



With Pride & Distinction

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U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
Junior Officer Advisory Group

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Garrison Cap

It is such an honor to serve in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS). Now more than ever, it is critical that we, as Commissioned Corps officers, are visible while correctly wearing our uniforms with pride and distinction.

As a courtesy, JOAG would like to assist our fellow junior officers through a monthly newsletter containing uniform information. It is our hope that every junior officer will find the information helpful as we navigate through our careers in the Commissioned Corps.

As Commissioned Corps officers of the USPHS, we have a proud history of public (and uniformed) service to America. Since this is our inaugural email regarding proud and proper wear of USPHS uniforms, we would like to take a moment to explain the history of our service AND our uniforms.

USPHS can trace its roots back to 1798, when our predecessors first began caring for merchant seamen. This need to treat the injured and sick resulted

in the formation of multiple marine hospitals along the eastern seaboard. Within a century, in 1870, the United States built the Marine Hospital Service (MHS) to manage medical care. To lead the service, the MHS created the Supervising Surgeon position, which was later referred to as the Surgeon General.

The MHS's first Supervising Surgeon was Mr. John Maynard Woodworth. He was appointed in 1871 and is credited with leading the MHS to a military framework. In 1889, under Mr. Woodward's guidance, the MHS completed its transition to a uniformed service by outfitting all MHS members in uniforms. This transformation created our uniformed Commissioned Corps.

In 1902, the MHS changed names to the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service as the scope of services offered broadened to injured and sick Americans, rather than solely merchant seamen. In 1912, our name was shortened to the U.S. Public Health Service.

Uniform Trivia: Which movie highlights a Commissioned Corps officer's struggle to prevent an outbreak of pneumonic plague?

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know that the garrison cap (aka campaign cap, flight cap, or envelope cap) was first issued to the Navy's "doughboys" in World War I? It was originally worn only by those troops in France since they did not have their campaign covers.

This cover is considered the most convenient as it can be easily stored tucked under the belt. Make sure to tuck it under your belt properly! Remember "rank on right"... when wearing it on your right your rank should be showing. When wearing it on your left, your Corps insignia should be showing.

Women can wear the female version if it is still serviceable, otherwise a new unisex design is available at the NEX and

other uniform suppliers. Make sure the cap material matches the uniform you're wearing. Poly-wool uniforms should be paired with the poly-wool cap, and the CNT uniforms should be paired with the CNT cap.

According to our uniform regulation the cap should be worn:

"Squarely on the head, with the fore and aft crease centered vertically between the eyebrows. The lowest point of the cap is approximately 1 inch above the eyebrows. Hair is not visible below the front of the cover."

Please see the diagrams (at left) to check the placement of your insignia.

