

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES**

PERSONNEL POLICY MEMORANDUM



PPM 12-002
EFFECTIVE DATE: 9 March 2012

By Order of the Assistant Secretary for Health:

Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.

TO: This Personnel Policy Memorandum (PPM) applies to all officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) on active duty.

SUBJECT: Replacement of the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU)

1. This PPM announces and authorizes the wear of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) (untucked NOAA version) and accoutrements. This PPM amends the following Instructions, CC26.3.7, "Special Uniform Situations," dated 10 March 2010, CC26.3.4, "Uniforms for Male Officers," dated 22 February 2010, and CC26.3.5, "Uniforms for Female Officers," dated 22 February 2010. The untucked NOAA version of the ODU is free from logos or insignias specific to the USCG.
2. Effective immediately, the BDU and accoutrements will no longer be a required uniform for Corps officers. The phase-in period for the ODU shall be 12 months starting on 1 September 2012 and ending on 31 August 2013.
 - a. On 1 September 2013, the BDU and all accompanying uniform accoutrements will no longer be authorized for wear and the ODU will be a required uniform for all Corps officers.
 - b. During the phase-in period, the BDU and all accompanying accoutrements will continue to be authorized. Mixing of ODU and BDU accompanying uniform accoutrements is not authorized.
 - c. Woodland pattern, olive drab or black non-uniform equipment, such as GI Duffel Bag, Backpacks, ALICE packs etc, will remain authorized as long as they are serviceable. New or replacement non-uniform equipment items shall be black in color.
3. ODU; General Authorized Uses. The National Uniform Authority (NUA) may authorize the wear of the ODU in any of the following situations:
 - a. Emergency preparedness or response activities, including field exercises, planned or emergency responses, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) emergency-response-related exhibits, HHS

emergency-response-related recruiting, and training for operations as determined by the NUA, such as:

- (1) Exposure to harsh elements, e.g., high temperatures, cold, or precipitation;
 - (2) In dirt, water, or mud;
 - (3) Where other types of uniforms would become unreasonably soiled or unkempt and require daily cleaning; or
 - (4) In indoor settings where officers will or could be working in dirty settings, e.g., partially destroyed buildings, or on the floor of a building, e.g., kneeling beside patients on stretchers.
- b. Exercises or operations that are conducted jointly, or in the same environment with, other branches of the Uniformed Services when the counterpart uniforms of the other Services are being worn by their service members. The NUA shall prescribe an ODU that is in accordance with the directives of the commanding officer-in-charge (OIC) of a joint exercise or operation when such a directive can be obtained in advance. In circumstances in which such a directive cannot be obtained in advance, or when an operation is in the same environment but not a joint operation, the NUA may prescribe the ODU independently.
 - c. Activities where personnel safety (from physical or environmental conditions), durability, and appearance make other uniforms inappropriate, e.g., vehicle maintenance, environmental sampling in muddy conditions, construction or correctional institutions.
 - d. Special HHS or Joint Services event, e.g., a salute to returning forces ceremonies or awards ceremonies, in which Corps officers are attending or participating. In Joint Services event, the ODU is authorized only when other Uniformed Services will wear their equivalent uniform. In HHS-only events, the event must be an emergency-response or austere environment-related ceremony, otherwise the ODU wear must be approved by the SG.
 - e. An officer may wear the ODUs one day per week as defined by the NUA or LUA.
 - f. Other Uses. For uses, other than those listed in section 3, an Operating Division (OPDIV), Staff Division (STAFFDIV) or non-HHS organization LUA must request authorization from the OSG.
4. Basic ODU components and accoutrements are illustrated in the attached Appendix.
 5. Manner of Wear. The ODU is designed for field wear and should be loose fitting and comfortable. Alterations to make it form-fitting are not authorized. The ODU shirt will be worn outside the trousers, not tucked in, and all buttons will be buttoned except for the collar button; the collar is worn open. The sleeves may be rolled up when allowed by the LUA. When the sleeves are worn rolled up, the outside of the ODU material will remain exposed. The sleeves will be rolled neatly above the elbow but the bottom shall be no more than 3 inches above the

elbow. The width of the rolled sleeve shall be approximately 3 inches. The trousers are worn bloused over the top portion of the boots. The trouser legs will not be wrapped around the leg so tightly as to present a pegged appearance. Loose threads must be trimmed from all uniform components. Boot laces must be secured in a manner such that no loops are created; ends of the laces must be tucked into the boots. Spider lacing or use of non-black boot laces are not authorized.

