

SUBJECT: Revision of Subchapters CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Wearing of Medals and Ribbons," CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 7, "Special Uniform Situations," and CC27.9, INSTRUCTION 1, "Authorization to Wear Non-PHS Awards," of the Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM)

1. Purpose

This Manual Circular implements a servicewide policy authorizing the wearing of additional Uniformed Service decorations on the Public Health Service (PHS) uniform by revising Subchapters CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Wearing of Medals and Ribbons," C26.3, INSTRUCTION 7, "Special Uniform Situations," and CC27.9, INSTRUCTION 1, "Authorization to Wear Non-PHS Awards," of the CCPM.

2. Authorities

- a. Section 215(a) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 261(a)).
- b. Executive Order 11140 delegated the authority to prescribe uniform regulations for the PHS Commissioned Corps to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS).
- c. Subchapter CC47.4, INSTRUCTION 1, "Decorations."
- d. The delegation of authority to administer the PHS Commissioned Corps personnel system has been delegated to the Surgeon General (SG). (See 53 FR 3457 (February 5, 1988)).
- e. Subchapter CC27.9, INSTRUCTION 1, "Authorization to Wear Non-PHS Awards."
- f. Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Wearing of Medals and Ribbons."
- g. Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 7, "Special Uniform Situations."

3. Background

The goal of the PHS awards program is to provide tangible recognition for acts of valor, heroism, exceptional service or achievement, and/or special skills or qualifications. In furtherance of this goal, the PHS Commissioned Corps has adopted a policy on the wearing of Uniformed Service decorations that provides in part that "[in] general, PHS officers may wear ribbons or medals denoting service or an award earned as a member of another Uniformed Service, prior to their becoming members of the PHS Commissioned Corps...after the award is documented in the officer's OPF [Official Personnel Folder]." However, the policy excludes "ribbons or medals earned as a member of another Uniformed Service denoting longevity of service..., completion of a course of basic training or initial qualification..., or qualification or expertise in basic military skills" from being worn on the PHS uniform except for badges denoting marksmanship skills while

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detailed to another Service. As a result, the current PHS policy is more restrictive at times than the other Uniformed Services with respect to the wearing of badges, medals, and ribbons, earned while serving in or detailed to another Uniformed Service. Accordingly, this Manual Circular removes these restrictions by authorizing the wearing of additional Uniformed Service decorations on the PHS uniform earned while serving in or detailed to another Uniformed Service.

4. Revisions

To establish a policy providing for the wear of additional Uniformed Service decorations on the PHS uniform, the following revisions of Subchapters CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Wearing of Medals and Ribbons," C26.3, INSTRUCTION 7, "Special Uniform Situations," and CC27.9, INSTRUCTION 1, "Authorization to Wear Non-PHS-Awards," are hereby noted:

- a. Subsection C.2 of Subchapter C26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Uniformed Service Decorations," is revised as follows:

- "2. Uniformed Services Decorations. Listed below in their order of precedence are the PHS honor awards and Uniformed Service decorations that may be authorized for wear on the PHS uniform:

Medal of Honor (Army, Navy, Air Force)
Army Distinguished Service Cross
Navy Cross
Air Force Cross
Defense Distinguished Service Medal
Distinguished Service Medal/Valor (PHS)
Distinguished Service Medal (PHS)
Distinguished Service Medal (Other Services)
Silver Star
Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement (Coast Guard - DOT Gold Medal)
Commerce Gold Medal (NOAA)
Defense Superior Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with Valor (PHS)
Meritorious Service Medal (PHS)
Surgeon General's Medallion (PHS)
Commerce Silver Medal (NOAA)
Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal (PHS)
Legion of Merit
Distinguished Flying Cross
Soldier's Medal (Army)
Navy & Marine Corps Medal
Airman's Medal (Air Force)
Coast Guard Medal
Gold Lifesaving Medal (Coast Guard)
Bronze Star Medal
Purple Heart
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Outstanding Service Medal with Valor (PHS)
Outstanding Service Medal (PHS)
Meritorious Service Medal (Other Services)
Commerce Bronze Medal (NOAA)

