



CC26.3.1  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 02 February 2010

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**By Order of the Assistant Secretary for Health:**

**Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.**

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SUBJECT: Uniforms and Appearance

1. PURPOSE: The Instruction prescribes the official policy governing uniform regulations for officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps). This Instruction provides information of a general or miscellaneous nature, while other uniform related Instructions deal with certain specific uniform topics.
2. APPLICABILITY: This Instruction applies to all Regular Corps and Reserve Corps officers.
3. AUTHORITY:
  - 3-1. [42 USC 216\(a\)](#), "Regulations"
  - 3-2. [42 USC 217](#), "Use of Service in Time of War or Emergency"
  - 3-3. [18 USC 702](#), "Uniform of Armed Forces and Public Health Service"
  - 3-4. [Executive Order 11140](#), "Delegating Certain Functions of the President Relating to the Public Health Service"
  - 3-5. [68 FR 70507](#), "Statements of Organizations, Functions, and Delegations of Authority"
  - 3-6. [CC46.3.1](#), "Uniform Regulations"
4. PROPONENT: The proponent of this Instruction is the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH). The responsibility for assuring the day-to-day management of the Corps is the Surgeon General (SG).
5. SUMMARY OF REVISIONS AND UPDATES: This is the second issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS) and replaces Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC26.3.1, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 1 March 2009. This issuance replaces the information from the previous Instruction of the CCPM, and creates a stand alone Instruction within the CCIS. The following Personnel Policy Memorandums (PPMs) are also incorporated into this Instruction:
  - 5-1. PPM 07-012, "Personal Appearance/Grooming Standards," dated 28 August 2007;

- 5-2. PPM 07-015, "Phase Out of the Service Blue Uniform," dated 28 August 2007;
- 5-3. PPM 08-012, "National Uniform Authority," dated 5 March 2008; and
- 5-4. PPM 08-020, "Phase Out of Uniforms" dated 28 August 2008.

## 6. POLICY:

- 6-1. Purpose of the Uniform. The uniform, with its various insignia and devices, is designed primarily to identify Corps officers on sight. 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.
- 6-2. Only Authorized Uniforms are Worn. All officers in uniform shall wear:
- a. Only the uniform appropriate to their grade;
  - b. Only regulation uniform items; and
  - c. No badges, ribbons, medals or other accoutrements not specifically authorized in accordance with Corps policies, or that have not been annotated in an officer's electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF).
- 6-3. National Uniform Authority.
- a. The SG is designated as the National Uniform Authority (NUA) for all Regular Corps and Reserve Corps officers on extended active duty within the Continental United States (CONUS). The SG may further delegate this uniform authority to a Local Uniform Authority (LUA), as appropriate.
    - (1) This includes officers on detail or deployment under orders from the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment, and Inactive Reserve Corps officers serving on tours of extended active duty and short tours of duty.
    - (2) This does not include officers on extended active duty who are in the Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP); full-time students and faculty of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; officers assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard; or officers detailed to any Department of Defense component.
  - b. Reserve Corps or Regular Corps officers serving on extended active duty Outside of the Continental United States (OCONUS). The LUA uniform guidelines will be established with the concurrence of the Director, Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO)/Office of the Surgeon General.
  - c. Corps officers assigned in Alaska, Hawaii and any Territory or Commonwealth of the United States, outside the boundaries of CONUS, will operate under guidelines set forth by the NUA or LUA, to be designated by the SG.
  - d. A seasonal uniform Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) will be issued by the Office of the Surgeon General in the spring and fall of each year.
- 6-4. Unauthorized Wearing of the Uniform. Wearing the Corps 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 Corps of the activity or interest. Corps officers are expected to follow the guidelines and regulations annotated in the Hatch Act ([5 USC 7321-7326](#)) and accompanying amendments;
  - 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 Corps supports the principles of the demonstration or activity (unless authorized in advance by the Director, OCCO/OSG or the SG);
  - d. When wearing of the uniform would discredit any or all of the Uniformed Services;
  - e. Using the inherent prestige and traditions represented by the uniform to promote privately held convictions on public issues or for personal gain; and
  - f. 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, OCCO/OSG or the SG; and
    - (2) When incident to attending or participating in a bona fide religious service or observance.

