SUBJECT: Wear of Awards and Badges

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Instruction is to prescribe the manner in which ribbons, medals, and badges are worn by officers on the uniform of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps). This Instruction also prescribes the order of precedence for wearing Corps, other uniformed service, and non-uniformed service awards on the Corps uniform.

2. APPLICABILITY: This issuance applies to all Corps officers on active duty.

3. AUTHORITY:
   3-1. 42 U.S.C. §202, “Administration and supervision of Service”
   3-2. 42 U.S.C. §216, “Regulations”
   3-3. 42 U.S.C. §238g, “Wearing of uniforms”
   3-4. Executive Order 11140, dated 30 January 1964

4. PROPONENT: The Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) is the proponent of this Instruction. The responsibility for ensuring the day-to-day management of the Corps belongs to the Surgeon General.

5. SUMMARY OF REVISIONS AND UPDATES: This is the third issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (eCCIS).

   5-1. Adds National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 22/22a. If the officer received non-uniform service awards or decorations as a civilian prior to commissioning, corresponding documentation, i.e. certificate and memorandum, must be submitted.

   5-2. Clarifies non-uniform service awards and decorations information.

   5-3. Deletes references to obsolete awards, including those from the Vietnam War era. Retired officers who were authorized these awards during active duty can continue to wear these awards.

   5-4. Incorporates authorized wear of the Assistant Secretary for Health Officer in Charge (ASHOIC) Badge, Music Ensemble (ME) Badge, and Defense Health Agency (DHA) Badge.
5-5. Includes other minor revisions to enhance clarity and provide consistency.
6. POLICY: Except as may be authorized by regulations of the President, only a commissioned officer of the Service may wear the insignia and uniform of commissioned officers of the Service, or any distinctive part of such insignia or uniform, or any insignia or uniform if any part is similar to a distinctive part of the Corps’ insignia or uniform.

6-1. A Corps officer may wear only those awards for which he/she has received approval as evidenced by the documentation for each award in the officer’s electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF). For purposes of this Instruction, the following applies:


c. Full Dress Uniforms consist of the Full Dress Blue and Full Dress White.

6-2. Corps officers who have received awards from other uniformed services, other Agencies/Departments of the Federal government, or foreign governments, must wear such awards on the Corps uniform only as designated in this Instruction. Awards from prior military service must be documented on a Department of Defense (DOD) Form DD-214, “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty,” Form DD-215, “Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty,” or a National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 22/22a. If the officer received non-uniform service decorations as a civilian prior to commissioning, he or she must submit corresponding documentation, i.e. certificate and memorandum, to the Commissioned Officer Awards Program (COAP).

6-3. All awards issued for wear by the Corps are listed in this Section in their order of precedence. Awards received for service performed while in or attached to units of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps (USMC), USCG, and NOAA, which are not included in this Section but are of equal importance to the Corps awards listed here, are worn in the order specified by the respective uniformed service. In most cases of relative priority, Corps awards take precedence (see below).

a. Individual Corps honor awards take precedence over awards of equivalent level from other uniformed services.

b. Precedence for wear of individual honor ribbons of other Services is as follows: DOD, Navy, USMC, USCG, NOAA, Army, Air Force.

c. The Corps does not authorize ribbons, medals or other awards earned in the National Guard (except for Federal ribbons, medals or awards), State militias or similar organizations, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), USCG Auxiliary, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) or Junior ROTC (JROTC) on the Corps uniform.

d. The Corps does not authorize for wear on the Corps uniform at any time Commemorative ribbons and/or medals (e.g., Air Force Commemorative Service Medal, the Cold War Victory Commemorative Service Medal) purchased from non-military or non-governmental organizations.

6-4. Individual Honor Awards

a. Listed below in order of precedence are Corps honor awards and uniformed service decorations which are authorized for wear on the Corps uniform:
b. Medal of Honor (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard)
   Medal of Honor (Army)
   Medal of Honor (Air Force)
   Navy Cross
   Coast Guard Cross
   Army Distinguished Service Cross
   Air Force Cross
   Defense Distinguished Service Medal
   Distinguished Service Medal (Other Services)
   Distinguished Service Medal (Public Health Service (PHS))
   Silver Star
   Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary's Award for Outstanding
   Achievement (USCG - DOT Gold Medal)
   Commerce Gold Medal (NOAA)
   Defense Superior Service Medal
   Commerce Silver Medal (NOAA)
   Legion of Merit
   Distinguished Flying Cross
   Navy and Marine Corps Medal
   Coast Guard Medal
   Soldier's Medal (Army)
   Airman's Medal (Air Force)
   Gold Lifesaving Medal (USCG)
   Bronze Star
   Purple Heart
   Meritorious Service Medal (PHS)
   Defense Meritorious Service Medal
   Meritorious Service Medal (Other Services)
   Assistant Secretary for Health Exemplary Service Medal (PHS)
   Surgeon General's Medallion (PHS)
   Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal (PHS)
   Commerce Bronze Medal (NOAA)
   Air Medal
   Outstanding Service Medal (PHS)
   NOAA Administrator's Award
   Silver Lifesaving Medal
   DOT Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement (USCG-DOT Silver Medal)
   Aerial Achievement Medal
   Commendation Medal (PHS)
   Joint Service Commendation Medal
   Commendation Medal (Other Services)
   DOT Award for Superior Achievement (USCG-DOT Bronze Medal)
   Achievement Medal (PHS)
   Joint Service Achievement Medal
   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, USMC, USCG)
   Air Force Combat Action Medal

