

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Chapter CC26--Conditions of Service  
Subchapter CC26.3--Uniforms  
Personnel INSTRUCTION 9--Description of Articles of Uniform: PHS Sword  
and Accessories

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SECTION A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this INSTRUCTION is to establish a description of the Public Health Service (PHS) Sword. The sword is an optional article of uniform. However, it may be a mandatory article of uniform for those officers who are detailed to another of the uniformed services.

SECTION B. DESCRIPTION

The PHS Sword is a small sword in the general style of the U.S. Army Model 1860, Staff and Field Officers' Sword: hilt, yellow metal; grip, white; blade, straight, double-edged; scabbard, black leather, yellow mounted.

1. Pommel, Grip-socket, Ferrules, and Guard. The pommel, grip-socket, ferrules, and guard shall be die struck or cast bronze, evenly plated with 24K gold. All designs shall be clearly defined and shall conform to the illustrations shown in Section D of this INSTRUCTION. All smooth surfaces shall be polished to a bright finish. The pommel, grip-socket, ferrules, and guard shall be free from blow holes, cracks, fractures, or other irregularities in the metal.

- a. Pommel. The pommel shall be circular in shape, approximately 1-1/8" in diameter, with sixteen conical flutes radiating from its center.
  - b. Grip-socket. The grip-socket shall be an inverted truncated cone: the obverse side ornamented by the PHS Corps Device in high relief, positioned/ so that the staff of the caduceus is vertical; the reverse side bearing a five-pointed star, in high relief. Each ornament shall be of a size to be inscribed in a circle 3/4" in diameter.
  - c. Ferrules. Ferrules shall be continuous bands of metal 1/2" wide, decorated as illustrated in Section D.
  - d. Counter guards. The obverse and reverse counter guards shall be kidney shaped, the obverse larger at its long axis than the reverse. The obverse counter guard shall be ornamented by the PHS Corps Device between sprays of laurel. The reverse counter guard (either spring hinged or permanently fixed in the turned down position) shall be ornamented by a trophy device. (See illustrations, Section D.)
2. Grip. The grip shall be made of bleached sharkskin or white pebble finish, molded, therm-setting plastic. There shall be a continuous gold-coated wire (or three continuous gold-coated wires) wound spirally on the surface of the trip to form 13 (plus or minus 1) evenly spaced bands. A wooden form, properly turned, may be used as the base of the grip.
  3. Blade. The blade shall be of high carbon tool steel or stainless steel and shall meet with military standards. It shall be straight, tapering, double-edged, diamond shape in cross section, with a base 5/8" to 11/16", length 29" to 32", etched decorations will include the PHS Corps Device on each side. The obverse side will have a panel to contain the officer's name. The reverse side will have a panel to contain the inscription, "United States Public Health Service." The etching shall begin 1-1/16" from the hilt and extend 15-9/16" from the hilt.
    - a. Hilt Guard. A piece of white felt or leather 1/8" thick shall be slotted to fit the hilt.
  4. Scabbard The scabbard shall be made of sheet steel 0.040 to 0.065 inch thick, rolled, formed, and welded; or of stainless steel tubing 0.040 to 0.065 inch thick. The scabbards shall be constructed in lengths and inside dimensions as necessary to provide a proper fit for the sword.

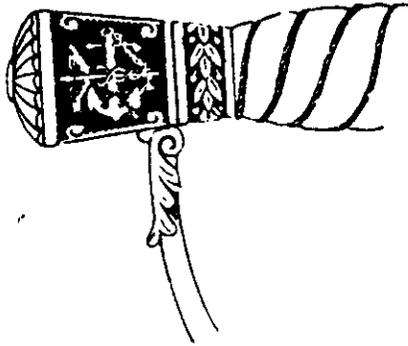
- a. Liner. There shall be two pieces of balsa wood or sulphur-free fiberboard inside the scabbard extending from the hilt to within 3 (plus or minus 1/2) inches of the toe of the scabbard.
  - b. Cover. The scabbard shall be covered with black calfskin, Morocco leather, or a suitable synthetic material. Leathers shall be 2-1/2 ounces in thickness and shall be full grained and smooth finished.
  - c. Bands, Mounts, and Rings. Scabbards shall have three bands: a top band or throat, a middle band, and a distal band or tip. Scabbards shall also have two star mounts with rings and a shoe mount. Bands, mounts, and rings shall be formed of cast bronze or formed in one piece by stamping and then evenly plating with 24K gold. The bands shall be held in place by one or more screws which shall be placed inconspicuously.
    - (1) Top Band. The top band shall have a lip at the throat, a five-pointed star mounted on the obverse side between two attached free-turning rings. The center of the star shall be 1-13/16" from the distal end of the band and 2-7/16" from the proximal end. The band shall be suitably engraved (see illustration, Section D).
    - (2) Middle Band. The middle band shall have a five-pointed star mounted on the obverse side adjacent to one free-turning ring. The center of the star shall be 1-3/8" from either end of the band. The band shall be suitably engraved (see illustration, Section D).
    - (3) Distal Band. The distal band or tip shall have a shoe guard, or drag, mounted around its end. The guard shall be firmly brazed to the band, or the entire mount shall be stamped as a single unit. The distal band shall be suitably engraved (see illustration, Section D).
5. Sword Case. Each sword and scabbard shall be provided with a cotton flannelette case to fit the assembled sword and scabbard. The fabric shall be vat-dyed silver or gray, and shall weigh approximately 4.0 ounces per square yard and shall be evenly napped on one side. The case shall be made with a strip of cotton tape approximately 1/2" wide inserted at the seams and hem for closure. It shall be of the necessary length and width to provide proper fit for the sword and scabbard.

