



CC512.01  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 28 August 2008  
AMENDED DATE: 7 July 2015

---

**By Order of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health:**

**Karen B. DeSalvo, MD, MPH, Msc**

---

SUBJECT: Wear of Awards and Badges

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Instruction is to prescribe the manner in which ribbons, medals and badges are worn by officers on the uniform of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps). This Instruction also prescribes the order of precedence for wearing Corps, other uniformed service and non-uniformed service awards on the Corps uniform.
2. APPLICABILITY: This issuance applies to all Corps officers on active duty.
3. AUTHORITY:
  - 3-1. [42 USC 202](#) "Administration and Supervision of the Service"
  - 3-2. [42 USC 216](#) "Regulations"
  - 3-3. [42 USC 238g](#), "Wearing of Uniforms"
  - 3-4. [Executive Order 11140](#), dated 30 January 1964
4. PROPONENT: The proponent of this Instruction is the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH). The responsibility for assuring the day-to-day management of the Corps is the Surgeon General.
5. SUMMARY OF REVISIONS AND UPDATES: This is the second issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS).
  - 5-1. This version includes the clarifications and amendments of PPM 08-019, "Wear of Skill and Breast Badges", dated 28 August 2008.
  - 5-2. Added "Commemorative ribbons and/or medals (e.g., Air Force Commemorative Service Medal, the Cold War Victory Commemorative Service Medal) purchased from non-military or non-governmental organizations are not authorized for wear on the Corps uniform."
  - 5-3. Incorporates Decision Memorandum (DM) DM15-001, "Revision of the Commissioned Officers Award Program (COAP)", dated 5 February 2015, with creation of Ebola

Campaign Medal, Expeditionary Attachment and reinstatement of the National Emergency Preparedness Award (NEPA).

6. POLICY: Except as may be authorized by regulations of the President, the insignia and uniform of commissioned officers of the Service, or any distinctive part of such insignia or uniform, or any insignia or uniform any part of which is similar to a distinctive part thereof, shall not be worn, after the promulgation of such regulations, by any person other than a commissioned officer of the Service.
- 6-1. A Corps officer may wear only those awards for which he/she has received approval as evidenced by the documentation for each award in the officer's electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF).
- 6-2. Corps officers who have received awards from other uniformed services, other Agencies/Departments of the Federal government, or foreign governments, shall wear such awards on the Corps uniform only as designated in this Instruction. If awards are from prior military service, awards must be documented on a Department of Defense (DOD) Form DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or a Form DD-215, Correction to DD-214.
- 6-3. All awards issued for wear by the Corps are listed in this Section in their order of precedence. Awards received for service performed while in or attached to units of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps (USMC), USCG, and NOAA, which are not included in this Section, but which are of equal importance to Corps awards listed here, are worn in the order specified by the respective uniformed service. In most cases of relative priority, Corps awards take precedence.
- a. Individual Corps honor awards take precedence for awards of equivalent level from other uniformed services.
- b. Precedence for wear of individual honor ribbons of other Services is as follows: DOD, Navy, USMC, USCG, NOAA, Army, Air Force.
- c. Ribbons, medals or other awards earned in the National Guard (except for Federal ribbons, medals or awards), State militias or similar organizations, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), USCG Auxiliary, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) or Junior ROTC (JROTC) are not authorized on the Corps uniform.
- d. Commemorative ribbons and/or medals (e.g., Air Force Commemorative Service Medal, the Cold War Victory Commemorative Service Medal) purchased from non-military or non-governmental organizations are not authorized for wear on the Corps uniform at any time.
- 6-4. Individual Honor Award.
- a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are Corps honor awards and uniformed service decorations which are authorized for wear on the Corps uniform.
- b. Medal of Honor (Navy, Army, Air Force)  
Navy Cross  
Army Distinguished Service Cross  
Air Force Cross  
Defense Distinguished Service Medal  
Distinguished Service Medal (Other Services)  
Distinguished Service Medal (Public Health Service (PHS))  
Silver Star  
Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement (USCG - DOT Gold Medal)  
Commerce Gold Medal (NOAA)