6-5. Unit awards

a. The Corps authorizes the following Corps unit awards and uniformed service
   decorations (listed below, in order of precedence) for wear on the Corps uniform:
6-6. Non-Uniform Service Awards and Decorations.

a. The Corps has authorized the following non-uniformed service awards and decorations (listed below in order of precedence) for wear on the Corps uniform. Officers must wear non-uniformed service awards and decorations after PHS and military honor awards, and before PHS and military campaign and service awards.

b. Precedence for Agency/Department awards and decorations from the same Agency/Department is according to their precedence, following PHS precedence. Precedence for Agency/Department awards and decorations from different Agencies/Departments is in the order of date of acceptance. This list is not all inclusive; the Director, Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ), will evaluate awards not listed below on a case-by-case basis to determine approval.

c. Office of the President of the United States.
   (1) Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction
   (2) Presidential Medal of Freedom
   (3) Presidential Citizens Medal
   (4) Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor
   (5) President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service

d. United States Intelligence Community.
   (1) National Intelligence Cross
   (2) National Intelligence Medal for Valor
   (3) National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal
   (4) National Intelligence Medal of Achievement

e. Department of Defense (DoD).
   (1) DoD Distinguished Civilian Service Award
   (2) Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award
   (3) Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award
   (4) Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Valor
   (5) DoD Medal for Distinguished Public Service
   (6) Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service

f. Department of the Army.
   (1) Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service
   (2) Meritorious Civilian Service Award
   (3) Achievement Medal for Civilian Service
g. Department of the Air Force.
   (1) Air Force Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service
   (2) Air Force Exceptional Service Award

h. Department of Commerce – Gold, Silver, Bronze Medals.

i. Department of the Navy.
   (1) Distinguished Civilian Service Award
   (2) Superior Civilian Service Award
   (3) Navy Award for Distinguished Achievement Science

j. Department of State.
   (1) Secretary's Distinguished Service Award
   (2) Secretary's Award

k. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
   (1) EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service
   (2) EPA Silver Medal for Superior Service
   (3) EPA Bronze Medal for Commendable Service
   (4) EPA Distinguished Career Service Award

l. Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).
   (1) BOP Distinguished Service Medal
   (2) BOP Meritorious Service Medal
   (3) BOP Commendation Medal

m. Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS).
   (1) USUHS Distinguished Service Medal
   (2) USUHS Exceptional Service Medal
   (3) USUHS Outstanding Service Medal
   (4) USUHS Commendable Service Medal
   (5) USUHS Medal of Achievement

n. Officers must not wear non-uniformed service decorations on the Corps uniform unless they wear at least one uniformed service award at the same time.

o. Officers must wear attachments (i.e., stars, letters, numbers, etc.) for non-uniformed service awards in the manner authorized by the issuing Agency/Department. If the issuing Agency/Department does not specify the manner for the wear of attachments, then officers should wear all attachments for individual and unit honor awards in the same manner as attachments for Corps individual and unit honor awards.

6-7. Corps Campaign and Service Awards

a. Listed below are the Corps’ campaign and service awards with the specified precedence for wear.

Smallpox Eradication Campaign Ribbon
Global Health Campaign Medal
Ebola Campaign Medal
Hazardous Duty Award
Foreign Duty Award
Special Assignment Award
Isolated/Hardship Award
Crisis Response Service Award
Global Response Service Award
Response Service Award
National Emergency Preparedness Award
Recruitment Service Ribbon
Global Health Initiatives Service Medal
Bicentennial Unit Commendation

b. As new campaign, and service awards are authorized, the Director, CCHQ, will evaluate them on a case-by-case basis to determine appropriate order of precedence for wear.

