

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

PERSONNEL OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM



POM 06-003

EFFECTIVE DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2006

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

RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, Acting Surgeon General

TO: U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officers Assigned to the Department of Defense

SUBJECT: U.S. Flag, Special Skill, Unit Patches

1. The purpose of this personnel operational memorandum (POM) authorizes the wearing of the American Flag patch, Service/Special Identification Unit patches and special skill badges when assigned to the Department of Defense (DoD). The Acting Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) authorizes the wearing of the conferred decorations on the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU).
2. Commissioned Corps officers assigned to DoD organizational units are hereby authorized to wear the American Flag patch, 1 ¹³/₁₆ inches high x 3 ½ inches wide, reversed field, full color (gold border). The designated patch shall be worn over the right shoulder of the BDU utility coat and field jacket centered horizontally on the wearer's right sleeve, ½-inch below the shoulder seam.
3. According to the Commissioned Corps Issuance System, Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) [CC26.3.7](#), "Special Uniform Situations", PHS Corps officers assigned to DoD organizational units are authorized to wear special skills badges and/or special unit identification patches if authorized by the Office of the Surgeon General. If authorized and documented in the member's Officer Personnel Folder Awards Section an officer may wear:
 - a. PHS Service and Special Unit Identification Patches. Special unit identification patches may be authorized by the Office of the Surgeon General only. Special patches shall be of the subdued, embroidered type with a basic olive green background and shall not exceed 3 ½-inches in the greatest dimension. The PHS Service and Special unit identification patches shall be worn on the utility coat and field jacket centered horizontally on the wearer's left sleeve, ½-inch below the shoulder seam.
 - b. Special Skill Badges. Special badges shall be of the subdued, embroidered type. An officer may wear no more than two skill badges. To be entitled to wear a badge, it must have been earned for a medically related skill (regardless of branch of Service) or earned while on active duty as a PHS Corps officer. The special skills badge is worn centered, ¼-inch above the "USPHS" tape over the left pocket of the BDU utility coat and field jacket. If two badges are worn, the second badge is worn centered on and ¼-inch above the lower badge.

4. All PHS Corps officers assigned to the DoD organizational units are directed to comply with this operational guidance prescribed in this memorandum.

/s/
Kenneth P. Moritsugu
RADM, USPHS
Acting Surgeon General