



CCI 412.01  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 8 August 2022  
Amended 7 March 2025

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By Order of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health:

Leith J. States, MD, MP

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SUBJECT: Uniforms and Appearance

1. PURPOSE: This Instruction prescribes the official policy governing uniform regulations for officers of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps. This Instruction provides information of a general or miscellaneous nature, while other uniform related Instructions deal with certain specific uniform topics.
2. APPLICABILITY: This Instruction applies to all officers on active duty, and applicants to the Regular Corps and Ready Reserve Corps of the USPHS Commissioned Corps.
3. AUTHORITY:
  - 3-1. [42 U.S.C. § 216\(a\)](#), "Regulations"
  - 3-2. [42 U.S.C. § 217](#), "Use of Service in Time of War or Emergency"
  - 3-3. [42 U.S.C. § 238g](#), "Wearing of Uniforms"
  - 3-4. [18 U.S.C. § 702](#), "Uniform of Armed Forces and Public Health Service"
  - 3-5. [Executive Order 11140](#), "Delegating Certain Functions of the President Relating to the Public Health Service"
  - 3-6. [68 FR 70507](#), "Statements of Organizations, Functions, and Delegations of Authority"
  - 3-7. Commissioned Corps Directive (CCD) [131.01](#), "Uniform Regulations"
4. PROPONENT: The proponent of this Instruction is the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH). The Surgeon General (SG) is responsible for providing supervision of activities relating to the day-to-day operations of the USPHS Commissioned Corps. The Director, Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ), provides overall management of USPHS Commissioned Corps personnel operations and processes.
5. SUMMARY OF REVISIONS AND UPDATES: This is the seventh issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (eCCIS) and replaces Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 29 July 2020. This version includes amendments dated 7 March 2025. This version:

- 5-1. Provides updates to the limitations/requirements related to tattoos and moves such guidance from Section 6-8.l. to its own Section 6-9.;
- 5-2. Adds a sentence that “PHS officers should use discretion and good judgement regarding the application and display of tattoos”;
- 5-3. Removes the restriction on tattoo size;
- 5-4. States that this policy applies to ultra-violet tattoos;
- 5-5. Adds language so list of extremist tattoos to forbid tattoos advocating discrimination against sexual orientation, advocating terrorism, or supporting the overthrow of the U.S. Government. It also now forbids obscene or indecent tattoos;
- 5-6. Modifies permitted locations for tattoos to include chest and back (although these must be covered), and lower arm. The policy does not forbid tattoos on the leg or foot;
- 5-7. Adds new sections on applicants and officers including an optional advance content review for officers before they get a new tattoo. Both applicants and officers must complete Appendix B listing their tattoos;
- 5-8. Allows the Director, CCHQ, or designee to approve tattoos;
- 5-9. Removes tattoo waivers;
- 5-10. Removes the requirement in Appendix B that the Director, CCHQ, approve all new tattoos on exposed skin; and
- 5-11. Changes the maximum ponytail length in Section 6-8.a.
- 5-12. Through a 2024 amendment, authorizes officers to have hands in their pocket in Section 6-5-b.(2).
- 5-13. Through a 2024 amendment, authorizes officers to wear false eyelashes or eyelash extensions as specified in Section 6-8.d.(2).
- 5-14. Through a 2025 amendment, changes reflect the President’s Executive Order.

## 6. POLICY:

- 6-1. Purpose. The uniform, with its various insignia and devices, is designed primarily to enable people to identify officers on sight. It also indicates at a glance the wearer's grade. It serves as a visual indication of the authority and responsibility imposed by law on a commissioned officer.

Except as may be authorized by regulations of the President, only a commissioned officer of the Service can wear the insignia, devices, and uniforms of the USPHS Commissioned Corps, or any distinctive part of such uniform.

## a. Definitions:

- (1) Conspicuous. Obvious to the eye, attracting attention, striking, bright in color. Officers should avoid being conspicuous and instead blend with (not stand out from) a professional appearance in uniform. What is conspicuous on one person may not be noticeable on another. If attention is naturally drawn to or detracts from the professional appearance, it is conspicuous.
- (2) Conservative. Not conspicuous or detracting from the professional appearance while in uniform.
- (3) Faddish. A style followed for a short period of time with exaggerated zeal. Styles are enduring; fads are generally short in duration and frequently started by an individual or event in the civilian community. Fads are generally conspicuous and detract from a professional appearance.
- (4) Complements Skin Tone. A conservative color which contributes to the wearer's natural skin tone. Conservative colors are generally inconspicuous and do not detract from a professional appearance in uniform.

## 6-2. Authorized Uniforms Worn. All officers in uniform must wear:

- a. Only the uniform and rank insignia appropriate to the officer's pay grade, as annotated in their official personnel orders;
- b. Only authorized and regulation uniform items; and
- c. No badges, ribbons, medals, insignia, or other accoutrements not specifically authorized for the officer in accordance with USPHS Commissioned Corps policies, or those that have not been annotated in an officer's electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF).

## 6-3. National Uniform Authority (NUA).

The SG is the NUA for all Regular Corps and Ready Reserve Corps officers on active duty. The SG may further delegate this uniform authority to a Local Uniform Authority (LUA), as appropriate.

- a. This includes officers on detail or deployment under orders from the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) and Ready Reserve Corps officers serving on tours of extended active duty and short tours of duty.

- b. This does not include officers on extended active duty who are in the Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP), full-time students and faculty of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), officers assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), or officers detailed to any Department of Defense (DoD) component.
- 6-4. Unauthorized Wearing of the Uniform. Wearing the USPHS Commissioned Corps uniform is prohibited under any of the following circumstances:
- a. At any meeting or demonstration which is a function of, or sponsored by an organization, association, movement, group, or combination of persons which the Attorney General of the United States has designated, pursuant to [Executive Order 10450](#) as amended, as totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive, or as having adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States by unconstitutional means or to violently overthrow the United States government;
  - b. During or in connection with political activities, private employment, or commercial interest when wearing the uniform could be interpreted as official sponsorship by the USPHS Commissioned Corps of the activity or interest. Officers are expected to follow the guidelines and regulations in [45 C.F.R. Part 73](#), as amended;
  - c. When participating in activities which are not part of an officer's official duties such as picket lines, marches, rallies, or any public demonstration when wearing the uniform could be interpreted as USPHS Commissioned Corps support of the principles of the demonstration or activity (unless authorized in advance by the SG or designee);
  - d. When wearing the uniform would discredit any or all of the Uniformed Services, the Federal Government, and/or the Department of Health and Human Services (Department or HHS);
  - e. Using the inherent prestige and traditions represented by the uniform to promote privately held convictions on public issues or for personal gain; and
  - f. While attending or participating in a demonstration, assembly, or activity knowing that a purpose of attending the demonstration, assembly, or activity is to support personal or partisan views on political, social, economic, or religious issues. Exceptions are:
    - (1) When the activity is authorized in advance by the SG or designee; and
    - (2) When incident to attending or participating in a bona fide religious service or observance.
- 6-5. Officers' Appearance.
- a. General. The primary consideration is for officers to present a neatly groomed appearance while wearing USPHS Commissioned Corps uniforms. The USPHS Commissioned Corps bases its grooming standards on several elements including: neatness, cleanliness, safety, image, and appearance. The standards established here are not intended to be overly restrictive nor are they designed to isolate officers from society. This Instruction sets reasonable limits and ensure that personal appearance contributes to a favorable uniformed image. The difference between men's and women's grooming policies recognizes the difference between the sexes; including sideburns for men and different hairstyles and cosmetics for