- a. The U.S. Flag patch is not authorized on the ODU.
 - b. The nametape and USPHS ID tape will be gold letters on ODU blue cloth tape. Direct embroidery is not authorized. The nametape will be worn flush above the right front shirt pocket. The USPHS ID tape will be worn flush above the left front shirt pocket. The nametape may also be worn flush above the right rear trouser pocket. Tapes must not be shorter than or extend beyond the width of the respective ODU pocket. The name tapes shall be no wider than one inch. The Navy coverall name tapes (1 ¼”) are not authorized.
 - c. Up to 2 authorized skill badge patches are authorized for wear. The badge patch shall be worn centered, ¼” above the USPHS ID tape or if 2 skill badge patches are worn, ¼” above the lower badge patch above the ODU front left shirt pocket. The Field Medical Readiness Badge (FMRB) patch shall be folded and sewn in a manner to form a square. If the FMRB patch is worn, it shall be worn above the lower badge patch. Direct embroidery is not authorized. Skill badge patches must be in the appropriate thread color by the issuing entity on an ODU blue background tape. Olive drab or other non-ODU blue background tapes are not authorized.
 - d. Identification Badges. The Officer in Charge miniature metal identification badge may be worn ¼ inch above nametape, if authorized for current wear. No other identification badges are authorized for wear.
 - e. A Special Unit Identification patch may be authorized by the OSG only. Special Unit Identification patches shall be of the subdued, embroidered type with a basic ODU blue background and shall not exceed 3½ inches in the greatest dimension. If authorized, the Special unit identification patch shall be worn on the ODU blouse centered on the left breast pocket. The current olive drab Special Unit Identification Patch is not authorized on the ODU.
6. This PPM shall be supplemented by a Policy Operations Memorandum (POM) promulgated by the Surgeon General, for instructions as how and when officers may acquire this uniform.
 7. This PPM will remain in effect until superseded by revisions to the appropriate uniform instructions have been completed.

-signed-
Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health

Appendix

Operational Dress Uniform (Untucked NOAA/USPHS Version)

1. REQUIRED BASIC UNIFORM COMPONENTS

Belt, Basic Riggers
Boots, Combat
Cap, Ball, Command, 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

2. PRESCRIBABLE ITEMS

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

3. OPTIONAL ITEMS

Belt, Black with subdued buckle
Cap, Knit (watch), black (w/ outer garment only)
Earmuffs (w/ outer garment only)
Earrings, Gold Ball (females only)
Embroidered Skill Badge(s)
Liner, Polar Fleece, Blue
Officer in charge (OIC), Metal, Miniature Badge
ODU Utility Jacket
Special Unit Identification Patch
T-shirt, Mock Turtle-neck, Winter, Blue

4. OCCASSIONS FOR WEAR

Appropriate for when other uniforms would be unsafe or become unduly soiled.



Note: Items listed above that are not in the accompanying appendix shall be the same as the items listed respectively in the Uniforms for Male/Female Officers instructions.

Description and Correct Wear of ODU Components



BELT, RIGGERS, BASIC

- a. Description: Belt is a 1 3/4" black nylon belt
- b. Correct Wear: The tip end shall extend 2-4 inches past the belt buckle on the wearers left. The basic riggers belt comes in one length and needs to be cut to size. Singe the end to avoid unraveling.



BELT, WITH SUBDUED BUCKLE

- a. Description: 1¼ inch wide web or woven elastic web belt of black color with a black clip.
- b. Correct Wear: Wear the belt through all loops with the clip end to the left of the buckle prior to inserting the clip end into the buckle. Females wear belt with clip to the RIGHT of the buckle.



