



CC26.3.6  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 01 March 2009

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By Order of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health:

RADM Steven K. Galson, USPHS

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SUBJECT: Insignia and Devices

1. PURPOSE: This Instruction prescribes the insignia and devices for wear with the uniforms of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) and the method of wearing them. Illustrations of the insignia and devices are included in the Appendix.
2. APPLICABILITY: This Instruction applies to all Regular Corps and Reserve Corps officers.
3. AUTHORITY:
  - 3-1. [42 USC 216](#)
  - 3-2. [Executive Order 11140](#)
  - 3-3. [68 FR 70507](#)
  - 3-4. [18 USC 702](#)
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 first issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS) and replaces Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC26.3.6, "Insignia and Devices," dated 30 November 1990. This issuance replaces the information from the previous INSTRUCTION of the CCPM, and creates a stand alone Instruction within the CCIS.
  - 5-1. [PPM 10-002](#), "Aiguillettes," dated 04 December 2009.

## 6. POLICY:

## 6-1. Corps Device.

- a. Full-Size Device. The full-size Corps device shall consist of gold-colored lace or thread comprising of a fouled anchor and caduceus crossed as in the PHS Seal and shall meet military specifications (MilSpec.) 1-3/16 inches high and 1-3/16 inches wide.
- b. Miniature Device. The miniature Corps device shall be gold-colored or anodized metal in the same design as the full-sized device, and shall meet MilSpec. 11/16 inches high and 11/16 inches wide. When used as part of the soft shoulder board (mark), the miniature Corps device is embroidered in gold-colored thread and shall meet MilSpec. 7/8 inches high and 7/8 inches wide. Illustrations of the Corps device are shown in Appendix A.

## 6-2. Sleeve Insignia.

- a. Rank Lace Stripes. Stripes are gold lace in ¼ inch, ½ inch or 2 inch widths. The stripes are sewn onto each sleeve so as to be parallel with the cuff and completely encircle the sleeve. The lower edge of the bottom stripe is 2 inches from the edge of the cuff and there is a ¼ inch space between stripes. The officer shall wear the stripe or combinations of stripes which correspond to the officer's pay grade/rank.
- b. Corps Device. A full-size Corps device shall be sewn onto the outer face of each sleeve, centered midway between the front and rear creases. It is positioned ¼ inch above the upper most stripe. The Corps devices are used in left-right pairs. The anchor of the Corps device always faces forward. Illustrations of sleeve insignia are shown in the Appendix A.

## 6-3. Shoulder Insignia.

- a. Hard Shoulder Boards (HSB). HSBs consist of a Corps device, appropriate rank stripe and 22½ line gold PHS gilt button, and are slightly curved to fit the shoulder. The HSB is positioned with the square end facing outboard at the shoulder seam and the gilt button facing inboard toward the neck. The anchor of the Corps device faces forward. Illustrations of hard shoulder boards are shown in Appendix B.

Female HSBs are designed to fit over a strap on the shoulder of an epauletted shirt and coat. The female HSB is of the same general appearance, but is approximately ½ inch shorter than the male HSB.

The male HSBs have a strap attached to the underside of the board for attachment to loops on a shirt or coat shoulder.

- (1) Flag Officers. The shoulder board is covered with a gold lace leaving a 1/8 inch cloth margin along each side. The Corps device is embroidered with the head of the staff of the caduceus positioned 1¼ inches from the pointed end of the board. Rank shall be indicated by the use of 1 (O-7), 2 (O-8), 3 (O-9), or 4 (O-10), silver colored, embroidered, 5-pointed stars, arranged as shown in the Appendix B.
- (2) Officers Below Flag Grade. The surface of the shoulder board is covered with blue (black in appearance) cloth. Gold lace stripes indicate

rank and are of the same width, spacing and arrangement as specified for sleeve insignia in Section 6-2. However, the first stripe is positioned  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch for the Junior Assistant/Ensign, O-1) from the squared end of the board. The Corps device is positioned  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above the uppermost stripe.

