

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service

Chapter CC23--Staffing
Subchapter CC23.3--Appointment; General
Personnel INSTRUCTION 2--Appointment of Conscientious Objectors as
Commissioned Officers of the Public Health Service

Section A. Purpose and Scope

This Instruction outlines the policy for appointment as commissioned officers in the Public Health Service, registrants who have been classified as conscientious objectors. The policy is in accordance with Selective Service Regulations prescribed by the President under authority of the Universal Military Training and Service Act.

Section B. Selective Service Classification

1. Conscientious objectors are classified 1-A-0 or 1-0, by Selective Service Boards.
 - a. Conscientious objectors in Class 1-A-0 are available for noncombatant military service.
 - b. Conscientious objectors in Class 1-0 are opposed to noncombatant military service and are subject to call by local Selective Service boards for assignment to the performance of civilian work contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety, or interest. Work appropriate to be performed by Class 1-0 registrants has been limited by Selective Service Regulations to the following:
 - (1) Employment by the United States Government, or by a State, Territory, or Possession of the United States or by a political subdivision thereof, or by the District of Columbia; and
 - (2) Employment by a nonprofit organization primarily engaged in a charitable activity conducted for the benefit of the general public or in carrying out a program for the improvement of the public health or welfare, including educational and scientific activities in support thereof, when such activity or program is not principally for the benefit of the members of the employing organization nor for increasing the membership thereof.

Section C. Service Policy

1. Conscientious objectors in Class 1-A-0 will be considered for appointment to the Commissioned Corps or for other kinds of employment in the Public Health Service in accordance with generally applicable procedures and requirements.
2. Conscientious objectors in Class 1-0 cannot be accepted for a commission in the Public Health Service since the President has general authority, in time of war or national emergency, to utilize the Public Health Service in the public interest, and the Commissioned Corps may become, by Executive Order, a military service in time of war or national emergency. However, registrants in this class may be considered for civil service or other civilian employment in the Public Health Service because employment in public health agencies falls within the kinds of civilian work appropriate for performance by conscientious objectors in lieu of induction. Appointment of this class of registrants to civil service positions shall be governed by the policy contained in DHEW Personnel Manual, HEW Personnel Instruction 300-1-50.
3. Registrants classified as conscientious objectors who are accepted for commission in the Public Health Service will be subject to the same policies, rules, regulations, and requirements, and will be entitled to the same pay, benefits, and privileges, as are other commissioned personnel in like positions in the Public Health Service.