Air Medal
NOAA Administrator's Award
Silver Lifesaving Medal
DOT Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement (CG-DOT Silver Medal)
Aerial Achievement Medal
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Commendation Medal (PHS)
Commendation Medal (Other Services)
DOT Award for Superior Achievement (CG-DOT Bronze Medal)
Joint Service Achievement Medal
Achievement Medal (PHS)
Achievement Medal (Other Services)
Commerce Special Achievement Medal (NOAA)
PHS Citation
Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon Bar
NOAA Corps Director's Award
Combat Action Ribbon (Navy, CG)"

- b. Subsection C.3 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Unit Awards," is revised as follows:

- "3. Unit Awards. Listed below in their order of precedence are the unit awards that may be authorized for wear after all Uniformed Services decorations:

President Unit Citation (All Services)
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Outstanding Unit Citation (PHS)
Army Valorous Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
DOT Outstanding Unit Award (CG)
Unit Commendation (PHS)
Unit Commendation Ribbon (All Services) (includes Navy/Marine Corps, CG, and NOAA)
Meritorious Unit Commendation (All Services) (includes Army, Navy/Marine Corps, and CG)
Army Superior Unit Award
Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation
Navy "E" Ribbon
Coast Guard "E" Ribbon
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation"

- c. Subsection C.4.a of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Non-Uniformed Service Decorations," is revised as follows:

- "4. Non-Uniform Service Decorations

- a. Listed below are certain non-uniformed service decorations that may be authorized for wear on the PHS uniform after all unit awards.

Presidential Medal of Freedom
Medal for Merit

President's Distinguished Federal Civilian Service Medal
Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Distinguished Service Medal
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gold Medal
BOP Meritorious Service Medal
EPA Silver Medal
BOP Commendation Medal
EPA Bronze Star
EPA Distinguished Career Award"

- d. Subsection C.5 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "PHS Service and Campaign Awards," is revised as follows:

- "5. PHS Service and Campaign Awards. Listed below are PHS service and campaign awards that may be authorized for wear on the PHS uniform. These awards may be worn in the order earned:

Hazardous Duty Award
Foreign Duty Award
Special Assignment Award
Isolated/Hardship Award
Crisis Response Service Award
National Emergency Preparedness Award
Bicentennial Unit Award
Smallpox Eradication Campaign Ribbon"

- e. Subsection C.6 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, "Military Campaign and Service Awards," is revised as follows:

- "6. Military Campaign, Service, and Training Awards. Listed below in order of precedence are the military campaign, service, and training awards that may be authorized for wear on the PHS uniform after all PHS service and campaign awards:

Prisoner of War Medal
Good Conduct Medal (all services)
Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medal
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal
Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal
Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal
Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (Navy/Marine Corps/CG)
Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon (Air Force)
Air Force Recognition Ribbon
Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal
China Service Medal
American Defense Service Medal
Women's Army Corps Service
Women's Army Corps Service (WWII) (Air Force)
American Campaign Medal
Europe-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal
U.S. Antarctic Expedition Medal

Army of Occupation Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal for Humane Action
National Defense Service Medal
Korean Service Medal
Antarctica Service Medal
Coast Guard Arctic Service Medal
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Vietnam Service Medal
Southwest Asia Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Coast Guard Special Operation Service Ribbon
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon
Navy Arctic Service Ribbon
Atlantic Service Ribbon (NOAA)
Pacific Service Ribbon (NOAA)
International Service Ribbon (NOAA)
Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon
Army Overseas Service Ribbon
Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon
Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon- (Short Tour)
Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (Long Tour)
Navy Recruiting Service Ribbon
Marine Corps Recruiting Ribbon
Air Force Recruiter Ribbon
Coast Guard Recruiting Service Ribbon
Armed Forces Reserve Medal
Naval Reserve Medal (obsolete)
Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon (obsolete)
Regular Corps Ribbon
Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon
Military Training Instructor Ribbon (Air Force)
Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon
NCO Professional Development Ribbon (Army)
NCO Professional Military Education Graduate (Air Force)
Basic Military Training Honor Graduate Ribbon (Air Force)
Army Service Ribbon
Air Force Training Ribbon
Basic Training Honor Guard (Coast Guard)
Marine Security Guard Ribbon
Recruitment Training Service Ribbon (Navy)
Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon (Army)