- b. Soft Shoulder Marks (SSM). SSM are designed to fit over the straps of epauletted shirts and the optional wear sweater. The arrangement of the Corps device and rank stripes is the same as for the HSBs, but the SSM is made to  $\frac{3}{4}$  scale of the men's HSB for both male and female. There is no gilt button on the SSM. The Corps device on the SSM is  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch in width and height.
- c. Full-Size Metal Rank Insignia. The designs and sizes of metal rank insignia are shown the Appendix D. The full-size metal rank insignia are worn on the shoulder straps of all-weather coat and windbreaker jackets. Each insignia is worn along the centerline of the strap,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the outboard shoulder seam.
  - (1) Flag Officers. 4 (O-10) Admiral, 3 (O-9) Vice Admiral, 2 (O-8) Rear Admiral Upper Half, 5-pointed, silver stars arranged in a straight line along a thin silver connecting bar, with 1 ray of each star pointing along the connecting bar. Grade O-7 uses a single star with a single ray of the star pointing towards the collar.
  - (2) Director Grade (CAPTAIN/CAPT) (O-6). Left and right silver eagles, with the talons of one foot grasping an olive branch and the other talons grasping a bundle of arrows. Each eagle is worn with the top of the head pointing towards the collar and eagle's beak and the olive branches pointing forward.
  - (3) Senior Grade (COMMANDER/CDR) (O-5). Silver oak leaves, smooth finished, raised and veined; worn with the stem of the oak leaf pointing outboard and the center lobe of the leaf pointing inboard.
  - (4) Full Grade (LIEUTENANT COMMANDER/LCDR) (O-4). Gold oak leaves, smooth finished, raised and veined; worn with the stem of the oak leaf pointing outboard and the center lobe of the leaf pointing inboard.
  - (5) Senior Assistant Grade (LIEUTENANT/LT) (O-3). Two silver bars attached near the ends by silver connecting bars. The bars are smooth with no bevel; worn centered front to back on the strap, with the long dimension of the rank bar parallel with the outboard shoulder seam.
  - (6) Assistant Grade (LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE/LTJG) (O-2). Single silver bars centered front to back on the strap, with the long dimension of the bar parallel with the outboard shoulder seam.
  - (7) Junior Assistant Grade (ENSIGN/ENS) (O-1). Single gold bars centered front to back on the strap, with the long dimension of the bar parallel with the outboard shoulder seam.

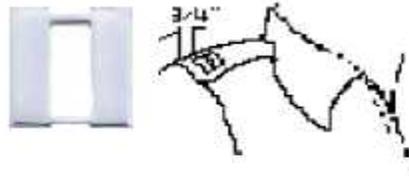


Figure 1.

## 6-4. Collar Insignia.

- a. Miniature Size Metal Rank Insignia. These are worn on the right collar points of the khaki and winter blue shirts. The designs of the miniature metal grade insignia are the same as for their full-sized counterparts, described in Section 6-3.c., except that the stars of the O-8, O-9, and O-10 have no visible connecting bar and appear to be connected to one another at the points of the adjacent rays; the stars are oriented such that one ray of each points up.

- (1) Long Sleeve Working Khaki and Blue Shirts (Phase Out 1 August 2009). The center of the insignia is 1 inch from the front and upper edge of the collar. Bar-shaped insignia are oriented with the bars parallel to the front edge of the collar, leaf shaped insignia with the center lobe of the leaf pointed up and the vertical axis of the leaf parallel to the front edge of the collar. The right eagle, the beak facing forward and the vertical axis parallel to the front edge of the collar. For flag officers' insignia, center the first star 1 inch from the front and upper edge of the collar with the remaining stars, if any, extending back along the collar such that the horizontal axis of the stars is parallel to the upper collar edge. For a single star, one ray will point along a line perpendicular to the upper collar edge. These procedures apply whether the collar is worn open or buttoned closed.

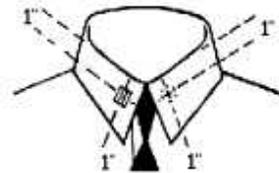


Figure 2.

- (2) Open Collar Short Sleeve Shirts. The center of the insignia is 1 inch from the front and lower edge of the collar and positioned on the vertical axis of the insignia along an imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar point (Figure 2). For flag officers' insignia, a single star is worn with one ray pointing towards the neck and falling along a line which bisects the angle of the collar point. Two or more stars are worn such that a horizontal line through the stars is perpendicular to the line which bisects the angle of the collar points and the bisecting line divides the insignia into halves.



Figure 3.

- b. **Miniature Corps Device.** A MilSpec. miniature metal Corps device is worn on the left collar. The device is centered 1 inch from the appropriate collar edges, as described in Section 6-3.d.(1)(a) or (b); the staff of the caduceus is the vertical axis of the device and the anchor points towards the front (Figure 3).