women. Establishing identical grooming and personal appearance standards for men and women would not be in the USPHS Commissioned Corps' best interest and would not be a factor in the assurance of equal opportunity. Because it is impossible to provide examples of every appropriate or unacceptable hairstyle or of "conservative" or "eccentric" grooming and personal appearance, good judgment of leaders at all levels is key to enforcement of this Instruction. Therefore, it should suffice to state that officers' hair/grooming/personal appearance while in uniform must present a neat, professional appearance.

- b. Smartness and Image. USPHS Commissioned Corps personnel must set and maintain high standards of smartness in uniform appearance. The Uniformed Service image reflected by attention to detail while wearing the uniform is a key element in the public image of the USPHS Commissioned Corps. With the exception of the Coveralls and the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU), sleeves of any long sleeved shirt or sweater must be worn down at all times. Shirt or sweater sleeves must not be scrunched or pushed up from the wrist area.
  - (1) While walking in uniform, officers must not eat, drink, or chew gum.
  - (2) Officers are authorized to have hands in their pockets when doing so does not compromise safety nor prohibit the proper rendering of honors and courtesies.
  - (3) Officers must not store items in pockets if they produce a bulky appearance.
- c. Cleanliness. Officers must keep uniforms scrupulously clean, with lace, devices, and insignia bright and free from tarnish and corrosion. All uniforms must be in a serviceable condition at all times. A uniform is unserviceable if it has: missing buttons, defective zippers, broken laces, obvious stains, tears, holes, pilling of uniform material, rips, or other flaws.
- d. Military Creases. Military creases on shirts are an individual option. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize the use of sewn-in creases added by the officer. Military creases are formed on the shirt by pressing two vertical creases on the front of the shirt, midline of the front pockets, and three evenly spaced vertical creases on the back of the shirt.
- e. Tailoring of the Uniforms. Officers may tailor uniforms to provide a well-fitting, professional uniformed or military appearance. But they must not alter them to the extent of detracting from a uniform or military appearance, nor beyond the point of presenting a tight or form fit.
- f. Care of the Uniform. Officers can obtain the longest service from the various uniform articles only by proper care and maintenance. This information is presented to help officers prolong the useful life and distinguished appearance of USPHS Commissioned Corps' uniforms and equipment. Even new, properly fitted uniforms will not continue to look their best or keep their shape unless cared for properly. For instance:
  - (1) Carrying large or heavy objects in pockets will quickly destroy the shape of the best uniform.
  - (2) Uniforms should be stored on hangers.

- (3) If uniforms are to be stored for a long time, they should be cleaned thoroughly, and then packed away in a cloth garment bag with a packet of desiccant (drying agent) for maximum preservation.
  - (4) Dry cleaning and/or machine-washing of uniforms should occur frequently.
  - (5) A highly pressed uniform looks best.
  - (6) Uniforms should never be worn with visible stains.
  - (7) Embroidered insignia may be kept bright by occasional scrubbing with a nailbrush and a diluted ammonia solution. This should be done as soon as a tarnished look is noted. Metal insignia should be cleaned with regular soap to look bright.
  - (8) Uniforms that have a “shiny” appearance due to over-starching or being ironed or dry cleaned at the improper temperature are unserviceable.
- g. Lanyards or other identification card/badge holders must be conservative and inconspicuous in nature. Lanyards must not display a commercial logo (e.g., pharmaceutical brand name or logo, logo of a government contractor, etc.) that may give the appearance of an endorsement of a product or service by the federal government. Lanyards may be constructed in a manner to allow for an easy “break-away” clasp or tab.
  - h. Waivers for wear. If an officer has a medical waiver to not wear a specific uniform component, to wear a modified component, or to not wear a uniform (e.g., shoe waiver, medical waiver due to cast or splint, etc.) the officer must ensure the waiver is on file with the Medical Affairs Branch (MAB), Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ). The officer must also produce a copy of the waiver upon request. The USPHS Commissioned Corps will not consider allergies to any or all uniform materials as sufficient reason for requesting a waiver.

#### 6-6. Uniform Allowance.

- a. An officer serving on active duty status is eligible for the one-time \$250 uniform and equipment allowance when required to wear the uniform.
- b. A officer is not eligible to receive the uniform and equipment allowance in the following circumstances:
  - (1) When he/she has been paid such allowance previously by the USPHS Commissioned Corps thus precluding any further allowance any time thereafter, this includes previous calls to active duty within the USPHS Commissioned Corps;
  - (2) After a form [PHS-1373](#), "Separation of Commissioned Officer," has been submitted; and/or
  - (3) After the first 30 days of a Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP) tour of duty.

#### 6-7. Articles.

- a. Officers must not allow any articles to protrude from or be visible through the uniform, including such items as electronic pagers, cellular phones, or personal

digital assistants (communication devices). This also includes, other items such as pencils, pens, watch chains, key chain fobs, pins, jewelry, combs, large wallets, cigars, cigarettes, pipes, or any other visible items. (Note: Jewelry, tie clasps, cuff links, shirt studs, and earrings must be worn as prescribed.)

When an officer in uniform wears a communication device, it must be worn neatly, be conservative in color and design, and not be a distraction from the appearance of the uniform. When wearing a service or working uniform, the officer must wear any device on either side of the hip behind the elbow so that it is not visible from the front. When wearing a dress uniform, the officer must ensure that devices are not visible (i.e., bulging or protruding) by observers. In addition, the wear and use of these devices must not interfere with proper rendering of military courtesies and honors, nor violate local, state, or federal laws. When the officer is not wearing or using a device, the officer must keep the device at the side of the left leg or in the left hand when rendering salutes or proper military courtesies or honors.

Unless an officer is in a response or emergency preparedness billet, officers are restricted to the wear of only one electronic device. If multiple communication devices are authorized by the NUA, the officer must not wear more than two electronic devices. Officers must not talk, text, or otherwise use their communication device while walking, except in performance of official duties and in a safe manner (i.e., not while crossing the street, operating a motor vehicle or machinery, etc.)

