



PROPER UNIFORM WEAR



JOAG

Junior Officer Advisory Group

Communications and Publications Committee
Uniform Sub-Committee





PROPER UNIFORM WEAR



This presentation has been created to give a brief overview of the regulations concerning the wearing of the four main uniforms of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.

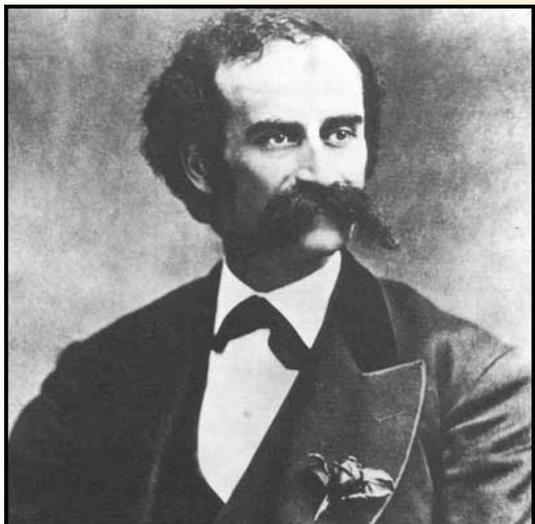
Every effort had been made to confirm the accuracy of this information. All information contained in this presentation was obtained from the regulations as of 10/01/11 (see reference slide for more information) .

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Communications and Publications Committee Chair.



PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Why do we wear a uniform?



The Public Health Service was established in 1798. The first Supervising Surgeon (now known as the Surgeon General) of the Public Health Service, John M. Woodworth, was appointed in 1871. Soon after his appointment, Woodworth decided to organize the service along military lines. He created a mobile cadre of career health professionals (at first just physicians, but later the Corps expanded to include other health professionals). In 1889, the Commissioned Corps was formalized by law.

The Commissioned Corps is a uniformed, but not a military, service (although the President can militarize the Corps in times of emergency involving national defense).





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Why it is important to wear it correctly?



As members of the uniformed services we need to be mindful that we have been granted the great responsibility that comes with being a commissioned officer. We share the same rank as members of the other services and are treated with the same regard. Officers that do not wear the uniform appropriately reflect poorly on not only the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, but on the other services as well.



Plus, you never know when you might need to present an award to Goldie Hawn.

Goldie Hawn accepts a SAMHSA Special Recognition Award from Eric Broderick, Rear Admiral, United States Public Health Service.



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What uniforms do we wear?



- PHS Officers generally wear one of the following uniforms depending on their assignment:
 - Service Dress Blues (SDB, Required)
 - Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater (MSDBS)
 - Black Windbreaker Jacket (BWJ)
 - Summer Whites (SW, Required)
 - Battle Dress Uniform (BDU, Required)
 - Service Khakis (SK)
 - Blue Coverall Uniform (BCU)





PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Service Dress Blues (SDB)



Required Components (Male):

- Coat - Blue, Service Dress
- Shirt - White, Dress
- Trousers - Blue, Dress
- Cap - White, Combination
- Shoes - Black, Dress
- Socks - Black
- Necktie - Black, Four-In-Hand
- Belt - Black
- Buckle - Gold
- Undergarments*
- Corps Name Tag
- Ribbons, all (Not just top 3)**



Required Components (Female):

- Coat - Blue, Service Dress
- Shirt - White, Dress
- Cap - White, Combination
- Skirt - Blue, Unbelted or
- Slacks - Blue, Unbelted
- Shoes - Black, Service
- Necktie - Black
- Undergarments*
- Corps Name Tag
- Ribbons, all (Not just Top 3)**

* Appropriate undergarments shall be worn to preserve the dignity and appearance of the uniform. When wearing a white uniform, white or skin toned undergarments shall be worn. Undergarments must be plain and design free.

** Ribbons are worn in a specific order. When wearing some uniforms it is acceptable to wear just the three ribbons that make up your top row. When wearing the SDB you are to wear all ribbons earned.



