



With Pride & Distinction

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Junior Officer Advisory Group

Vol. 14 April 2016: Operational Dress Uniform *and* History of Saluting

Contributed by LT Drevo and LT Darr

As we're well into 2016, "With Pride & Distinction" is keeping officers up to date on new changes in PHS uniform regulations. As a reminder Corps policy requires all officers (except Jr. and Sr. COSTEPS) must own and maintain all required components of the Service Dress Blue and the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). The ODU has been mandated for a little over a year and field tested with Corps deployments to stand up an MMU in Monrovia, Liberia to treat healthcare workers in support of the Ebola mission.

Recently released updates to the ODU uniforms for male and female officers will be addressed in this issue, as well as review of basic uniform wear. Take a look at frequently asked questions and a summary of the recent revisions to the ODU.



OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) - DID YOU KNOW ?

What are the required components of the ODU?

Belt, Basic Riggers
Boots, Combat
Command Ball Cap, Blue
Embroidered Full Color PHS Collar Insignia
Embroidered Full Color Rank Insignia
Embroidered Gold Name/USPHS tapes
ODU Shirt, blue
ODU Trousers, blue
PHS T-shirt, blue
Socks, black
Undergarments

What's new for the ODU? A summary of revisions to the ODU based on updates with an effective date of December 15, 2015 are as follows:

- ◆ Eliminates the moisture wicking t-shirt as an authorized item with the ODUs.
- ◆ Authorizes the wear of the ODU parka with Service Dress and Service Uniforms during foul or inclement weather.

FAQs for the parka liner and placement of Field Medical Readiness Badge (FMRB):



- ◆ The Liner, Blue, Polar Fleece may be worn with the parka or as a standalone outer garment. Liner may only be worn with ODUs.
- ◆ Correct placement of the FMRB is ¼ inch above the left name tape.

What badges or patches may be worn with the ODU?

Up to two authorized skill badge patches are authorized for wear with the ODU. The officer in charge miniature metal identification badge may be worn ¼ inch above nametape, if authorized for current wear. The Special Unit Identification Patch may be authorized by the OSG only. No other identification badges are authorized for wear. The U.S. Flag patch is not authorized on the ODU.

Where can we obtain the ODU?

The [US Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center](http://www.uscg.mil/uniform/Ordering.asp) (UDC) is the only authorized location to purchase the ODU. Complete instructions for ordering via phone or online are available at: <http://www.uscg.mil/uniform/Ordering.asp>. (Note as of 2/9/16 the UDC website was undergoing maintenance and temporarily unavailable for online purchasing)

When is the ODU authorized for wear? For additional details see Section 6 of CCI 421.01 and 421.02

- Emergency preparedness or response activities, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) emergency response
- Exhibits or emergency response related recruiting, and training for operations as determined by the National Uniform Authority (NUA).
- Jointly conducted exercises or operations with other branches of the Uniformed Services when the counterpart uniforms of the other services are being worn by their service members.
- Activities where durability, personnel safety and appearance make other uniforms inappropriate.

When is the ODU authorized for wear? (continued)

- Special HHS or Joint Services event, in which Corps officers are attending or participating. In such events the ODU is only authorized when other Uniformed Services will wear their equivalent uniform. Daily wear of the ODU as defined by the NUA or local uniform authority (LUA).

Guidance from the OSG in the form of the Uniform of the Day memorandum states the ODU is now an acceptable alternative as a daily wear uniform just like the Service Khaki.

What are the optional components of the ODU?

- Belt, Black with subdued buckle
- Earmuffs (w/ outer garment only)
- Earrings, Gold Ball (females only)
- Embroidered Skill Badge Patch (ODU background and proper color stitch)
- Gloves, Black (w/ outer garment only)
- Liner, Polar Fleece, Blue
- Officer in charge (OIC), Metal, Miniature Badge

- ODU Utility Jacket
- PHS Unit Patch
- Watch cap (w/ outer garment only)

What are the prescribable items of the ODU?

- Boots, Safety, Black
- Cap, Utility, 8-point, Blue
- Hat, Sun (Boonie), Blue
- Parka, Foul Weather, Type II
- Trousers, Foul Weather, Type II



Photo: Monrovia Medical Unit Team 4 with VADM Murthy and U.S. Ambassador Malac

Trivia:

Under which president did the U.S. Congress pass a law in 1912 that changed the name of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service to the Public Health Service?

History of Saluting

Contributed by LCDR Patina Walton-Geer

The origin of saluting is not entirely clear. Some historians have documented the belief that saluting began in the late Roman times, when assassinations were common. Approaching with the right hand raised signified that one was not shielding a weapon. In the age of chivalry, knights were mounted and wore steel armor that completely covered the body, including the head and face. It

is believed that knights would raise their visor with their right hand, the left being used to hold the reins of the horse, when meeting a comrade or superior. Courtesy required that the inferior make the gesture first. This practice gradually became a sign of respect and trust, and in early American history, sometimes involved removing the hat. As headgear became more cumbersome in the 18th and 19th centuries, the act of removing ones hat was gradually modified by 1820 to simply touching the visor and issuing a courteous salutation.



In the military today, the right hand salute is a gesture of greeting other officers and a sign of respect among service personnel.



PHS officers at the MMU in Monrovia, Liberia.

Have uniform questions or ideas for articles?

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