Defense Superior Service Medal  
 Commerce Silver Medal (NOAA)  
 Legion of Merit  
 Distinguished Flying Cross  
 Navy and Marine Corps Medal  
 Coast Guard Medal  
 Soldier's Medal (Army)  
 Airman's Medal (Air Force)  
 Gold Lifesaving Medal (USCG)  
 Bronze Star  
 Purple Heart  
 Meritorious Service Medal (PHS)  
 Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
 Meritorious Service Medal (Other Services)  
 Surgeon General's Medallion (PHS)  
 Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal (PHS)  
 Commerce Bronze Medal (NOAA)  
 Air Medal  
 Outstanding Service Medal (PHS)  
 NOAA Administrator's Award  
 Silver Lifesaving Medal  
 DOT Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement (USCG-DOT Silver Medal)  
 Aerial Achievement Medal  
 Commendation Medal (PHS)  
 Joint Service Commendation Medal  
 Commendation Medal (Other Services)  
 DOT Award for Superior Achievement (USCG-DOT Bronze Medal)  
 Achievement Medal (PHS)  
 Joint Service Achievement Medal  
 Achievement Medal (Other Services)  
 Commerce Special Achievement Medal (NOAA)  
 PHS Citation  
 Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon Bar  
 NOAA Corps Director's Award  
 Combat Action Ribbon (Navy, USMC, USCG)  
 Air Force Combat Action Medal

6-5. Unit awards.

- a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are Corps unit awards and uniformed service decorations which are authorized for wear on the Corps uniform.
- b.
  - Presidential Unit Citation (All Services)
  - Joint Meritorious Unit Award
  - Outstanding Unit Citation (PHS)
  - DOT Outstanding Unit Award (USCG)
  - Army Valorous Unit Award
  - Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
  - Unit Commendation (PHS)
  - Unit Commendation Ribbon (All Services)
  - Meritorious Unit Commendation (All Services)
  - Army Superior Unit Award
  - Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation
  - Navy "E" Ribbon
  - Coast Guard "E" Ribbon
  - Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

- 6-6. Non-Uniform Service Decorations.
- a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are decorations which are non-uniformed service decorations authorized for wear on the Corps uniform.
  - b. Precedence is the order of date of acceptance unless the officer receives two or more decorations from the same Agency/Department. Wear of those decorations is according to the precedence established by the awarding Agency/Department, disregarding the date of acceptance. This list may not be all inclusive; awards not listed will be evaluated for inclusion by the Director, Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness (DCCPR)
  - c.
    - Presidential Medal of Freedom
    - Presidential Citizens Medal
    - National Security Medal
    - National Sciences Medal
    - Medal for Merit
    - President's Distinguished Federal Civilian Service Medal
    - National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal
    - National Intelligence Medal of Achievement
    - Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award
    - Secretary of Defense Civilian Meritorious Service Award
    - Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Distinguished Service Medal
    - BOP Meritorious Service Medal
    - BOP Commendation Medal
    - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gold Medal
    - EPA Silver Medal
    - EPA Bronze Medal
    - EPA Distinguished Career Award
    - Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award
    - Navy Award for Distinguished Achievement Science
    - Navy Superior Civilian Service Award
    - Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award
    - Navy Distinguished Public Service Award
    - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Distinguished Service Medal
    - NASA Flight Medal
    - NASA Medal for Exceptional Bravery
    - NASA Medal for Exceptional Service
    - Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal
    - Merchant Marine Meritorious Service Medal
    - Merchant Marine Mariners Medal
    - Selective Service Distinguished Service Medal
    - Selective Service Exceptional Service Award
    - Selective Service Meritorious Service Award
    - Department of Commerce (DOC) Gold Medal
    - DOC Silver Medal
    - DOC Bronze Medal
    - Department of Energy Secretary's Gold Award Medal
  - d. Non-uniformed service decorations are not worn on the Corps uniform unless at least one uniformed service award is worn at the same time.
  - e. Attachments (i.e., stars, letters, numbers, etc.) for non-uniformed service awards should be worn in the manner authorized by the issuing Agency/Department. If

the issuing Agency/Department does not specify the manner for wear of attachments, then all attachments for individual and unit honor awards should be worn in the same manner as they are worn for Corps individual and unit honor awards.

6-7. Corps Campaign and Service Awards.

- a. Listed below are the Corps' campaign and service awards with the specified precedence for wear.
- b. As new campaign, and service awards are authorized, they will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Director, DCCPR, to determine appropriate order of precedence for wear.

Smallpox Eradication Campaign Ribbon  
 Global Health Campaign Medal  
 Ebola Campaign Medal  
 Hazardous Duty Award  
 Foreign Duty Award  
 Special Assignment Award  
 Isolated/Hardship Award  
 Crisis Response Service Award  
 Global Response Service Award  
 Response Service Award  
 National Emergency Preparedness Award  
 Recruitment Service Ribbon  
 Global Health Initiatives Service Medal  
 Bicentennial Unit Commendation

6-8. Uniformed Service Campaign and Service Awards.