6-8. Uniformed Service Campaign and Service Awards.

a. CCHQ may authorize individual officers to wear the uniformed service campaign, service, and training awards, listed below, in order of precedence, on the Corps uniform after all Corps service and campaign awards.

b. Prisoner of War Medal
Air Force Combat Readiness Medal
Good Conduct Medal (all Services)
Navy Reserve Special Commendation Ribbon
Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal
Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal
Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medal
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal
Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (Navy/USMC/USCG)
NOAA ACO Award Medal
Outstanding Airmen 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 Medal
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
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
Kosovo Campaign Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Iraq Campaign Medal
Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Korean Defense Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Coast Guard Special Operation Service Ribbon
Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon
Army Sea Duty Ribbon
Air Force Air and Space Campaign Medal
Nuclear Deterrent Operations Service Medal
Naval Arctic Service Ribbon
Atlantic Service Ribbon (NOAA)
Pacific Service Ribbon (NOAA)
International Service Ribbon (NOAA)
Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon
Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon
Army Overseas Service Ribbon
Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon- (Short Tour)
Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (Long Tour)
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon
Navy Recruiting Service Ribbon
Recruit Training Service Ribbon (Navy)
Marine Corps Recruiting Ribbon
Coast Guard Recruiting Service Ribbon
Air Force Recruiter Ribbon
Armed Forces Reserve Medal
Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon
Military Training Instructor Ribbon (Air Force)
Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon
Basic Military Training Honor Graduate Ribbon (Air Force)
Basic Training Honor Guard (USCG)
Marine Security Guard Ribbon
Merchant Marine Gallant Ship Unit Citation
Merchant Marine Combat Bar
Merchant Marine Korean Service Bar
Merchant Marine Vietnam Service Bar
Merchant Marine Expeditionary Medal (Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM)

6-9. Regular Corps Ribbon. The Regular Corps Ribbon comes after the other uniformed services service and campaign ribbons and medals.

6-10. Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon.

6-11. Uniformed Service Training Awards.

   a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are the uniformed service training awards that may be authorized for wear on the Corps uniform after all Corps training awards.

   b. Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Professional Development Ribbon (Army)
      NCO Professional Military Education Graduate (Air Force)
      Army Service Ribbon
      Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon (Army)
      Air Force Training Ribbon
6-12. In addition to the medals or ribbons mentioned in Subsections 6-1 through 6-11, the 
Director, CCHQ, may authorize officers who have earned medals or ribbons while serving 
with another uniformed service to wear such medals or ribbons. The Director, CCHQ, will 
evaluate awards not mentioned above on a case-by-case basis to determine appropriate 
order of precedence for wear.

6-13. Foreign Decorations and Non-U.S. Service Awards

a. Personnel who have been specifically authorized to accept decorations from 
foreign governments may wear them, after all U.S. service awards, in order of their 
receipt, in the manner prescribed below.

(1) Officers must not wear any foreign award on the uniform unless the officer 
wears at least one U.S. award at the same time.

(2) Foreign awards which are similar in design and caliber to U.S. awards may 
be worn on the same occasions prescribed for wearing the U.S. awards.

(3) An officer who does not possess the Medal of Honor, but who has received 
a foreign award which, under the rules of the country concerned, is 
required to be worn at the neck, will so wear it. If an officer has been 
awarded the Medal of Honor and a foreign award which is worn at the 
neck, he/she shall wear the foreign award so that it shows below the Medal 
of Honor.

(4) When an individual possesses two or more awards from the same country, 
the order of precedence of those particular awards is determined by the 
rules of the country concerned.

b. Officers may wear foreign awards, such as stars, sashes, orders, or other devices 
that are dissimilar to or are required to be worn in a manner which differs from that 
prescribed for U.S. awards authorized for wear by Corps officers, only as a 
courtesy to the country concerned when an officer is attending a public function, in 
the house of, or in honor of, a public official or other distinguished citizen or subject 
of the country whose decoration he/she possesses. Officers should wear these 
awards as nearly as practicable in accordance with the regulations of the country 
concerned. Since officers are generally not permitted to wear the Corps uniform 
outside the United States, the wearing of such decoration is limited to specific 
public functions within the United States.

6-14. Foreign Unit Awards. The following awards, listed in order of precedence, do not require 
individual legislative authorization and the Corps may authorize them for wear immediately 
after all foreign decorations:

- Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
- Korean Presidential Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation

6-16. Non-U.S. Service Awards. The Corps may authorize non-U.S. service awards for wear 
immediately after foreign unit awards as follows:

- United Nations Service Medal
- United Nations Medal
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal (Yugoslavia Bosnia/Kosovo)
Multinational Force and Observers Medal
Inter-American Defense Board Medal/Ribbon

6-17. Foreign Service Awards. Foreign service awards are worn immediately after non-U.S. service awards in the following order of precedence:

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait)

6-18. Marksmanship Ribbons. Marksmanship ribbons authorized for wear on the Corps uniform, after all Foreign Service awards, are listed below in order of precedence:

Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon
Navy Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon
Coast Guard Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon
Coast Guard Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Air Force)

6-19. Association and Organization Awards. Each of the organizations listed below sells a ribbon and/or medal which the Corps may authorize individual officers to wear on the Corps uniform after all uniformed service ribbons, foreign decorations, and non-U.S. Service Awards. Officers may wear medals and ribbons sold by these organizations only while actually attending their meetings or conventions, or while participating in parades or other ceremonies as a member of these organizations. The Corps does not authorize these ribbons/medals for routine daily wear. The order of precedence is as follows:

Commissioned Officers Association (COA)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)

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.

