



**CC26.3.3**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE: 28 August 2008**

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**By Order of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health:**

**ADM Joxel Garcia, USPHS**

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SUBJECT: Wear of Ribbons and Medals

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Instruction is to prescribe the manner in which ribbons and medals 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 Regular Corps and Reserve Corps officers on extended active duty and to officers called to active duty for short tours of duty or limited tours of duty.
3. **AUTHORITY:**
  - 3-1. [42 USC 202](#)
  - 3-2. [42 USC 216](#)
  - 3-3. [Executive Order 11140](#), dated 30 January 1964
4. **PROPONENT:** The proponent of this Instruction is the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH). The responsibility for assuring the day-to-day management of the Corps is the Surgeon General.
5. **SUMMARY OF REVISIONS AND UPDATES:** This is the first issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (eCCIS) and amends Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) [CC27.9.1](#), "Authorization to Wear Non-PHS Awards." It replaces CC26.3.3, "Wearing Ribbons and Medals," dated 15 July 1993, and amends Manual Circular 372, "Revisions of Uniform Policies," dated 21 April 2003, and creates a stand alone Instruction within the eCCIS.

**UPDATE:** 16 September 2008. This version includes the clarifications and amendments of PPM 08-021, "Technical Revision of CC26.3.3," dated 15 September 2008.

**UPDATE:** 7 January 2009. This version includes the amendments contained in [PPM 09-002](#), "Global Health Campaign Medal," and [PPM 09-003](#), "Global Health Initiative Service Medal," both dated 18 December 2008.

## 6. POLICY:

- 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).
- 6-2. Corps officers who have received awards from other uniformed services, other Agencies/Departments of the Federal government, or foreign governments, shall wear such awards on the Corps uniform only as designated in this Instruction. If awards are from prior military service, awards must be documented on a Department of Defense (DOD) Form DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or a Form DD-215, Correction to DD-214.
- 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), Coast Guard (USCG), and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which are not included in this Section, but which are of equal importance to Corps awards listed here, are worn in the order specified by the respective uniformed service. In all cases of relative priority, Corps awards take precedence.
- a. Individual Corps honor awards take precedence for 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. 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) are not authorized on the Corps uniform.
- 6-4. Individual Honor Award.
- 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, Army, Air Force)  
 Navy 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)  
 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. Listed below, in order of precedence, are Corps unit awards and uniformed service decorations which are authorized for wear on the Corps uniform.
- b.
  - Presidential Unit Citation (All Services)
  - Joint Meritorious Unit Award
  - Outstanding Unit Citation (PHS)
  - DOT Outstanding Unit Award (USCG)
  - Army Valorous Unit Award
  - Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
  - Unit Commendation (PHS)
  - Unit Commendation Ribbon (All Services)
  - Meritorious Unit Commendation (All Services)
  - Army Superior Unit Award
  - Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation
  - Navy "E" Ribbon
  - Coast Guard "E" Ribbon
  - Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

6-6. Non-Uniform Service Decorations.

- a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are decorations which are non-uniformed service decorations authorized for wear on the Corps uniform.
- b. Precedence is the order of date of acceptance unless the officer receives two or more decorations from the same Agency/Department. Wear of those

decorations is according to the precedence established by the awarding Agency/Department, disregarding the date of acceptance. This list may not be all inclusive; awards not listed will be evaluated for inclusion by the Director, Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO):

