

MANUAL: Personnel  
Chapter Series CC--Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual  
Part 2--Commissioned Corps Personnel Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service

Chapter CC26--Conditions of Service  
Subchapter CC26.3--Uniforms  
Personnel INSTRUCTION 2--Directive to Wear the Public Health Service Uniform

CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
A.	Purpose .....	1
B.	Authority .....	1
C.	Directive to Wear the PHS Uniform .....	1
D.	Uniform Allowance .....	2
E.	Exemptions from Requirement to Wear the Uniform .	2

Section A. Purpose and Scope

This INSTRUCTION prescribes circumstances under which Public Health Service (PHS) commissioned officers are directed to wear the PHS uniform.

Section B. Authority

See Section B of INSTRUCTION 1, "General Information on Uniforms and Appearance," of this Subchapter.

Section C. Directive to Wear the PHS Uniform

All PHS officers in the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, except officers participating in the Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP) and in the Senior COSTEP, shall wear the official PHS uniform of their grade in accordance with the policy prescribed by the head of their Agency (see definition in INSTRUCTION 1, Section C, of this Subchapter) when assigned by a Personnel Order to active duty for a period in excess of 30 days. However, a COSTEP or Sr. COSTEP participant may be directed by the Director, Division of Commissioned Personnel (DCP), Office of the Surgeon General, to wear the uniform under provisions prescribed by the Director, DCP. An Agency shall

not prescribe rules that call for wearing the uniform less often than one workday per week. In the absence of a policy that prescribes how frequently the uniform is to be worn, officers shall wear the uniform at least one workday per week. For rules pertaining to PHS officers assigned to another Uniformed Service and to officers outside the United States, see INSTRUCTION 1 of this Subchapter.

Certain officers may be exempt from the requirement to wear the uniform under the provisions of Section E, below. Such officers are nonetheless responsible for owning and maintaining the required components of the Service Dress Blue uniform.

#### Section D. Uniform Allowance

An officer is entitled to a one-time uniform allowance when directed to wear the uniform. For additional information, see INSTRUCTION 3, Subchapter CC22.4, "Uniform Allowance."

#### Section E. Exemptions from Requirement to Wear the Uniform

1. Assignment to Military. An officer assigned to a military service or to the Department of Defense in a position not normally requiring a uniform to be worn is not required to wear the uniform if so determined under the provisions of the assignment agreement. However, this does not relieve the officer from the responsibility to own and wear the uniform, as appropriate, to meet other PHS requirements.
2. Assignment to U. S. Coast Guard. An officer assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard (CG) for extended active duty (i.e., duty other than temporary duty) shall wear the uniform prescribed for wear by CG officers as required by CG regulations. See INSTRUCTION 1, of this Subchapter for insignia and distinctive markings of the CG uniform thus worn.

Inactive reserve officers who participate in CG activities by invitation from CG and with the permission of PHS, may wear the CG uniform as described above when so participating.

3. Non-Federal Assignment. An officer assigned to a non-Federal Agency, or in Leave without Pay Status, is not required to wear the uniform at the officer's duty station. However, this does not relieve the officer from the responsibility to own and wear the uniform, as appropriate, to meet other PHS requirements.
4. Program-specific Needs. A program may request that officers in specific assignments not be required to wear the uniform. However, this does not relieve such officers from their responsibility to own and wear the uniform, as appropriate, to meet other PHS requirements. A request for an exemption from the requirement to wear the uniform shall specifically address why wearing the uniform is not in the best interest of the officer and PHS, shall

be endorsed by the Agency Head or Regional Health Administrator, as appropriate, and submitted to:

Director  
Division of Commissioned Personnel  
Office of the Surgeon General, PHS  
Room 4-35 Parklawn Building  
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

5. Local Exemptions. The Local Uniform Authority shall determine under what circumstances officers shall not be required to wear the uniform for brief and infrequent periods. Example: An officer is assigned to office duties in an area where the uniform of the day is Service Dress Blue. The officer must be present during a short period when the office space is being renovated to direct and oversee the construction. The officer may be exempted from wearing the uniform during such period.
6. Geographic Exemption. Officers in locations other than the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto are prohibited from wearing the uniform unless specifically directed or authorized to wear the uniform by the Director, DCP.