- a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are the uniformed service campaign, service, and training awards that may be authorized for wear on the Corps uniform after all Corps service and campaign awards.
- b. Prisoner of War Medal  
 Air Force Combat Readiness Medal  
 Good Conduct Medal (all Services)  
 Navy Reserve Special Commendation Ribbon  
 Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal  
 Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal  
 Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medal  
 Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal  
 Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal  
 Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (Navy/USMC/USCG)  
 NOAA ACO Award Medal  
 Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon (Air Force)  
 Air Force Recognition Ribbon  
 Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal  
 China Service Medal  
 American Defense Service Medal  
 Women's Army Corps Service Medal  
 Women's Army Corps Service (WWII) (Air Force)  
 American Campaign Medal  
 Europe-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal  
 Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

World War II Victory Medal  
U.S. Antarctic Expedition Medal  
Army of Occupation Medal  
Navy Occupation Service  
Medal for Humane Action  
National Defense Service Medal  
Korean Service Medal  
Antarctica Service Medal  
Coast Guard Arctic Service Medal  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
Vietnam Service Medal  
Southwest Asia Service Medal  
Kosovo Campaign Medal  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal  
Iraq Campaign Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Korean Defense Service Medal  
Armed Forces Service Medal  
Humanitarian Service Medal  
Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation  
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal  
Coast Guard Special Operation Service Ribbon  
Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon  
Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon  
Army Sea Duty Ribbon  
Air Force Air and Space Campaign Medal  
Naval Arctic Service Ribbon  
Atlantic Service Ribbon (NOAA)  
Pacific Service Ribbon (NOAA)  
International Service Ribbon (NOAA)  
Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon  
Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon  
Army Overseas Service Ribbon  
Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon- (Short Tour)  
Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (Long Tour)  
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon  
Navy Recruiting Service Ribbon  
Recruit Training Service Ribbon (Navy)  
Marine Corps Recruiting Ribbon  
Coast Guard Recruiting Service Ribbon  
Air Force Recruiter Ribbon  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal  
Naval Reserve Medal (obsolete)  
Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon (obsolete)  
Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon  
Military Training Instructor Ribbon (Air Force)  
Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon  
Basic Military Training Honor Graduate Ribbon (Air Force)  
Basic Training Honor Guard (USCG)  
Marine Security Guard Ribbon  
Merchant Marine Gallant Ship Unit Citation  
Merchant Marine Combat Bar  
Merchant Marine Korean Service Bar  
Merchant Marine Vietnam Service Bar  
Merchant Marine Expeditionary Medal (Operations DESERT SHIELD/

## DESERT STORM)

- 6-9. Regular Corps Ribbon. The Regular Corps Ribbon comes after the other uniformed services service and campaign ribbons and medals.
- 6-10. Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon
- 6-11. Uniformed Service Training Awards
- a. Listed below, in order of precedence, are the uniformed service training awards that may be authorized for wear on the Corps uniform after all Corps training awards.
  - b. Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Professional Development Ribbon (Army)  
NCO Professional Military Education Graduate (Air Force)  
Army Service Ribbon  
Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon (Army)  
Air Force Training Ribbon
- 6-12. In addition to the medals or ribbons mentioned in Subsections 6-1 through 6-11, the Director, DCCPR, may authorize officers who have earned medals or ribbons while serving with another uniformed service to wear such medals or ribbons. Awards not mentioned above will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Director, DCCPR, to determine appropriate order of precedence for wear.
- 6-13. Foreign Decorations and Non-U.S. Service Awards.
- a. Personnel who have been specifically authorized to accept decorations from foreign governments may wear them, after all U.S. service awards, in order of their receipt, in the manner prescribed below.
    - (1) No foreign award is worn on the uniform unless at least one U.S. award is worn at the same time.
    - (2) Foreign awards which are similar in design and caliber to U.S. awards may be worn on the same occasions prescribed for wearing the U.S. awards.
    - (3) An officer who does not possess the Medal of Honor, but who has received a foreign award which, under the rules of the country concerned, is required to be worn at the neck, will so wear it. If an officer has been awarded the Medal of Honor and a foreign award which is worn at the neck, he/she shall wear the foreign award so that it shows below the Medal of Honor.
    - (4) When an individual possesses two or more awards from the same country, the order of precedence of those particular awards is determined by the rules of the country concerned.
  - b. Foreign awards, such as stars, sashes, orders, or other devices which are dissimilar to or are required to be worn in a manner which differs from that prescribed for U.S. awards authorized for wear by Corps officers, may be worn only as a courtesy to the country concerned when an officer is attending a public function, in the house of, or in honor of, a public official or other distinguished citizen or subject of the country whose decoration he/she possesses. These awards are worn as nearly as practicable in accordance with the regulations of



the country concerned. Since officers are generally not permitted to wear the Corps uniform outside the United States the wearing of such decoration is limited to specific public functions within the United States.