The use of an earpiece, Bluetooth technology, headsets, or other hands-free devices while in uniform is prohibited unless specifically authorized for the execution of official duties. However, the USPHS Commissioned Corps allows uniformed officers to use hands-free devices in a vehicle when authorized/required by local, state, and federal law. Use of hands-free devices may be further restricted at the local duty station level or at the discretion of military installation commanders. DoD regulations requires hands-free devices when driving on a military installation.

- b. Bags. Bags (e.g., briefcases, gym bags, backpacks, laptop bags, lunch bags, suitcases, and garment bags, etc. (but not women's handbags or purses)) must be hand carried with the following exceptions:

- (1) Officers may wear bags when riding a bicycle or motorcycle;
- (2) Officers may wear bags on the left shoulder when wearing service or working uniforms;
- (3) Officers must not wear the case or bag with the strap and bag on opposite sides of the body (diagonally); and
- (4) Officers may wear backpacks over both or either shoulder when wearing service or working uniforms. Officers will carry backpacks in their left hand when in a dress uniform (i.e., Service/Full Dress Blue, Service/Full Dress White).

All hand-carried bags and other bags, including luggage, when possible, must be carried or placed on the officer's left side to facilitate saluting. All bags must be closed with their contents not visible (officers in correctional settings are excluded if local policy dictates differently) and be in a serviceable condition. All bags must be black, brown (optional when wearing a khaki uniform), or navy blue, except for the olive drab GI Duffel Bag. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not allow

any ornamentation on the bags except for an official USPHS Commissioned Corps logo in yellow or the bag manufacturer's logo (provided the bag manufacturer's logo is small and does not detract from the uniform). The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize logos from commercial and HHS OPDIV/STAFFDIV/non-HHS organizations to which officers are assigned except that officers can carry a bag issued by the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, Society of American Military Engineers, or the Reserve Officers Association to their annual meetings only, but not on a routine daily basis. All bags used while in dress uniform must be hand carried. Officers must carry women's handbags over the left shoulder or forearm, placing the top of the handbag at waist level with all uniforms (see [CCI 421.02](#), "Uniforms for Female Officers," for handbag description).

- c. Glasses. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not permit eccentric or faddish glasses. Retainer straps are authorized for foreign object damage (FOD) risk and safety only. If retainer straps are required, they must be plain, black, and worn snugly against the back of the head.
- d. Sunglasses. Conservative sunglasses are permitted, except indoors, or in organized formations (with exceptions for medical reasons, in which case documentation must be on file with MAB, CCHQ). The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes retainer straps for FOD risk and safety only. If retainer straps are required, they must be plain, black, and worn snugly against the back of the head.
- e. Contact lenses. Tinted contact lenses must be of a natural eye color (blue, green, brown, etc.). The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize designs, faddish colors, or ornamentation of the lenses.
- f. Undergarments. Officers must wear appropriate undergarments to preserve the dignity and appearance of the uniform. When wearing a white uniform, an officer must wear white or the wearer's skin-toned undergarments. Undergarments must be plain and design free.

6-8. Personal Appearance.

- a. Hair. Because it is impossible to provide examples of every appropriate or unacceptable hairstyle or of "conservative" or "eccentric" grooming and personal appearance, the good judgment of leaders at all levels is key to enforcement of the grooming policy. Therefore, an officer's hair/grooming/personal appearance while in uniform must present a neat, professional appearance.
  - (1) Men. Male officers must keep hair neat, clean, and well groomed. Hair above the ears and around the neck must be tapered from the lower natural hairline upwards at least 3/4 inch and outward not greater than 3/4 inch to blend with hairstyle. Hair must be kept no longer than four inches and may not touch the ears, collar, extend below eyebrows when headgear is removed, show under front edge of headgear, or interfere with properly wearing military headgear. No portion of the bulk of the hair can exceed approximately two inches in depth as measured from the scalp, and hair on the back of the neck must not touch the collar. Hair coloring must look natural and complement the individual. Varying hairstyles are permitted if these styles meet the criteria of maximum length and bulk, tapered neck and sides, and do not interfere with properly wearing military headgear. Officers must keep sideburns neatly trimmed and tailored in the same manner as the haircut. Sideburns must not extend below a point



level with the middle of the ear, be of even width (not flared), and end with a clean shaven horizontal line.

- (2) Women. Female officers must keep hair neat, clean, and well groomed. Hair coloring must look natural and complement the individual. Haircuts and styles must present a balanced appearance. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not permit pigtails, widely spaced individual hanging locks, and braids which protrude from the head. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes multiple braids. Braided hairstyles must be conservative and conform to the guidelines listed herein. When an officer wears a hairstyle of multiple braids, her braids must be of uniform dimension, small in diameter (approx. 1/4 inch), and tightly interwoven to present a neat, professional, well-groomed appearance. Officers must not braid foreign material (i.e., beads, decorative items) into the hair. The appropriateness of a hairstyle also will be judged by its appearance when headgear is worn. All headgear should fit snugly and comfortably around the largest part of the head without distortion or excessive gaps. Hair must not show from under the front of authorized covers. When in uniform, the hair may touch, but not fall below a horizontal line level with the lower edge of the back of the collar. However, the USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes female officers to wear their hair below the lower edge of the collar of the blouse, jacket, or coat of the Dinner Dress Uniform. No portion of the bulk of the hair can exceed approximately two inches in depth as measured from the scalp. A maximum of two small barrettes/combs/clips, similar to hair color, may be used in the hair. Additional bobby pins or rubber bands matching hair color may be used to hold hair in place, if necessary.
- (a) Ponytail - A ponytail is a hairstyle in which the hair on the head is pulled away from the face, gathered, and secured at the back of the head with an approved accessory. Hair extending beyond the securing accessory may be braided or allowed to extend naturally. The following criteria pertain to the wearing of ponytail hairstyles while wearing the USPHS Commissioned Corps' uniform. Ponytail hairstyles must not interfere with the proper wearing of military headwear and equipment nor extend below a horizontal line running between the top of each sleeve inseam at the under arm through the shoulder blades. Additionally, ponytails must not extend outward more than three inches behind the head as measured from the securing accessory nor can the width exceed the width of the back of the head or be visible from the front. The wear of a single braid, French braid, or a single ponytail is authorized in Service, Working, and physical training (PT) uniforms. The initial accessory for the ponytail must not be visible when facing forward. Authorized accessory devices must be consistent with the color of the hair. In spaces or environments where there are operational hazards such as rotating gear, etc., the hair may not be worn below the bottom of the collar.
- (b) Locs Hairstyle – Locs (also known as dreads or dreadlocs) consists of one section of hair that twists from or near the root to the end of the hair and creates a uniform ringlet or cord-like appearance. Locs may be loose (free-hanging where no hair is added to the loc once it is started other than hair extensions that are attached to natural hair). Officers may wear faux locs provided the hairstyle complies with female hair grooming requirements.

