



EFFECTIVE DATE: **CCD 131.01**
16 July 2020

By Order of the Secretary of Health and Human Services:

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SUBJECT: Uniform Regulations

1. PURPOSE: This Directive prescribes regulations governing uniforms for the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps).
2. APPLICABILITY: This Directive applies to all members of the Regular Corps and the Ready Reserve Corps.
3. AUTHORITY:
 - 3-1. [42 U.S.C. § 216](#), "Regulations"
 - 3-2. [42 U.S.C. § 217](#)
 - 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," 29 FR 1637, reprinted as amended under 42 U.S.C. § 202, dated 30 January 1964
 - 3-6. [68 FR 70507](#) dated 18 December 2003
4. PROPONENT: The proponent of this Directive is the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (Secretary, Department, or HHS). The Surgeon General (SG) has responsibility for ensuring the day-to-day management of the Corps.
5. SUMMARY OF REVISIONS AND UPDATES: This is the second issuance of this Directive within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (eCCIS) and replaces Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC46.3.1, "Uniform Regulations," dated 29 September 2009. This version:
 - 5-1. Extends applicability to the Ready Reserve Corps.

6. POLICY:

- 6-1. **Mandatory Wearing of the Uniform.** All officers are required, except as noted in Section 6-1.a.-e., to wear the Corps uniform in the performance of their official Regular Corps or Ready Reserve Corps duties. Officers who fail to wear the uniform as directed may be subject to disciplinary actions pursuant to Commissioned Corps Directive (CCD) [111.02](#), "Disciplinary Actions."
- a. An officer participating in the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP) or Senior COSTEP is not required, but encouraged to wear the Corps uniform.
 - b. Officers assigned to a military service or a Department of Defense (DoD) duty station, as a student to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), and/or the United States Coast Guard, for extended active duty, will wear the uniform prescribed by the program to which the officer is assigned. This does not relieve the officer from the responsibility to own and wear the Corps uniform to meet other Corps requirements as appropriate.
 - c. An organization to which a Corps officer is assigned or detailed may request that a Corps officer in a specific assignment and/or billet not be required to wear the uniform in the performance of his/her official duties. A request for exception shall specifically address why wearing the uniform is not in the best interest of the officer, the organization, and the Corps. However, an approved exception does not relieve the officer from the responsibility to own and wear the Corps uniform to meet other Corps requirements as appropriate.
 - d. In concert with the National Uniform Authority (NUA), the Local Uniform Authority (LUA) determines under what circumstances officers are not required to wear the uniform for brief and infrequent periods, or for a specific activity which is short and limited in duration.
 - e. An officer in a location other than the United States (the United States includes the 50 U.S. States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia) is prohibited from wearing the uniform unless specifically directed or authorized to wear the uniform by the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG).
- 6-2. **General.** With the exception of a special purpose uniform situation, the various Corps uniforms shall be comprised of basic clothing articles that are prescribed for wear by U.S. Navy officers. Each uniform shall include insignia as necessary to distinguish the wearer as a Corps officer and to indicate the officer's grade. The Corps may prescribe distinctive uniform components in addition to the basic insignia, listed in Section 6-3. However, all uniforms shall be made distinctive by incorporation of the appropriate basic insignia; any additional distinctive items prescribed by the Corps shall supplement, but not replace, the basic insignia.
- a. A special purpose uniform situation is a situation in which the normally available U.S. Navy uniforms are inappropriate or inadequate to meet the needs of the Corps (e.g., Extreme Cold Weather gear or Desert Combat Uniforms).
- 6-3. **Description of Insignia.** The basic uniform insignia shall be as follows:
- a. **Corps Device.** A device of gold-colored metal, lace or thread consisting of a fouled anchor and caduceus as in the seal of the Corps, with the anchor and the caduceus having the same length. The Director, Commissioned Corps

Headquarters (CCHQ), in conjunction with the Institute of Heraldry, U.S. Army (IOH), shall prescribe the Military Specifications (MilSpec) for the size(s) in which the Corps Device may be made. Except when incorporated as part of the Cap Device, Collar Insignia, Field Medical Readiness Badge/patch, PHS name tag or the subdued PHS unit patch, the Corps Device shall be placed on the uniform such that the staff of the caduceus is vertical and the anchor is pointing inward;

- b. **Cap Device.** An ornament of gold colored metal consisting of a shield with 5 vertical stripes and 13 stars on the chief of the shield arranged in two horizontal rows, topped with an eagle, head facing to the right, and with the Corps device in the background. The Director, CCHQ, in conjunction with IOH, shall prescribe the MilSpec for the size(s) in which the Cap Device may be made. The gold colored lace or thread Cap Device for the male or female combination cover is not authorized;
 - c. **Buttons.** Corps metal buttons are MilSpec gold-colored or anodized and carry an embossed design consisting of a fouled anchor and caduceus as in the seal of the Corps. Buttons are positioned on the uniform such that the staff of the caduceus is vertical. Buttons are designated as to size by the use of a "line" count (e.g., a 40-line button is 1 inch in diameter);
 - d. **Chin Strap.** An adjustable sliding strap of MilSpec leather or appropriate synthetic material, faced with a gold colored lace or thread. The strap is ½ inch wide and has a 1/16 inch wide maroon band running lengthwise. The strap is equipped with 2 slides and is fastened to the cap frame by two 22 ½ line PHS gilt buttons. The chin strap with the red band is not authorized. The chin strap is worn with all male combination caps and only with female combination caps for the Full Grade (LCDR/O-4) and below; and
 - e. **Collar Insignia.** A Corps Device shall be worn on the left shirt collar tip of the appropriate uniform. The miniature Rank Device shall be worn on the right shirt collar tip of the appropriate uniform.
- 6-4. **Special Purpose Uniform.** The Corps may prescribe the use of special purpose uniforms that are not authorized in Navy regulations whenever there is a clear need to use such a uniform in well-defined circumstances. For use with special purpose uniforms, the basic insignia may be made in colors and materials other than those mentioned in Section 6-3.
- 6-5. **Use of Uniforms and/or Insignia by Other than Corps Officers.** Persons who are neither Corps officers nor former Corps officers shall not wear the uniform or any of its distinctive parts, except in the following circumstances:
- a. **Special Situations.**
 - (1) Persons not in uniform and not representing themselves to be Corps officers may wear the Corps Device, Cap Device, or ornamental jewelry resembling Corps insignia on occasions intended to honor a Corps officer.
 - (2) The Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs may authorize the wearing of Corps uniforms and insignia by models and actors. If such wear is for other than official Corps purposes, it may be authorized only upon the condition that it will not be used in a way as to disgrace or ridicule the Corps, Department, or the Federal government.
 - b. Retired Corps officers and Corps officers in the Inactive Reserve Corps may wear the uniform in accordance with policies established by the Assistant Secretary for

Health (ASH).

7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

7-1. The ASH is responsible for establishing policies related to uniforms.

7-2. All officers are responsible for adhering to the guidelines established in this Directive.

8. HISTORICAL NOTES: This is the second issuance of this Directive within the eCCIS.

8-1. CC46.3.1, "Uniform Regulations," dated 29 September 2009.

8-2. CC46.3.1, "Uniform Regulations," dated 17 July 1987.