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Service Dress Blues (SDB) P&O Items



Prescribable Items:

- Gloves - Black/White*
- Overcoat - Blue
- All-weather coat - Blue

Optional Items:

- Cuff Links
- Tie Clasp/Tack
- Sweater (w/o SDB Coat)
- Jacket - Black, Windbreaker (w/o SDB coat)
- Reefer
- Umbrella
- Overshoes
- Scarf - white (w/outer garment only)
- Earmuffs (w/outer garment only)

Occasions for Wear:

Year-round wear at all official functions or situations where formal dress, dinner dress, or full dress uniforms are not prescribed and civilian equivalent dress is coat and tie.



Prescribable Items:

- Gloves - Black/White*
- Overcoat - Blue
- All-weather coat - Blue

Optional Items:

- Handbag - Black
- Hosiery - Flesh tone
- Beret
- Earrings - Gold Ball
- Sweater (w/o SDB coat only)
- Reefer
- Jacket - Black Windbreaker (w/o SDB coat)
- Umbrella - Black
- Overshoes
- Shoes - Black, Dress
- Slip
- Scarf - white (w/outer garment only)
- Ear Muffs (w/outer garment only)
- Sweater

* White gloves, when required, may be worn or carried with uniforms. Gloves are to be removed to shake hands.



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Service Dress Blues Name Tag & Ribbons



Manner of Wear. On uniforms having a right breast pocket or pocket flap, the name tag is centered 1/4 inch above the pocket or flap. On uniforms having no right breast pocket or pocket flap, the name tag is worn in the same relative position, using the left breast pocket or pocket flap as an indicator of position. When ribbons are worn, the lower edge of the name tag would thus be in line with the lower edge of the bottom row of ribbons.





PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Service Dress Blues Jacket



Corps Device. A full-size Corps device shall be sewn onto the outer face of each sleeve, centered midway between the front and rear creases. It is positioned $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the upper most stripe. The Corps devices are used in left-right pairs.

The anchor of the Corps device always faces forward.

Rank Lace Stripes. Stripes are gold lace in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or 2 inch widths. The stripes are sewn onto each sleeve so as to be parallel with the cuff and completely encircle the sleeve. The lower edge of the bottom stripe is 2 inches from the edge of the cuff and there is a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch space between stripes. The officer shall wear the stripe or combinations of stripes which correspond to the officer's pay grade/rank.



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The Combination Cover



The PHS Combination Cover is the same as the Combination Cover worn by Naval officers except:

- The USPHS cap device replaces the Navy cap device
- The gold, 1/8 inch USPHS chin strap (right) has a maroon stripe
- The screws securing the chin strap are embossed with the USPHS insignia which are positioned on the uniform such that the staff of the caduceus is vertical.





PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater



Required Components (Male):

- Navy Sweater
- Shirt - White, Dress
- Trousers - Blue, Dress
- Cap - Combination, White
- Shoes - Dress, Black
- Socks - Black
- Necktie - Black, Four-In-Hand
- Belt - Black
- Buckle - Gold
- Undergarments
- Soft Shoulder Boards
- Name Patch - Black, Leather



Required Components (Female):

- Navy Sweater
- Shirt - White, Dress
- Slacks - Blue, Unbelted or
- Skirt - Blue, Unbelted
- Cap - Combination, White
- Shoes - Black Service
- Necktie - Black
- Undergarments
- Soft Shoulder Boards
- Name Patch - Black, Leather



Leather Name Patch worn on LEFT side of sweater w/ velcro backing.

- FMRB or earned breast insignia embossed top row, centered
- First Name, Middle Initial (or FI, MI) Last Name
- Rank, (left corner) USPHS (right corner)



PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Modified Service Dress Blue Sweater P&O Items



Prescribable Items:

- Gloves - Black
- Overcoat - Blue
- All-weather coat - Blue

Optional Items:

- Cuff Links - Gold
- Tie Clasp/Tack
- Jacket - Black, Windbreaker
- Umbrella
- Overshoes
- Scarf - white (w/outer garment only)
- Reefer (if worn over the sweater)
- Earmuffs (w/outer garment only)



Prescribable Items:

- Gloves - Black
- Overcoat - Blue
- All Weather Coat - Blue

Optional Items:

- Handbag - Black
- Hosiery - Flesh Tone
- Shoes - Black Dress
- Skirt - Blue Unbelted
- Slacks - Blue Unbelted
- Beret
- Earrings - Gold Ball
- Cap - Garrison, Blue
- Jacket - Black, Windbreaker
- Umbrella - Black
- Overshoes
- Scarf - white (w/outer garment only)
- Ear Muffs (w/outer garments only)
- Reefer (if worn over the sweater)

Occasions for Wear: The sweater replaces the SDB coat and is worn for normal office work at duty station and in public places not requiring a more formal uniform. The black windbreaker may be substituted for the Navy sweater. The Reefer, All-weather coat and/or the Overcoat (Bridge Coat) will not be worn with only the white dress shirt.