Note: The Corps does not authorize other association or organization ribbons not specifically listed here, including ceremonial badges of military societies (10 U.S.C. §1123).

6-20. Ribbons must not be impregnated with preservatives which change the appearance of the ribbon, and officers must not wear ribbons with transparent covering of any sort.

6-21. The arrangement of ribbons is in the order of precedence in rows from top down inboard to outboard within rows. Officers who possess at least three ribbons must wear a minimum of three; all ribbons may be worn, if desired. If only one row of ribbons is worn, it must consist of the three senior ribbons.

6-22. When large medals are prescribed, officers must wear ribbons having no corresponding medals centered on the right breast in the same relative position as the holding bar of the lowest row of medals. If the individual has been awarded more than one of this type, the senior ribbon is required with the option to wear all. The arrangement of ribbons is in the order of precedence in rows from top down and inboard to outboard. (See Appendix A for examples of wearing large medals.)

6-23. When miniature medals are prescribed, ribbons for which no medals are provided are NOT worn.
6-24. Large Medals.
   a. Officers are to wear large medals on Full Dress uniforms only, not on other uniforms.
   b. The arrangement of medals is in order of precedence from top down and from inboard to outboard within rows. Officers may wear all medals; however, those possessing five or more must wear a minimum of five. If the officer wears only one row of medals, the row must consist of the five senior medals.

6-25. Miniature Medals.
   a. Officers must wear miniature medals with all Dinner Dress uniforms.
   b. The holding bar will permit the wear of up to five miniature medals in a row with no overlap.
   c. The arrangement of medals is in order of precedence from top down and from inboard to outboard within rows. An officer may wear all medals; however, those possessing five or more must wear a minimum of five. If the officer wears only one row of medals, that row must consist of the five senior medals. (See Appendix B for examples of wearing miniature medals.)

6-26. Badges and Breast Insignia.
   a. Except as specifically provided, officers must securely affix all badges and insignia to the specified component of the uniform in the approved location.
   b. Officers may wear full-size badges with full dress, service dress blue, and service dress white, uniforms. Officers may wear miniature badges with summer white, and service khaki uniforms. The Corps prohibits mixing of large and miniature size badges.
   c. Full Size Badges.
      (1) Full size (not miniature) Assistant Secretary for Health Officer in Charge (ASHOIC), Surgeon General (SG), Deputy Surgeon General (DSG), Officer in Charge (OIC), and Chief Professional Officer (CPO) insignia are worn only while the officer is the incumbent of the position. The Corps does not authorize officers in an acting or temporary position to wear of badges not annotated in his/her eOPF. These officials only wear the miniature size post-tour.
      (2) Recruiter badge, Associate Recruiter Lead (ARL) badge, Associate Recruiter (AR), Music Ensemble (ME) badge.
      (3) Field Medical Readiness badge (FMRB).
      (4) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Identification (HHS ID) badge.
   d. Badges issued when officially assigned to organizations outside of HHS:
      Vice Presidential Service Badge
      Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge
      Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge
Office of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation Identification Badge (obsolete)
Office of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Identification Badge
Defense Health Agency Badge – only authorized while actively assigned to the Defense Health Agency (DHA); not annotated in eOPF

e. Other badges and breast insignia issued by other uniformed services.

(1) Earned while an officer of the Corps;

(2) Earned while a member of another uniformed service in which that badge or insignia would be worn on that uniformed service’s officer uniform;

(3) Officers can wear Non-PHS badges earned while in another uniformed service if they provide a DD214 that lists them as awarded in Section 13, or provide equivalent documentation to the COAP Manager that the badge has actually been awarded; and

(4) Shoulder tabs and metallic shoulder tab replicas such as, the President’s Hundred, Ranger, Airborne, Special Forces, and other similar tabs are not authorized for wear on the Corps uniform.

f. All skill badges, either full size or miniature, must be of the same luster or finish (e.g., shiny or dull), no mixing of finishes.