6-5. Officers' Appearance.

- a. **General.** The primary consideration is to have a neatly groomed appearance while wearing Corps 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 Corps 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 Corps' best interest and is not a factor in the assurance of equal opportunity.
- b. **Smartness and Image.** Corps personnel must set and maintain high standards of smartness in uniform appearance. The Uniformed Service image reflected by attention to detail while wearing the uniform is a key element in the public image of the Corps.
- c. **Cleanliness.** Uniforms shall be kept scrupulously clean, with lace, devices, and insignia bright and free from tarnish and corrosion. All uniforms must be in a serviceable condition at all times. A uniform is considered unserviceable if it is or has, but not limited to: missing buttons, defective zippers, broken laces, obvious stains, tears, holes, pilling of uniform material or rips.

## 6-6. 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 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Operating Divisions (OPDIVs)/Staff Divisions (STAFFDIVs)/non-HHS organizations when required for the performance of duty), pencils, pens, watch chains, key chain fobs, pins, jewelry, combs, large wallets, cigars, cigarettes, pipes, or similar items. (Note: Jewelry, tie clasps, cuff links, shirt studs, and earrings shall be worn as prescribed). 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 of the hip 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. (Department of Defense (DoD) requires hands free devices when driving onto a military installation.) Unless an officer is in a response, emergency preparedness, or a specific administrative type billet, as defined by the NUA, officers are restricted to the wear of only one electronic device. If multiple electronic devices are authorized by the NUA, no more than two electronic devices shall be worn.
- b. Bags. Bags shall be hand carried (e.g., briefcases, gym bags, backpacks, laptop bags, lunch bags, suitcases, and garment bags, etc. (this does not include women's handbags/purses)) 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, to include luggage, when possible, shall be carried or placed on the left side to facilitate saluting. All bags must conceal their contents and be in a serviceable condition. All bags must be either black or navy blue, except for the olive drab GI Duffel Bag. No ornamentation on the bags is allowed except an official Corps 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 only to their annual meetings, but not on a routine daily basis. All bags used while in dress uniform must be hand carried. (See Appendix B 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 [CC26.3.5](#), "Uniforms for Female Officers," for handbag description).

- c. Glasses, Prescription. 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.

- d. Sunglasses. Conservative sunglasses are permitted, except indoors (with exception for medical reasons, in which documentation must be on file with the Medical Affairs Branch (MAB), Office of Commissioned Corps Support Services (OCCSS), Program Support Center(PSC)) 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.
- e. Contact lenses. Tinted contact lenses must be of a natural eye color (blue, green, brown, etc.). Designs, faddish colors or ornamentation of the lenses is not authorized.
- f. Undergarments. Appropriate undergarments shall be worn to preserve the dignity and appearance of the uniform. When wearing a white uniform, white or skin toned undergarments shall be worn. Undergarments must be plain and design free.
- g. 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, midline of the front pockets, and three evenly spaced vertical creases on the back of the shirt.
- h. Tailoring of the Uniforms. Uniforms may be tailored to provide a well-fitting, professional uniformed or military appearance. 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 a tight or form fit.
- i. 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 cared for 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 a cloth garment 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 visible 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. Uniforms that have a "shiny" appearance due to over-starching or being ironed or dry cleaned at the improper temperature are considered unserviceable.

6-7. Personal Appearance.

- a. Hair.
  - (1) 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 unnatural 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 an 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 Corps caps or covers. Plaited or braided hair shall not be worn while in uniform or in duty status. 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. Hairnets shall not be worn unless authorized for a specific type of duty. 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.