Officers may not wear locs in combination with other hair styles (e.g., twists, braids). For the purpose of grooming standards, officers may wear the loc hairstyle in short, medium, and long hair lengths in the following manner:

- (i) Locs must continue from the root to the end of the hair in one direction (no zig-zagging, curving, or ending before the end of the loc to dangle as a wisp or loose hair) and should encompass the whole head. Loc partings must be square or rectangle in shape in order to maintain a neat and professional appearance.
  - (ii) Locs can be loose (free-hanging where no hair is added to the loc once it is started other than hair extensions that are attached at the end of the natural hair). When worn loose, locs must be spaced no more than 3/8 of an inch apart, the diameter/width must not exceed 3/8 of an inch, and must be tightly interlaced to present a neat and professional military appearance. Officers may also wear locs in a bun provided all hair grooming requirements are met.
  - (iii) New growth (defined as hair that naturally grows from the scalp and has not yet been locked) must not exceed 1/2 inch at any time.
  - (iv) Locs that do not meet the above standards and do not present a neat and professional military appearance must not be worn in uniform. Supervisors are responsible for determining when hairstyles are eccentric, faddish, or out of standards.
- (c) Hair Buns - The width or diameter of the hair bun will not exceed or extend beyond the width of the back of the head. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes female officers wearing a bun hairstyle with a command ball cap to position the bun through the rear opening of the ball cap if the design of the ball cap allows for wearing the hair and cap in that fashion.
- b. Facial Hair. All officers are expected to be either clean shaven or be free of all extraneous facial hair while in uniform.
- (1) Unless a waiver that states the officer may have facial hair for medical reasons is obtained from the officer's medical provider and is on file in MA/CCHQ, the face must be free of facial hair at all times while in uniform. A copy of the shaving waiver must be kept with the officer and presented for inspection upon request.
  - (2) Authorized facial hair, for male officers only, is a mustache.
    - (a) If a mustache is worn, it must be neatly and closely trimmed.
    - (b) No portion of the mustache can extend beyond the lip line of the upper lip.

- (c) The mustache will not go beyond a horizontal line extending across the corners of the mouth, and no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch beyond a vertical line drawn from the corner of the mouth.
  - (d) The length of a mustache must not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.
- (3) Handlebars, goatees, or other eccentric or faddish facial hairstyles are not permitted at any time.
- (4) If a shaving waiver is authorized, no facial/neck hair can be shaved, neither manicured or outlined, nor exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in length.
- c. Hairpieces. Wigs or hairpieces must be of good quality and fit, natural in appearance, and conform to the male or female natural hair grooming standards set forth in this Instruction. They must not interfere with the proper performance of duty nor present a safety or FOD risk hazard.

Officers in uniform may wear wigs or hairpieces for cosmetic reasons to cover natural baldness or physical disfigurements.

d. Cosmetics.

- (1) Men. Cosmetics are not authorized for men.
- (2) Women. Cosmetics may be applied in good taste so that colors blend with natural skin tone and enhance natural features. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize the wearing of exaggerated or faddish cosmetic styles, including cosmetic or body glitter, with the uniform. Officers should avoid an artificial appearance and only use conservative lipstick colors that complement the individual skin tone. False eyelashes or eyelash extensions are authorized that project a natural appearance and are no longer than 14 millimeters in length as measured from the eyelid to the tip of the eyelash. False eyelash color will match the color of the natural eyelash. Eyelash extensions cannot hinder safety, including the wear of protective eyewear.
- (a) Cosmetic Permanent Makeup. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes cosmetic permanent makeup for eyebrows, eyeliner, lipstick, and lip liner only. Permanent makeup must be in good taste and blend naturally with the skin tone to enhance a natural appearance. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize exaggerated or faddish cosmetic styles. Approved permanent makeup colors vary depending on the location. Eyebrows can be shades of black, brown, blonde, or red that match the individual's natural hair color. Eyeliner can be shades of black, brown, blue, or green that matches the individual's natural eye color and must not extend past the natural corner of the eye. Lip liner and lipstick must be the color of the natural lip or shades of pink and moderate reds only. Lip liner and lipstick must be the color of the natural lip or shades of pink and moderate reds only. The USPHS Commissioned Corps considers permanent makeup an elective medical procedure that is accomplished by qualified medical professionals to enhance natural features and that requires careful planning and consideration of associated risks and liabilities to the officer.

- (b) Requesting Procedures for Cosmetic Permanent Makeup. A female officer must submit a special request to MAB, CCHQ expressing her desire to obtain permanent makeup. Along with the special request form, she must include a description of the procedure facility and the desired feature enhancements. As this is an elective procedure, the requesting officer may have to pay the cost of the procedure.
- e. Fingernails.
  - (1) Men. Fingernails for men must not extend past fingertips and must be kept clean. The tips of the nails may be round to align with the contour of the fingertip. While the USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes buffed nails or clear coat nail polish, it does not authorize colored nail polish for men.
  - (2) Women. Fingernails must not exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, measured from the fingertips, and must be kept clean. The tips of the nails may be round, almond/oval or square in shape. Officers may wear nail polish, but colors must be conservative and inconspicuous. A conservative color is one which contributes to the wearer's natural skin tone. Conservative colors are generally inconspicuous and do not detract from the professional appearance while in uniform. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize white, black, red, yellow, orange, green, purple, grey, glitter, striped or any sort of pattern/decorative nail polish. However, French and American manicures (white and off-white tips with neutral base color only) are permitted. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize ornate decoration or ornamentation of the fingernail polish.
    - (a) The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes artificial nails as long as they meet the natural fingernail criteria.
    - (b) However, the USPHS Commissioned Corps may restrict artificial nails if infection control or other safety issues are a concern.
- f. Jewelry. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes conservative jewelry in good taste for all personnel while in uniform. Eccentricities, items which draw undue attention, or faddishness are not permitted. Jewelry must not present a safety, health, or FOD risk hazard.
- g. Hand Rings. While in uniform, rings must be conservative and in good taste. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize eccentric or faddish rings. Rings must consist of natural materials (e.g., metals, stones, or wood) or fabricated materials (e.g., plastic or silicone) and may be gold, silver, copper, grey, tan, brown, black, white, or light pink in color. Only one ring per hand is authorized, plus a wedding/engagement ring set. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes the double stacking of wedding rings with military academy or educational institution rings on one hand. Rings must not present a safety, or FOD hazard. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize thumb rings.
- h. Earrings.
  - (1) Men. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize earrings for men while in uniform, while in civilian attire when in a duty status, or while participating in any organized USPHS Commissioned Corps activity. Earrings are not permitted while in/aboard any ship, craft, aircraft, or in

any military vehicle, or visiting any base or other place under military jurisdiction while in a duty status.