6-27. Placement of Identification and Skill Badges.

a. Officers place the ASHOIC, SG, DSG, OIC, and CPO badges on their right side while the officer is in the incumbent of the corresponding position. After the officer completes a tour of duty in any of those offices, he/she wears the miniature badge on his/her right side above the name tag.

(1) Specifically, male officers must center the ASHOIC, SG, DSG, OIC, or CPO badges ¼ inch below the nametag (right side), centered on the shirt pocket under the pocket flap or centered in the location in the area on the right side corresponding to the left pocket tab of the service dress blue uniform.

(2) Female officers may also place these badges in these locations; alternatively, they may relocate the badge centered ¼ inch above the PHS name tag (right side), if they are the incumbent of the position.

(3) On Dinner Dress (i.e. dinner dress blue and dinner dress white) uniforms, male officers wear the badge on the right lapel, 3 inches below the notch and female officers wear it on the right lapel, down one-third the distance between the shoulder seam and coat hem.

(4) When wearing the Full Dress (i.e. full dress blue and full dress white), officers must center the ASHOIC, SG, DSG, OIC, or CPO badges ¼ inch above the ribbons.

(5) The Corps does not authorize the ASHOIC, SG, DSG, OIC, and CPO badges for officers in an acting or temporary position.
(6) Officer may wear only one ASHOIC, SG, DSG, OIC, or CPO badge at any time. Officers in a current role as ASG, PDASH, SG, DSG, OIC, or CPO shall wear the badge of office that is current. It is left to the officer’s discretion which badge to wear post-tour if he or she is authorized to wear multiple badges.

b. An officer wears Recruiter, ARL, AR, or ME badges on his/her left side and only while the officer has the responsibility for, or association with, Corps recruitment programs. When worn with a shirt as part of a service uniform, the ARL or the AR badge need not be directly affixed to the uniform if it is suspended from the button of the left pocket by a plastic fob so it is centered in the pocket area. Unlike with the ASHOIC, SG, DSG, OIC, and CPO badges, an officer may not wear the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges after the officer’s responsibility for, or association with recruitment ends.

(1) Specifically, male officers may place the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges (Service Dress, Summer Whites or Service Khakis) below the service ribbons, centered on the pocket below the pocket flap or ¼ inch below the pocket tab on the Service Dress uniform. If a male officer is wearing another authorized breast insignia in this location, the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges may be worn on the officer’s right side, centered on the pocket below the pocket flap or centered on the right side corresponding to the left pocket tab of the Service Dress uniform.

(2) Female officers may also place these badges in these locations; alternatively, female officers may relocate the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges to the area centered 1/4” inch above the PHS name tag.

(3) Officers place the Recruiter, ARL, AR, and ME badges on the right side of the uniform below the PHS name tag when worn with a ceremonial uniform and must be affixed directly to the uniform and not suspended with a plastic fob.

(4) Officers may not wear more than two identification badges at any time.

(5) There are no miniature versions of the Recruiter, ARL, AR or ME identification badges.

c. The FMRB is worn on the left side of the uniform ¼ inch above the left pocket or ribbons. For female officers only, if worn with an identification badge, the officer may wear the FMRB on the right side of the uniform ¼ inch above the name tag. (See Appendix C and D for examples of wearing the FMRB on Service Dress, Service Khaki, and Summer White uniform.)

d. The HHS ID badge is worn on the left side of the uniform.

(1) Specifically, male officers will wear the miniature HHS ID badge on summer white, service khaki, and dinner dress. The HHS ID badge is centered on the left pocket below the pocket flap.

(2) Female officers must wear the HHS ID badge, regardless of size, 1/4 inch above the left pocket or above the ribbons.

(3) The full sized HHS ID badge is worn on the SDB and SDW uniform. Male officers wear the full size HHS ID badge centered ¼ inch below the left pocket tab or below the lowest row of full sized medals on the left chest.
For dinner dress, males wear the miniature HHS ID badge centered ¼ inch below the lowest row of miniature medals and females wear it centered ¼ inch above the miniature medals.

e. Officers wear identification or skill badges earned in other uniformed services on the left side of the Corps uniform unless an authorized HHS identification or skill badge is already there. Officers may not wear more than two identification badges at any time.

(1) If no HHS identification badge is worn on the left pocket, officers can wear badges earned in another uniformed service, if authorized for post-tour wear by the issuing uniformed service, centered on the left pocket below the pocket flap. Female officers may wear the badge in this location or may alternatively place the badge above the left pocket or ribbons.

(2) If an HHS identification badge is already in this location, officers may place the non-HHS badge on the right side. Specifically, male officers may wear the badge centered below the nametag centered on the right side corresponding to the left pocket tab of the service dress blue uniform. Female officers may wear the badge in this location or may alternatively place the badge above the name tag on the right side.