SECTION C. SWORD ACCESSORIES

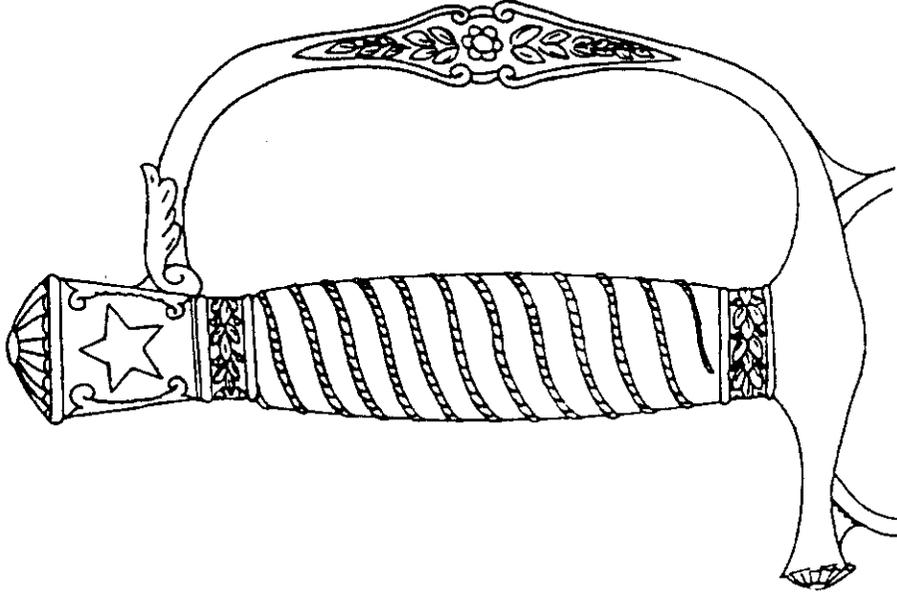
1. The sword and sword accessories (optional) may be worn as part of the Full Dress Blue or White uniforms.
2. How Worn. The sword belt is worn under the coat with strap and hook passing through the opening provided on the left side. Belt straps are snapped to rings on the sword scabbard and upper ring is hooked to the belt with sword hilt to the rear. To mount the sword knot, pass the bight of the lace up through the hole in the guard of the hilt. Take one turn of the knot clockwise around the end of the handle outside the guard then through the eye of the bight, then twice or more clockwise down around the guard and let the knot hang free. When the sword is worn at a military funeral, a mourning badge 3" wide and 20" long, knotted in the middle at the sword hilt, shall also be worn.
3. Description.
  - a. Sword Belt -- The sword belt shall be of plain black grain leather, or synthetic material presenting the same appearance, 1-3/4" wide, with sling straps of same material, 3/4" wide; buckle to be 2" in diameter; buckle and mounting to be gold plated.
  - b. Sword Knot -- This article shall consist of a loop of 1/2" gold lace, 24" long with slide and tassel.

