Section A. Purpose and Scope

The regulations set forth in this INSTRUCTION establish the category titles of Public Health Service (PHS) commissioned officers other than medical officers. The regulations also set forth the conditions under which officers may use specialty designations and military titles.

Section B. Authority

The statutory authority to divide the PHS Commissioned Corps into professional categories is set forth in Section 209(a) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 210b(a)). The authority to prescribe titles, appropriate to the several grades, for PHS commissioned officers other than medical officers, is contained in Section 206(b) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 207(b)). The authority to prescribe regulations relating to category titles and to the use of military titles of rank is set forth in Section 215 of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 216).
Section C. Category Titles of Officers Other Than Medical Officers

The category titles of officers, other than medical officers, in the junior assistant, assistant, senior assistant, full, and senior grades, shall be "dental surgeon," "nurse officer," "engineer officer," "scientist," "environmental health officer," "veterinary officer," "pharmacist," "dietitian," "therapist," or "health services officer." The category titles of officers, other than medical officers, in the director grade shall be the term "director" preceded by the term "dental," "nurse," "engineer," "scientist," "environmental health," "veterinary," "pharmacist," "dietitian," "therapist," or "health services." The title of officers, other than medical officers, in the grade of Assistant Surgeon General shall be "Assistant Surgeon General," except that following such grade designation, there shall be added a parenthetical identification such as "dental," or "engineer."

Section D. Designation of Specialties

Scientist officers and other officers having generally descriptive titles, in using their titles in correspondence outside the Department and in the programs of scientific meetings, may designate their specialties in parentheses following their names and titles, as, for example, Richard Roe, Senior Scientist (Entomologist).

Section E. Military Titles

A PHS commissioned officer may use the naval title of rank corresponding to his/her grade for identification purposes when in uniform and in official correspondence, as, for example, Richard R., Commander, USPHS.

Date: 10/1/95

Secretary

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