- (2) Women. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes female officers to wear one gold ball earring per ear (centered on the earlobe) while in uniform. Earrings must be 4mm-6mm (approximately 1/8-1/4 inch), plain with shiny or brushed matte finish, screw-on or with posts. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes single white pearl earrings or diamond earrings for wear with Dinner Dress or Service Dress uniforms in lieu of gold ball earrings; the dimensions for the pearl or diamond earring remain the same.
- i. Body Piercing/Jewelry. Not authorized while in uniform. No articles, other than the earrings for women specified in Subsection 6-6.h., can be attached to or through the ear, nose, tongue, eyebrow, or any other visible body part. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize body piercing/jewelry even in civilian attire while in a duty status or while participating in any organized USPHS Commissioned Corps activity. In addition, body piercing/jewelry is not permitted while in/aboard any ship, craft, aircraft, or in any military vehicle, or within any base or other place under military jurisdiction, or visiting any base or other place under military jurisdiction while in a duty status.
- j. Necklaces/Choker. While in uniform, an officer may wear only one necklace and it must not be visible through the uniform.
- k. Wristwatch/Bracelets. While in uniform, the officers can only wear wristwatches/bracelets that are conservative and in good taste. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize eccentric or faddish wristwatches/bracelets. Bracelets may consist of natural materials (such as metals, stones, leather, and wood) or fabricated materials (i.e., plastic or silicone) and may be gold, silver, copper, grey, tan, brown, black, white, or light pink in color. Officers may only wear one watch and one bracelet simultaneously (one on each wrist) while in uniform. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not authorize officers to wear ankle bracelets while they are in uniform. Wristwatches/bracelets must not present a safety or FOD hazard.
- l. Mutilation. Intentional body mutilations, piercing/branding/intentional scarring or adding decorative implants on the head, face, neck, scalp, tongue, or exposed skin are prohibited. Some examples are:
  - (1) Split or forked tongue;
  - (2) Foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern;
  - (3) Enlarged or stretched out holes on ears (other than a normal piercing);
  - (4) Intentional body mutilation, piercing/branding/intentional scarring that is visible through or outside the uniform clothing such as but not limited to the scalp, neck, or face; and
  - (5) Intentional burning/branding creating a design or pattern.

Officers may request waivers from the Director, CCHQ, for prior service and existing body mutilation, piercing/branding/intentional scarring, or decorative implants.

- m. Dental Ornamentation. The USPHS Commissioned Corps prohibits the use of gold, platinum, other veneers, or caps for purposes of ornamentation. Teeth, whether natural, capped, or veneer, must not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, etc. Officers may request waivers from the Director, CCHQ for prior service and existing dental ornamentation.
- 6-9. Tattoos/Body Art. The USPHS Commissioned Corps recognizes the importance of self-expression and personal values. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not prohibit officers and applicants from having tattoos; however, they must adhere to this Instruction in order to maintain a professional and uniformed service appearance. PHS officers should use discretion and good judgement regarding the application and display of tattoos. Unless specifically addressed elsewhere in this Instruction, this section applies to all tattoos (including those only visible or apparent with the use of ultra-violet light), as well as all other forms of body art such as scarification, branding, subdermal implants, and scalpelpling.
- a. Limitations. The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not limit the number or size of tattoos that an officer or applicant may have provided they meet the requirements listed below. However, though there is no limit on the size of tattoos an officer may have on their body, at all times when in uniform, officers with tattoos that exceed the length/width dimensions of a dollar bill (6.14 x 2.61 inches) must wear authorized uniform components that cover any such tattoo.
    - (1) Content. The USPHS Commissioned Corps prohibits tattoos that are prejudicial to good order, discipline, and morale or are of a nature that could bring discredit upon the USPHS Commissioned Corps. These include, but not limited to, tattoos that are illegal drug-related, gang-related, extremist, obscene or indecent, sexist, or racist, as further defined below:
      - (a) Extremist. Extremist tattoos are those associated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities. Extremist philosophies, organizations, and activities are those that advocate racial, sex-based, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in unlawful discrimination based on race, color, sex, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or identity; advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individuals of their rights under the U.S. Constitution and federal or state law; advocate, engage in, or support terrorism; advocate, engage in, or support the forceful, violent, unconstitutional, or otherwise unlawful overthrow of the government of the United States, any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States; or advocates, engages in, or encourages others to violate laws or disobey lawful orders or regulation for the purpose of disrupting uniformed service activities.
      - (b) Obscene or Indecent. Obscene or indecent tattoos are those that are grossly offensive to modesty, decency, propriety, or professionalism; or those that reflect a form of immorality relating to sexual impurity which is grossly vulgar, obscene, and repugnant to common propriety, or whose appearance tend to excite sexual desire or deprave morals with respect to sexual relations.
      - (c) Sexist. Sexist tattoos are those that degrade or demean a person based on sex.

- (d) Racist. Racist tattoos are those that degrade or demean a person based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.
- (2) Location. The USPHS Commissioned Corps prohibits officers from having tattoos on body parts outlined in this section.
  - (a) On or above the neck. The USPHS Commissioned Corps prohibits any tattoo on or above the neck or on the head, including on the scalp (even if covered by the officer or applicant's hair), and including in or around the mouth. For the purposes of this Instruction, the neck is defined as the portion of the body above the collarbone in the front area and above the seventh cervical vertebrae (C7) in the back area.
  - (b) Chest or Back Tattoos. The USPHS Commissioned Corps prohibits tattoos on the chest or back that are above the collarbone and seventh cervical vertebrae (C7). Permitted tattoos on the chest or back must be covered by wearing a properly fitting crew-neck t-shirt with no portion of the tattoo showing. If a tattoo is visible in the "V" area created by the open collar of the uniform (below the collarbone), the officer must wear a crew-neck t-shirt to cover it.
  - (c) Hand and Lower Arm. The USPHS Commissioned Corps prohibits tattoos on the hand. Tattoos on the lower arm are permissible, so long as they extend down no further than an inch above the hand and meets the other requirements of Section 6-9.
  - (d) Finger. The USPHS Commissioned Corps prohibits tattoos on the fingers, with the exception of a single band tattoo, not to exceed 3/8 inch in width, on one finger.
- b. Applicants. Applicants to the USPHS Commissioned Corps who have any tattoo(s) must complete Appendix B of this Instruction, "Tattoo/Body Art/Brand/Piercing/Dental Ornamentation Statement of Understanding."
  - (1) The Director, CCHQ, or designee will review all such submissions for any violations of this Instruction.
  - (2) The USPHS Commissioned Corps will not consider applicants with tattoos(s) that violate Section 6-9.a. for appointment. The USPHS Commissioned Corps will give applicants the option of removing the tattoo and then reapplying.
- c. Officers. Commissioned officers, including officers of the Ready Reserve Corps, must continuously comply with the requirements of Section 6-9.
  - (1) Optional Advance Content Review. Officers who wish to get a new tattoo may request an advance content review from the Director, CCHQ, or designee. Officers seeking an advance content review must submit a description and rendering of the proposed tattoo and any supporting documentation.
  - (2) Officers must complete Appendix B of this Instruction for any new tattoo they get, even if they choose to request an advance content review pursuant to Section 6-9.c.(1).