- c. Presidential Medal of Freedom  
 Presidential Citizens Medal  
 National Security Medal  
 National Sciences Medal  
 Medal for Merit  
 President's Distinguished Federal Civilian Service Medal  
 National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal  
 National Intelligence Medal of Achievement  
 Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award  
 Secretary of Defense Civilian Meritorious Service Award  
 Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Distinguished Service Medal  
 BOP Meritorious Service Medal  
 BOP Commendation Medal  
 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gold Medal  
 EPA Silver Medal  
 EPA Bronze Medal  
 EPA Distinguished Career Award  
 Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award  
 Navy Award for Distinguished Achievement Science  
 Navy Superior Civilian Service Award  
 Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award  
 Navy Distinguished Public Service Award  
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Distinguished Service Medal  
 NASA Flight Medal  
 NASA Medal for Exceptional Bravery  
 NASA Medal for Exceptional Service  
 Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal  
 Merchant Marine Meritorious Service Medal  
 Merchant Marine Mariners Medal  
 Selective Service Distinguished Service Medal  
 Selective Service Exceptional Service Award  
 Selective Service Meritorious Service Award  
 Department of Commerce (DOC) Gold Medal  
 DOC Silver Medal  
 DOC Bronze Medal  
 Department of Energy Secretary's Gold Award Medal
- d. Non-uniformed service decorations are not worn on the Corps uniform unless at least one uniformed service award is worn at the same time.
- e. Attachments (i.e., stars, letters, numbers, etc.) for non-uniformed service awards should be worn in the manner authorized by the issuing Agency/Department. If the issuing Agency/Department does not specify the manner for wear of attachments, then all attachments for individual and unit honor awards should be worn in the same manner as they are worn 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.
- b. As new campaign, and service awards are authorized, they will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Director, OCCO, to determine appropriate order of precedence for wear.

Smallpox Eradication Campaign Ribbon  
 Global Health 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 Initiative Service Medal  
 Bicentennial Unit Commendation

6-8. Uniformed Service Campaign and Service Awards.

- a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are the uniformed service campaign, service, and training awards that may be authorized for wear 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 Airman 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 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  
 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  
 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  
 Naval Reserve Medal (obsolete)  
 Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon (obsolete)  
 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 Awards

a. Listed below is the Corps training award. As new training awards are authorized,

they will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Director, OCCO, to determine appropriate order of precedence for wear.

- b. Commission 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, OCCO, may authorize officers who have earned medals or ribbons while serving with another uniformed service to wear such medals or ribbons. Awards not mentioned above will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Director, OCCO, 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) No foreign award is worn on the uniform unless at least one U.S. award is worn 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. Foreign awards, such as stars, sashes, orders, or other devices which 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, may be worn 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. These awards are worn 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 (see [CC26.3.1](#), "Uniforms and

Appearance"), the wearing of such decoration is limited to specific public functions within the United States.

- 6-14. Vietnam. Foreign awards to U.S. military personnel for service in Vietnam which may be worn on the Corps uniform are listed below in the following order of precedence:

National Order of Vietnam  
Military Merit Medal  
Army Distinguished Service Order  
Air Force Distinguished Service Order  
Navy Distinguished Service Order  
Army Meritorious Service Medal  
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal  
Navy Meritorious Service Medal  
Special Service Medal  
Gallantry Cross  
Air Gallantry Cross  
Navy Gallantry Cross  
Hazardous Service Medal  
Life Saving Medal  
Armed Forces Honor Medal  
Staff Service Medal  
Technical Service Medal  
Training Service Medal  
Civil Actions Medal

- 6-15. Foreign Unit Awards. The following awards, listed in order of precedence, do not require individual legislative authorization and may be authorized for wear immediately after all foreign decorations:

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation  
Korean Presidential Unit Citation  
Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation  
Vietnam Gallantry Meritorious Unit Citation\* (Gallantry Cross Color with Palm)  
Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation\* (Civil Actions Color First Class Color with Palm)

\*Note: Only the initial award (ribbon with frame and palm) may be worn.

- 6-16. Non-U.S. Service Awards. Non-U.S. service awards may be authorized for wear immediately after foreign unit awards as follows:

Philippine Defense Ribbon  
Philippine Liberation Ribbon  
Philippine Independence Ribbon  
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:

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal  
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)



Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait)  
Korea War Service Medal

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

Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon  
Navy Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon  
Coast Guard Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon  
Coast Guard Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon  
NOAA Corps Rifle Ribbon (obsolete)  
NOAA Corps Pistol Ribbon (obsolete)  
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 officers may be authorized to wear on the Corps uniform after all uniformed service ribbons, foreign decorations and non-U.S. Service Awards. Medals and ribbons sold by these organizations may be worn only while actually attending meetings, conventions or while participating in parades or other ceremonies as a member of these organizations. These ribbons/medals are not authorized 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.