SECTION D. ILLUSTRATIONS

EXHIBIT A



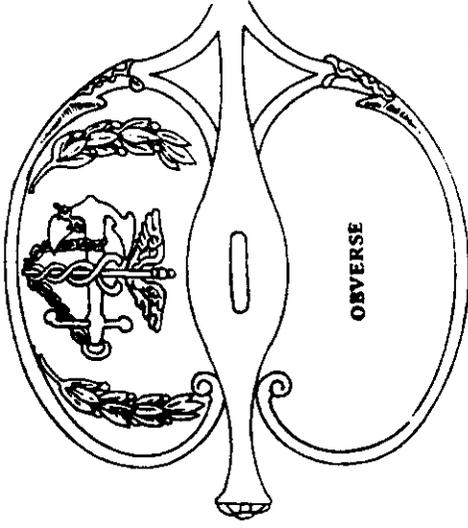
POMMEL  
OBVERSE



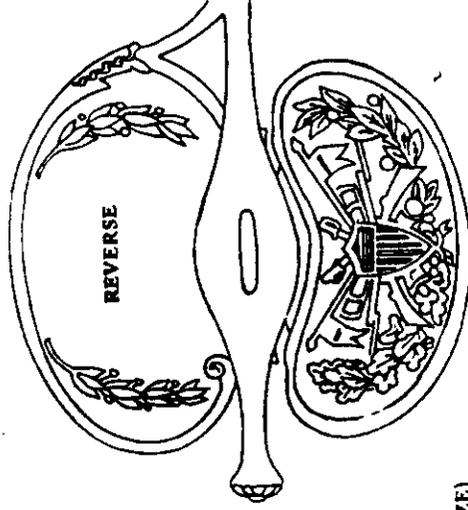
HILT, POMMEL AND KNUCKLE BOW  
REVERSE

(APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS SIZE)

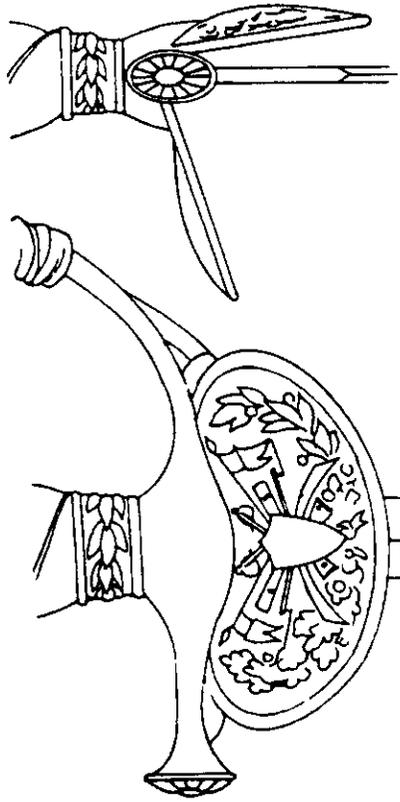
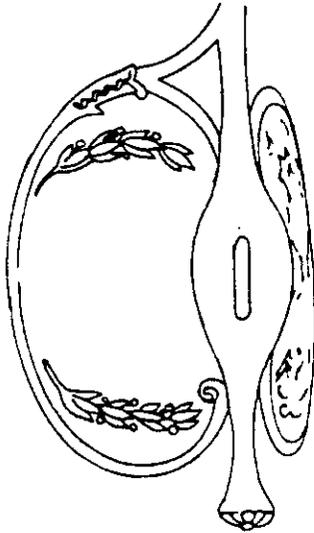
**EXHIBIT B**



COUNTER GUARDS  
(HINGE OPEN)



(APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS SIZE)