(3) Officers must wear skill badges earned in other uniformed services (e.g., Parachute badge, Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer, Flight Wings) on the left side centered above the left pocket or ribbons.

(a) Officers must not wear more than two skill badges at any time.

(b) If a PHS skill badge and a non-PHS skill badge are worn together, the PHS badge is placed ¼ inch above the non-PHS skill badge.

(c) If the Corps authorizes a non-PHS skill badge for miniature wear on a service dress shirt, officers may wear the miniature badge. If no miniature is authorized, officers may wear the full sized skill badge. The Corps does not authorize the mixing of full sized and miniature sized badges.

(d) Officers wearing the service dress uniform must wear the full sized non-PHS skill badge, if authorized.

(4) The Corps does not authorize the wearing of U.S. Army Combat Service Identification Badges on the Corps uniform.

f. Badges that are worn centered above the ribbons or above the left pocket must be placed with a ¼ inch space above the pocket or ribbons. If an officer wears a second badge, it is placed with a ¼ inch space between the bottom of the top badge and the lower badge. Skill badges are not worn on the pocket flap or tab.

g. Officers who wear a badge centered above the name tag must place it with a ¼ inch space above the name tag. Officers must not wear more than one badge above the name tag.
h. The Corps authorizes the FMRB and/or other uniformed service skill badge patches on the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). However, officers must not wear more than 2 skill badge patches on the ODU.

1) The Corps does not authorize black metal skill badges for wear on the ODU.

2) The skill badge patch is placed on the left side of the ODU shirt with a ¼ inch space above the USPHS tape. If a second skill badge patch is worn, it is worn above the other patch, ¼ inch above the lower. A PHS skill badge patch (e.g., FMRB) will be worn above other services skill badge patch.

3) The Corps does not authorize combat and/or unit patches from another uniformed service (e.g., 82nd Airborne, 10th Air Base Wing) for wear on the ODU.

The skill badge patch will be in the appropriate color of the issuing service and will be on an ODU blue background. The Corps does not authorize olive drab or other color backgrounds (Navy Working Uniform digital, Airman’s Battle Uniform digital).

7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

7-1. The ASH is responsible for establishing policies related to wear of ribbons and medals.

7-2. All officers are responsible for adhering to the content of this instruction.

8. PROCEDURES:

8-1. Ribbon Holders/Racks.

a. Ribbons are worn in horizontal rows consisting of up to three ribbons in each row. When more than three ribbons are authorized, they are worn in horizontal rows of three each. If not in multiples of three, the uppermost row shall contain the lesser number and the center of this row is over the center of the ribbon below it. Ribbons are placed without intervals between ribbons or rows of ribbons. They are worn with the lower edge of the bottom row centered 1/4 inch above the left breast pocket and parallel to the floor. To avoid being covered by the coat lapel, ribbons may be aligned so the border is to wearer’s left and parallel with the left side of the pocket. Officers wearing ribbons on the right breast (i.e., when wearing Full Dress uniforms) must place them so the lower edge of the bottom row is centered ¼ inch above the right breast pocket, or wear the ribbons in the same relative position as if there were a pocket. (See Appendix C and D for examples of wearing ribbons on Service Dress, Service Khaki, and Summer White uniform.)

b. Officers must display ribbons which do not have a symmetrical color design or which have stars as part of the design as follows:

(1) Medal of Honor Ribbon. The stars should form an ‘M’ with a single ray of all stars pointing up.

(2) Navy and Marine Corps Ribbon. The blue stripe is inboard (to the wearer’s right).

(3) Navy Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. The blue stripe is uppermost.
(4) Merchant Marine Mariner’s Ribbon. The red stripe is to the wearer’s right.

(5) World War II Theater Ribbons. The blue stripe in the center is to the wearer’s right.

(6) Army and Navy Occupation Service Ribbons. The black stripe is to the wearer’s right.

(7) Philippine Defense Ribbon. The stars shall form a triangle, base down, with a single ray of all stars pointing up.

(8) Philippine Liberation Ribbon. The blue stripe in the center is to the wearer’s right.

(9) Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. The blue stripe is inboard and worn with the gold frame.

(10) Korean Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. The red portion of the circular device in the center is uppermost, worn with gold frame.

(11) Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. Worn with gold frame.

(12) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. The blue stripe in the center is worn to the wearer’s right.

(13) Combat Action Ribbon. The outermost blue stripe is to the wearer’s right.

(14) Kosovo Campaign Medal. The broad blue stripe is worn to the wearer’s right.

(15) Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait). The black stripe is uppermost.

(16) Reserve Officers Association. The red stripe is to the wearer’s right.