- (2) Women. Hairstyles shall not consist of any of the unnatural colors available for hair or faddish styles, to include shaved portions of the scalp 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. Lop-sided and extremely asymmetrical styles are not authorized. Ponytails, pigtails, 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 three small barrettes/combs/clips, similar to hair color, may be used in the hair. Additionally, 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. Both male and female Corps officers are expected to be either clean shaven or be free of all facial hair while in uniform.
- (1) Unless a waiver that states the officer may have facial hair for medical reasons is obtained from the officer's medical provider, and is on file in MAB, OCCSS, PSC, the face will be free of facial hair at all times while in uniform.
    - (a) A shaving waiver for religious reasons or observances will not be accepted.
    - (b) A copy of the shaving waiver must be kept with the officer and must be presented for inspection upon request.
  - (2) Authorized facial hair, for male officers only, is a mustache.
    - (a) If a mustache worn, it must be neatly and closely trimmed.
    - (b) No portion of the mustache shall extend beyond the lip line of the upper lip.
    - (c) The mustache will not go beyond a horizontal line extending across the corners of the mouth, and no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch beyond a vertical line drawn from the corner of the mouth.
    - (d) The length of an individual mustache shall not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.
  - (3) Handlebars, goatees, or other eccentric or faddish facial hairstyles are not permitted.
  - (4) If a shaving waiver is authorized, no facial/neck hair shall be shaved, neither manicured or outlined, nor exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in length.
- 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.
- (1) Men. Active duty personnel while in uniform may only wear wigs or hairpieces for cosmetic reasons to cover natural baldness or physical disfigurements.
  - (2) Women. Wigs or hairpieces meeting women's grooming standards are authorized for wear by active duty personnel while in uniform.

- d. Cosmetics.
  - (1) Men. Cosmetics are not authorized for men.
  - (2) 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, to include cosmetic or body glitter, 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 skin tone. Long false eyelashes shall not be worn when in uniform.
- e. Fingernails.
  - (1) Men. Fingernails may not extend past fingertips and shall be kept clean. Nail polish is not authorized.
  - (2) Women. Fingernails shall not exceed 1/4 inch, measured from the fingertips and 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. Ornate decoration or ornamentation of the fingernail polish is not authorized.
- f. Jewelry. Conservative jewelry is authorized for all personnel and shall be in good taste while in uniform. Eccentricities, items which draw undue attention, 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.
  - (1) 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 Corps 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.
  - (2) 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.
- i. Body Piercing/Jewelry. Not authorized while in uniform. No articles, other than the earrings for women specified in Subsection 6-6.h., shall be attached to or through the ear, nose, tongue, eyebrow or any other visible body part. Body piercing/jewelry is not authorized in civilian attire when in a duty status or while participating in any organized Corps 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 arm. Ankle bracelets are not authorized while in uniform.
- l. Tattoos/Body Art/Brands. No Tattoos/Body Art/Brands on the head, face, neck, scalp or exposed skin 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 Corps are prohibited. For example, Tattoos/Body Art/ Brands that are excessive in size, obscene, and 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 the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) for prior service and existing tattoos.
- m. Mutilation. Intentional body mutilations, piercing/branding/intentional scarring or decorative implants on the head, face, neck, scalp, tongue or exposed skin are prohibited. Some examples are:
  - (1) Split or forked tongue;
  - (2) Foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern;
  - (3) Enlarged or stretched out holes on 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 or decorative implants.

- n. Dental Ornamentation (e.g., Grills). The use of gold, platinum, other veneers or caps for purposes of ornamentation is 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.

6-8. Wear of the Uniform by Retired and Inactive Reserve Officers.

- a. 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 inaugurations;
  - (2) Patriotic parades or ceremonies in which any active or reserve Uniformed Service is taking part; and
  - (3) Wearing the uniform does not entitle the retired or inactive 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 Subsection 6-13.