- d. No Coverings for Submissions. When completing Appendix B, applicants and officers must not use any articles of clothing, bandages, jewelry, or any other accessories to cover tattoos that would otherwise be visible.
- e. Cosmetic Tattoos. The USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes cosmetic tattooing to correct conditions requiring such treatment. Cosmetic tattooing refers to medical or surgical procedures conducted by licensed, qualified medical personnel. The officer or applicant must retain documentation proving these tattoos corrected medical conditions and provide a copy to the USPHS Commissioned Corps.
- f. Accountability. Officers who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and/or other administrative proceedings, including involuntary separation from the USPHS Commissioned Corps.

6-10. Wear of the Uniform by Retired Officers and Ready Reserve Corps Officers.

- a. Retired officers and Ready Reserve Corps officers not on active duty or inactive duty for training (or similar duty) may wear the prescribed uniform of the rank held on the retired or ready reserve/inactive list:
  - (1) On occasions of ceremony, military funerals, memorial services, weddings, and inaugurals;
  - (2) Patriotic parades or ceremonies in which any active or reserve Uniformed Service is taking part; and
  - (3) When attending the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, or any other professional conference where members of the USPHS Commissioned Corps typically attend and the majority of attendees are uniformed service members.
  - (4) Wearing the uniform does not entitle the retired or Ready Reserve Corps officer to any change in duty status, entitlements, benefits, compensation, or privileges.
  - (5) Wearing of the uniform for other purposes is prohibited unless the Director, CCHQ, without further delegation, authorizes the wear of the uniform in specific circumstances. In all cases, see the restrictions on wearing the uniform outside the United States in Subsection 6-13.
- b. The uniform worn by retired officers and Ready Reserve Corps officers must conform to current regulations or to the regulations that were in effect at the time of the officer's retirement. However, this does not include personal appearance or grooming standards. Retired officers and Ready Reserve Corps who choose to wear a uniform in situations as described in subsection 6-9.a.(1-3) must comply with current personal appearance and grooming standards (e.g., beards are not authorized unless as described in subsection 6-8.b.). Retired officers and Ready Reserve Corps officers called to active duty must wear the appropriate uniform, accoutrements, and/or articles as directed by the NUA or LUA, and must abide by the current uniform regulations as of the date of activation.



## 6-11. Officers Assigned to Other Uniformed Services.

- a. Officers assigned to the USCG for extended active duty (i.e., duty other than temporary duty) must wear the uniform prescribed for wear by USCG officers as required by USCG directives, regulations, and memorandums of agreement or understanding; the insignia and distinctive markings of the USCG uniforms include:

- (1) USPHS shoulder boards or marks;
- (2) USPHS cap and USPHS Commissioned Corps devices;
- (3) USPHS sleeve insignia; and
- (4) USPHS buttons on the uniform jacket and cover.

Ready Reserve Corps officers, who participate in USCG activities by invitation from the USCG and with the permission of the OSG, may wear the USCG uniform as described above when so participating.

- b. Officers detailed or assigned to a Uniformed Service other than the USCG for extended active duty (i.e., duty other than temporary duty) must, if required under the provisions of the detail agreement, wear the uniform of that service which is appropriate to the officer's grade. In this instance, the officer must wear the uniform as prescribed in the regulations of the assigned service.

If the detail agreement does not specifically provide that the officer is not to wear the USPHS Commissioned Corps uniform or the uniform of the service to which the officer is assigned, the officer can wear the USPHS Commissioned Corps uniform that most closely corresponds to the type of uniform prescribed for wear by officers of that service in similar assignments.

6-12. Wear of Civilian Clothing on Military Installations. When visiting military installations (including facilities of the USCG and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), whether on official business or on personal business, officers not wearing a uniform must wear neat, tasteful clothing appropriate to the activity. Except when participating in sporting or exercise activities, officers should not wear gym shorts, exercise suits, tank tops, and similar clothing while on military installations.

## 6-13. Travel Uniform.

- a. Travel by Non-Military Conveyances. For official travel within the United States, an officer may wear the uniform prescribed in Subsection 6-12., or appropriate civilian attire. For official travel outside the United States, officers will normally wear appropriate civilian attire (see Subsection 6-13.).

- b. Travel by Military Conveyance. While the USPHS Commissioned Corps authorizes active duty officers traveling in military-owned or military-controlled conveyances to wear civilian clothing, they strongly encourage active duty officers to wear the USPHS Commissioned Corps uniform, as prescribed in Subsection 6-12., except in the following circumstances:

- (1) The officer must not wear the uniform when military officials advise that entry requirements into a foreign area of destination prohibit wearing the uniform (officers should contact the local Air Mobility Command terminal for the status of the country, as given in the Air Force Foreign Clearance Guide);

- (2) The officer must not wear the uniform when military officials or the U.S. Department of State advise that the traveler will be passing through high-risk areas with respect to terrorist activities or social or political unrest;
- (3) The officer must wear the uniform when the service that is providing the conveyance require its travelers to travel in uniform; or,
- (4) Officers must wear the uniform when the officer in charge of a group (two or more) of USPHS Commissioned Corps officers traveling together specifies, in accordance with all rules and regulations, that the uniform will be worn.

6-14. Prescribed Uniforms.

- a. Official Travel. Service Dress Blue (SDB) or as specified in orders (see [CCI 712.05](#), "Space-Required Travel on Military Aircraft").
- b. Unofficial Travel.
  - (1) SDB, or
  - (2) USPHS Commissioned Corps uniform of the day for the area of destination.

6-15. Wear of Uniform Outside the United States. In accordance with international agreements on the status of forces, officers are generally not permitted to wear the uniform outside the United States unless they are assigned to another Uniformed Service whose regulations permit wearing the uniform. However, the SG may authorize officers to wear the USPHS Commissioned Corps uniform outside the United States under certain circumstances. Authorization must be obtained in advance by writing to:

Office of the Surgeon General  
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 300  
Rockville, MD 20852

The request for authorization should include:

- a. The identification of the officer(s) involved;
- b. The nature of the assignment;
- c. The places and dates the uniform is to be worn; and
- d. The reasons why wearing the uniform would be helpful in the performance of duties or otherwise appropriate.

6-16. Tobacco. The use of tobacco and/or tobacco products is prohibited while in uniform.

