



Amendments to Uniform Polices (PPM14-002)

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Service has directed all officers on active duty in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (Corps) to wear the prescribed uniform of the day on a daily basis. The Assistant Secretary for Health has published policies that provide the guidelines for wearing of the uniform and exceptions to the rule. The following FAQs provide answers to questions most likely to be posed regarding the new uniform options and changes. For further information or clarification, please contact the Uniform Coordinator, LCDR Kyle Lyons at phsccuniform@hhs.gov or james.lyons@hhs.gov or 240.453.6098.

All uniform policies have been updated with better photographs, graphics or uniform depictions.

1. **What are the changes to CC421.01 Uniforms for Male Officers, and CC421.02, Uniforms for Female Officers?**

- Removes the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) and Summer Whites as required uniforms;
- Makes the Operational Duty Uniform (ODU) a required uniform;
- Authorizes the Black Navy Garrison Cap for wear with the Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater;
- Removes the Modified Service Dress Sweater as a stand-alone uniform;
- Authorizes the Black Watch Cap with all uniforms except Dinner Dress or Service Dress uniforms;
- Reauthorizes the Army Cardigan Sweater for indoor wear only;
- Incorporates the PHS Sword and Accessories; and
- Authorizes the Army Double-Breasted Black All-Weather Coat as an optional wear item

2. **What uniform changes are specific to CC421.02, Uniforms for Female Officers?**

- Authorizes the Navy khaki over-blouse shirt; and
- Amends the wear/orientation of the beret to match Navy standards

3. What changes are specific to CC431.01 Insignia and Devices?

- Provides updated photographs and depictions of proper military specifications (milspec) insignia and devices, as directed by The Institute of Heraldry – U.S. Army;
- Incorporates PPM10-002, Aiguillettes;
- Incorporates PPM07-014, Wear of the Navy Sweater; and
- Phases out non-milspec insignia and devices effective 1 January 2015

4. What changes are specific to CC413.01 Special Uniform Situations?

- Phase out of BDUs and BDU components effective 1 January 2015. All references to the BDUs in policy will be stricken on that date;
- Clarification of types/styles of construction safety helmets;
- Clarification of the wear of maternity uniforms, and authorizes new Navy maternity uniforms; and
- Clarification of flight suit/jacket insignia and placement

5. Can I wear the Black Navy Garrison cap with my Service Dress Blue Coat?

No, the Combination Cover or the Beret (for females) is the only authorized covers for wear with the Service Dress Blue (SDB) Coat. The Black Navy Garrison cap may only be worn when wearing the Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater or Windbreaker Jacket.

6. Did the authorization for the Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater Uniform go away?

No, the Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater is no longer a “stand-alone” uniform; it is however a modification to the wearing of the SDB uniform. The officer may still wear the Navy Sweater or Black Windbreak Jacket in lieu of the SDB Coat. Additionally, the officer may choose to wear the Army Cardigan, in lieu of the SDB Coat, while indoors only.

7. Can I wear the Army Cardigan in/on the car/train/bus, at lunch in a restaurant, or anywhere else other than my duty station?

The Army Cardigan may only be worn indoors, meaning, you cannot go outside with it on. Once you get to your destination, and are no longer outdoors, you may wear it again. Keep in mind, if you are wearing the Army Cardigan in lieu of the SDB Coat, you must change back to the SDB Coat, Black Windbreaker Jacket or the Navy Sweater before leaving the building. Of course, during an emergency evacuation or other crisis, officer safety is more important than removing the cardigan prior to leaving the building/area.

8. Will there be an increase or change to the uniform allowance or reimbursement for new uniform items purchased?

No, the uniform allowance for Corps officers is set in law in 37 USC §415 and is capped at a one-time \$250 amount. Officers will not be reimbursed or eligible for additional amounts. Corps officers detailed to other Uniformed Services, as specified in their specific Memorandum of Agreement, may receive an additional one-time uniform allowance or receive additional uniforms, at little or no cost to the officer. Currently, this is only in effect for Corps officers detailed to the U.S. Coast Guard.

9. Am I allowed to wear the Black Watch Cap with all uniforms?

No, the Black Watch Cap may not be worn with Dinner Dress Uniforms or Service Dress Uniforms. You may wear the Black Watch Cap, as an option, with the Service Khakis, Summer Whites, BDUs, ODUs or Coveralls.

10. The Summer Whites are no longer required; does this mean they are phasing out?

No, this merely means that Corps officers will no longer be required to own/purchase/maintain them. However, should a formal ceremony or other event list the Summer Whites as the Uniform of the Day (UOD), the officer is expected to comply with the UOD. Officers will still have the option to wear the Summer Whites during the spring and summer months.

11. Is the black garrison cap with gold piping the same as the black garrison cap?

No, the black garrison cap with gold piping was authorized for wear with a uniform that is no longer authorized. For various reasons, the black garrison cap with gold piping was discontinued by both the single source manufacturer and the Corps.