- b. The uniform worn by retired and inactive reserve Corps 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 Corps officers called to active duty must wear the appropriate uniform, accoutrements or articles as directed by the LUA, and must abide by the current uniform regulations, as of the date of activation.

6-9. Officers Assigned to Other Services.

- a. Officers assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for extended active duty (i.e., duty other than temporary duty) shall wear the uniform prescribed for wear by USCG officers as required by USCG directives, regulations, and memorandums of agreement or understanding; the insignia and distinctive markings of the USCG uniforms thus worn shall be as follows with:

- (1) PHS shoulder boards
- (2) PHS cap and Corps devices
- (3) PHS sleeve insignia
- (4) PHS buttons on the uniform jacket and cover

Inactive reserve Corps officers, who participate in USCG activities by invitation from the USCG and with the permission of the OSG, may wear the USCG uniform as described in Subsection 6-8 when so participating.

- b. Officers assigned to a Uniformed Service other than USCG 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 Corps uniform, or the uniform of the service to which the officer is assigned, the Corps officer shall wear the Corps uniform during the assignment; choosing the Corps uniform which corresponds or most closely corresponds to the type of uniform prescribed for wear by officers of that service in similar assignments.

- 6-10. Wear of Civilian Clothing on Military Installations. When visiting military installations (including facilities of the USCG and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), whether on official business or on personal business (e.g., shopping at the commissary, sightseeing, etc.) officers not wearing a uniform shall wear neat, tasteful clothing appropriate to the activity. 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.

6-11. Travel Uniform.

- a. Travel by Non-Military Conveyances. For official travel within the United States, an officer may wear the uniform prescribed in Subsection 6-12, or appropriate civilian attire. For official travel outside the United States, appropriate civilian attire will normally be worn (see Subsection 6-13).
- b. 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 Corps uniform, as prescribed in Subsection 6-12, 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 Corps officers traveling together specifies, in accordance with all rules and regulations, that the uniform will be worn.

6-12. Prescribed Uniforms.

- a. Official Travel. Service Dress Blue (SDB) or as specified in orders (see [CC24.1.4](#), "Space-Required Travel on Military Aircraft").
- b. Unofficial Travel.
  - (1) SDB, or
  - (2) Corps uniform of the day for the area of destination.

6-13. Wear of Uniform Outside the United States. In accordance with international agreements on the status of forces, Corps 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 SG may authorize officers to wear the Corps 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.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 7-1. The ASH is responsible for establishing policies related to uniforms.