6-5. **Cap Insignia.**

- a. **Cap Device.** The cap device is an ornament of all gold colored anodized MilSpec metal consisting of a shield with 13 stars and stripes, surmounted with a spread eagle with the head pointing to the right, when worn. The ornament is mounted on a crossed fouled anchor and caduceus. There is a standard and miniature size cap device, with the dimensions shown in the illustration in the Appendix. The embroidered or hand sewn cap devices are not authorized. The cap devices with dimensions are displayed in the Appendix E.
- b. **Combination Cap.** The standard size cap device is attached to the black hat band and the cap is worn with a chin strap with a visor or hat band with appropriate ornamentation (rows of gold oak leaves and acorns (scrambled-eggs)) as appropriate for rank. The combination caps are illustrated in the Appendix E.
- (1) **Chin Strap.** An adjustable sliding strap of MilSpec leather or appropriate synthetic material, faced with a gold colored lace or thread. The strap is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide and has a  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch wide maroon band running lengthwise. The strap is equipped with 2 slides and is fastened to the cap frame by two  $22\frac{1}{2}$  line PHS gilt buttons. The chin strap with the red band is not authorized. The chin strap is worn with all male combination caps and with female combination caps for the Full Grade (LCDR/O-4) and below.
  - (2) **Flag Officers.** The male officers' visor shall be covered with blue (black) cloth and be fully embroidered with two rows of gold oak leaves and acorns. The female officers' hat band shall be of blue (black) cloth and be embroidered with two rows of gold oak leaves and acorns.
  - (3) **Director (CAPT/O-6) and Senior (CDR/O-5) Grade Officers.** The male officers' visor shall be covered with a blue (black) cloth and embroidered along the front edge with 1 row of gold oak leaves and acorns. The female officers' hat band shall be of blue (black) cloth and be embroidered with 1 row of gold oak leaves and acorns.
  - (4) **Full (LCDR/O-4) Grade and Below.** The male officers' visor and the female officers' hat band shall not be ornamented.

- c. Garrison Cap. The garrison cap is worn with the miniature metal rank insignia on the right side and the miniature cap device on the left. The devices are centered 1½ inches from the lower edge and 2 inches from the front center line, as shown in the Appendix. Director (CAPT/O-6) rank officers wear the right eagle (i.e., the eagle's beak points toward the front center crease). An illustration of proper placement is described in Appendix E.
- d. Beret. The miniature cap device is positioned so as to be aligned over the left eye. No rank insignia is worn on the beret.

#### 6-6. PHS Buttons.

- a. Design. PHS metal buttons are MilSpec gold-colored or anodized and carry an embossed design consisting of a fouled anchor and caduceus as in the seal of the Corps. Buttons are positioned on the uniform such that the staff of the caduceus is vertical.
- b. Size. Buttons are designated as to size by the use of a 'line' count; (e.g., a 40-line button is 1 inch in diameter)

#### 6-7. Name Tag.

- a. General. The Corps name tag is worn with all service uniforms. It may also be worn with working uniforms if it does not present a safety hazard or nuisance. See [CC26.3.4](#) and [CC26.3.5](#) for specific guidance on which utilizes the name tag.

The name tag is a distinctive part of the uniform. It is not authorized for wear by personnel other than Corps officers. It shall not be worn on civilian clothing.

- b. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Operating Division (OPDIV), Staff Division (STAFFDIV), or non-HHS organization-specific name tags.
  - (1) Officers, while assigned to an OPDIV, STAFFDIV or non-HHS organization having an approved OPDIV, STAFFDIV or non-HHS organization-specific name tag, may wear a name tag identifying that OPDIV, STAFFDIV or non-HHS organization, if prescribed or optional.
  - (2) An OPDIV, STAFFDIV or non-HHS organization must receive written approval from the Director, Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO), Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), for such change in the name tag. OPDIV, STAFFDIV, non-HHS organization requests to the Director, OCCO, OSG, must include the proposed design of the name tag in keeping with the requirements of this section substituting the approved logo of that OPDIV, STAFFDIV, or non-HHS organization for the PHS seal.
  - (3) An OPDIV, STAFFDIV or non-HHS organization that prescribes these name tags will furnish these name tags at no cost to the officers. However, officers must own regular Corps name tags for use when they are not assigned to an OPDIV, STAFFDIV, or non-HHS organization with a distinctive name tag.
- c. Name. The name tag shall be inscribed with the officer's last name only; no initials or professional degree abbreviations are permitted. Hyphenated last names are permitted.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES: It is the responsibility of each Corps officer to comply with the specifications of this Instruction.
8. PROCEDURES:
  - 8-1. Corps officers assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) will comply with regulations set forth in the USCG uniform manual in regards to the proper wear of Corps specific items in conjunction with USCG items or components. This does not preclude a Corps officer from maintaining the required uniforms and components of the standard Corps uniform.
9. HISTORICAL NOTES: This is the first issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS) and replaces Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC26.3.6, "Insignia and Devices," dated 30 November 1990. This issuance replaces the information from the previous INSTRUCTION of the CCPM, and creates a stand alone Instruction within the CCIS.

