



# U.S. Public Health Service Nursing Tip of the Month October 2017

## ODU Tips



Maintaining deployment readiness is a crucial aspect to fulfilling the expectations and role of an Active Duty Officer in the USPHS. Part of this preparation is to ensure your deployment uniform is ready. Please review to make sure you have all the required uniform essentials.

The Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) is an uniform that may be worn for emergency responses and where other types of uniforms would become unreasonably soiled or unkempt. It is designed for field wear and should be loose and comfortable.

**The required basic components to the uniform are as follows:** Can be purchased at [US Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center](#)

- ODU Shirt, Blue
- ODU Trousers, Blue
- PHS T-Shirt, Blue
- Cap, Ball, Command, Blue or the Cap, Utility 8-point, Blue
- Black Combat or Safety Boots

**Optional ODU Utility Jacket:** Can be purchased at the USCG Uniform Distribution Center.

**Also required are:** These items can be purchased at [Navy Nex](#)

- Embroidered Full Color PHS Collar Insignia
- Embroidered Full Color Rank Insignia
- Embroidered Gold Name/USPHS tapes
- Black Riggers Belt
- Black Socks

For further information on essential items, please visit the [CCMIS website](#). Click [ODU](#) for proper wear examples.

NOTE: The online Coast Guard webstore is currently offline, you can call them at 1-800-874-6841. You must provide your employee ID number when placing an order.

**Wearing and Caring for the ODUs:** <https://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/alcoast/alcoast-223-07.asp>

- When washing, ensure that all Velcro closures are fastened to minimize collection of lint and foreign matter.
- The ODU shall be ironed without military creases. In addition, collars, lapels, sleeves and pockets on both the ODU top and trousers should lay flat. Great care must be taken when ironing the ODU. Excessive heat, starching, and repeated sharp creasing can result in whitening and/or finish damage. Iron the uniform inside out to minimize gloss or shine.
- The ODU uniform will be worn with 8 inch safety boot, well-blackened and when worn in an office, boots shall be polished to a shine. Tuck away excess laces so they can not be seen.
- The ODU trousers shall be bloused, with either Velcro or hook type elastic bands, between the second and third boot eyelet. Cargo pockets may be used, but the items stowed shall not take away from a smart military appearance.
- The ODU T-Shirt shall be in good condition with no tears or stains. Due to health and safety issues, more research is required before a wickable T-Shirt is authorized for wear with the ODU.

**Reminders and Helpful Information:**

- Commissioned Corps will be implementing a new human resource and self-service system. The electronic Commissioned Officer Resources Processing System will be replacing DA with functions starting to migrate to the eCORPS Sept 2017. Updates will be sent through e-mails and on the CCMIS website
- It is that time again for COERS. Please reference [Nov 2016 Tip](#) for information on how to write effective performance reports.
- Please help us welcome the new NPAC Chair for FY18, CDR Heather Skelton. Thank you to CDR Reginald Smith for your service to the NPAC over the past year.

**PHS-NURSE LIST SERV**

**TO REQUEST A MENTOR**

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