- a. Tobacco and tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), stem pipes, water pipes, hookahs, and smokeless products that are chewed, dipped, or snuffed.
- b. Officers must abide by the regulations of the Department, HHS OPDIV, STAFFDIV, non-HHS organization to which assigned, or other Uniformed Services when on an installation, base, post, station, military medical treatment facility, or

other Federal, State, Local, Tribal, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, or Department of Commerce controlled activity in regards to tobacco use and designated tobacco use areas when not in uniform.

- c. Information on how to stop smoking or using tobacco products can be found on the Surgeon General's webpage at: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov>.

## 7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 7-1. The ASH is responsible for establishing policies related to uniforms.
- 7-2. The SG is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the USPHS Commissioned Corps and may issue Personnel Operations Memorandums (POM), as necessary, to clarify this Instruction.
- 7-3. All officials of HHS OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs/non-HHS organizations to which officers are assigned, having responsibility for the supervision of Officers, must ensure that officers under their direction wear the uniform, wear it properly, and adhere to the grooming standards contained herein.
- 7-4. All officers are responsible for adhering to the USPHS Commissioned Corps' uniform policies and procedures. Officers who wear the uniform improperly, or who exhibit a careless attitude toward their personal appearance bringing discredit to themselves, to the Department, and to the USPHS Commissioned Corps, are subject to disciplinary action, including involuntary separation. Therefore, individual officers and officials should exert their personal influence, where necessary, as a means of encouraging fellow officers to wear the uniform properly.

## 8. PROCEDURES:

- 8-1. Guidance to Local Uniform Authorities (LUA). The SG is the NUA and may designate LUAs as appropriate.
  - a. LUAs operate within the limitations of USPHS Commissioned Corps' rules involving uniforms, and the LUA operates within the framework of the NUA's Uniform of the Day listing. Each LUA will designate uniforms from the NUA's Uniform of the Day listing that are appropriate for the associated climate, and the types of work conducted in that LUAs area of authority.
  - b. Uniform authority is to be exercised on a regional basis, ensuring that no officer comes under the authority of more than one LUA within the same regional area.
  - c. The LUA determines policy for all HHS OPDIV/STAFFDIV/non-HHS organizations and officers within the assigned area. If a LUA's area includes multiple towns or installations in different environmental areas, the LUA may prescribe different requirements for the various areas involved.
  - d. In all cases, the NUA retains final authority in the designation of uniforms, and uniform wear for the USPHS Commissioned Corps.
  - e. Supervisors at the local field level may petition the LUA, through the USPHS Commissioned Corps Liaison, for specific uniform requests or needs for a limited fixed period of time for a specific event or occasion.

## 8-2. Selection of Uniforms.

- a. Generally, the LUA chooses one uniform of the day for each duty station location. The LUA must select the uniform of the day from among the "General Purpose Service Uniforms". This will be the uniform used for general office work and travel within the local area. The SDB is always acceptable in a normal office setting. The LUA determines when a shift is made between the summer and a winter uniform, if a shift is appropriate for the area involved. The USPHS Commissioned Corps uses the Dinner Dress, and Ceremonial uniforms on an occasional basis and the LUA may designate functions at which these uniforms are prescribed.
- b. A LUA may not prohibit the wearing of the SDB in normal office settings but may prohibit optional items of that uniform.
- c. When selecting uniforms and determining policy in regard to prescribable and optional items, the LUA should consider climate, working conditions, and appropriateness of appearance. The LUA will select a uniform of the day and as many additional working uniforms as are needed, but will not authorize more uniforms than necessary. The objective is to have the fewest number of uniforms within a given area that will satisfy requirements, bearing in mind that each officer must own and maintain all required components of the SDB and ODU.

## 8-3. Designation of Covered Areas. LUAs may determine those areas, such as a specific area of connected or adjacent buildings and grounds not including parking areas, which officers may transit out-of-doors but consider themselves indoors for purposes of meeting uniform requirements and/or extending service courtesy such as saluting.

- a. However, the USPHS Commissioned Corps does not permit LUAs to designate entire areas, including: campuses, complexes, installations, institutions, research facilities or parking areas/decks, in which interaction with the general public or other Uniformed Service members is likely, as covered areas.
- b. During evacuations of Federal buildings, whether for a drill or an actual emergency, all building employees and visitors need to exit in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner. To facilitate this evacuation, the USPHS Commissioned Corps designates emergency evacuation assembly points located outside of Federal buildings as "covered areas" during an evacuation or emergency egress status. During these times, the USPHS Commissioned Corps does not require officers to wear a cover while assembled outside Federal buildings.

## 8-4. Obtaining Uniforms and Accessories.

- a. The various USPHS Commissioned Corps uniforms are comprised of the same articles of clothing as the corresponding uniforms of the U.S. Navy (with the exception of some optional items and special-purpose/working uniforms). Articles made for and meeting specifications for U.S. Navy officers may be worn unless specifically excluded by the applicable Instruction. USPHS Commissioned Corps uniforms are made distinctive by the wearing of unique USPHS Commissioned Corps insignia. These include the USPHS Commissioned Corps device, cap chin strap, cap device, shoulder boards, and buttons. The insignia are described in CCI [431.01](#), "Insignia and Devices."
- b. Many Navy Exchange (NEX) retail stores have a uniform shop. The basic articles of uniform clothing are usually available in these shops. However, the unique USPHS Commissioned Corps insignia and buttons are typically not stocked in NEX uniform shops except in the Washington, D.C. area. Insignia, as well as

complete uniforms, may be ordered by mail from the Navy Uniform Support Center, Chesapeake, VA. An officer may order directly from the Uniform Support Center Web site (<https://www.mynavyexchange.com/>), or by calling 1-800-368-4088.

- c. When purchasing uniform clothing items from sources outside of official military supply sources, officers must make sure each item has a military specification (milspec) label certifying that the item meets Navy requirements, unless another Uniformed Service is specified for the particular item, then a milspec label from that Service must be attached. Shoes and/or boots may not have a specific milspec label but must meet the criteria of the milspec (e.g., color, heel, style).
- d. Uniform items may be obtained from any source, provided the items carry a Military Specification and/or a certification label, except the following which must be obtained from the indicated official Uniformed Service distribution sources:
  - (1) Navy.
    - (a) Shoes, Dress, Brown.
    - (b) Shoes, Service, Brown.
    - (c) Handbag, Brown.
    - (d) Sweater, Navy V-neck.
  - (2) Coast Guard. Operational Dress Uniform and accoutrements.
  - (3) Army. Cardigan Sweater.

8-5. Application for the Uniform and Equipment Allowance

- a. An officer who meets the requirements set forth in Section 6-6. may apply for the uniform and equipment allowance by submitting a memorandum certifying that he/she has been directed to wear a uniform and that he/she has not previously received a uniform allowance from the USPHS Commissioned Corps. The memorandum should be submitted to:

Financial Services Branch  
Commissioned Corps Headquarters  
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 300  
Rockville, MD 20852

- b. An officer required to wear a uniform by a special directive, i.e., an assignment not designated in [CCI 411.01](#), will submit a copy of the special directive with his/her certification memorandum.