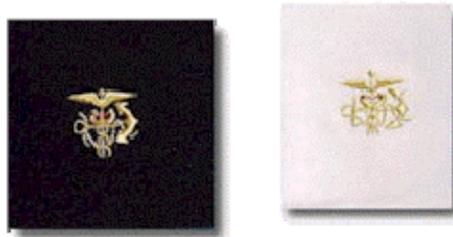
Appendix A

Corps Device

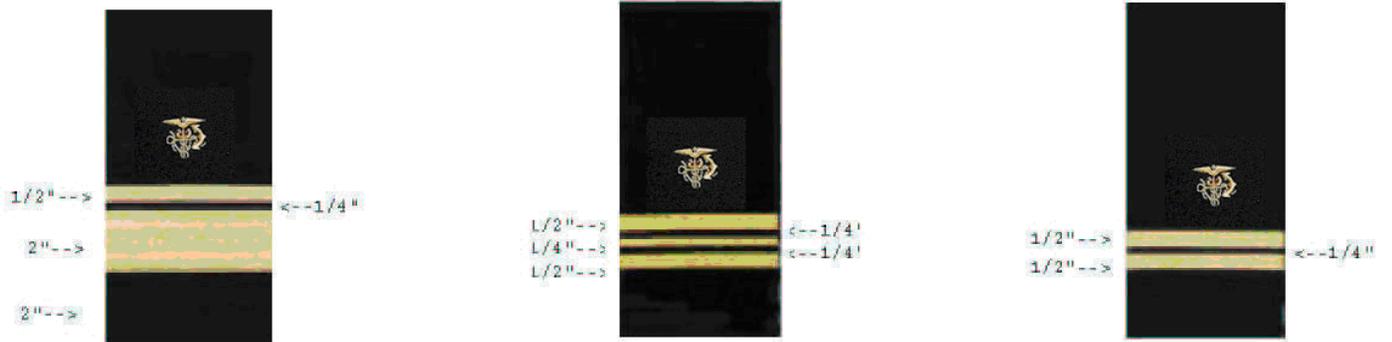


Dimensions:  
Full Sized Cloth: 1-3/16" x 1-3/16"  
Miniature Metal: 11/16" x 11/16"  
Soft Shoulder Marks: 7/8" x 7/8"

Sleeve Device



Sleeve Insignia



Appendix A - continued

Sleeve Rank Insignia



ADM



VADM



RADM



RADM (LH)



CAPT



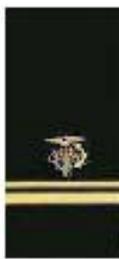
CDR



LCDR



LT



LTJG



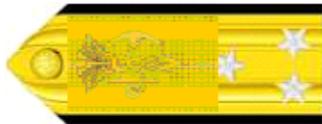
ENS

Appendix B

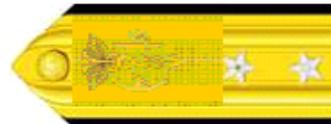
Hard Shoulder Boards



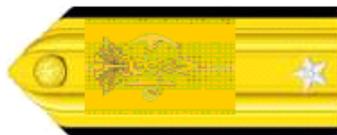
Admiral - Assistant  
Secretary for Health



Vice Admiral - Surgeon General



Rear Admiral (Upper half)  
Deputy Surgeon General or  
Assistant Surgeon General



Rear Admiral (Lower Half) -  
Assistant Surgeon General



Ensign



Lieutenant junior grade



Lieutenant



Lieutenant Commander



Commander



Captain

Appendix C

Soft Shoulder Marks



Admiral - Assistant  
Secretary for Health



Vice Admiral - Surgeon General



Rear Admiral (Upper half)  
Deputy Surgeon General or  
Assistant Surgeon General



Rear Admiral (Lower Half) -  
Assistant Surgeon General



Ensign



Lieutenant junior grade



Lieutenant



Lieutenant Commander



Commander



Captain

Appendix D

Metal Rank Insignia



Admiral



Vice Admiral



Rear Admiral



Rear Admiral (Lower Half)