8-2. Large Medals.

a. When officers wear more than one medal, they suspend the medals from a holding bar of metal or other material of sufficient stiffness to support the weight of the medals. The holding bar of the lowest row of medals is located in the same position as the lowest ribbon bar. The bar is 4 1/8 inches wide and each row of medals is 3 1/4 inches long from top of ribbons to bottom of medals, so that the bottom of each medal constitutes a horizontal line. When more than one row is worn, no row is to contain a lesser number of medals than the row above. Except for the uppermost row, all rows shall contain the same number of medals, three medals side by side or up to five medals overlapping. Overlapping is equal, and right or inboard medal shall show in full. Upper rows of medals, if worn, are mounted so that these medals cover the suspension ribbons of the medals.

b. When either large or miniature medals are prescribed, officers wear the Medal of Honor pendant, the Assistant Secretary for Health Medallion, and Surgeon General’s Medallion from their respective suspension ribbons placed around the neck. When either of these medals is worn with the officer’s White Service coat, the ribbon shall pass outside the coat collar. When worn with all other coats, the ribbon shall pass between the shirt and coat collar.

a. On the male officer’s Dinner Dress jackets, the holding bar of the lowest row of miniature medals is positioned 3 inches below the notch and centered on the lapel, parallel to the ground. Three or more miniature medals are positioned starting at the inner edge of the lapel and extended beyond the lapel on the body of the jacket. When worn on the male officer’s Blue or White Service coats, the holding bar is centered immediately above the left breast pocket. When worn on the jacket of the female officer’s Dinner Dress uniform, the holding bar is worn in the same relative position as on the male's Dinner Dress jacket, down 1/3 of the distance from the shoulder seam to the coat hem. When worn on the female officer's Blue or White coats, the holding bar is centered immediately above the left pocket flap. Each row of miniatures is 2 1/4 inches long from top of ribbons to bottom of medals so that the bottom of each medal constitutes a horizontal line. Upper rows of medals are positioned so that these medals cover the ribbons of the medals.

b. When miniature medals are prescribed, officers wear the Medal of Honor, Assistant Secretary for Health Medallion, and the Surgeon General’s Medallion, which are not made in miniature, as described in Subsection 8-2.b.

8-4. Attachments to be Worn on Ribbons. See Appendix E for examples of how attachments are worn on ribbons.

a. Manner of Wearing.

(1) A single star is worn centered on the ribbon. If there is more than one star, stars are placed in a horizontal line close to and symmetrically about the center of the ribbon. A gold or bronze star worn in addition to a silver star is placed on the wearer's right, the second to the wearer's left, etc. When medals are worn overlapping, all stars may be worn to the wearer's left. Stars are placed on the ribbon with two rays pointing down.

(2) When medals overlap, officers must wear all attachments to the wearer's left centered on the visible portion of suspension ribbons. If all attachments are not visible after moving to the left, they may be worn vertically. Stars are placed on the ribbon with two rays pointing down.

(3) Bronze Letter ‘V’. The bronze letter ‘V’ may be worn on certain ribbons if the citation specifically authorizes the ‘V’ for valor (heroism): Authorized Corps decorations for the ‘V’ device include the Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Outstanding Service Medal. Wear only one ‘V’. Officers must arrange gold or silver stars indicating subsequent awards of the medal in a horizontal line beside the ‘V’ symmetrically in the center of the suspension ribbons of large size and miniature medals. Arrange them in a horizontal line on the ribbon bar with the ‘V’ in the center and the first star to the wearer's right, the second to the wearer's left, and so on.

(4) When wearing multiple stars of the same type, officers shall use the multiple star device corresponding to the required number of stars when possible to ensure proper orientation of stars and the most uniform appearance possible.

b. Corps Honor Awards. Gold and silver stars are worn on suspension ribbons of medals and on ribbon bars of the Corps' Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious
Service Medal, Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal, Outstanding Service Medal, Commendation Medal, Achievement Medal, and PHS Citation, as follows:

(1) **Gold Stars.** The Corps authorizes gold stars to be worn in lieu of a second or subsequent award of any of the above-mentioned medals. Officers wear the gold star on the suspension ribbon of large size medals and on ribbon bars is 5/16 inch in size. For miniature medals, the star is 1/8 inch in size.

(2) **Silver Stars.** The Corps authorizes silver stars in lieu of five gold stars. The size of silver stars is the same as that of the gold stars described above for the appropriate size ribbon or medal.

c. **Campaign, Unit, and Service Awards.** Officers wear bronze and silver stars on suspension ribbons and on ribbon bars of the campaign, unit, and service awards.

(1) The Corps authorizes bronze stars in lieu of a second or subsequent award of any of the above-mentioned awards. The bronze star to be worn on the ribbon bar is 3/16 inch in size.