BOOTS, COMBAT.

- a. Description: Black leather boot or brushless black, 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, leather and fabric (only black fabric is authorized, commonly called "jungle boots") or black brushless suede. 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. Black boot laces are required. Spider lacing or other non-standard lacing designs are not authorized.
- b. Correct Wear: Lace from inside out through all eyelets and tie. Keep clean, polished, and in good repair. Spit shine is not required.



BOOTS, SAFETY, BLACK

- a. Description: Leather boots, in lace style, plain toe with no decoration. Must have a hard box or safety toe and be water resistant. Outsoles are constructed from heat and flame resistant nitrile rubber. Chukka (non-lace) shoes are not authorized.
- b. Correct Wear: Lace from inside out through all eyelets and tie. Keep clean, well blackened and in good repair.



CAP, BALL, COMMAND, BLUE

- a. Description: The cap shall be a conventional baseball cap style made of 100 percent polyester, polyester/cotton, or a polyester/wool blend of the USCG specified color and weight "U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE" shall be embroidered using ½-inch-high letters in an arch across the top of the front panel. Centered under "U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE" is the large, bright direct embroidered rank insignia. All lettering shall be in upper case Arial (or equivalent) print. Visor ornamentation (in the style described for the combination cap visor in [CC26.3.6](#), "Insignia and Devices") is authorized for O-5 rank and above.
- b. Correct Wear: Wear squarely on the head, with the bottom edge parallel to the ground and approximately 1½ inches above the eyebrows. When wearing the O-6 rank device insignia, the eagle will look to the wearer's right.



CAP, KNIT (WATCH), BLACK

- a. Description: Made of plain non-decorated or design as utilized by the U.S. Navy, closely knitted, bell shaped, pullover style, 11 to 12 inches long, 8-1/4 inches wide at bottom, with 5/8 inch border.

- b. Correct wear: The watch cap will be double folded approximately 2-1/2 inches - 3 inches, and worn diagonally from the base of the back of the head, across the ears and on the forehead. Rank insignia is not authorized to be worn on the watch cap. Commercial designs or logos are not authorized.



CAP, UTILITY, 8-POINT

- a. Description: ODU Blue, Navy-style cap with eight sides and firm bill, plaited sides and a high front panel.
- b. Correct Wear: Worn squarely on the head, with bottom edge parallel to the ground and approximately 1 ½ inches above the eyebrows. When wearing the O-6 rank insignia, the eagle will look to the wearer's right. Metal pin-on large bright rank insignia centered on the front panel. There is no visor ornamentation for ranks O-5 and above.



HAT, SUN, BLUE (Boonie)

- a. Description: ODU blue cover with flexible brim.
- b. Correct wear: Full size bright metal rank insignia centered on front panel of hat. May be worn at discretion of OIC or LUA when part of a work detail or in a deployment situation. When wearing the O-6 rank insignia, the eagle will look to the wearer's right.

JACKET, ODU UTILITY

- a. Description: Made of Polartec® Power Shield® material, it zips in and out of parka. Shall be the same material, color and military specifications as determined by the USCG.
- b. Correct Wear: May be worn with the parka or as a standalone outer garment. When worn alone, all zippers will be zipped. Sleeves are to reach about 3/4 of distance from the wrist to the knuckles when arms hang naturally at side. Main zipper shall be at least ¾ of the way closed and shall not be worn open/unzipped. May only be worn with ODUs. Slide on embroidered rank insignia is required to be worn centered on the front tab. When wearing the O-6 rank insignia, the eagle will look to the wearer's right.



LINER, BLUE, POLAR FLEECE

- a. Description: Made of Polartec® fleece material, it zips in and out of the parka and also features a full zip-through collar and two zip-front welt pockets. Waist drawstrings have barrel locks. Shall be the same material, color and military specifications as determined by the USCG.
- b. Correct Wear: May be worn with the parka or as a standalone outer garment. When worn alone, all zippers will be zipped. Sleeves are to reach about 3/4 of distance from the wrist to the knuckles when arms hang naturally at side. Main zipper shall be at least ¾ of the way closed and shall not be worn open/unzipped. May only be worn with ODUs.