- 6-14. Vietnam. Foreign awards to U.S. military personnel for service in Vietnam which may be worn on the Corps uniform are listed below in the following order of precedence:

- National Order of Vietnam
- Military Merit Medal
- Army Distinguished Service Order
- Air Force Distinguished Service Order
- Navy Distinguished Service Order
- Army Meritorious Service Medal
- Air Force Meritorious Service Medal
- Navy Meritorious Service Medal
- Special Service Medal
- Gallantry Cross
- Air Gallantry Cross
- Navy Gallantry Cross
- Hazardous Service Medal
- Life Saving Medal
- Armed Forces Honor Medal
- Staff Service Medal
- Technical Service Medal
- Training Service Medal
- Civil Actions Medal

- 6-15. Foreign Unit Awards. The following awards, listed in order of precedence, do not require individual legislative authorization and may be authorized for wear immediately after all foreign decorations:

- Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
- Korean Presidential Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation
- Vietnam Gallantry Meritorious Unit Citation\* (Gallantry Cross Color with Palm)
- Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation\* (Civil Actions Color First Class Color with Palm)

\*Note: Only the initial award (ribbon with frame and palm) may be worn.

- 6-16. Non-U.S. Service Awards. Non-U.S. service awards may be authorized for wear immediately after foreign unit awards as follows:

- Philippine Defense Ribbon
- Philippine Liberation Ribbon
- Philippine Independence Ribbon
- United Nations Service Medal
- United Nations Medal
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal (Yugoslavia Bosnia/Kosovo).
- Multinational Force and Observers Medal
- Inter-American Defense Board Medal/Ribbon

- 6-17. Foreign Service Awards. Foreign service awards are worn immediately after non-U.S. service awards in the following order of precedence:

- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)  
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait)  
Korea War Service Medal

- 6-18. Marksmanship Ribbons. Marksmanship ribbons that are authorized for wear on the Corps uniform after all Foreign Service awards are listed below in the following order of precedence:

Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon  
Navy Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon  
Coast Guard Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon  
Coast Guard Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon  
NOAA Corps Rifle Ribbon (obsolete)  
NOAA Corps Pistol Ribbon (obsolete)  
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Air Force)

- 6-19. Association and Organization Awards. Each of the organizations listed below sells a ribbon and/or medal which officers may be authorized to wear on the Corps uniform after all uniformed service ribbons, foreign decorations and non-U.S. Service Awards. Medals and ribbons sold by these organizations may be worn only while actually attending meetings, conventions or while participating in parades or other ceremonies as a member of these organizations. These ribbons/medals are not authorized for routine daily wear. The order of precedence is as follows:

Commissioned Officers Association (COA)  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)  
Reserve Officers Association (ROA)  
Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)

Note: An officer may only wear a medal or ribbon listed under this Subsection if the officer also wears an approved uniformed service decoration or service award at the same time.

Note: Other association or organization ribbons not listed here are not authorized.

- 6-20. Ribbons shall not be impregnated with preservatives which change the appearance of the ribbon, nor shall they be worn with transparent covering of any sort.
- 6-21. The arrangement of ribbons is in the order of precedence in rows from top down inboard to outboard within rows. A minimum of three ribbons is worn by those possessing three or more; all ribbons may be worn, if desired. If only one row of ribbons is worn, it shall consist of the three senior ribbons.
- 6-22. When full size medals are prescribed, ribbons having no corresponding large medals are worn centered on the right breast in the same relative position as the holding bar of the lowest row of medals. If the individual has been awarded more than one of this type, the senior ribbon is required with the option to wear all. The arrangement of ribbons is in the order of precedence in rows from top down and inboard to outboard.
- 6-23. When miniature medals are prescribed, ribbons for which no medals are provided are NOT worn.
- 6-24. Large Medals.
- a. Large medals are worn on Full Dress uniforms, and are not worn on other uniforms.

- b. The arrangement of medals is in order of precedence from top down and from inboard to outboard within rows. All medals may be worn; however, a minimum of five must be worn by those possessing five or more. If only one row of medals is worn, it shall consist of the five senior medals.

6-25. Miniature Medals.

- a. Miniature medals are worn with all Formal Dress uniforms and Dinner Dress uniforms.
- b. The holding bar will permit the wear of up to five miniature medals in a row with no overlap.
- c. The arrangement of medals is in order of precedence from top down and from inboard to outboard within rows. All medals may be worn; however, a minimum of five must be worn by those possessing five or more. If only one row of medals is worn, it shall consist of the five senior medals.

6-26. Badges and Breast Insignia.

