



With Pride & Distinction

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Junior Officer Advisory Group

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History of the Environmental Health Officer Category

Contributed by LCDR Mike Reed

According to historical documents, the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) category was developed in the early 1940s during the reshaping of the U.S. Public Health service. The first sanitarians were called to active duty through legislation that took place over a two-year period, 1943 and 1944, in which two acts of Congress extended the Surgeon General's ability to include additional disciplines into the Commissioned Corps.

Since that time, EHOs have played a significant role in improving health and quality of life in both domestic and international settings. They have been directly involved in many of the nation's most significant public health successes and currently serve in over 11 agencies within the federal government. Additional officers are detailed throughout the US and abroad in positions critical to our nation's public health security.

EHOs are highly skilled professionals with qualifying

degrees in Environmental Health & Safety, Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Safety & Health, or hold professional credentials as Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIH) or Health Physicists (CHP).

With 356 active duty officers in 2013, EHOs carry out a wide variety of activities in diverse settings. Examples include epidemiological surveillance, disease prevention, radiological health, industrial hygiene, food safety, injury prevention, and education. With response roles that are ever-evolving, EHOs respond during emergencies, such as natural disasters, to protect the public from environmental threats and assist with recovery efforts.

Since the inception of the category, Environmental Health Officers have continually demonstrated their commitment to "advancing and protecting the nation's health." Their multidisciplinary skill set fills a critical role in our nation's public health system.

Trivia: In what year were specifications for the PHS Flag formally established?

Bags & Women's Handbags- DID YOU KNOW ?

*Contributed by
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Bags

All bags must be black, brown, or navy blue with the exception of the olive drab GI Duffel Bag. All bags must conceal their contents and be in serviceable condition. No ornamentation is allowed except for an official Corps logo in yellow or the manufacturer's logo, provided it is small and does not detract from the uniform. Commercial and OPDIV/STAFFDIV/non-HHS organizations to which officers are assigned logos are not authorized except for a bag issued by the Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, Society of Military Engineers or Reserve Officers Association may be carried to annual meetings, but not on a routine basis.

Bags shall be hand carried with the following exceptions:

- Bags may be worn when riding a bicycle or motorcycle;
- Bags may be worn on the left shoulder when wearing service or working uniforms; and
- Backpacks may be worn over both or either shoulder when wearing service or working uniforms.

While in dress uniform (e.g. Service/Full Dress Blue, Service/Full Dress White), all bags must be hand carried. When possible, all hand carried bags and other bags (including luggage), shall be carried or placed on the left side to facilitate saluting.

Trivia Answer: 1960

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

Women's Handbags

Women may wear civilian handbags while in uniform provided that they meet the following criteria. The handbag must be plain black, brown, or white grain leather or synthetic leather. The color of the handbag must match the color of the shoes worn. The handbag should be rectangular in shape with a flap. If the flap has a closure, it must be a brass-plated or gold-colored clasp (no buckles, zippers or string ties are allowed). The strap will be of the same material as the purse and have a gold-colored or black-colored buckle.



Dimensions must be as follows:

- Width: 7 ½ to 12 inches
- Height: 5 ½ to 8 inches
- Depth: 2 to 3 ½ inches

Exotic materials, such as eel, alligator or ostrich skin are not authorized. In addition, visible ornamentation, decorative stitching, embossed design, or manufacturer's logo is not allowed.

Women's handbags shall be carried over the left shoulder or forearm, placing the top of the handbag at waist level with all uniforms.

A small, clutch-type handbag in black or white (collapsible inside handle is optional) is required to be carried with dinner dress uniforms. In addition, the clutch may be carried with service uniforms.

