



# With Pride & Distinction

## Junior Officer Advisory Group

Vol. 26 August 2020: History of Summer Uniforms and Other Highlights

### Summer and Dress White Uniforms

With the warmer summer weather, comes the option to wear the Summer White (SW), Service Dress White (SDW), Dinner Dress White (DDW), and Full Dress White uniforms (FDW). Before you dig out the components and wipe down the shoes, let us learn a little about the start of these uniforms in the other services and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). White uniforms originate from Captain Edward Preble of the United States frigate Constitution. In the early 1800s, the Navy Captain ordered his crew to have white jackets with white vests available to them for the warmer climates. At the time, it was not uncommon for uniform regulations to change and the white trousers were added to the white jackets.<sup>1</sup> In the late 1880s, uniform standards were prescribed for the Marine Hospital Service.<sup>2</sup> In 1889, Congress established the USPHS Commissioned Corps as the uniformed services component of the Marine Hospital Service. Shortly thereafter, formal uniform regulations were established and they included the white duck jackets.<sup>3</sup> In 1902, the Marine Hospital Service was renamed to the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. This same year, the U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service was authorized to wear the white uniform, along with the khaki and fatigues.<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service name was a mouthful, the name was shortened to the Public Health Service in 1912 and the white uniforms remained. Now that you know the history, here are some key facts related to these white uniforms.

#### Summer White (SW)

You do not want to wait too long to get out your SW. Effective 0001 Hours, on the first Monday of April, the SW are authorized for wear. This year, they became fully authorized for wear effective June 15th due to the previous mandate of daily wear of the Operational Dress Uniform. SW will no longer be effective 0001 Hours, Monday, October 5, 2020.<sup>5</sup>

Some of you may be missing out on the opportunity to wear the SW since it was removed as a required uniform in 2014.<sup>5</sup> However, the SW may be listed as Uniform of the Day for a ceremony or other event by which officers are expected to comply.

**Contributors: LCDRs Steven Galvez and LCDR Michael Gu**  
**Members of the JOAG Outreach Committee, Uniform Subcommittee**

#### References:

1. Naval History and Heritage Command. Uniforms of the U.S. Navy 1830-1841 Web site. <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/heritage/uniforms-and-personalequipment/uniforms-1830-1841.html>. Accessed June 26, 2020
  2. Perrenot, P. *Grade Insignia of the United States Auxiliary Services*. Scotts Valley, CA: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 2010.
  3. Marine Hospital Service. *Regulations Concerning Uniforms*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office; 1891. <http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101593505>. Accessed June 26, 2020.
  4. Treasury Department. *Regulations Concerning the Uniforms of Officers and Employees of the Public Health Marine Hospital Service of the United States*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office; 1903. <https://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101593242>. Accessed June 26, 2020.
  5. Murthy, Vivek H. "Personnel Operations Memorandum 17-002." *Uniform of the Day*. April 3, 2017. [https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccjis/documents/POM17\\_002.pdf](https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccjis/documents/POM17_002.pdf) Accessed June 26, 2020.
- Additional Resource:** Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness. "Frequently Asked Questions." *Amendments to Uniform Policies (PPM14-002)*. May 23, 2014. [https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF\\_docs/Final\\_FAQ\\_Uniform%20Amendments\\_23May14\\_jkl.pdf](https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/Final_FAQ_Uniform%20Amendments_23May14_jkl.pdf). Accessed June 26, 2020



Pictured at the 2019 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, Uniform Inspection Booth. From left to right: ADM Brett Giroir in DDW, LCDR Carlos González-Mercado in SDB, LCDR Laura Annetta in SW, and LT Eric Mangahis in SDB.

#### Service Dress White (SDW)

The SDW is the counterpart to civilian business attire. The SDW shall be worn for all official functions, high-level meeting, and ceremonies (e.g., awards and promotions) where civilian equivalent is coat and tie. You also have the option to wear the Service Dress Blue. Specifically for joint services functions (e.g., commissioning ceremonies, graduations, etc.), the SDW is the prescribed uniform.<sup>5</sup>

#### Dinner Dress White (DDW)

The DDW may be worn at formal summer events when the counterpart to the event is a tuxedo or gown. The DDW can be worn with the service dress coat or with the dinner jacket as seen worn by ADM Giroir in the photo above. You also have the option to wear the Dinner Dress Blue.<sup>5</sup>

#### Full Dress White (FDW)

The FDW shall be worn when participating in change of command ceremonies, occasions of state, solemnities, or when escorting or entertaining official visitors with honors or foreign officials and dignitaries. You also have the option to wear the Full Dress Blue.<sup>5</sup>

Officers should always consult with the host to determine the appropriate formal or dinner dress uniform.