



America's Health Responders
U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
COMMISSIONED CORPS



Answering the Call

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About the Commissioned Corps
Uniforms

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The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. Every officer is required to own a Service Dress Blue Uniform, Summer Whites and Working Khakis. The local uniform authority may prescribe you to wear various uniforms or uniform accessories. Uniforms are available through several sources:



Service Dress Blues



Summer Blues
 (phase out Aug. 2009)



Service Khakis

[Navy NEX](#) (official uniform supplier)

[AAFES](#) (Army sweater and Woodland BDU's)
 (800) 527-2345 phone

[UltraThin](#) (PHS ribbons and nametags)
 P.O. Box 7128
 Moore, OK 73153
 (800) 758-7265 phone
 (800) 962-1451 fax

[PHS Officer Supply and Device Center](#) (insignia, covers, t-shirts, nametags, memorabilia, and plaques)
 1770 Physicians Park Drive
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
 (225) 756-3793 voice
 (225) 756-3810 fax

For uniform questions, e-mail the Corps uniform helpdesk at phsccuniform@hhs.gov.

Ranks and Insignia

The Commissioned Corps is an elite all-officer organization. Each officer is assigned a permanent and a similar or higher temporary grade or rank upon call to active duty. The grades are coded with the letter O signifying officer, followed



by a digit in the range of 1-10. Grades have formal designations within the Commissioned Corps but, when referring to commissioned officers, they traditionally are referred to by the equivalent U.S. Navy ranks (see table). The exception to this is that the proper titles and abbreviations of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Surgeon General, and Deputy Surgeon General are always those of the U.S. Public Health Service. Officers holding temporary grades above O-6 are referred to as flag grade officers.



Summer Whites

*Castaneda v. Hennerford
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Grades	PHS CC Designation		Abbreviation	Army Equivalent Rank
O-1	Junior Assistant	Ensign	ENS	Second Lieutenant
O-2	Assistant	Lieutenant Jr Grade	LTJG	First Lieutenant
O-3	Senior Assistant	Lieutenant	LT	Captain
O-4	Full	Lieutenant Commander	LCDR	Major
O-5	Senior	Commander	CDR	Lieutenant Colonel
O-6	Director	Captain	CAPT	Colonel
O-7	Assistant Surgeon General	Rear Admiral Lower	RADM	Brigadier General
O-8	Assistant Surgeon General	Rear Admiral Upper	RADM	Major General
O-9	Surgeon General	Vice Admiral	VADM	Lieutenant General
O-10	Assistant Secretary of	Admiral	ADM	General

Health

Stars and Bars Insignia Shoulder Marks

From top to bottom, left column
Rear Admiral (2 Stars)
Rear Admiral Lower-Half (1 Star)
Captain
Commander

From top to bottom, right column
Lieutenant Commander
Lieutenant
Lieutenant (Junior Grade)
Ensign



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