



# With Pride & Distinction

## Junior Officer Advisory Group

Vol. 19 April 2018: Uniform Ordering and Your Uniform Closet

### What's in Your Closet?

The USPHS uniforms are symbols representing an officer's dedication to service and country. Worn with pride and distinction, the uniforms are also a reflection of the officer. Similar to other uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps has several uniforms including the Service Dress Blue (SDB), Summer White, Service Khaki, and Operation Dress Uniform (ODU). This article will provide guidance for what is required to be in an officer's uniform closet, and serve as a guide to acquiring additional uniforms.

While not all uniforms are required, officers are responsible for buying and maintaining other uniforms as required by their prescribing authority or designated as the uniform of the day. As such, officers are highly encouraged to own and maintain all service uniforms. There is no minimum number of uniforms required to be in an officer's possession, but all officers must maintain all required components of the SDB and ODU. Please note that the complete Commissioned Corps instruction for uniform wear can be found within the Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS): <https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/CCISForeword.aspx>

### Service Dress Blue

Perhaps the most important uniform in an officer's closet is the SDB. The complete SDB uniform consists of required basic uniform components, prescribable items, and optional items. An officer's duty station will often determine the need for prescribable or optional items. The required basic components of the SDB are generally the same for male and female officers. They are as follows from head to toe: white combination cap, service dress coat, full ribbon rack, PHS name tag, white dress shirt with soft shoulder marks, black necktie, blue slacks, black socks and shoes, and appropriate undergarments. In addition, each officer is required to have their current rank and PHS insignia sewn on the sleeve of the dress coat.

Male uniforms require a black belt with gold buckle and a tie clasp or tack. There are gender-specific components such as the necktie, belt and buckle, and dress shirt. When purchasing these components, officers must adhere to gender specific guidelines as set forth in the CCIS.

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### Did you know you are required to own and maintain the SDB and ODU?

#### Operational Dress Uniform



#### Service Dress Blues



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## Operational Dress Uniform

A required uniform since 1 January 2015, the ODU replaced the woodland-patterned Battle Dress Uniform (BDU). Like the SDB, the ODU consists of required basic components, prescribable items, and optional items. An officer's duty station will help determine the need for prescribable or optional items.

The basic required components for the ODU are blue command ball cap with embroidered rank, ODU shirt with embroidered full color PHS collar insignia, collar rank, gold name and USPHS tapes, blue PHS T-shirt, ODU trousers with black nylon belt and basic riggers, socks, combat boots, and appropriate undergarments.

ODU pant legs should be bloused over boots and not tucked into boots. Boot blousers are required and are commonly available in two styles: wide elastic strap with Velcro closure (which may be less likely to affect circulation) and elastic cord with hook and loop closure.

For further information, see the With Pride and Distinction Vol. 14 for more details on the ODU and official uniform policy through CCIS.



**Boot Blousers - Elastic strap and cord types.**

### Trivia:

**Q. Can you wear the Black Watch cap along with the Fleece when wearing the ODU?**

### Ordering Uniforms

Now that you know what *should* be in your closet, let's help get it there. With the exception of the ODU and some optional items and special-purpose/working uniforms, USPHS uniforms are generally comprised of the same articles of clothing as the corresponding uniforms of the U.S. Navy. USPHS uniforms are made distinctive by the wearing of our unique insignia. Most USPHS uniform items can be purchased at Navy uniform shops.

Individual uniform components must meet the appropriate service specification for the applicable item. Any article purchased from a non-governmental or commercial source should have a certification and/or a military specification tag sewn into the garment to ensure approval of design, style, material, and color. Articles purchased from Navy uniform shops, including the Uniform Support Center, can be assumed to be approved.

Uniforms and uniform components can be purchased from your local installation's military clothing store, local Navy Exchange (NEX) retail stores, the Navy Uniform Support Center, the NEX website, or through the Coast Guard. Commercial providers such as Vanguard, Marlow White, and AMSUS are also available, however, officers should exercise caution and verify compliance of items prior to purchase.

#### Navy-Nex:

Order online: <https://www.mynavyexchange.com/nex/uniforms> or by phone at 1-800-368-4088.



Effective 0001 Hours, on the first Monday of April, the prescribed spring and summer uniform of the day is the Summer White (SW). USPHS POM 17-002

**USCG Uniform Distribution Center:** There are several ways to [order your ODUs from the Coast Guard](#). You can order online, but register first through the [Coast Guard Exchange Patron Validation webpage](#). You can also order by phone at 1-800-874-6841. If ordering by phone be sure to have your employee ID (EMPLID) number along with your payment information. You can find the [full list of components sold](#) by the Coast Guard's Uniform Distribution Center along with their [prices](#) online.

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