In addition to the medals or ribbons mentioned above, the Director, Division of Commissioned Personnel (DCP), may authorize officers who have earned medals or ribbons while serving with another Uniformed Service to wear such medals or ribbons consistent with the provisions of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3. However, this authorization does not cover medals or awards denoting longevity of service, e.g., Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, or marksmanship skills, e.g., pistol, grenade. Nonetheless, if an officer detailed or

assigned to another Uniformed Service is required or expected to qualify in marksmanship skills, that officer may be authorized to wear ribbons or medals denoting such skills during the period the officer is assigned to that Service.”

- f. Subsection C.7 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “PHS Regular Corps Ribbon,” is deleted in its entirety.
- g. Subsection C.8 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “Awards of Military Societies and Other Organizations,” is renumbered as “C.7,” and revised as follows:

“7. Association and Organization Awards. Each of the organizations listed below issues a medal and a ribbon bar which officers may be authorized to wear on the PHS uniform after the Regular Corps Ribbon and all Uniformed Service training ribbons. The organizations and their order of precedence are as follows:

Commissioned Officers Association
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
Reserve Officers Association
Society of American Military Engineers

Note: An officer may only wear a medal or ribbon listed under this subsection if the officer also wears an approved Uniformed Service decoration or service award at the same time.”

- h. Section 9 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “Foreign Decorations and Non-U.S. Service Awards,” is renumbered as “C.8.” Also, subsection C.9.b., “Vietnam,” of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, is deleted in its entirety.
- i. Subsection C.10 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “Foreign Unit Awards,” is renumbered as “C.9,” and revised as follows:

“9. Foreign Unit Awards. The following awards, listed in their order of precedence, do not require individual legislative authorization and may be authorized for wear immediately after all foreign personal decorations:

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
Korean Presidential Unit Citation
Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation
Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation*
Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation*

*Note: Only the initial award (ribbon with frame and palm) may be worn.”

- j. Subsection C.11 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “Non-U.S. Service Awards,” is renumbered as “C.10,” and revised as follows:

“10. Non-U.S. Service Awards. Non-U.S. service awards may be authorized for wear immediately after foreign unit awards as follows:

Philippine Defense Ribbon
Philippine Liberation Ribbon
Philippine Independence Ribbon
United Nations Service Medal
United Nations Medal

NATO Medal
Multinational Force & Observers Medal
Inter-American Defense Board Medal”

- k. Subsection C.12 of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “Foreign Service Awards,” is renumbered “C.11,” and revised as follows:

“11. Foreign Service Awards. Foreign service awards will be worn immediately after non-U.S. service awards in the following order of precedence:

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait)”

- l. Subsection I.4.b of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, is revised as follows:

“b. PHS officers may also be authorized to wear badges and other insignia issued by other Uniformed Services on PHS service and ceremonial uniforms if:

- (1) Earned while a PHS officer, or
- (2) Earned while a member of another Uniformed Service and approved pursuant to Subchapter CC27.9, INSTRUCTION 1, “Authorization to Wear Non-PHS Awards.” For example, the Parachutist badge, Pathfinder badge, Air Assault badge, and the President’s Hundred, Ranger, Airborne, and Special Forces tab metal replicas, may be worn on the PHS service and ceremonial uniforms. However, marksmanship badges, physical fitness badges, career field badges, e.g., Air Force Medical or Nurse Corps devices, and temporary and/or identification badges not authorized under a different provision, may not under any circumstances be worn on the PHS uniform.”