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Don't Drag Your Anchors



Shoulder Boards should be oriented so that the anchors point forward.



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Black Windbreaker Jacket Rank Placement



Large bright metal insignia are to be placed $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch from the squared end of the shoulder strap. If the end is angled, measure as above.



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Summer Whites



Required Components (Male):

- Shirt – White, Summer
- Trousers - White
- Cap – White, Combination
- Shoes – White, Dress
- Socks - White
- Belt - White
- Buckle - Gold
- Undergarments
- Hard Shoulder Boards
- PHS Name Tag
- Ribbons (full rack or top 3)



Required Components (Female):

- Shirt - White, Summer
- Cap – White, Combination
- Shoes – White, Service
- Slacks - White, Belted or
- Skirt - White, Belted
- Belt - White, w/ Gold Clip
- Buckle - Gold
- Undergarments
- Hard Shoulder Boards
- PHS Name Tag
- Ribbons (full rack or top 3)



Female HSBs are designed to fit over a strap on the shoulder of an epauletted shirt and coat. The female HSB is of the same general appearance, but is approximately ½ inch shorter than the male HSB.

The male HSBs have a strap attached to the underside of the board for attachment to loops on a shirt or coat shoulder.



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Summer Whites P&O Items



Prescribable Items:

- All-weather coat - Blue

Optional Items:

- Sweater
- Jacket - Black, Windbreaker
- Umbrella
- Overshoes
- Scarf - white
(w/outer garment only)
- Reefer
- Earmuffs
(w/ outer garment only)
- Cap - Ball, Command
(as determined by LUA)

Occasions for Wear:

Worn in the summer for normal office work after the Surgeon General's Memo has been released.



Prescribable Items:

- All-weather coat - Blue

Optional Items:

- Shoes - Dress, White
- Cap - Ball, Command (As prescribed by LUA)
- Handbag - White
- Hosiery - Flesh Tone
- Skirt - White, Belted
- Beret
- Earrings - Gold Ball
- Sweater
- Slip
- Jacket - Black, Windbreaker
- Umbrella - Black
- Overshoes
- Scarf - White (w/outer garment only)
- Reefer
- Sweater
- Ear Muffs (w/ outer garment only)



PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Battle Dress Uniform (BDU)



Required Components (Male & Female):

- Utility Coat (Warm or Cold Weather)
- Trousers (Must match the Utility Coat)
- Utility Cap
- Black PHS T-Shirt
- Boots - Black Leather (Combat Boots) or Black or Green Fabric Uppers (Jungle)
- Sock - Boot High, Black or Olive Drab

Please see the following website for regulations concerning the wearing of this uniform

http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCPM26_3_7.pdf

Occasions for Wear:

The BDU can be worn when part of a work detail where safety, work or environmental conditions make other uniforms unsafe, inappropriate or otherwise impractical as well as when prescribed by the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG).



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Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) Collar Devices



The collar rank insignia shall be the subdued cloth, sew-on type, embroidered on olive green background material. Collar rank insignia shall be worn on the right collar, centered on an imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar point; the center of the device shall be 1½ inches perpendicularly from each collar edge.

The PHS corps device, consisting of a fouled anchor and caduceus crossed as in the seal of the Service, shall be embroidered in subdued thread on olive green background material. The device shall be 1 inch by 1 inch. The corps device shall be sewn on the left collar with the caduceus falling along an imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar point with the anchor pointing inward. The center of the device shall be 1½ inches perpendicularly from each collar edge.



