



# With Pride & Distinction

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## Junior Officer Advisory Group

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### History of Nursing in the PHS

Contributed by LCDR Karen Ho Chaves & LT Chitra Mahadevan

Prior to and during WWI, nurses, in particular, became a central part of the Public Health Service. Nurses staffed Ellis Island, the trachoma clinics, the Marine Hospitals, and the PHS Pellagra Hospital. During WWI, PHS nurses, working as civilians, served in extra-cantonment and venereal disease work and in hospitals caring for veterans. In 1919, Lucy Minnegerode (of the Red Cross) was appointed by Surgeon General Blue as the PHS Superintendent of Nurses.

One of the most remarkable changes in American society during WWII was the entrance of women into the work force. As the war progressed, the chronic national nursing shortage became increasingly problematic. In 1943, the PHS, in consultation with nursing and defense agency leadership, determined that 65,000 women (10% of all high school graduates that year) would need to be recruited into nursing to address the nationwide shortage. As a result, the Nurse Training Act of 1943 was passed, creating a \$65 million program called the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. Full tuition

scholarships, a \$15/month stipend, and the promise of "an education for life" provided incentive to join. The 65,000 recruitment goal was easily reached in 1943. Cadet Nurses enrolled in approved programs and committed to 2 years of assigned service following training. The Division of Nurse Education was created to run the program with Lucile Petry Leone, the first woman to head a PHS division, appointed as director.

During the program's lifetime, from 1943-1949, 85% of nursing schools in the country trained 124,000 nurses. The program also recruited and trained a total of 3,000 nurses, with 21 nursing schools and 38 schools with integrated classes participating. Nursing established itself as a strong and permanent presence within the PHS with Lucile Petry Leone becoming the first nurse and the first woman to achieve the rank of Assistant Surgeon General (equivalent of Rear Admiral) in 1949, making her the first woman in the United States Uniformed Services to achieve flag rank. (Mullan, Fitzhugh. *Plagues and Politics: The Story of the United States Public Health Service*. New York: Basic, 1989. Print.)

### Trivia: What items from the BDU can be used with the ODU?

### SHOES- DID YOU KNOW ?

Contributed by

LT Erin Harman & LT Katie Burbage

Did you know that when it comes to shoes, officers have options? Officers not only have a choice of color, but also choices in style depending on what uniform is worn and what working conditions exist. All officers have the option of dress shoe, safety boot, overshoes, and rain/snow boots. Female officers also have service and formal shoe options. Ladies, don't forget the color of your handbag must match the color of shoe worn!

Service shoes, authorized for female officers only, are identical to the male officers' dress shoe with the exception of four eyelet pairs versus five. Service shoe heels shall be an outside heel 5/8 – 1 inch high, and the sole shall be 3/16 – 3/8 inch thick. Male officers' dress shoes are plain toed, oxford

style, low quarter (for those of you wondering, low quarter simply means low ankle shoe), lace shoes, made of smooth or synthetic leather. Men's dress shoe heels shall be an outside heel 3/4 - 7/8 inch high with a flat sole. Female officers' dress shoes are plain dress pumps made of smooth or synthetic leather with closed heels and toes. Formal shoes are plain dress flats made of suede, silk, or peau de soie (code name satin). *Note that dress shoes are heels; formals shoes are flats.* Pump heels shall be no less than 5/8 inch and no higher than 2- 5/8 inch when measured from the forward edge of the heel; also, the width of the heel shall not be wider than 1



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**Trivia Answer: The web belt and boots** (with the exception of no jungle boots with green).

[Did You Know continued...](#)

¾ inch at the base and the sole no thicker than ¼ inch. Wedge heels are not authorized.

Additionally, a rounded toe on heels is the standard. Pointed toe heels are considered faddish and eccentric and are not authorized. A descriptor outlining this will soon be returned to the uniform regulations. So ladies, save those “witch shoes” for Halloween! It goes without saying, but all shoes must be clean and in good repair, when applicable shined and/or polished. Lace up shoes should be laced from the inside out through all of the eyelets and be kept tied.



According to the regulations, overshoes are black rubber, conventional, and low cut. Raise your hand if you know what an overshoe is... An overshoe, like its name implies, goes over a shoe. It’s an ankle rubber boot. Rain or snow boots are made of plain black vinyl or leather and may be from mid-calf to knee-high. All fasteners must be closed and may only be worn during inclement weather with an outer garment and be removed indoors. The regulations describe safety shoes as leather shoes, in lace and chukka styles, plain toe with no stitching patterns or decoration. **However, the chukka style is no longer an option and is being deleted from the new policies.** Safety shoes must have a hard box or safety toe and be water resistant with outsoles constructed from heat and flame resistant nitrile rubber. Stay tuned for changes to the safety shoe in the regulations.

Male officers’ dress **black** shoes are required for the Dinner Dress Blue Jacket, Dinner Dress White Jacket, Dinner Dress Blue, Full Dress Blue, Service Dress Blue, Modified Service Dress Blue, and Service Khaki. **White** dress shoes are required for the Dinner Dress White, Fully Dress White, Service Dress White, and Summer White uniforms. **Brown** dress shoes may be worn with Service Khaki. **Black** safety or **brown** dress shoes may be worn with coveralls, while **black** dress shoes are prescribable. Prescribable items are elements that officers may be directed to wear or may be worn at the officer’s discretion unless directed otherwise. *Note that brown shoes, unlike black or white, MUST be Navy-certified brown leather and be procured from the Navy Uniform Service distribution center.* Furthermore, khaki socks are only an option when wearing the brown shoe.

Uniform	Shoes						
	Formal Black	Service / Dress Black	Service / Dress White	Dress Brown	Black Safety Boot	Black Combat Boot	Green Jungle or Brown Boot
DDB, DDBJ, DDWJ	X	X					
FDB, SDB, MSDB		X					
FDW, DDW, SDW, SW			X				
SK		X		X			
Coveralls		X		X	X		
ODU					X	X	
BDU					X	X	X

DDB=dinner dress blue, DDBJ=dinner dress blue jacket, DDWJ=dinner dress white jacket, FDB=full dress blue, SDB=service dress blue, MSDB=modified service dress blue, FDW=full dress white, DDW=dinner dress white, SDW=service dress white, SW=service white, SK=service khaki, ODU=operational dress uniform, BDU=battle dress uniform

You’ve got the details now, so walk the walk. Choose the correct shoes for uniform wear and represent the Commissioned Corps with pride and distinction!