner Dress, and Ceremonial uniforms are used on an occasional basis and the LUA may designate functions at which these uniforms are prescribed.
- b. A LUA may not prohibit the wearing of the SDB in normal office settings but may prohibit optional items of that uniform.
- c. When selecting uniforms and determining policy in regard to prescribable and optional items, the LUA should consider climate, working conditions, and appropriateness of appearance. The LUA will select a uniform of the day and as many additional working uniforms as are needed, but will not authorize more uniforms than necessary. The objective is to have the fewest number of uniforms within a given area that will satisfy requirements, bearing in mind that each officer must own and maintain all required components of the SDB, Summer White, and Working Khaki uniforms.
- d. Consideration will be given to the personal expense of making frequent changes in the uniform directive and to the views of the officers concerned. However, individual officers' preferences and costs shall not be the primary determining factors in selecting uniforms.

3. Designation of Covered Areas. LUAs may determine those areas, such as a complex of several buildings and grounds including parking areas, that officers may transit out-of-doors but consider themselves indoors for purposes of meeting uniform requirements and/or extending Service courtesy such as saluting.

Section G. Obtaining Uniforms and Accessories

1. The various PHS uniforms are comprised of the same articles of clothing as the corresponding uniforms of the U.S. Navy (with the exception of some optional items and special-purpose uniforms). Articles made for and meeting specifications for U.S. Navy officers may be worn unless specifically excluded by the applicable INSTRUCTION. PHS uniforms are made distinctive by the wearing of unique PHS insignia. These include the Corps device, cap chin strap, cap device, shoulder boards, and buttons. The insignia are described in INSTRUCTION 6 of this Subchapter.

2. Many Navy Exchange retail stores have a uniform shop. The basic articles of uniform clothing are usually available in these shops. However, the unique PHS insignia and buttons are typically not stocked in Navy Uniform Shops except in the Washington, D.C. area. Insignia, as well as complete uniforms, may be ordered by mail from the Uniform Support Center, Chesapeake, VA. A Navy Uniform Shop should have order forms in stock, or an officer may order directly from the Uniform Support Center Web site <http://www.navy-nex.com/uniform/u-contact-us.html>.
3. When purchasing uniform clothing items from sources outside of official sources, be sure each item has a label certifying that the item meets Navy requirements unless another Uniformed Service is specified for the particular item, then a certification label from that Service must be attached.
4. Uniform items may be obtained from any source, provided the items carry a certification label, except the following which must be obtained from the indicated official Uniformed Service distribution sources:
  - a. Navy
    - i. Shoes, Dress, Brown
    - ii. Shoes, Service, Brown
    - iii. Handbag, Brown
    - iv. Socks, khaki
  - b. Marine Corps
    - i. Sweater, Service, Green Crew Neck (Wooly Pully) See INSTRUCTION 7 Special Uniform Situations

Section H. Wear of the Uniform by Retired  
and Inactive Reserve Officers

1. Retired and inactive reserve corps officers not on active duty may wear the prescribed uniform of the rank held on the retired or inactive list: (1) on occasions of ceremony, military funerals, memorial services, weddings and inaugurals; (2) patriotic parades or ceremonies in which any active or reserve uniformed service is taking part. (3) at gatherings of organizations consisting primarily of Uniformed Services members and former members; and (4) during emergency responses and emergency response exercises when deployed to the same location, as part of a team, with one or more active-duty PHS officers who are in uniform. Wearing the uniform does not entitle the retired or reserve corps officer to any change in duty status, entitlements, benefits, compensation, or privileges. Wearing of the uniform for other purposes is prohibited. In all cases, see the restrictions on wearing the uniform outside the United States in Section L, below.
2. The uniform worn by retired and inactive reserve officers shall conform to current regulations, except that retired officers may wear the uniform in accordance with regulations in effect at the time of their retirement if they so desire. Retired and inactive reserve officers called to active duty must wear the appropriate uniform, as directed by the LUA, and must abide by the current uniform regulations.