- a. Except as specifically provided, all badges and insignia must be securely affixed to the specified component of the uniform in the approved location.
- b. Standard or miniature badges may be worn with dinner dress, service dress blue, service dress white, summer white, and service khaki uniforms. Mixing of standard size and miniature size badges is prohibited.
- c. Standard Badges.
  - (1) Full size (not miniature) Surgeon General (SG), Deputy Surgeon General (DSG), Officer in Charge (OIC), and Chief Professional Officer (CPO) insignia are worn only while the officer is the incumbent of the position. Officers in an acting or temporary position are not authorized wear of badges not annotated in his/her OPF. The miniature size is worn post-tour;
  - (2) Recruiter badge, Associate Recruiter Lead (ARL) badge, Associate Recruiter (AR), Music Ensemble (ME) badge;
  - (3) Field Medical Readiness badge (FMRB);
  - (4) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Identification (HHS ID) badge.
    - i. Presidential Service Badge
    - ii. Vice Presidential Service Badge
    - iii. Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge
    - iv. Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge

- v. Office of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce Identification Badge
  - vi. Office of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation Identification Badge
  - vii. Office of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Identification Badge
- (5) Other badges and breast insignia issued by other [uniformed services](#).
- i. Earned while an officer of the Corps;
  - ii. Earned while a member of another uniformed service in which that badge or insignia would be worn on that uniformed service's officer uniform;
  - iii. Officers who seek to wear any non-PHS badge earned while in another uniformed service must provide documentation to the Awards Coordinator, OSG, that the badge has actually been awarded; and
  - iv. Shoulder tabs and metallic shoulder tab replicas such as, the President's Hundred, Ranger, Airborne, Special Forces, and other similar tabs are not authorized for wear on the Corps uniform.
- (6) All skill badges, either standard size or miniature, must be of the same luster or finish (e.g., shiny or dull), no mixing of finishes.

6-27. Placement of Identification and Skill Badges.

- a. SG, DSG, OIC, and CPO badges are placed on the officer's right side while the officer is in the incumbent of the corresponding position. After the officer completes a tour of duty in any of those offices, the miniature badge is worn on the officer's right side above the name tag.
- (1) Specifically, male officers must center the SG, DSG, OIC, or CPO badges ¼ inch below the nametag (right side), centered on the shirt pocket under the pocket flap or centered in the location in the area on the right side corresponding to the left pocket tab of the service dress blue uniform.
  - (2) Female officers may also place these badges in these locations; alternatively, they may relocate the badge centered ¼ inch above the PHS name tag (right side), if they are the incumbent of the position.
  - (3) The SG, DSG, OIC, and CPO badges are not authorized for officers in an acting or temporary position.
  - (4) Only one SG, DSG, OIC or CPO badge maybe worn at any time. Officer's in a current role as SG, DSG, OIC or CPO shall wear the badge of office that is current. It is the officer's discretion which badge is worn post-tour if multiple have been authorized.

- b. The Recruiter, ARL, AR, ME badges are placed on the officer's left side and only while the officer has the responsibility for, or association with, Corps recruitment programs. When worn with a shirt as part of a service uniform, the ARL or the AR badge need not be directly affixed to the uniform if suspended from the button of the left pocket by a plastic fob so it is centered in the pocket area. Unlike the SG, DSG, OIC, and CPO badges, the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges may not be worn after an officer's responsibility for, or association with recruitment ends.
- (1) Specifically, male officers may place the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges (Service Dress White (SDW), Summer Whites or Service Khakis) below the service ribbons, centered on the pocket below the pocket flap or ¼ inch below the pocket tab on the Service Dress Blue (SDB) uniform. If a male officer is wearing another authorized breast insignia in this location, the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges may be worn on the officer's right side, centered on the pocket below the pocket flap or centered on the right side corresponding to the left pocket tab of the Service Dress Blue uniform.
  - (2) Female officers may also place these badges in these locations; in the alternative, female officers may relocate the Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges to the area centered 1/4" inch above the PHS name tag.
  - (3) The Recruiter, ARL, AR and ME badges are placed on the right side of the uniform below the PHS name tag when worn with a ceremonial uniform and must be affixed directly to the uniform and not suspended with a plastic fob.
  - (4) No more than two identification badges may be worn at any time.
  - (5) There are no miniature versions of the Recruiter, ARL, AR or ME identification badges.
- c. The FMRB is worn on the left side of the uniform ¼ inch above the left pocket or ribbons. For female officers only, if worn with an identification badge, the officer may wear the FMRB on the right side of the uniform ¼ inch above the name tag.
- d. The HHS ID badge is worn on the left side of the uniform.
- (1) Specifically, male officers will wear the miniature HHS ID badge on summer white, service khaki, and dinner dress. The HHS ID badge is centered on the left pocket below the pocket flap.
  - (2) For female officers, the HHS ID badge, regardless of size, is worn 1/4 inch above the left pocket or above the ribbons.
  - (3) The full sized HHS ID badge is worn on the SDB and SDW uniform. Male officers wear the full size HHS ID badge centered ¼ inch below the left pocket tab or below the lowest row of full sized medals on the left chest.
  - (4) For dinner dress, both males and females wear the miniature HHS ID badge ¼ inch below the lowest row of miniature medals.

