



# With Pride & Distinction

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## Junior Officer Advisory Group

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### History of the Scientist Officer Category

*Contributed by LT Michelle Rodriguez*

The commissioning of scientists in the USPHS Commissioned Corps is an interesting piece of history! In 1902, the Supervising Surgeon General, Dr. Walter Wyman, recognized the need to commission non-medical officers and proposed legislation to commission the Division Directors at the Laboratory of Hygiene (later the National Institutes of Health) including Chemists, Pharmacologists, and Zoologists. However, the proposal was opposed and commissioning of non-medical officers was not part of the final bill. In 1926, Congressman James S. Parker introduced the Parker Bill, calling for commissioning of sanitary engineers, dental officers, and scientists, but President Calvin Coolidge vetoed the bill, stating that it was unconstitutional to commission non-medical personnel.

On April 9, 1930, the Parker Bill was finally signed into law by President Herbert Hoover with provisions for commissioning scientist officers in the regular corps at or above the level of Division Director. It is

believed that an outbreak of psittacosis may have highlighted the need for public health measures and research in addition to the personal hazards faced by research scientists. Psittacosis is a zoonotic disease that is spread by birds, and this outbreak resulted in thirty-six deaths, including that of a researcher and laboratory assistant investigating the outbreak. After that time the law allowed for the commissioning of three research scientists per year.

Today the Scientist Category, which was established in 1945, is comprised of officers who hold a doctoral degree, the category's qualifying degree for commissioning. The assigned billets and duties are diverse within this category and include a wide array of career tracks such as Research Scientist, Regulatory Scientist, Environmental Health Scientist, Epidemiologist, Psychologist, and Laboratorians. The rich history of the Scientist Category has provided the strong foundation for the work we do today.

**Trivia:** Legislation in 1970 led to the creation of this within the PHS, with a primary mission of research and training in the field of occupational health?

### Maternity Uniforms- DID YOU KNOW ?

*Contributed by LT Erin Harman*

Certified maternity uniforms are mandatory for all pregnant officers when the prescribed regular uniforms no longer fit. Personnel are expected to wear regular uniforms upon return from maternity leave, however maternity uniforms may be worn up to 6 months post delivery based upon medical needs as necessary. A maternity cardigan sweater is authorized for optional wear. Shirt collars are worn inside the cardigan when a necktab is worn and outside when no necktab is worn. The cardigan is authorized for wear outside the immediate office space with the addition of soft shoulder boards. Pregnant officers may wear outer garments, including the all-weather coat, overcoat, reefer, and maternity sweater cardigan unbuttoned when they no longer fit properly.

The maternity Service Dress Blue (SDB) uniform consists of a single-breasted coat made from navy blue authorized material with a convertible collar, seven black plastic buttons down the front, and is worn with ribbons, insignia, badges, nametags, and soft shoulder boards. The maternity SDB skirt is a plain two panel A-line skirt with elastic waist and stretch front panel. The maternity SDB shirt is made of white authorized material with a convertible turndown, pointed collar. The shirt may be short or long sleeved with soft shoulder boards and tie. Maternity SDB slacks are flared with an elastic waist and stretch front panel.

*Please note:* if an officer opts for the short sleeve blouse, she may not take off the coat or she must wear the cardigan away from her work station.

[Did You Know continued...](#)

Officers shall wear the maternity Summer White uniform when the Service Dress White is prescribed. The maternity Summer White uniform is the same in design as the blue maternity skirt, slacks and white short-sleeved shirt. The shirt shall be worn with ribbons, unbuttoned at the collar, and with hard shoulder boards.

Service Khaki uniforms consist of a shirt and skirt or slacks. The design is the same as above except khaki in color. The shirt has short sleeves, two breast pockets with button flaps, and an open collar forming a v-neck. Collar insignia and rank is worn. The skirt and slacks are the same in design as those listed above but made of authorized khaki fabric. The new khaki maternity shirt also has adjustable tabs at the waist, and it is authorized for wear in lieu of the standard khaki maternity shirt.

When Dinner Dress Uniforms are prescribed the officer will wear the Service Dress Blue or maternity Summer White uniforms. If Dinner Dress Blue is prescribed, wear the SDB with mini medals. When Dinner Dress White is prescribed, wear the maternity Summer White with ribbons. When Full Dress Blue is prescribed, wear SDB maternity with large medals. When Full Dress White is prescribed, wear maternity Summer White with ribbons.

The ODU also has a version of the maternity shirt. The Coast Guard removed the pockets from the top of the maternity shirt and placed them at the bottom of the shirt. There is only one version of the maternity shirt available on the UDC website. It does not have a logo and is authorized for wear by USCG, NOAA, and USPHS. Name and branch of service tapes, along with skill badges are placed in the same general location as the regular ODU shirt. Rank insignia and collar device placement remain the same. ([http://ccmis.usphs.gov/ccbulletin/articles/Uniforms\\_05\\_2013.aspx](http://ccmis.usphs.gov/ccbulletin/articles/Uniforms_05_2013.aspx))

The maternity uniform can be worn as soon as the regular uniform no longer fits appropriately. Additionally if a medical waiver is obtained post delivery the maternity uniform may be worn until the waiver has expired. ([https://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCPM26\\_3\\_7.pdf](https://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCPM26_3_7.pdf))



The ODU Maternity Shirt

*Wear yours with pride & distinction- iron those wrinkles!*

Have uniform questions or ideas for future articles?

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