



With Pride & Distinction

Junior Officer Advisory Group

Vol. 33 Fall 2023: New USPHS Working Uniform

The New USPHS Working Uniform: What You Need To Know.

The Operational Dress Uniform, also known as the ODU, will phase out soon and will be replaced with the Coast Guard Work Uniform (CGWU) Type IV. Beginning September 2023, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) will start rolling out the new CGWU Type IV uniform. However, the mandatory wear date for this uniform will vary based on where officers are assigned. For officers who are assigned to the USCG, the mandatory wear date for the CGWU Type IV is 1 October 2025. For officers who are not assigned to the USCG, the mandatory wear date for the new CGWU Type IV is 1 October 2026. Overall, officers have some time before officially saying goodbye to the ODU and hello to the CGWU Type IV.

During the transition period through 1 October 2026, officers may purchase the USCG-embroidered ODU blouses along with a



newly developed USPHS ODU patch. Please note that the USPHS ODU patch will need to be sewn over the USCG-embroidered emblem. The patch will be available for purchase starting in September 2023 through the Navy Exchange (NEX) website and at two local NEX locations in the Washington, DC area – Navy Yard (Washington, DC) and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (Bethesda, MD).

[Commissioned Corps Instruction \(CCI\) 421.01, “Uniforms for Male Officers,”](#) and [CCI 421.02, “Uniforms for Female Officers,”](#) provide a brief description of the CGWU Type IV. Notably, CGWU Type IV will be available in a standard weight and a lightweight version and will be the same color as the currently authorized ODU. The physical design of the CGWU Type IV will differ from that of the ODU, including features such as a rank tab for easy rank replacement, additional pockets on the sleeves and legs, unisex cut and self-blousing trousers. The CCIs 421.01 and 421.02 indicates the ODU will be phased out by 1 February 2023 but please be aware that this date has been deemed no longer feasible for transition due to supply constraints and delays. Additional updates will be provided by CCHQ in the future.

Source: CCI 421.01, “Uniforms for Male Officers,” and CCI 421.02, “Uniforms for Female Officers”

USPHS ODU Patch

In July 2023, USPHS Commissioned Corps released a new sewn on ODU patch, which is available for purchase online through NEX: [USPHS Pocket Logo Patch](#), or at the Navy Exchange (NEX) in Bethesda, MD. The patch can either be sewn on through the pocket (allows no pocket access), or be sewn on just the front lapel of the pocket (allows pocket access). These patches are to be sewn over the USCG-embroidered emblem (on the right side). It is not mandatory to sew the patch on non-USCG-embroidered ODU jackets. Officers are authorized to have the patch sewn on non-USCG-embroidered ODUs as an optional way to wear.



Source: NEX webpage

Quiz Time!

CDR Jane Doe is currently assigned to USCG Headquarters in Washington, DC. Since CDR Doe is assigned to the USCG, the mandatory wear date of the CGWU Type IV for this officer is:

- a. 1 October 2025 b. 1 January 2025 c. 1 January 2026

References:

- Transition to the New U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Working Uniform; email from RDML Schobitz on 12/19/2022.
- Commissioned Corps Instruction 421.01, “Uniforms for Male Officers”
- Commissioned Corps Instruction 421.02, “Uniforms for Female Officers”

Answer Key: 1) A

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