Section I. Officers Assigned to Other Services

1. Officers Assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard. Officers assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard (CG) for extended active duty (i.e., duty other than temporary duty) shall wear the uniform prescribed for wear

by CG officers as required by CG directives and regulations; the insignia and distinctive markings of the CG uniforms thus worn shall be as follows:

- a. PHS shoulder boards
- b. PHS Cap device
- c. PHS sleeve insignia
- d. The letters "U.S. Public Health Service" printed under the name on the name tag
- e. Coast Guard chin strap
- f. Coast Guard buttons on the uniform jacket and cap

Inactive reserve officers who participate in CG activities by invitation from the CG and with the permission of the OSG, may wear the CG uniform as described above when so participating.

2. Officers Assigned to Other than the CG. Officers assigned to a Uniformed Service other than CG for extended active duty (i.e., duty other than temporary duty) shall, if required under the provisions of the detail agreement, wear the uniform of that Service which is appropriate to the officer's grade. In this instance, the uniform shall be worn as prescribed in the regulations of the Service concerned. If the detail agreement does not specifically provide that the officer is not to wear the PHS uniform or the uniform of the Service to which the officer is assigned, the PHS officer shall wear the PHS uniform during the assignment, choosing the PHS uniform which corresponds or most closely corresponds to the type of uniform prescribed for wear by officers of that Service in similar assignments.

#### Section J. Wear of Civilian Clothing on Military Installations

When visiting military installations (including facilities of the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), whether on official business or on personal business (e.g., shopping at the commissary, sightseeing, etc.) officers out of uniform shall wear neat, tasteful clothing appropriate to the business. Except when participating in sporting or exercise activities, gym shorts, exercise suits, tank tops and similar clothing are generally inappropriate for officers on military installations.

#### Section K. Travel Uniform

1. Travel by Non-Military Conveyances. For official travel within the United States, an officer may wear the uniform prescribed in Item 3, below, or appropriate civilian attire. For official travel outside the United States, appropriate civilian attire will normally be worn (see Section L, below).
2. Travel by Military Conveyance. When traveling in military-owned or military-controlled conveyances, active-duty officers are authorized to wear civilian clothing; however, officers are also authorized and strongly encouraged to wear the PHS uniform, as prescribed in Paragraph 3 below, except in the following circumstances: (1) the officer shall not wear the uniform when military officials advise that entry requirements into a foreign area of destination prohibit wearing the uniform (contact the local Air Mobility Command terminal for status of the country, as given in the Air Force Foreign Clearance Guide); (2) the officer shall not wear the uniform when military officials or the U.S. Department of State advise that the traveler will be passing through high-risk areas with respect to terrorist activities or social or political unrest; (3) the officer shall wear the uniform when travelers belonging to the Service that are providing the conveyance are required to travel in uniform; or, (4) officers shall wear the

uniform when the officer in charge of a group (two or more) of PHS officers traveling together specifies, in accordance with all rules and regulations, that the uniform will be worn.

3. Prescribed Uniforms.

a. Official Travel. SDB or as specified in orders (see Item E.5, INSTRUCTION 4, Subchapter CC24.1, "Space-Required Travel on Military Aircraft").

b. Unofficial Travel.

(1) SDB, or

(2) PHS uniform of the day for the area of destination.

Section L. Wear of Uniform Outside the United States

In accordance with international agreements on the status of forces, PHS officers are generally not permitted to wear the uniform outside the United States unless assigned to another Uniformed Service whose regulations permit wearing the uniform. However, the Surgeon General may authorize officers to wear the PHS uniform outside the United States under certain circumstances. Authorization must be obtained in advance by writing to:

Office of the Surgeon General  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-67  
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

The request for authorization should include: (1) the identification of the officer(s) involved ;(2) the nature of the assignment; (3) the places and dates the uniform is to be worn; and (4) the reasons why wearing the uniform would be helpful in the performance of duties or otherwise appropriate.

