



EFFECTIVE DATE: **CC26.3.2**
14 March 2008

By Order of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health:

Donald Wright, M.D., M.P.H.

SUBJECT: Required Wear of the Uniform

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Instruction is to establish requirements for the daily duty wear of the uniform of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps).
2. APPLICABILITY: This issuance applies to all Regular 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 216](#)
 - 3-2. [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 replaces Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC26.3.2, Directive to Wear the Public Health Service Uniform, dated 15 July 1993. This issuance replaces the information from the previous Instruction of the CCPM, and creates a stand alone Instruction within the eCCIS.

6. POLICY:

- 6-1. While on official duty, all Corps officers shall wear the official Corps uniform of their temporary grade when assigned by an official personnel order for extended active duty, short tours of duty, or limited tours of duty. An officer who does not meet any of the exemptions and exceptions noted in Section 6-2, must wear the uniform on a daily basis while on official duty.
- 6-2. Exemptions from and Exceptions to Requirement to Wear the Uniform.
- 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 duty station, as a student to the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, 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. A non-Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) organization to which a Corps officer is detailed, may request that a Corps officer in a specific assignment and/or billet not be required to wear the uniform. A request for exception shall specifically address why wearing the uniform is not in the best interest of the officer, the non-HHS 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, Northern Mariana 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).
- 6-3. Failure to comply with wearing of the uniform, improper wear, and/or unauthorized uniforms, components, devices, or awards may subject the officer to disciplinary action.
- 6-4. An officer is entitled to a one-time uniform allowance when directed to wear the uniform. For additional information, see [CC22.4.3](#), "Uniform and Equipment Allowance."

7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

- 7-2. The NUA is responsible for establishing the Corps' uniform guidelines, and for designating the LUAs.
 - 7-3. LUAs are responsible for prescribing which uniforms may be worn within their respective area of responsibility.
8. PROCEDURES:
- 8-1. This Instruction will be phased in upon signature, with a mandatory wear date of 1 July 2008.
 - 8-2. An exception request must be endorsed by the non-HHS organization Head, as appropriate, and be submitted for review to the Director, Office of Commissioned Corps Operations, with final concurrence by the OSG.
9. HISTORICAL NOTES: This is the first issuance of this Instruction within the eCCIS and replaces CCPM CC26.3.2 dated 15 July 1993. This issuance replaces the information from the previous Instruction of the CCPM, and creates a stand alone Instruction within the eCCIS.