DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

The Surgeon General
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

September 8, 2005

TO: Active-Duty Commissioned Officers
Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, MD Metropolitan Areas

FROM: Surgeon General

SUBJECT: Uniform of the Day – Fall and Winter, 2005-2006

This memorandum prescribes the uniform of the day for Public Health Service (PHS) commissioned officers assigned to duty stations in the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Metropolitan Areas, which include the cities of Alexandria, Baltimore, and Rockville, and the counties of Baltimore, Montgomery, Frederick, Howard, Prince George's, Arlington, and Fairfax.

Specifically, this memorandum applies to those PHS officers in the prescribed areas who wear the PHS uniform. 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 these metropolitan areas. Moreover, officers assigned to duty stations in these areas 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 directives issued by their respective uniform authority.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

1. Effective Monday **0001 hours 3 October 2005**, the uniforms of the day are the Service Dress Blue (SDB), Modified Service Dress Blue (MSDB), Service Dress Blue Sweater (SDBS), Service Blue (SB) ("Salt and Pepper"), and Service Khaki (SK). Except as provided in item 4. below, female officers may wear any version of the uniform of the day with a skirt or slacks.

2. The SDB uniform shall be worn for PHS official functions, high-level meetings, and ceremonies (e.g., awards) where civilian attire would be coat and tie.

3. The Blue Windbreaker Jacket (BWJ) may be worn in lieu of the SDB coat, thereby changing the SDB to the MSDB uniform. The BWJ may also be worn over the SDBS, SB, and SK uniforms. The BWJ is never worn in lieu of the SDB coat (i.e., the MSDB uniform) when attending high-level meetings. Also, the SDB coat is never worn with the SDBS, SB, or SK uniforms.

4. For the purpose of uniformity, Agency 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 that female officers must wear the skirt in lieu of the optional slacks. However, Agency Heads are not authorized to issue general or blanket directives concerning other uniforms.

5. Headgear. SDB: beret (women only) or White Combination Cap (WCC). MSDB: beret (women only), WCC, or PHS Blue Garrison Cap (BGC). SDBS: beret (women only), BGC, or WCC. SB: beret (women only), BGC, or WCC. SK: PHS Khaki Garrison Cap or Khaki Combination Cap.

6. Circumstances in which other uniforms and components are permitted:

   a. Indoor Duty White. The Indoor Duty White (IDW) uniform, which is the same as the Summer White uniform 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 in settings that are not clinical or laboratory. When other occasions arise, such as meetings scheduled in advance with official visitors or members of the general public, a service uniform should be worn. The beret (women only), WCC, or BGC may be worn with the IDW uniform. Officers may wear the IDW uniform while traveling 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 Blue Jacket (officers at the O-5 grade and above) or Dinner Dress Blue (officers at the O-4 grade and below) uniform must be worn at the appropriate dinner and social functions (black tie). All such uniforms must conform to the fall and winter season, effective **0001 hours, 3 October 2005.**

   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. The SDB uniform is always appropriate for domestic travel.

In summary: PHS officers assigned to duty stations in these areas, except as noted above, are not authorized to wear uniforms other than the SDB, MSDB, SDBS, SB, or SK in routine office settings. Officers assigned to clinical or laboratory settings meeting the criteria of item 6.(a.) above, may also wear the IDW uniform.

For further information, refer to Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual CC26.3, *Uniforms*, which is available on the Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) Web site — http://dcp.psc.gov/INDEX-B.asp#U

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