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Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) Name Tape



The letters "USPHS" and the officer's last name shall be embroidered on separate strips of olive green cloth. The cloth strips are 4½ inches long and 1 inch wide; letters are black, block-style, ¾ inch high; nametags containing more than ten letters shall be in Franklin Gothic Extra Condensed print (48 point), ½ inch high. The letters "USPHS" must be closely spaced and without intervening periods; no other designs are authorized. The "USPHS" tape shall be worn touching and parallel to the top edge of the left breast pocket. The officer's nametape shall be worn touching and parallel to the top edge of the right breast pocket. Tapes extend to each pocket edge but not beyond.



Name tape has been recently approved for wear above the right, rear trouser pocket. The cloth strips are 4½ inches long and 1 inch wide; letters are black, block-style, ¾ inch high; nametags containing more than ten letters shall be in Franklin Gothic Extra Condensed print (48 point), ½ inch high. The optional name tape shall be worn touching and parallel to the top edge of the pocket. The name tape shall extend to the pocket edge but not beyond.





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Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) Shoulder Patch



The PHS Special Unit Identification Patch is required to be worn on the left shoulder ½” inch below the shoulder seam. The ‘1798’ is at the bottom and parallel with the deck (floor).

Only officers detailed to DoD are authorized to wear the American flag on the right shoulder.



PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Under the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU)



For routine deployments (in non-tactical environments), the only authorized undershirt is the black 100% preshrunk cotton t-shirt with a 3” or 4” diameter PHS seal. The t-shirts sold by the Navy Exchange and the PHS Officer’s Supply Center meet the specifications as described in the original design authorization, established in September 2005.

Sweater, Service, Green Crew-Neck. Marine Corps olive green sweater (“wooly pully”) made of 100 percent wool or acrylic, in a heavy ribbed knit crew-neck design with shoulder and elbow patches, is an optional item. It is worn only under the utility coat, never as an outer garment.





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Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) Belt



Buckle and Belt. 1¼ inch wide web or woven elastic web belt of black color with a black tip. The buckle is a black, open-face type, 1-11/16 inch by 1-11/16 inch.



A 1¾ inch wide black belt (Rigger's belt) of the same description (other than the width), with an attached flat black buckle, V-ring or a 1¼ inch wide black web belt with a strong hook-and-loop closure (in lieu of a buckle) are options.



PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) Covers



Cap, Utility. Woodland camouflage pattern, Navy-style with eight sides and a firm bill, plaited sides, and a high front panel. The round, stovepipe caps are not approved for wear by PHS officers.

Ball Cap, Command. Worn only when prescribed by the LUA. Not authorized in tactical situations or when other headgear is prescribed by the LUA or the commander of a Joint Services operation.

The utility cap is a required component. The other headgear, such as the Command Ball Cap, are prescribable by the LUA. Both covers require the use of the full sized, bright metal rank.





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Battle Dress Uniform Footwear



Black boot or brushless brown, with a plain or capped toe, the uppers 8-10 inches in height, and a black vulcanized rubber outer sole. Boots may be made of leather (black or brown brushless) or leather and fabric (only green or black fabric is authorized, commonly called “jungle boots”). Boots with patent leather finish are not authorized. Inner steel toes and zipper closures are authorized as optional. The overall design and construction of the boots must make them durable, functional, and suitable for field wear.

BDU trousers are required to be bloused. There are several commercially made items which you can use to accomplish this task, such as: the olive drab elastic bands with metal hook closure, Velcro® elastic straps, or metal spring bands, all of which go over the top (calf area) of the combat boot. The bottom of the trousers should be tucked/roll under the blousing strap; this may take more than one tuck/roll. The knot of the bootlaces and the green tie straps of the BDUs should not be visible when properly bloused. Also, there should not be a gap from the bottom of the trouser to the top of the combat boot (e.g., socks, regardless of color or skin, should not show).





PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Service Khakis



Components (Male):

- Shirt - Khaki, Service
- Trousers - Khaki, Service
- Cap – Khaki, Combination
- Shoes – Black, Dress
- Socks - Black
- Belt - Khaki
- Buckle - Gold
- Undergarments
- Collar Insignia
- PHS Name Tag
- Ribbons



Components (Female):

- Shirt - Khaki, Service
- Slacks – Khaki, Service or
- Skirt – Khaki, Service
- Cap – Khaki, Combination
- Shoes – Black, Service
- Belt - Khaki, w/ Gold Clip
- Buckle - Gold
- Undergarments
- Collar Insignia
- PHS Name Tag
- Ribbons



PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Service Khakis P&O Items



Prescribable Items:

- All-weather coat - Blue
- Cap – Khaki, Garrison
- Overcoat - Blue

Optional Items:

- Shoes - Brown
(worn w/Khaki socks only)
- Sweater
- Jacket - Khaki, Windbreaker
- Jacket - Black, Windbreaker
- Umbrella
- Overshoes
- Scarf - White (w/outer garment only)
- Reefer
- Earmuffs (w/ outer garment only)
- Gloves - Black
- Cap - Ball, Command
(if authorized by LUA)

Occasions for Wear:

Worn year around for normal office work unless SDB is the uniform of the day or unless deployed, when BDU would be necessary.



Prescribable Items (Female):

- Cap – Khaki, Garrison
- All Weather Coat - Blue
- Overcoat - Blue

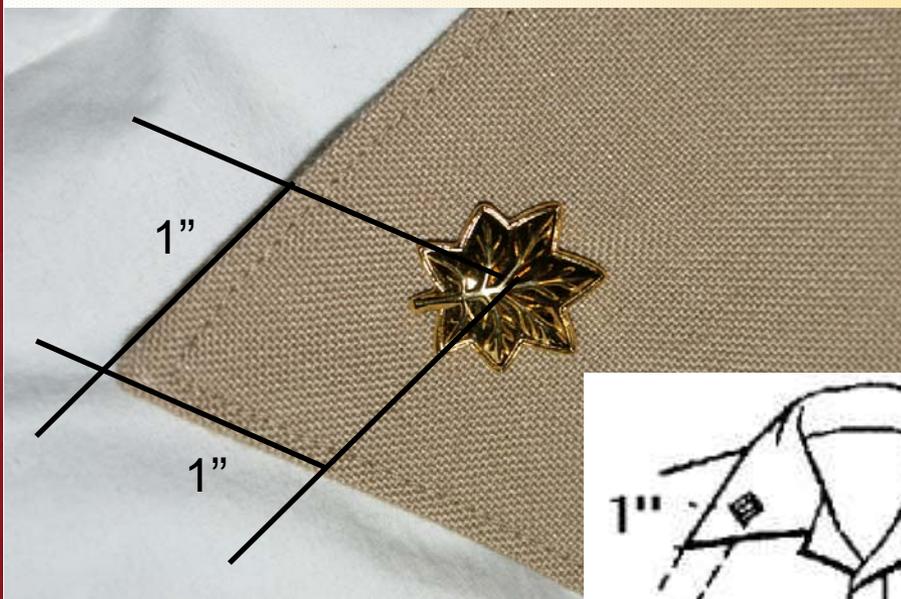
Optional Items:

- Beret
- Cap - Ball, Command (if authorized by LUA)
- Handbag - Black
- Handbag - Brown
- Handbag - Black, Dress
- Hosiery - Flesh Tone
- Skirt - Khaki Service Belted
- Socks - Black, or Khaki w/ Brown Shoes
- Shoes - Dress, Black
- Shoes - Dress, Brown
- Shoes - Service, Brown
- Earrings - Gold Ball
- Sweater
- Slip
- Jacket - Khaki Windbreaker
- Jacket - Black Windbreaker
- Umbrella - Black
- Overshoes
- Scarf - White (w/outer garment only)
- Reefer



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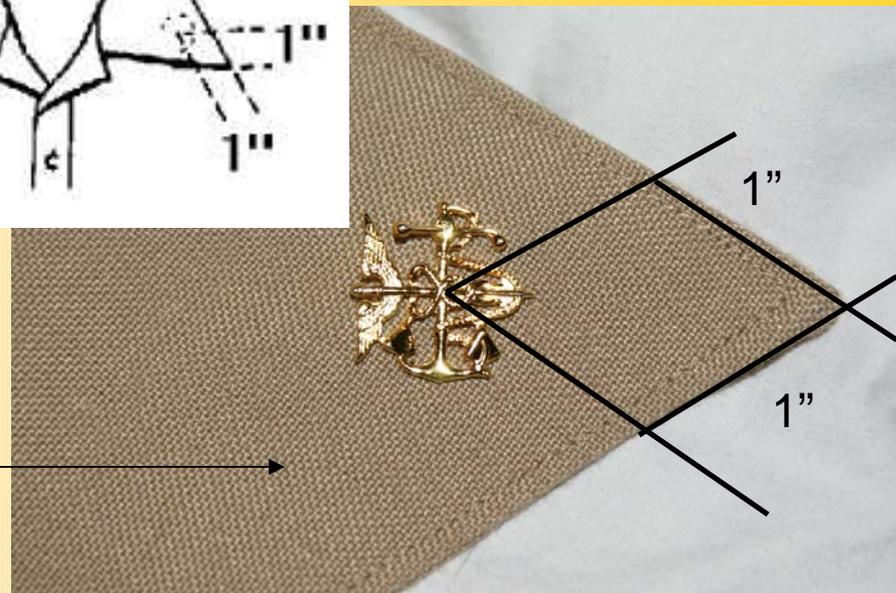
Service Khakis Collar Insignia & Devices