PARKA, FOUL WEATHER, TYPE II

- a. Description: Made of 100% nylon with a GORE-TEX® membrane. Waterproof, windproof and breathable GORE-TEX® fabric makes this garment contamination-resistant. Features two external cargo pockets, two hand warmer pockets, a stowable hood, hidden map pocket, and elastic and Velcro® wrist closures
- b. Correct Wear: Slide on or pin on shiny full sized rank insignia shall be worn on front rank tab. When wearing the O-6 rank insignia, the eagle will look to the wearer's right. All zippers and/or fasteners shall be closed. Foul weather hood shall be stowed when not in use. Main zipper must be zipped at least ¾ closed. Sleeves are to reach about 3/4 of distance from the wrist to the knuckles when arms hang naturally at side. Parka will not be worn unzipped/open. May only be worn with ODUs.

SHIRT, BLUE, ODU

- a. Description: Made of authorized material as specified by the USCG. Untucked ODU shirt does not have bottom pockets on the front of the shirt.
- b. Correct Wear: All buttons shall be buttoned with exception of very top button by lapels. Top button may be buttoned during inclement weather but not indoors. May be worn with sleeves down or rolled up. Military creases are not authorized. This is the same as the manner of wear by the Coast Guard. The rolled sleeve width will be approximately 3 inches and centered on the mid-to-lower third of the upper arm with cuff (outside material) showing. The rolled sleeves will not be below the elbow.

SOCKS, BLACK

- a. Description: Made of plain or ribbed undecorated, knitted material. Knee or mid-calf lengths are authorized.
- b. Correct Wear: Wear pulled up so that no part of the leg shows while sitting or walking.

T-SHIRT, MOCK TURTLENECK (WINTER), BLUE

- a. Description: Made of authorized material as specified by the USCG. May also be made with moisture wicking fabric. Moisture wicking fabric is not authorized for wear on ship board missions or in situations where a fire danger exists. Does not have PHS logo or other screen-printing.
- b. Correct Wear: Must be worn under ODU Shirt and tucked into ODU trousers. Worn only during the Fall/Winter uniform time-frame. If wearing mock turtle neck t-shirt, the sleeves of the ODU shirt may not be worn up.



T-SHIRT, BLUE, PHS

- a. Description: Made of authorized material as specified by the USCG. May also be made with moisture wicking fabric. Moisture wicking fabric is not authorized for wear on ship board missions or in situations where a fire danger exists. The shirt will have a 3 or 4-inch diameter PHS seal (i.e., the "Public Health Service - 1789" seal) printed on the upper, left breast of the shirt. On the back of the shirt vertically centered at about the mid-point of the shoulder blades, in 2-inch high Arial font, "U.S. Public Health Service" will be printed on three lines with "U.S." on the first line, "Public Health" on the second line, and "Service" on the third line. The PHS Seal and the letters on the back of the undershirt shall be the same yellow as in the yellow quarantine flag when operating under non-tactical conditions.

In tactical situations, at the directive of the commander of a Joint Services operation or at the discretion of the LUA, a plain, non-pocketed Navy blue t-shirt may be worn.

- b. Correct Wear: Must be worn under ODU Shirt and tucked into ODU trousers.

TROUSERS, BLUE, ODU

- a. Description: Made of authorized material as specified by the USCG.
- b. Correct Wear: All buttons shall be buttoned. Pant legs shall be bloused over boots. Tucking material into boots is not authorized. Name tape may be worn over right rear pocket, flush with pocket. Direct embroidery is not authorized.

TROUSERS, FOUL WEATHER, TYPE II

- a. Description: 100% nylon with a GORE-TEX® membrane that is contamination-resistant to diesel fuel, jet fuel, DEET, petroleum, oils and lubricants. Features reinforced seat and knees, cargo pockets and pass-through pockets with VELCRO® brand closures, and zippered leg openings for easy donning and doffing.
- b. Correct Wear: Worn over ODU trousers during outdoor activities. All buttons must be buttoned, closures closed and zippers zipped.