- e. Identification or skill badges earned in other uniformed services are worn on the left side of the uniform unless an authorized HHS identification or skill badge is already there.
- (1) If no HHS identification badge is worn on the left pocket, the badge earned in another uniformed service, if authorized for post-tour wear by the issuing uniformed service, is centered on the left pocket below the pocket flap. Female officers may wear the badge in this location or may alternatively place the badge above the left pocket or ribbons. No more than two identification badges are worn at any time.
  - (2) If an HHS identification badge is already in this location, the non-HHS badge may be placed on the right side. Specifically, male officers may wear the badge centered below the nametag centered on the right side corresponding to the left pocket tab of the service dress blue uniform. Female officers may wear the badge in this location or may alternatively place the badge above the name tag on the right side. No more than two identification badges are worn at any time.
  - (3) Skill badges earned in other uniformed services (e.g., Parachute badge, Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer, Flight Wings) are worn on the left side centered above the left pocket or ribbons.
    - a. No more than two skill badges are worn at any time.
    - b. If a PHS skill badge and a non-PHS skill badge are worn together, the PHS badge is placed  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above the non-PHS skill badge.
    - c. If the non-PHS skill badge is authorized for miniature wear on a service dress shirt, the miniature badge may be worn. If no miniature is authorized, the full sized skill badge may be worn. Mixing of full sized and miniature sized badges is not authorized.
    - d. The full sized non-PHS skill badge must be worn on the service dress blue and service dress white uniform.
  - (4) U.S. Army Combat Service Identification Badges are not authorized on the Corps uniform.
- f. Badges that are worn centered above the ribbons or above the left pocket must be placed with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch space above the pocket or ribbons. If an officer wears a second badge, it is placed with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch space between the bottom of the top badge and the lower badge. Skill badges are not worn on the pocket flap or tab.
- g. A badge that is worn centered above the name tag is placed with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch space above the name tag. No more than one badge is worn above the name tag.
- h. The FMRB and/or other uniformed service skill badge patches are authorized on the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). No more than 2 skill badge patches are authorized on the ODU.
- (1) Black metal skill badges are not authorized for wear on the ODU.
  - (2) The skill badge patch is placed on the left side of the ODU shirt with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch space above the USPHS tape. If a second skill badge patch is

worn, it is worn above the other patch, ¼ inch above the lower. A PHS skill badge patch (e.g., FMRB) will be worn above other services skill badge patch.

- (3) Combat and/or unit patches from another uniformed service (e.g., 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, 10<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing) are not authorized for wear on the ODU.

The skill badge patch will be in the appropriate color of the issuing service and will be on an ODU blue background. Olive drab or other color backgrounds (Navy Working Uniform digital, Airman's Battle Uniform digital) are not authorized.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 7-1. The ASH is responsible for establishing policies related to wear of ribbons and medals.
- 7-2. All officers are responsible for adhering to the content of this instruction.

8. PROCEDURES:

8-1. Ribbon Holders/Racks.

- a. Ribbons are worn in horizontal rows consisting of up to three ribbons in each row. When more than three ribbons are authorized, they are worn in horizontal rows of three each. If not in multiples of three, the uppermost row shall contain the lesser number and the center of this row is over the center of the ribbon below it. Ribbons are placed without intervals between ribbons or rows of ribbons. They are worn with the lower edge of the bottom row centered 1/4 inch above the left breast pocket and parallel to the floor. To avoid being covered by the coat lapel, ribbons may be aligned so the border is to wearer's left and parallel with the left side of the pocket. Ribbons worn on the right breast (i.e., when wearing Full Dress uniforms) are worn with the lower edge of the bottom row centered ¼ inch above the right breast pocket, or ribbons are worn in the same relative position as if there were a pocket.
- b. Ribbons which do not have a symmetrical color design or which have stars as part of the design are displayed as follows:
- (1) Medal of Honor Ribbon. The stars should form an 'M' with a single ray of all stars pointing up.
  - (2) Navy and Marine Corps Ribbon. The blue stripe is inboard (to the wearer's right).
  - (3) Navy Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. The blue stripe is uppermost.
  - (4) Merchant Marine Mariner's Ribbon. The red stripe is to the wearer's right.
  - (5) World War II Theater Ribbons. The blue stripe in the center is to the wearer's right.

