



With Pride & Distinction

Junior Officer Advisory Group

Vol. 32 Summer 2023: Officer Footwear Refresher

If you have been around a while, you know that uniform policies have been updated in recent years and to the delight of many female officers, the authorization to wear flats with Service Uniforms was a welcome policy change. This volume of With Pride and Distinction serves to provide officers a brief reminder of the most current policies related to shoes when wearing our most commonly worn uniforms.

As highlighted above, the most significant uniform update pertains to female officers now having the option of wearing flats with the Service Dress and Service Khaki Uniforms. Specifications for flats include:

- * Must be slip-on.
- * Must be plain without ornamentation.
- * Must have rounded, closed toes and closed heels.
- * Must be made of full grain, dress shoe leather, or a poromeric or synthetic material with a leather appearance.
- * Must be black, Navy-certified brown, or white.
- * Heel must be between one-quarter and one-half inches.



Example of Flat for females

Formal flat black shoes have previously been and continue to be authorized to be worn with formal dinner dress uniforms. Specifications for formal dress flats include:

- * Must be plain black
- * Must have closed heels and closed toes.
- * Must be made of suede, silk, or peau de soie (a smooth, finely ribbed satin fabric of silk or rayon).



Example of Formal Flat for females

Operational Dress Uniform (ODU):

As we all know, combat boots are required to be worn with the ODU. Although proper wear of combat boots seems pretty clear-cut, it isn't uncommon to spot officers incorrectly wearing their boots. Specifications for Combat boots include:

- * Must be leather, leather and fabric, or black brushless suede. Patent leather finishes are **not** authorized.
- * Laces must be black. Lace from the inside out through all eyelets and tied with the **ends of the laces tucked into the boots**. Laces must be black.
- * ODU trousers are required to be bloused **over the top of the boots**.

- * Are to be in good repair and **polished**.
- * Could double as safety boots, provided they are leather boots with a hard box or safety toe and are water resistant.



Service Khaki:

Policy can sometimes be confusing and that is true when it comes to differences between male and female service and dress shoes. For example, oxford style shoes are considered "dress" for male uniforms and "service" for female uniforms while "dress" shoes for females include additional options such as pumps and flats. The following table provides allowable shoes when wearing the Service Khaki uniform.

	Males	Females
Required	Dress (oxford), Black	Service (oxford), Black
Optional	Dress (oxford), Brown*	Dress, Black
	Safety, Black	Dress, Brown*
		Safety, Black
		Service (oxford), Brown *
		Flats (Black or Brown)

Note: Brown shoes must be worn with khaki socks

Another thing to keep in mind are the specifications for service and dress shoes. This table provides the sometimes over-looked details required for dress and service shoes.

	Male "Dress"	Female "Service"	Female "Dress"
Style	Plain oxford, made of smooth or synthetic leather with rounded toes		Plain pumps made of smooth leather or synthetic leather, with closed heels and rounded toes
Lacing	Inside out through all eyelets		N/A
Outside Heel	3/4" to 7/8" high	5/8" to 1" high	Max of 2-5/8" Not less than 5/8" measured from forward edge No wider than 1-3/4" at the base
Sole	Flat	3/16" to 3/8" thick	No thicker than 1/4"

References: Uniforms for Male Officers: [CC421_01.pdf \(psc.gov\)](#); Uniforms for Female Officers: [CC421_02.pdf \(psc.gov\)](#)

Contributor: LT Amber VanDusen; Editors: LCDRs Sandra Carpio and LCDR Kayvani, Co-Chairs of the JOAG Outreach Committee

This newsletter is for informational purposes only and does not reflect official views of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or USPHS leadership.