- 9. HISTORY: This is the seventh issuance of this Instruction within the eCCIS. This version incorporates amendments on 16 December 2024 to include content approved in PPM 811.80, "Updates to Uniform Policies" and amendments on 7 March 2025 to align with Presidential Executive Orders.

9-1. CCI 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 29 July 2020

9-2. CCI 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 1 May 2018, CCI 612.03, "Uniform and Equipment Allowance," and POM 821.01, "Uniform Cover – Emergency Assembly Areas."

- 9-3. CCI 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 21 June 2013.
- 9-4. Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC26.3.1, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 2 February 2010.
- 9-5. CCPM CC26.3.1, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 1 March 2009.
- 9-6. CCPM CC26.3.1, "Uniforms and Appearance," dated 20 July 2005.

## Appendix A

## Fabric Chart

UNIFORM	COMPONENTS	AUTHORIZED FABRICS
Dinner Dress Blue Jacket (M and F)	Jacket, Trousers, Skirt	55% Polyester/45% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 55% Polyester/45% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz.* 100% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 12.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 15.0 oz. 100% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz.*
Dinner Dress White Jacket (M and F)	Jacket (Trousers, Skirt same as Dinner Dress Blue Jacket)	100% Polyester/Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz. 65% Polyester/35% Rayon Gabardine, 8.0 oz.
Dinner Dress Blue (M and F) Service Dress Blue (M and F)	Coat, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt	55% Polyester/45% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 55% Polyester/45% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz.* 100% Wool Gabardine, 11.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 12.0 oz. 100% Wool Serge, 15.0 oz. 100% Wool Tropical, 9.0 oz.*
Dinner Dress White (M) Service Dress White (M)	Coat, Trousers	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz.
Dinner Dress White (F) Service Dress White (F)	Coat, Slacks, Shirt, Skirt	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz. 65% Polyester/35% Rayon Gabardine, 8.0 oz.
Service Khaki (M and F)	Shirt, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt, Belt, Cap	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz. 75% Polyester/25% Wool Tropical, 10 oz.*
Summer White (M and F)	Shirt, Trousers, Slacks, Skirt, Belt	100% Polyester, Certified Navy Twill, 6.7 oz.
	Shirt	65% Polyester/35% Cotton Poplin, 4.2 oz.
	Trousers, Slacks, Skirt	65% Polyester/35% Cotton Twill, 6.5 oz.

## Appendix A (continued)

## Fabric Chart

UNIFORM	COMPONENTS	AUTHORIZED FABRICS
All Authorized Uniforms	Reefer	Authorized Fabric Utilized by Navy
	Gloves, White	Authorized Uniform Gloves Used by Navy
	Ear Flaps (band or no band)	Plain Black Fabric (any), no markings
ODU	All components	Authorized Fabric Utilized by the USCG





## Appendix B: Cover Sheet

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Public Health Service

Commissioned Corps Headquarters  
Office of the Surgeon General  
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 300  
Rockville, MD 20852

## Call to Duty and Recruitment Branch

## Tattoo/Body Art/Brand/Piercing/Dental Ornamentation Statement of Understanding

Do you have any tattoos/body art/brands?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any body piercings?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any dental ornamentation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

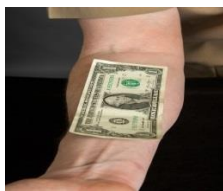
All candidates seeking appointment to the USPHS Commissioned Corps and presently-commissioned PHS officers must meet all applicable uniform and appearance requirements contained in Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance." This includes, but is not limited to, limitations regarding tattoos, body art/brands, mutilation, dental ornamentation, and a willingness to comply with the appearance standards.

The USPHS Commissioned Corps does not permit tattoos on the head (including the scalp), face, neck, or hands. Tattoos elsewhere on the body that are prejudicial to good order, discipline, and morale or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the USPHS Commissioned Corps are prohibited. (See CCI 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance").

**Commissioned Officers:** Commissioned officers must conform to the requirements of CCI 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance." Officers must submit this form whenever they get any new tattoo(s). Officers who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and/or other administrative proceedings that may include involuntary separation from the USPHS Commissioned Corps. (See CCI 412.01, "Uniforms and Appearance"). At all times while in uniform, officers with any tattoo that exceeds the length/width dimensions of a U.S. dollar bill (6.14 x 2.61 inches) must wear authorized uniform components to cover any such tattoo.

**Applicants to the USPHS Commissioned Corps:** New applicants must report all tattoo(s), body art, branding, piercing(s) or dental ornamentation. Applicants must submit two color photographs (one close up view; **one full body view**) of all tattoo(s), body art, brand, piercing or dental ornamentation. A detailed description of the meaning and/or significance of all tattoos must be included with the photographs. For tattoos located on the wrist, a ruler measurement must be taken that demonstrates the tattoo(s) are at least an inch from the base of the hand. At all times while in uniform, officers with any tattoo that exceeds the length/width dimensions of a U.S. dollar bill (6.14 x 2.61 inches) must wear authorized uniform components to cover any such tattoo.

Applicants must submit photos while wearing an appropriately sized white crew neck t-shirt and shorts that do not exceed below the knee using the attached photos as a guide. For all tattoo(s), body art or branding exposed beyond the limits of the t-shirt the applicant must submit pictures from a closer angle (with a dollar bill) to ensure it does not violate Section 6-9. of this Instruction and to document which tattoos must be covered by an authorized uniform component.



In addition to the reporting requirements noted in this form, it is also the candidate's responsibility to ensure that any tattoo, body art, brand, or piercing is documented at the time of the examination by the healthcare provider on DD FORM 2808, "Report of Medical Examination."

Applicants and commissioned officers must be aware that at all times while in uniform, an officer with any tattoo that exceeds the length/width dimensions of a U.S. dollar bill (6.14 x 2.61 inches) must wear authorized uniform components to cover any such tattoo.

I understand that the falsification or other nondisclosure of information may result in the immediate close out of my application. After commissioning, officers who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and/or administrative proceedings that may include involuntary separation from the USPS Commissioned Corps.

Your signature below documents that the information you have provided is current and correct and that you have read and understand the paragraphs above regarding the consequences of falsification/non-disclosure of information submitted.

Applicant/Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Officer Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please upload this signed and dated Tattoo(s)/Body Art/Brand/Piercing/Dental Ornamentation Cover Sheet with your complete photographs and the description and meaning of each tattoo (in PDF format) to your Applicant Enrollment System (AES) account. Officers should submit this information via the email below.

All questions regarding Tattoo(s)/Body Art/Brand(s)/Piercing(s)/Dental Ornamentation should be sent to: [PHSAES@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSAES@hhs.gov).