## EXHIBIT I

## List of Distinctive Components

1. Cap Device (full size and miniature)
2. PHS Buttons (metal buttons which are embossed with a replica of the PHS corps device)
3. PHS Corps Device (all sizes)
4. PHS Name Tag
5. Shoulder Boards
6. Chin strap
7. PHS cap screws

## EXHIBIT II

## List of Authorized Uniforms

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<u>Formal and Dinner Dress Uniforms</u>	
Formal Dress	Formal Dress
Dinner Dress Blue Jacket	Dinner Dress Blue Jacket
Dinner Dress White Jacket	Dinner Dress White Jacket
Dinner Dress Blue	Dinner Dress Blue
Dinner Dress White	Dinner Dress White
Tropical Dinner Dress Blue	Tropical Dinner Dress Blue
<u>Ceremonial Uniforms</u>	
Full Dress Blue	Full Dress Blue
Full Dress White	Full Dress White
<u>General Purpose Service Uniforms<sup>1</sup></u>	
Service Dress Blue	Service Dress Blue
Service Dress Blue Sweater	Service Dress Blue Sweater
Service Dress White	Service Dress White
Service Blue (Salt & Pepper)	Service Blue (Salt & Pepper)
Winter Blue	Winter Blue
Summer White	Summer White
Service Khaki	Service Khaki
<u>Working Uniforms<sup>2</sup></u>	
Working Khaki	Working Khaki
Winter Working Blue	Winter Working Blue
Indoor Duty White	Indoor Duty White
<u>Special Purpose Uniforms</u>	
Battle Dress Uniform	Battle Dress Uniform
	Maternity Uniforms

See INSTRUCTION 7 of this Subchapter, "Special Uniform Situations"

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<sup>1</sup> LUAs select the uniform of the day from among these service uniforms.

<sup>2</sup>

LUAs may prescribe or authorize working uniforms in this category for officers whose duties or conditions would cause the uniform of the day to be impracticable. These uniforms are not authorized for general wear away from the duty location (e.g., in stores, restaurants, etc.), but may be worn while commuting between lodgings and duty location.

## EXHIBIT III

## Sample Uniform of the Day Directive

**NOTE:** This is an example only. Each LUA will prescribe such uniform of the day, working uniforms and optional items as are appropriate to the area and duties involved. The directive must set forth the area of coverage. The method of distributing the directive shall be selected by the LUA, but the directive will apply to all officers under the LUA's purview within the specified geographic area. A LUA may issue different directives for different portions of his/her area of responsibility.

**FROM:** Local Uniform Authority for Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

**SUBJECT:** Uniform of the Day - Fall and Winter, 20XX

**TO:** Active-Duty Commissioned Officers, Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

This memorandum prescribes the uniforms of the day for Public Health Service (PHS) commissioned officers assigned to duty stations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, which includes the cities of Alexandria and Rockville, and the counties of Montgomery, Frederick, Prince Georges, Arlington, and Fairfax.

**APPLICABILITY:**

The provisions of this memorandum apply to all officers in the prescribed area. However, it does not apply to those PHS officers appointed under the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program who are assigned to duty stations in this metropolitan area. Moreover, officers assigned to duty stations in this area with the U.S. Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and medical students attending the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences have separate uniform authorities. Therefore, these officers must follow the separate directive issued by their respective uniform authority.

**UNIFORM OF THE DAY:**

1. Effective the first Monday in October, the uniforms of the day are the SDB, SDBS, Service Blue (SB), and Service Khaki (SK). Except as provided in Item 2, female officers may wear the version of the uniform of the day with skirt or the version with slacks.
2. For the purpose of uniformity, OPDIV/STAFFDIV Heads may prescribe that officers under their jurisdiction wear the SDB uniform for ceremonial occasions, or for other appropriate circumstances on a specific day and for a specific reason. For these occasions, they may also determine if female officers must wear the skirt in lieu of the optional slacks. However, OPDIV/STAFFDIV Heads are not authorized to issue general or blanket directives concerning other uniforms.
3. Circumstances in Which Other Uniforms and Components are Permitted:
  - a. Indoor Duty White. The Indoor Duty White (IDW), which is the same as Summer White uniform but without ribbons, may be worn by officers assigned to duties in clinical or laboratory settings. However, the IDW is a working uniform and is not appropriate for wear when circumstances, such as meetings scheduled in advance with official visitors or members of the general public, indicate that a service uniform should be worn. Officers may wear the IDW while travelling directly between their residence and their duty station.



