



April 2, 2004

TO: Active-Duty Commissioned Officers
Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Metropolitan Areas

FROM: Surgeon General

SUBJECT: Uniform of the Day – Spring and Summer, 2004

This memorandum prescribes the uniform of the day for Public Health Service (PHS) commissioned officers assigned to duty stations in the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Metropolitan Areas, which include the cities of Alexandria, Baltimore, and Rockville, and the counties of Baltimore, Montgomery, Frederick, Howard, Prince George's, Arlington, and Fairfax.

Specifically, this memorandum applies to those PHS officers in the prescribed areas. However, it does not apply to those PHS officers appointed under the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program who are assigned to duty stations in these metropolitan areas. Moreover, officers assigned to duty stations in these areas with the U.S. Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and medical students attending the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences have separate uniform authorities. Therefore, these officers must follow the separate directives issued by their respective uniform authority.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

1. Effective **Monday, May 3, 2004**, the uniforms of the day are the Summer White (SW) and Summer Khaki (SK). Officers may elect to wear either version of these service uniforms. Except as provided in item 5, below, female officers may wear either version of the uniform of the day with a skirt or slacks.
2. The Service Dress Blue (SDB), Service Dress Blue Sweater (SDBS), Summer Blue (SB) ("Salt and Pepper") and SK uniforms may be worn year round.
3. The SDB uniform shall be worn for PHS official functions, high-level meetings, and ceremonies (e.g., awards) where civilian attire would be coat and tie.
4. The Full Dress White (FDW) uniform shall be worn when joint Uniformed Services personnel attend ceremonies, occasions of state, and solemnities.
5. For the purpose of uniformity, Agency Heads may prescribe that officers under their jurisdiction wear the SDB uniform for ceremonial occasions, or for other appropriate circumstances on a specific day and for a specific reason. For these occasions, they may also determine that female officers must wear the skirt in lieu of the optional slacks. However, Agency Heads are not authorized to issue general or blanket directives concerning other uniforms.

6. Circumstances in which other uniforms and components are permitted:
- a. Indoor Duty White. The Indoor Duty White (IDW) uniform, which is the same as the SW uniform without ribbons, may be worn by officers assigned to duties in clinical or laboratory settings. However, the IDW is a working uniform and is not appropriate for wear when circumstances, such as meetings scheduled in advance with official visitors or members of the general public, indicate that a service uniform should be worn. Officers may wear the IDW uniform while traveling directly between their residence and their duty station.
 - b. Formal and Dinner Dress Uniforms. The Formal Dress uniform may be worn at the appropriate formal evening functions (white tie); the Dinner Dress White Jacket or Dinner Dress Blue (officers at the O-4 grade and below) uniform must be worn at the appropriate dinner and social functions (black tie). All such uniforms must conform to the spring and summer season, effective **Monday, May 3, 2004**.
 - c. Domestic Travel. An officer engaged in domestic travel may wear the service uniform of the day prescribed for the area to which the officer is proceeding. The SDB uniform is always appropriate for domestic travel.

In summary: PHS officers assigned to duty stations in these areas, except as noted above, are not authorized to wear uniforms other than the SW, SDB, SDBS, SB, or SK in routine office settings. Officers assigned to clinical or laboratory settings meeting the criteria of item 6.(a.) above, may also wear the IDW uniform. All officers are encouraged to wear the uniform daily with pride and distinction.

For further information, refer to Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual Pamphlet No. 61, *Information on Uniforms*. This pamphlet is available on the Division of Commissioned Personnel's Web site—<http://dcp.psc.gov>—under 'Publications.'

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Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.
VADM, USPHS