- 7-2. All officials of OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs/non-HHS organizations to which officers are assigned, having responsibility for the supervision of Corps officers shall assure that officers under their direction wear the uniform properly and adhere to the grooming standards contained herein.
- 7-3. All officers are responsible for adhering to the Corps' uniform policies and procedures. Officers who wear the uniform improperly, or who exhibit a careless attitude toward their personal appearance bringing discredit to themselves, to the Department, to the Corps, are subject 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.
8. PROCEDURES:
- 8-1. Guidance to Local Uniform Authorities. The SG is the NUA and may designate LUAs as appropriate.
- a. LUAs operate within the limitations of Corps rules involving uniforms, and the LUA operates within the framework of the NUA's Uniform of the Day listing. Each LUA shall designate uniforms from the NUA's Uniform of the Day listing that are appropriate for the associated climate, and the types of work conducted in that LUAs area of authority. See [CC26.3.7](#), "Special Uniform Situations," for LUA guidelines regarding the Battle Dress Uniform.
  - b. Uniform authority is to be exercised on a regional basis, ensuring that no officer comes under the authority of more than one LUA within the same regional area.
  - c. The LUA determines policy for all OPDIV/STAFFDIV/non-HHS organizations and officers within the assigned area. If a LUA's area includes multiple towns or installations in different environmental areas, the LUA may prescribe different requirements for the various areas involved.
  - d. In all cases, the NUA retains final authority in the designation of uniforms, and uniform wear for the Corps.
  - e. Supervisors at the local field level may petition the LUA, through the Commissioned Corps Liaison, for specific uniform requests or needs for a temporary fixed period of time for a specific event or occasion.
- 8-2. Selection of Uniforms.
- a. Refer to Appendix B 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 Appendix B. 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. The NUA determines when a shift is made between the summer and a winter uniform, if a shift is appropriate for the area involved. The 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 Whites, and Battle Dress Uniform.
- 8-3. Designation of Covered Areas. LUAs may determine those areas, such as a specific area of connected or adjacent buildings and grounds not including parking areas, which officers may transit out-of-doors but consider themselves indoors for purposes of meeting uniform requirements and/or extending service courtesy such as saluting. However, entire areas, such as but not limited to: campuses, complexes, installations, institutions, research facilities or parking areas/decks, in which interaction with the general public or other Uniformed Service members is likely, are not permitted to be considered covered.
- 8-4. Obtaining Uniforms and Accessories.
- a. The various Corps 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. Corps uniforms are made distinctive by the wearing of unique Corps insignia. These include the Corps device, cap chin strap, cap device, shoulder boards, and buttons. The insignia are described in [CC26.3.6](#), "Insignia and Devices."
  - b. Many Navy Exchange (NEX) retail stores have a uniform shop. The basic articles of uniform clothing are usually available in these shops. However, the unique Corps insignia and buttons are typically not stocked in NEX uniform shops except in the Washington, D.C. area. Insignia, as well as complete uniforms, may be ordered by mail from the Navy Uniform Support Center, Chesapeake, VA. An officer may order directly from the Uniform Support Center Web site [http://www.navy-nex.com/command/about\\_us/p-uniformsupport.html](http://www.navy-nex.com/command/about_us/p-uniformsupport.html), or by calling 1-800-368-4088.
  - c. When purchasing uniform clothing items from sources outside of official sources, be sure each item has a military specification 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.
  - d. Uniform items may be obtained from any source, provided the items carry a Military Specification and/or a certification label, except the following which must be obtained from the indicated official Uniformed Service distribution sources:
    - (1) Navy.
      - (a) Shoes, Dress, Brown
      - (b) Shoes, Service, Brown
      - (c) Handbag, Brown
      - (d) Sweater, Navy V-neck

- (2) Marine Corps. Sweater, Service, Green Crew Neck (Wooly Pully). See [CC26.3.7](#), "Special Uniform Situations."

9. HISTORY: This is the second issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS) and replaces Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC26.3.1, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 1 March 2009.

Appendix A

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

Appendix B

List of Authorized Uniforms

Men		Women
Formal and Dinner Dress Uniforms		
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
Ceremonial Uniforms		
Full Dress Blue		Full Dress Blue
Full Dress White		Full Dress White
General Purpose Service Uniforms <sup>1</sup>		
Service Dress Blue		Service Dress Blue
Service Dress Blue Sweater		Service Dress Blue Sweater
Service Dress White		Service Dress White
Summer White		Summer White
Service Khaki		Service Khaki
Working Uniforms		
Coveralls		Coveralls
Special Purpose Uniforms		
Battle Dress Uniform <sup>2</sup>		Battle Dress Uniform <sup>2</sup>
		Maternity Uniforms <sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> See CC26.3.7, "Special Uniform Situations."

Appendix C

Fabric Chart

UNIFORM	COMPONENTS	AUTHORIZED FABRICS
Dinner Dress Blue Jacket (M and 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.
Dinner Dress White Jacket (M and 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 and F) Dinner Dress Blue (M and F) Service Dress Blue (M and 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. 100% 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 and 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 and 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.

## Appendix (continued)

## Fabric Chart

UNIFORM	COMPONENTS	AUTHORIZED FABRICS
All Authorized Uniforms	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