

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

PERSONNEL OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM



POM 10-001
EFFECTIVE DATE: 15 April 2010

By Order of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service:

VADM Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA

TO: All Regular Corps Officers on Extended Active Duty

SUBJECT: Uniform of the Day - Spring and Summer 2010

1. In accordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) [CC26.3.2](#), "Required Wear of the Uniform," this Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) prescribes the spring and summer uniform of the day for officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps).
 - a. This POM does not apply to officers under the jurisdiction of a separate uniform authority as outlined in [CC26.3.2](#).
 - b. This POM does not apply to Corps officers appointed to the Junior and Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP).
2. Effective 0001 Hours, 15 April 2010, the prescribed spring and summer uniform of the day is Summer White (SW). Alternate uniforms are Service Khaki (SK), Service Dress White (SDW), Service Dress Blue (SDB), and Service Dress Blue Sweater (SDBS).
3. The SDW or the SDB shall be worn for all official functions, high-level meetings, and ceremonies (e.g., awards and promotions) where civilian equivalent is coat and tie. The SDW is the prescribed uniform for joint services functions (e.g., commissioning ceremonies, graduations, etc).
4. Officers assigned to patient care or laboratory areas may wear a suitable lab coat over the uniform when required to perform assigned duties. Officers may wear a suitable lab coat when wearing scrub attire. See [CC26.3.7](#), "Special Uniform Situations," for more guidance on protective clothing.
5. The Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) is authorized for wear under the following conditions:
 - a. When part of a work detail where safety, work, or environmental conditions make other uniforms unsafe, inappropriate, or otherwise impractical.
 - b. When prescribed by the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG).

6. Special Uniform Situations, Ceremonial Uniforms, and Dinner Dress
 - a. Officers testifying before Congress, attending Congressional Hearings, or conducting official business on Capitol Hill shall wear the SDB, regardless of the season.
 - b. Officers conducting official business or attending official functions at the White House shall wear the SDW or SDB. Regardless of pay grade, officers attending White House or State Department dinners or social functions shall wear the Dinner Dress White Jacket or Dinner Dress Blue Jacket. Officers assigned or detailed to the White House may wear the appropriate seasonal service dress or service uniform, unless White House protocol dictates otherwise.
 - c. The Full Dress White or Full Dress Blue shall be worn when participating in change of command ceremonies, occasions of state, solemnities, or when escorting or entertaining official visitors with honors or foreign officials and dignitaries.
 - d. Operating Division/Staff Division (OPDIV/STAFFDIV) Heads may prescribe the SDB to be worn by officers under their jurisdiction for ceremonial occasions, high-level meetings, or other appropriate circumstances.
 - (1) OPDIV/STAFFDIV Heads are prohibited from directing female officers to wear the skirt in lieu of slacks.
 - (2) OPDIV/STAFFDIV Heads are prohibited from issuing other directives concerning uniforms.
 - e. Officers engaged in domestic travel may elect to wear either the service uniform of the day prescribed by the area to which the officer is traveling, or the SDB.
 - f. The Dinner Dress White Jacket (is prescribable for O-4 and above and optional for O-3 and below) or Dinner Dress White (is prescribable for O-3 and below) are authorized for wear at the appropriate dinner or social function where the civilian dress equivalent is black/white tie. Officers should consult with their host to determine the appropriate formal/dinner dress uniform.
7. Uniform Guidance
 - a. The Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater (MSDBS) is not authorized for wear when attending high-level meetings or ceremonies; in such cases, the SDB coat shall be worn.
 - b. The Black Windbreaker Jacket (BWJ) is authorized for wear in lieu of the SDB coat. The BWJ shall not be worn in lieu of the SDB coat when attending ceremonies or high-level meetings; in such cases, the SDB jacket shall be worn.
 - c. The Navy sweater is not authorized to be worn in conjunction with the SDB coat.
 - d. The Utility Cap (Navy style 8-point cover) shall be worn with the BDU unless otherwise prescribed.

8. Requests of exception to wearing the prescribed uniform for specific events must be submitted in writing to OSG through the Uniform Coordinator in the Office of Commissioned Corps Operations for approval.
9. Pride in appearance is the mark of respect, responsibility, and the professionalism expected of every Corps officer.

/s/

Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA
VADM, USPHS
Surgeon General