

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

PERSONNEL POLICY MEMORANDUM



PPM 10-002
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04 December 2009

By Order of the Assistant Secretary for Health:

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

TO: All Regular Corps and Reserve Corps Officers on Extended Active Duty.

SUBJECT: Aiguillettes

1. This PPM amends Commissioned Corps Instruction [CC26.3.6](#), "Insignia and Devices," by adding section 6-8, Aiguillettes, which reads as follows:

6-8. Aiguillettes

- a. Occasions for Wear. Individuals may wear aiguillettes only while serving in an official capacity during specific events in which wearing aiguillettes, as an identifying device, are important to the principal being aided. Such identification enables the principal to accomplish his/her mission more effectively, assist others who support the principal's mission, or prevent confusion during official occasions.
- b. Authority to Wear. Wear aiguillettes while performing duty as Aide to the President, Aide to the Vice President, Aide at the White House, Aide to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Aide to the Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretaries within HHS, Aide to any Cabinet Secretary, Aide to the Surgeon General of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, Aide to any other Flag officer, Aide to any State or Territorial Governor and to any Foreign Head of State.
- c. Procedures for Wear and Description.
 - (1) General. Aiguillettes are furnished by the staff requiring them. Aiguillettes remain in the custody of the providing staff. The aiguillettes will be the same style as those utilized by the U.S. Navy.
 - i. The Aide to the President, Aide to the Vice President, aides at the White House, and officers designated as aides to foreign heads of state wear aiguillettes on the right shoulder; all others on the left shoulder.

- ii. Aiguillettes are worn on the outside of an Overcoat, Reefer, Jacket, All-Weather Coat, or Pullover Sweater.
- iii. For dress aiguillettes, attach the becket (cord loop or hook) to the coat in the following manner:
 - (a) Attach the becket to the top button of the Service Dress White (male)
 - (b) On all other coats/jackets, dinner dress uniforms, and the blue overcoats, sew a small flat button, under the coat collar at the height of the collar bone to secure the becket. The pencils (gold colored tassels) hang over the lapel with their suspension cords emerging from the notch in the lapel. (See Figure 4.)

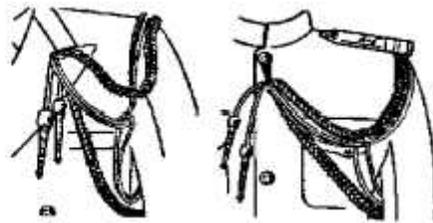


Figure 4.

- (2) Dress Aiguillettes. Wear dress aiguillettes with Dinner Dress, Full Dress, and Service Dress uniforms, and the Overcoat and All-Weather Coat:
 - i. At official ceremonies.
 - ii. On occasions requiring special honors.
 - iii. To social functions as directed, and to all social functions for which formal invitations have been extended.
 - iv. At all times as aides to foreign representatives.
 - v. Description
 - (a) Aides to the President. Two single aiguillette cords, approximately 1/5 inch in diameter, with a cord of yellow cotton, covered with gold or gilt plaited thread, and two additional loops of unplaited aiguillette cord. At the termination of the plaited cords are approximately 3 inches of plain cord with two gilt metal pencils, approximately 3-1/2 inches long, fastened to the ends, and mounted with two silver anchors and a becket. See Figure 5.

- (b) All Other Aides. Conform to the same general description above but have dark blue thread inserted forming plaited bands approximately 7/16 of an inch and two additional loops of unplaited aiguillette cord.



AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT



OTHER AIDES

Figure 5.

(3) Service Aiguilletes

- i. Worn with Service Uniforms, Jackets, All-weather coat, Overcoat, Reefer, or Pullover sweater but wear aiguillette beneath the epaulet or shoulder board.
- ii. When attaching service aiguilletes to the uniform, bind the cords together lying flat, side by side, with a strip of 1-1/2 inch gold lace, and fit with a clasp pin. Attach aiguilletes to the shoulder of the coat or Service Uniform shirt with the 1-1/2 inch gold lace centered on top of the shoulder with the 1-1/2 inch gold lace paralleled and up to the shoulder sleeve seam. The longest loop of the cords is worn on the inboard side closest to the wearer's body. See Figure 6.

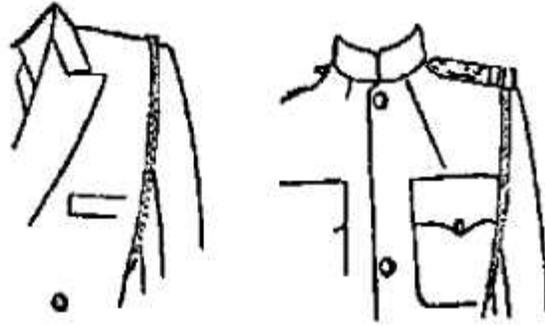


Figure 6.

iii. Description.

- (a) Service aiguillettes consist of a number of loops of aiguillette cord. The cord is approximately 1/5 inch in diameter and covered with gold or gilt and other colored thread. Dark blue thread is woven to form spiral bands approximately 3/16 inch wide at intervals of approximately 1/16 inch.



(1) Aide to the President. Four loops, all gold.



(2) Aide to the Vice President, Admiral, Cabinet Secretary or Deputy Secretary, Aide to the White House or Foreign Heads of State. Four loops, gold with dark blue spiral bands.



(3) Aide to Vice Admiral or Lieutenant General. Three loops, gold with dark blue spiral bands.



(4) Aide to Rear Admiral, Major General, Brigadier General, Assistant Secretary or Governor of a State or Territory. Two loops, gold with dark blue spiral bands.



(5) Aide to Governor of a State or Territory. Two loops, gold with dark blue spiral bands.

2. If the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) is a Corps officer, the Aide shall wear a service aiguillette with four gold loops with dark blue spiral bands. However, if the ASH is a non-Corps officer, the Aide shall wear a service aiguillette with two gold loops with dark blue spiral bands.
3. This PPM remains in effect until rescinded.

/s/

Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health