- b. Formal and Dinner Dress Uniforms. The Formal Dress uniform may be worn at the appropriate formal evening functions (white tie); the Dinner Dress uniform may be worn at the appropriate dinner and social functions (black tie). All such uniforms must conform to the winter season, effective the first Monday in October to the first Monday in May.
- c. Domestic Travel. An officer engaged in domestic travel may wear the service uniform of the day prescribed for the area to which the officer is proceeding.

In summary: PHS officers assigned to duty stations in this area, except as noted above, are not authorized to wear uniforms other than the Service Dress Blue, Service Dress Blue Sweater, Service Blue, or Service Khaki in routine office settings. Officers assigned to clinical or laboratory settings meeting the criteria of Item 3.a., may also wear the IDW uniform.

## EXHIBIT IV

## FABRIC CHART

UNIFORM	COMPONENTS	AUTHORIZED FABRICS
Formal Dress / Dinner Dress Blue Jacket (M&F)	Jacket, Trousers, Skirt	55% Polyester/45% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 55% Polyester/45% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz. 100% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 12.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 15.0 oz. 100% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz.
Tropical Dinner Dress Blue (M)	Trousers, Blue Dress	
Tropical Dinner Dress Blue (F)	Skirt, Blue Unbelted Skirt, Blue Formal	
Tropical Dinner Dress Blue (M&F)	Shirt	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz. 65% Polyester/35% Cotton Poplin, 4.2 oz.
Dinner Dress White Jacket (M&F)	Jacket (Trousers, Skirt same as Dinner Dress Blue Jacket)	100% Polyester/Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz.. 65% Polyester/35% Rayon Gabardine, 8.0 oz.
Full Dress Blue (M&F) Dinner Dress Blue (M&F) Service Dress Blue (M&F)	Coat, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt	55% Polyester/45% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 55% Polyester/45% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz. 100% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 12.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 15.0 oz. 00% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz.
Full Dress White (M) Dinner Dress White (M) Service Dress White (M)	Coat, Trousers	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz.
Full Dress White (F) Dinner Dress White (F) Service Dress White (F)	Coat, Slacks, Shirt, Skirt	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz. 65% Polyester/35% Rayon Gabardine, 8.0 oz.
Service Khaki (M&F)	Shirt, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt, Belt, Cap	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz. 75% Polyester/25% Wool Tropical, 10 oz.
Summer White (M&F) Indoor Duty White (M&F)	Shirt, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt, Belt	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz.
	Shirt	65% Polyester/35% Cotton Poplin, 4.2 oz.
	Trousers, Slacks, Skirt	65% Polyester/35% Cotton Twill, 6.5 oz.
Service Blue (M&F)	Trousers, Slacks, Skirt	55% Polyester/45% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 75% Polyester/25% Wool, Washable, 10.0 oz.
	Shirt	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz. 65% Polyester/35% Cotton Poplin, 4.2 oz.

## EXHIBIT IV (continued)

**FABRIC CHART**

<b>UNIFORM</b>	<b>COMPONENTS</b>	<b>AUTHORIZED FABRICS</b>
Winter Blue (M&F) Winter Working Blue (M&F)	Shirt, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt	75% Polyester/25% Wool, Washable, 10.0 oz.
Working Khaki (M&F)	Shirt, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt, Cover/cap matching fabrics only	65% Polyester/35% Cotton Poplin. 4.2oz., <b>75% Polyester/25% Wool Tropical, 10 oz.</b>
All Authorized Uniforms	Tailcoat, Blue Formal	Same Fabric used for Jacket and Trousers
	Reefer	Authorized Fabric Utilized by NAVY
	Gloves, White	Authorized Uniform Gloves Used by NAVY
	Ear Flaps (band or no band)	Plain Black Fabric (any), no markings