- m. A new subsection I.4.c of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, is to be added as follows:

“c. PHS officers may wear foreign badges earned while serving in or detailed to another Uniformed Service if the badges were awarded in recognition of military activities by the military department of the host country and the Uniformed Service authorized the officer to wear the award. Documentation of such authorization shall be provided to the Director, DCP, in accordance with Subchapter CC27.9, INSTRUCTION 1, “Authorization to Wear Non-PHS Awards,” and approval granted prior to wearing any foreign badge. Unless otherwise noted, the placement standards for foreign badges on the PHS uniform shall be determined by the Director, DCP, in accordance with subsection I.3.d, above.”

- n. Subsection I.5.c of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, is revised as follows:

“c. Unless a different placement standard for badges or breast insignia has been authorized by the Director, DCP, in accordance with I.3.d. above, or is otherwise noted in this INSTRUCTION:

- (1) Officers who are authorized to wear any other badge or breast insignia, except for foreign badges and metal replicas, must wear the first two badges or insignia on their left side, centered above the ribbons the officer is wearing; and
- (2) Officers who are authorized to wear metal replicas must wear the replicas on the left side of PHS uniform centered below the ribbons the officer is wearing.

In addition, unless otherwise noted in this INSTRUCTION, the placement standards for foreign badges on the PHS uniform shall be determined by the Director, DCP, in accordance with subsection I.3.d, above.”

o. Subsection I.6.d of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, is revised as follows:

“d. Unless a different placement standard for badges or breast insignia has been authorized by the Director, DCP, in accordance with I.3.d. above, or is otherwise noted in this INSTRUCTION:

- (1) Officers who are authorized to wear any other badge or breast insignia, except for foreign badges and metal replicas, must wear the first two badges or insignia on their left side, centered above the ribbons the officer is wearing; and
- (2) Officers who are authorized to wear metal replicas must wear the replicas on the left side of PHS uniform centered below the ribbons the officer is wearing.

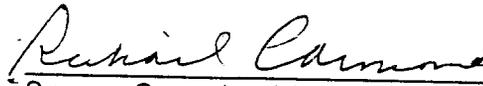
In addition, unless otherwise noted in this INSTRUCTION, the placement standards for foreign badges on the PHS uniform shall be determined by the Director, DCP, in accordance with subsection I.3.d, above.”

p. Subsection C.3.b.(5) of the Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 7, “Special Skill Badges,” is revised as follows:

“(5) Special Skills Badges and Tabs. Skill badges authorized under subsection I.4.b of subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “Wearing of Medals and Ribbons,” and the following uniform tabs: The President’s Hundred, Ranger, Airborne, and Special Forces, denoting such skills, shall be of the subdued embroidered type. The skills badge is worn centered one-quarter inch above the “USPHS” tape. If two badges are worn, the second badge is worn centered one-quarter inch above the lower badge. In addition, the tab is worn one-half inch below the shoulder seam on the left sleeve of the Field Utility uniform and above the shoulder insignia. If two or three tabs are worn, the tabs are worn directly under the top tab and above the shoulder insignia. The order of precedence for tabs in descending order is as follows: Special Forces, Ranger, Airborne (only worn if detailed to an Airborne Unit), and The President’s Hundred.”

q. Subsection C.3 of Subchapter CC27.9, INSTRUCTION 1, “Authorization to Wear Non-PHS Awards,” is revised as follows:

- “3. PHS permits the wearing of special skills badges and tabs, including foreign badges, earned while serving in or detailed to another Uniformed Service. However, the appropriateness of any special skills badge or tab not specifically authorized and the standards for placing the badge on the PHS uniform shall be determined by the Director, DCP, in accordance with section I.3.d of Subchapter CC26.3, INSTRUCTION 3, “Wearing of Medals and Ribbons.”



Surgeon General and Acting Assistant
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