



With Pride & Distinction

Junior Officer Advisory Group

Vol. 20 August 2018: Uniform Care and Maintenance

Many of you may have noticed several new policies have been issued for the USPHS Commissioned Corps. One of these policies is an update to the Commissioned Corps Instruction on [Uniforms and Appearance](#) (CCI 412.01), effective May 1, 2018. As stated in the guidance, an officer's appearance is distinctive and reflects upon the image and integrity of our service. Uniform care and maintenance is of the utmost importance when considering our appearance.

Uniforms should be kept scrupulously clean, with lace, devices, and insignia bright and free from tarnish and corrosion. Inspect your uniforms for stains, rips, worn areas, broken laces, defective zippers, missing buttons, pilling, or holes. Uniforms with any of these defects are considered unserviceable and should be discarded. Properly discard uniform components by donating to a VFW, local ROTC, or a nearby base with disposal services.

Dry cleaning and/or machine-washing should occur frequently. Uniforms should never be worn with visible stains. Embroidered insignia may be kept bright by occasional scrubbing with a nailbrush and a diluted ammonia solution. Metal insignia should be cleaned with regular soap to look bright. A highly pressed uniform looks best!

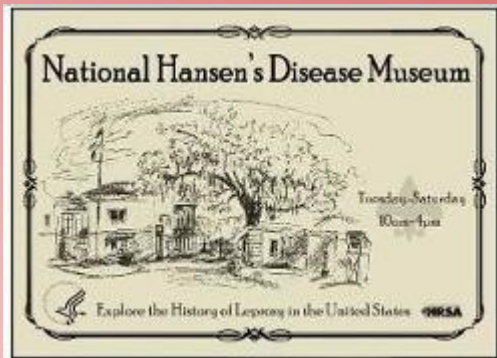
When pressing or dry cleaning your uniform, take care to avoid a "shiny" appearance that may be caused by over-starching or ironing at inappropriate temperatures. Follow the care instructions found on the tag of each component. Military creases are authorized and may be formed by pressing two vertical creases on the front of the shirt, midline of the front pockets, and three evenly spaced vertical creases on the back of the shirt. Sewn-in creases that are added by the officer are not authorized.

Brilliantly shined and polished shoes/boots are a hallmark of uniformed services. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not have specific guidance for polishing shoes/boots. However, there are several online tutorial videos that cover all of the basics and can be used as a guideline for servicing your footwear. There are many commercial polishes available on the market, follow instructions accordingly. Remember that scuffed, worn, or damaged footwear are considered unserviceable.

All officers are responsible for adhering to the uniform policies and procedures. Officers who wear the uniform improperly, or exhibit a careless attitude toward their personal appearance bring discredit to themselves and the Corps. Individuals should exert personal influence, where necessary, to encourage uniform wear with pride and distinction!

Did you know a museum is dedicated to the USPHS history of combatting leprosy?

Are you a history buff and want to know more about the Public Health Service and how our Corps has contributed to the health of the nation – not to mention uniform history? An incredible resource awaits you in Carville, Louisiana, at the National Hansen's Disease Museum. The museum is dedicated to honoring Hansen's Disease (leprosy) patients and features exhibits and collections that interpret the history, treatment, and rehabilitation of leprosy in the United States. The museum honors the patients who lived at the national leprosarium and also celebrates the health care professionals, including USPHS Officers, who made medical history fighting leprosy.



Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy, is a chronic bacterial disease that primarily affects the skin, peripheral nerves, and upper airway. Since the 1890's, care and treatment of affected populations has occurred at Carville. In 1921, the USPHS began to manage the institution which was then named United States Marine Hospital Number 66. Much has changed since the beginnings of the program in Carville and now the research



and clinical center is based in Baton Rouge. For more information visit the National Hansen's Disease Program in person or via web at <https://www.hrsa.gov/hansens-disease/index.html>. Photos courtesy National Hansen's Disease Program, Health Resources and Services Administration.