- 6-20. Ribbons shall not be impregnated with preservatives which change the appearance of the ribbon, nor shall they be worn 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. A minimum of three ribbons is worn by those possessing three or more; all ribbons may be worn, if desired. If only one row of ribbons is worn, it shall consist of the three senior ribbons.
- 6-22. When full size medals are prescribed, ribbons having no corresponding large medals are worn 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.
- 6-23. When miniature medals are prescribed, ribbons for which no medals are provided are NOT worn.
- 6-24. Large Medals.
- a. Large medals are worn on Full Dress uniforms, and are not worn on other uniforms.
  - b. The arrangement of medals is in order of precedence from top down and from inboard to outboard within rows. All medals may be worn; however, a minimum

of five must be worn by those possessing five or more. If only one row of medals is worn, it shall consist of the five senior medals.

6-25. Miniature Medals.

- a. Miniature medals are worn with all Formal Dress uniforms and 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. All medals may be worn; however, a minimum of five must be worn by those possessing five or more. If only one row of medals is worn, it shall consist of the five senior medals.

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

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. Ribbons worn on the right breast (i.e., when wearing Full Dress uniforms) are worn with the lower edge of the bottom row centered 1/4 inch above the right breast pocket, or ribbons are worn in the same relative position as if there were a pocket.
- b. Ribbons which do not have a symmetrical color design or which have stars as part of the design are displayed 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 more than one medal is worn, they are suspended 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, both the Medal of Honor pendant and the Surgeon General's Medallion are worn 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.

#### 8-3. Miniature Medals.

- a. On the male officer's Formal and 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 Formal Dress uniform or 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, the Medal of Honor and the Surgeon

General's Medallion, which are not made in miniature, are worn as described in Subsection 8-2.b.

8-4. Attachments to be 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, 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'. 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 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. Gold stars are authorized to be worn in lieu of a second or subsequent award of any of the above-mentioned medals. The gold star to be worn on the suspension ribbon of large and on ribbon bars is 5/16 inch in size. For miniature medals, the star is 1/8 inch in size.
- (2) Silver Stars. Silver stars are authorized in lieu of five gold stars. The size of silver stars is the same size as gold stars above for the appropriate size ribbon or medal.
- (3) Oak Leaf Clusters and Numerals. For miniature medals, the cluster or numeral is of either bronze or silver and 5/16 inch in size.

c. Corps Unit and Service Awards. Bronze and silver stars are worn on ribbon bars of the Outstanding Unit Citation, Unit Commendation, Corps Hazardous Duty

Award, Foreign Duty Award, Special Assignment Award, Isolated Hardship Award, Crisis Response Service Medal, Response Service Award, Global Response Service Award and Recruitment Service Award.

- (1) Bronze stars are authorized 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) Silver stars, 3/16 inch in size, are authorized in lieu of five bronze stars.

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 or Miniature Medals, Number of Medals Per Row.

Number of Medals to be worn	Prescribed Number of Rows	Top Row	2nd Row	3rd Row	4th Row
1-5	1 row only	1-5			
6	2	3	3		
7	2	3	4		
8	2	4	4		
9	2	4	5		
10	2	5	5		
11	3	3	4	4	
12	3	4	4	4	
13	3	3	5	5	
14	3	4	5	5	
15	3	5	5	5	
16	4	4	4	4	4
and so on					

9. HISTORICAL NOTES: This is the first issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (eCCIS) and amends Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC27.9.1, "Authorization to Wear Awards." It replaces CC26.3.3, "Wearing Ribbons and Medals," dated 15 July 1993, and amends Manual Circular 372, "Revisions of Uniform Policies," dated 21 April 2003, and creates a stand alone Instruction within the eCCIS.