- (6) Army and Navy Occupation Service Ribbons. The black stripe is to the wearer's right.
- (7) Philippine Defense Ribbon. The stars shall form a triangle, base down, with a single ray of all stars pointing up.
- (8) Philippine Liberation Ribbon. The blue stripe in the center is to the wearer's right.
- (9) Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. The blue stripe is inboard and worn with the gold frame.
- (10) Korean Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. The red portion of the circular device in the center is uppermost, worn with gold frame.
- (11) Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. Worn with gold frame.
- (12) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. The blue stripe in the center is worn to the wearer's right.
- (13) Combat Action Ribbon. The outermost blue stripe is to the wearer's right.
- (14) Kosovo Campaign Medal. The broad blue stripe is worn to the wearer's right.
- (15) Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait). The black stripe is uppermost.
- (16) Reserve Officers Association. The red stripe is to the wearer's right.

#### 8-2. Large Medals.

- a. When more than one medal is worn, they are suspended from a holding bar of metal or other material of sufficient stiffness to support the weight of the medals. The holding bar of the lowest row of medals is located in the same position as the lowest ribbon bar. The bar is 4 1/8 inches wide and each row of medals is 3 1/4 inches long from top of ribbons to bottom of medals, so that the bottom of each medal constitutes a horizontal line. When more than one row is worn, no row is to contain a lesser number of medals than the row above. Except for the uppermost row, all rows shall contain the same number of medals, three medals side by side or up to five medals overlapping. Overlapping is equal, and right or inboard medal shall show in full. Upper rows of medals, if worn, are mounted so that these medals cover the suspension ribbons of the medals.
- b. When either large or miniature medals are prescribed, both the Medal of Honor pendant and the Surgeon General's Medallion are worn from their respective suspension ribbons placed around the neck. When either of these medals is worn with the officer's White Service coat, the ribbon shall pass outside the coat collar. When worn with all other coats, the ribbon shall pass between the shirt and coat collar.

#### 8-3. Miniature Medals.

- a. On the male officer's Formal and Dinner Dress jackets, the holding bar of the



lowest row of miniature medals is positioned 3 inches below the notch and centered on the lapel, parallel to the ground. Three or more miniature medals are positioned starting at the inner edge of the lapel and extended beyond the lapel on the body of the jacket. When worn on the male officer's Blue or White Service coats, the holding bar is centered immediately above the left breast pocket. When worn on the jacket of the female officer's Formal Dress uniform or Dinner Dress uniform, the holding bar is worn in the same relative position as on the male's Dinner Dress jacket, down 1/3 of the distance from the shoulder seam to the coat hem. When worn on the female officer's Blue or White coats, the holding bar is centered immediately above the left pocket flap. Each row of miniatures is 2 1/4 inches long from top of ribbons to bottom of medals so that the bottom of each medal constitutes a horizontal line. Upper rows of medals are positioned so that these medals cover the ribbons of the medals.

- b. When miniature medals are prescribed, the Medal of Honor and the Surgeon General's Medallion, which are not made in miniature, are worn as described in Subsection 8-2.b.

#### 8-4. Attachments to be Worn on Ribbons.

- a. Manner of Wearing.

- (1) A single star is worn centered on the ribbon. If there is more than one star, stars are placed in a horizontal line close to and symmetrically about the center of the ribbon. A gold or bronze star worn in addition to a silver star is placed on the wearer's right, the second to the wearer's left, etc. When medals are worn overlapping, all stars may be worn to the wearer's left. Stars are placed on the ribbon with two rays pointing down.
- (2) When medals overlap, wear all attachments to the wearer's left centered on the visible portion of suspension ribbons. If all attachments are not visible after moving to the left, they may be worn vertically. Stars are placed on the ribbon with two rays pointing down.
- (3) Bronze Letter 'V'. The bronze letter 'V' may be worn on certain ribbons if the citation specifically authorizes the 'V' for valor (heroism): Authorized Corps decorations for the 'V' device include the Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Outstanding Service Medal. Wear only one 'V'. Arrange gold or silver stars indicating subsequent awards of the medal in a horizontal line beside the 'V' symmetrically in the center of the suspension ribbons of large and miniature medals. Arrange them in a horizontal line on the ribbon bar with the 'V' in the center and the first star to the wearer's right, the second to the wearer's left, and so on.
- (4) When wearing multiple stars of the same type, officers shall use the multiple star device corresponding to the required number of stars when possible to ensure proper orientation of stars and the most uniform appearance possible.