A miniature metal corps device is worn on the left collar when a miniature metal grade rank insignia is used on the right. The device is centered one inch from the appropriate collar edges.



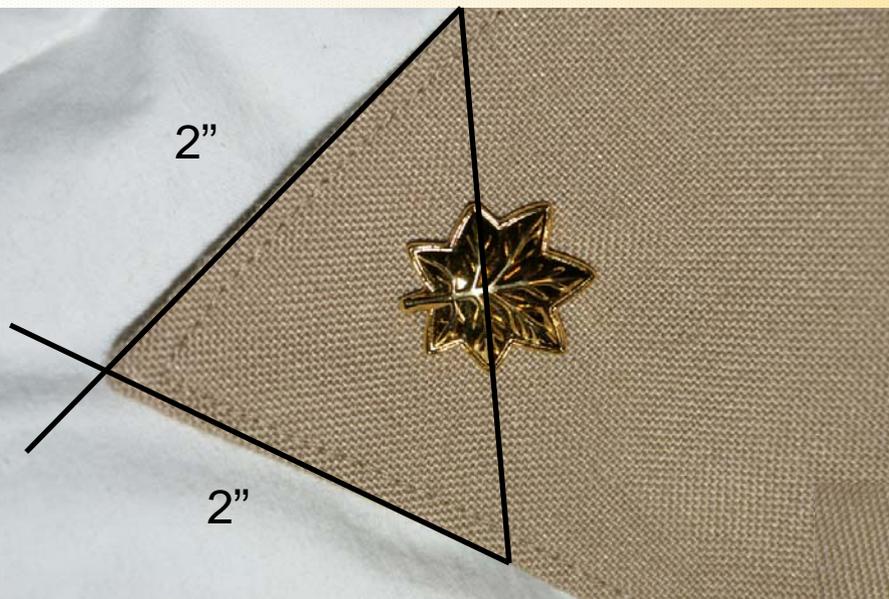
The center of the PHS insignia is 1 inch from the front and lower edge of the collar and positioned on the vertical axis of the insignia along an imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar point. The staff of the caduceus is the vertical axis of the device and the anchor points toward the front.



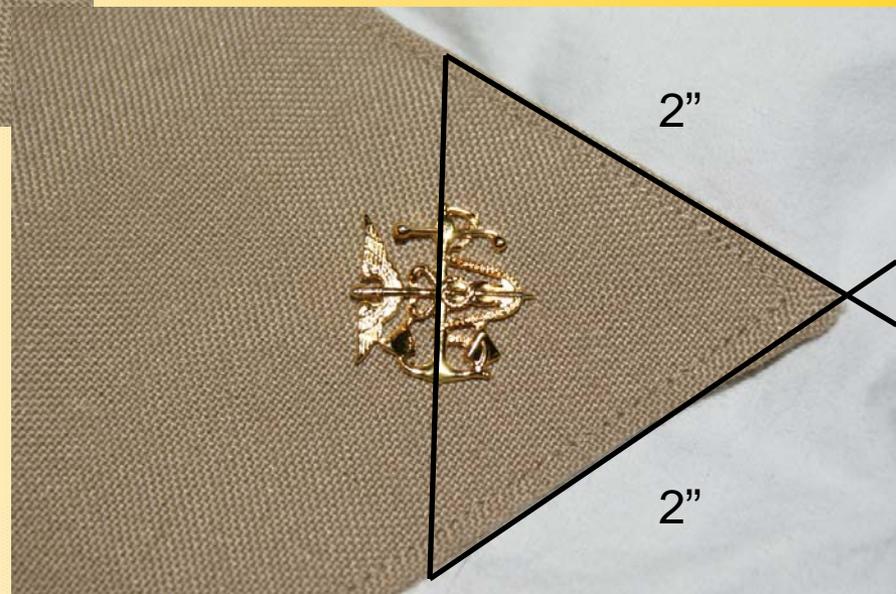


PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Service Khakis Collar Insignia & Devices