Captain(Right)



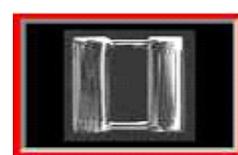
Captain(Left)



Commander



Lieutenant Commander



Lieutenant



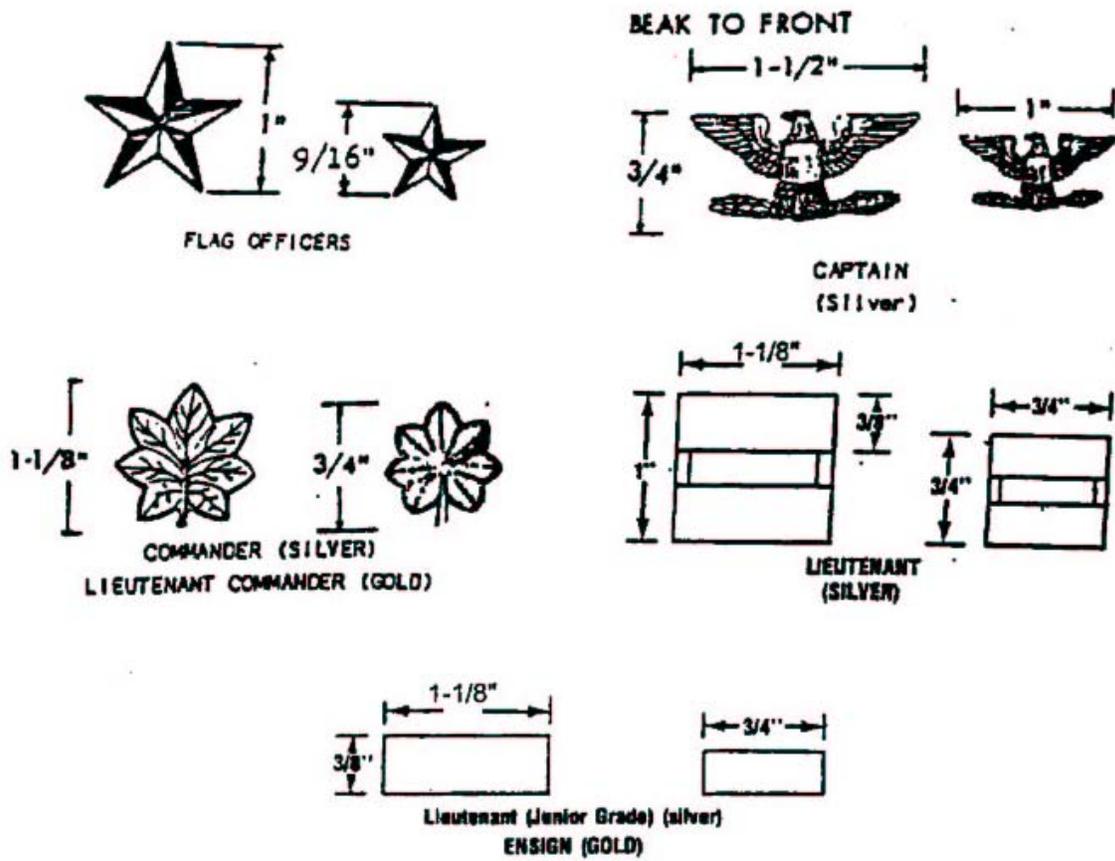
Lieutenant Junior Grade



Ensign

Appendix D - continued

Metal Rank Dimensions



Appendix E

Cap Device



Dimensions

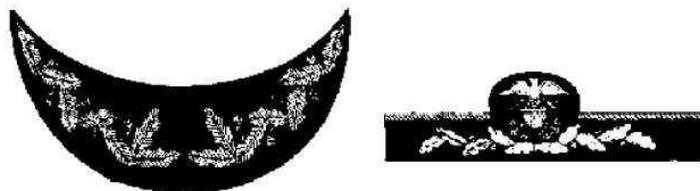
	Standard	Miniature
Length of staff	2-5/16"	1-7/16"
Length of Anchor	2-5/16"	1-1/2"
Height of Eagle	7/8"	9/16"
Height of Shield	1"	9/16"
Wing Span	2"	1-3/16"

Combination Cover Ornamentation

Flag Officer



Captain and Commander



Appendix E - continued

Lieutenant Commander and below



Name Tags



Garrison Cap Insignia