(2) The Corps authorizes silver stars, 3/16 inch in size, in lieu of five bronze stars.

(3) Officers are to wear the expeditionary attachment centered on the suspension ribbon and ribbon bar.

d. **Attachments on Awards of Other Uniformed Services.** Attachments on ribbons Awarded by other uniformed services (stars, letter devices, clasps, oak leaf clusters, etc.) are worn as prescribed by the uniformed service concerned.

8-5. **Arrangement for Wearing Large Size or Miniature Medals, Number of Medals Per Row.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Medals to be worn</th>
<th>Prescribed Number of Rows</th>
<th>Top Row</th>
<th>2nd Row</th>
<th>3rd Row</th>
<th>4th Row</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
and so on.

9. **HISTORICAL NOTES:** This is the third issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS).


Appendix A

Wear of large-size medals (Full Dress Blue/White):

**Full Dress Blue Uniform**

Large medals are 1/4 inch from top of pocket to bottom of lowest medal bar. Skill badge, if worn, is 1/4 inch above top of highest row of medals.

Top of ribbons on right side of uniform should line up with top of lowest row of large medals on left side of uniform.

**Male Full Dress White Uniform**

The bottom of the ribbon bar for the lowest row of full size medals is ¼ inch above top of pocket. The bottom of the lowest row of ribbons over the right pocket are ¼ inch above the top of the pocket. The top of the first row of medals and ribbons should appear to be at the same level. Skill badges, if worn, are ¼ inch above top row of full medals.

The female Full Dress White uniform is different in appearance from the male Full Dress White uniform. The female version is similar in appearance to the female Full Dress Blue uniform.
Appendix B

Wear of miniature-size medals (Dinner Dress Blue/White):

*1/4" measured from top of pocket to bottom of lowest ribbon bar of miniature medals.

Per CC26.3.3, Section 6-19, the COA ribbon is only authorized for wear only while participating in COA activities as a member of the organization. It is not authorized for routine daily wear.

Wear of miniature-size medals: (Dinner Dress Blue/White Jacket):

Miniature medals are arranged in an identical manner on the Dinner Dress Blue jacket uniform for Male Officers.
Appendix C

Wear of ribbons/skill badges on Service Khaki or Summer White uniform:

Spacing of ribbons and skill badges is the same on the Female Service Khaki Uniform.

Per CC26.3.3, Section 6-1, wear of the senior three ribbons only is permitted. However, per CC26.3.4/5 the wear of the senior three ribbons only is NOT permitted on the Service Dress Blue and Service Dress White uniform. All approved ribbons should be worn with these uniforms.
Appendix D

Wear of ribbons and badges on Service Dress Blues:

Left pocket with ribbons ¼ inch above top of pocket flap. Skill badge, if worn, is ¼ inch above top of ribbons.

(Male Service Dress Blue Uniform is similar)

Left Justified: Per CC26.3.3, Section 8.1.a, to avoid being covered by the coat lapel, ribbons may be aligned so the border is to wearer’s left and parallel with the left side of the pocket.
Appendix E

Examples of How Attachments are Worn on Ribbons
Appendix E (cont.)

Examples of How Attachments are Worn on Ribbons

1 Unit Commendation

2 Unit Commendations

3 Unit Commendations

4 Unit Commendations

5 Unit Commendations

6 Unit Commendations

7 Unit Commendations

8 Unit Commendations

9 Unit Commendations
Appendix F

Wear of Large and Miniature Insignia

Regular Insignia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LARGE INSIGNIA (FULL SIZE BADGES/FULL SIZE MEDALS)</th>
<th>MINIATURE INSIGNIA (MINATURE BADGES/MINIATURE MEDALS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE DRESS BLUE</td>
<td>DINNER DRESS BLUE JACKET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULL DRESS BLUE</td>
<td>DINNER DRESS WHITE JACKET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE DRESS WHITE</td>
<td>DINNER DRESS BLUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULL DRESS WHITE</td>
<td>DINNER DRESS WHITE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SUMMER WHITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SERVICE KHAKI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Command Insignia*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LARGE INSIGNIA (FULL SIZE BADGES/FULL SIZE MEDALS)</th>
<th>MINIATURE INSIGNIA (MINATURE BADGES/MINIATURE MEDALS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE DRESS BLUE</td>
<td>DINNER DRESS BLUE JACKET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULL DRESS BLUE</td>
<td>DINNER DRESS WHITE JACKET</td>
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<tr>
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<td>FULL DRESS WHITE</td>
<td>DINNER DRESS WHITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE DRESS BLUE</td>
<td>SUMMER WHITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE KHAKI</td>
<td>SERVICE KHAKI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Post tour all Command insignia are miniature regardless of the uniform worn