A quick and efficient way to ensure that the rank and insignia are properly placed is to measure two inches from the point of the collar and place the center of the rank and insignia in the middle of the line connecting the two points.





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Service Khakis Garrison Cap



Garrison Cap. The garrison cap is worn with the miniature metal rank insignia on the right side and the miniature cap device on the left. The devices are centered 1½ inches from the lower edge and 2 inches from the front center line.





PROPER UNIFORM WEAR

Blue Coveralls



Required Items (Male & Female):

- Coveralls - Blue
- Cap – Khaki, Garrison
- Shoes – Black, Safety
- Socks - Black
- Undergarments
- Belt - Khaki w/ Gold Clip
- Buckle - Gold
- Name/USPHS tapes
- Collar insignia

Prescribable Items:

- All-weather coat - Blue
- Overcoat - Blue
- Shoes - Black, Dress

Optional Items:

- Cap - Ball, Command (as determined by LUA)
- Jacket - Black, Windbreaker
- Jacket - Khaki, Windbreaker
- Reefer
- Shoes - Brown, Service
- Sweater

Occasions for wear:

Worn when other uniforms would be unsafe or become unduly soiled. Coveralls are only worn inside a Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) prison, camp, institution, or medical facility behind the Sally-port or when serving jointly aboard a naval vessel.



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Aiguilletes



Occasions for Wear. Individuals may wear aiguilletes only while serving in an official capacity during specific events in which wearing aiguilletes, as an identifying device, are important to the principal being aided.

Authority to Wear. Wear aiguilletes while performing duty as Aide to the President, Aide to the Vice President, Aide at the White House, Aide to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Aide to the Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretaries within HHS, Aide to any Cabinet Secretary, Aide to the Surgeon General of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, Aide to any other Flag officer, Aide to any State or Territorial Governor and to any Foreign Head of State.



Service Aiguilletes. Worn with Service Uniforms, Jackets, All-weather coat, Overcoat, Reefer, or Pullover sweater but wear aiguillette beneath the epaulet or shoulder board.

Manner of Wear. When attaching service aiguilletes to the uniform, bind the cords together lying flat, side by side, with a strip of 1-1/2 inch gold lace, and fit with a clasp pin. Attach aiguilletes to the shoulder of the coat or Service Uniform shirt with the 1-1/2 inch gold lace centered on top of the shoulder with the 1-1/2 inch gold lace paralleled and up to the shoulder sleeve seam. The longest loop of the cords is worn on the inboard side closest to the wearer's body.



Dress Aiguilletes. Wear dress aiguilletes with Dinner Dress, Full Dress, and Service Dress uniforms, and the Overcoat and All-Weather Coat:

Manner of Wear. Attach the becket (cord loop or hook) to the coat in the following manner:

- (a) Attach the becket to the top button of the Service Dress White (male)
- (b) On all other coats/jackets, dinner dress uniforms, and the blue overcoats, sew a small flat button, under the coat collar at the height of the collar bone to secure the becket. The pencils (gold colored tassels) hang over the lapel with their suspension cords emerging from the notch in the lapel.



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Further Information and References



[CC 26.3.1 - Uniforms and Appearance](#)

[CC 26.3.3 - Wear of Ribbons and Medals](#)

[CC 26.3.4 - Uniforms for Male Officers](#)

[CC 26.3.5 - Uniforms for Female Officers](#)

[CC 26.3.7 - Special Uniform Situations](#)

[PPM 10-002 – Aiguillettes](#)

For tips on proper uniform wear be sure to read the Uniform Corner in the JOAG Journal and the monthly newsletter “With Pride and Distinction” via the JOAG listserv.