COUNTER GUARD:  
PERMANENTLY FIXED POSITION

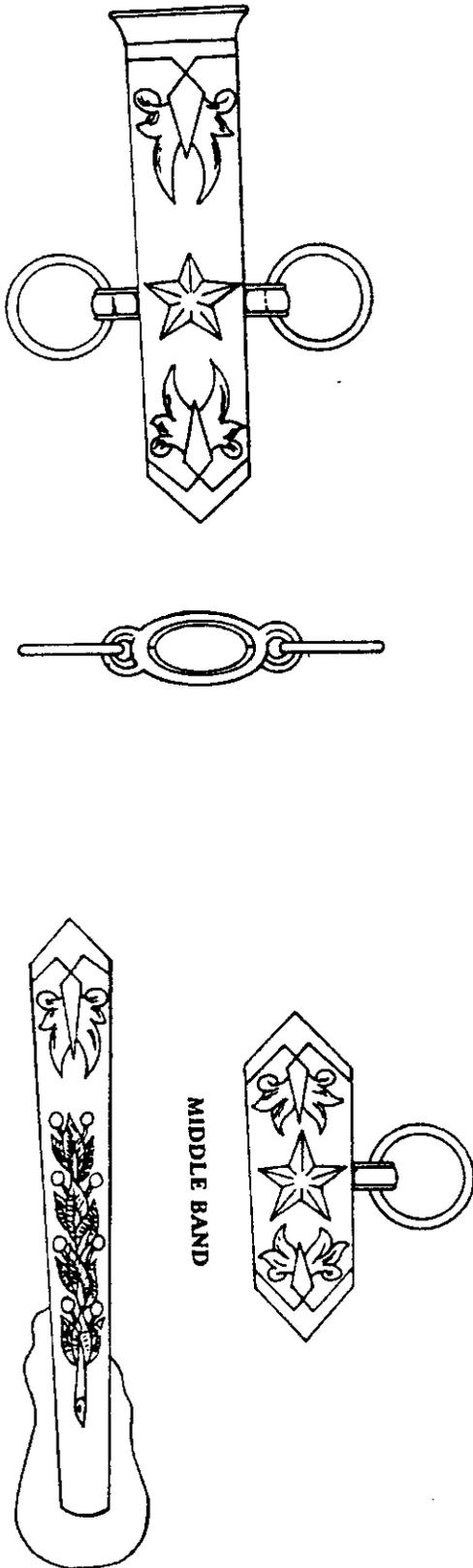
EXHIBIT C



REVERSE

BLADE ETCHING  
(APPROXIMATELY HALF SIZE)

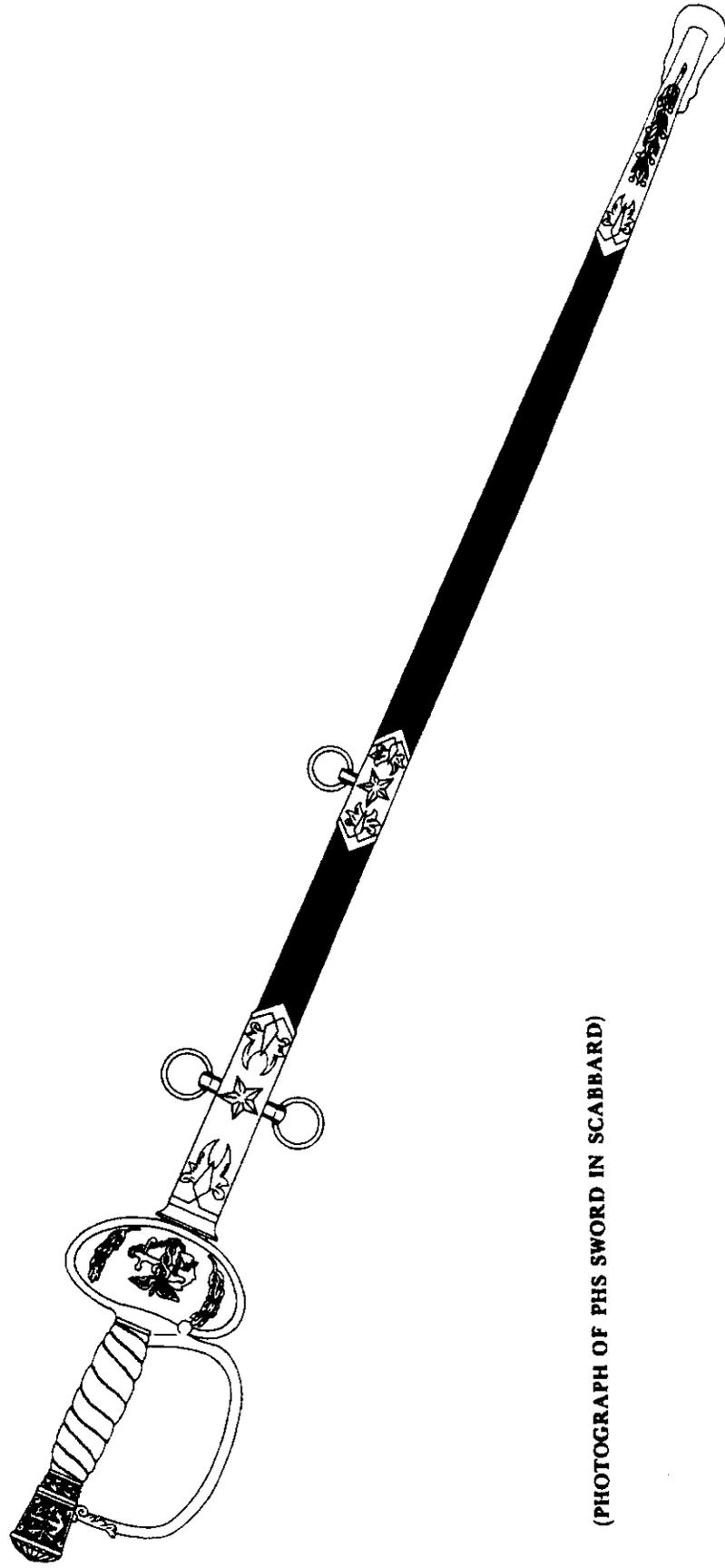
EXHIBIT D



SCABBARD ORNAMENTATION: BANDS MOUNTS AND RING  
OVERSE

(APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS SIZE)

EXHIBIT E



(PHOTOGRAPH OF PHS SWORD IN SCABBARD)