- b. Corps Honor Awards. Gold and silver stars are worn on suspension ribbons of medals and on ribbon bars of the Corps' Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal, Outstanding Service Medal, Commendation Medal, Achievement Medal, and PHS Citation, as follows:

- (1) Gold Stars. Gold stars are authorized to be worn in lieu of a second or subsequent award of any of the above-mentioned medals. The gold star to be worn on the suspension ribbon of large and on ribbon bars is 5/16 inch in size. For miniature medals, the star is 1/8 inch in size.
  - (2) Silver Stars. Silver stars are authorized in lieu of five gold stars. The size of silver stars is the same size as gold stars above for the appropriate size ribbon or medal.
  - (3) Oak Leaf Clusters and Numerals. For miniature medals, the cluster or numeral is of either bronze or silver and 5/16 inch in size.
- c. Campaign, Unit and Service Awards. Bronze and silver stars are worn on suspension ribbons and on ribbon bars of the campaign, unit and service awards.
- (1) Bronze stars are authorized in lieu of a second or subsequent award of any of the above-mentioned awards. The bronze star to be worn on the ribbon bar is 3/16 inch in size.
  - (2) Silver stars, 3/16 inch in size, are authorized in lieu of five bronze stars.
  - (3) Expeditionary attachment is worn centered on the suspension ribbon and ribbon bar
- d. Attachments on Awards of Other Uniformed Services. Attachments on ribbons awarded by other uniformed services (stars, letter devices, clasps, oak leaf clusters, etc.) are worn as prescribed by the uniformed service concerned.





**1 Unit Commendation**



**2 Unit Commendations**



**3 Unit Commendations**



**4 Unit Commendations**



**5 Unit Commendations**



**6 Unit Commendations**



**7 Unit Commendations**



**8 Unit Commendations**



**9 Unit Commendations**



8-5. Arrangement for Wearing Large or Miniature Medals, Number of Medals Per Row.

Number of Medals to be worn	Prescribed Number of Rows	Top Row	2nd Row	3rd Row	4th Row
1-5	1 row only	1-5			
6	2	3	3		
7	2	3	4		
8	2	4	4		
9	2	4	5		

10	2	5	5		
11	3	3	4	4	
12	3	4	4	4	
13	3	3	5	5	
14	3	4	5	5	
15	3	5	5	5	
16	4	4	4	4	4
and so on					

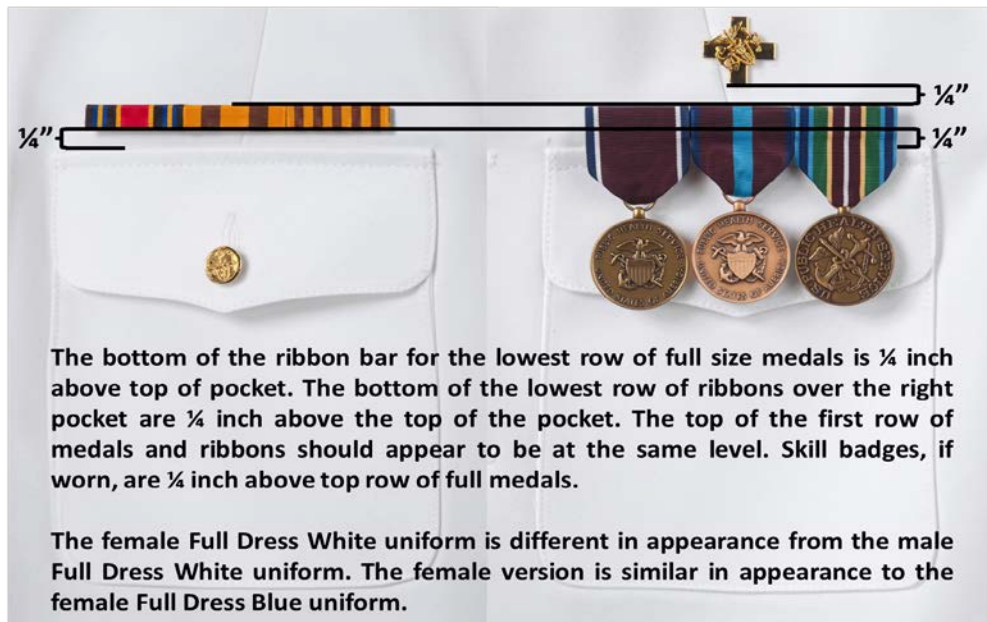
9. HISTORICAL NOTES: This is the second issuance of this Instruction within the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS).
  - 9-1. This version includes the clarifications and amendments of PPM 08-019, "Wear of Skill and Breast Badges", dated 28 August 2008.
  - 9-2. Added "Commemorative ribbons and/or medals (e.g., Air Force Commemorative Service Medal, the Cold War Victory Commemorative Service Medal) purchased from non-military or non-governmental organizations are not authorized for wear on the Corps uniform."
  - 9-3. Incorporates Decision Memorandum (DM) DM15-001, "Revision of the Commissioned Officers Award Program (COAP)", dated 5 February 2015, with creation of Ebola Campaign Medal, Expeditionary Attachment and reinstatement of the National Emergency Preparedness Award (NEPA).

Wear of full-size medals (Full Dress Blue/White):

### Full Dress Blue Uniform



### Male Full Dress White Uniform



Wear of miniature-size medals (Dinner Dress Blue/White):

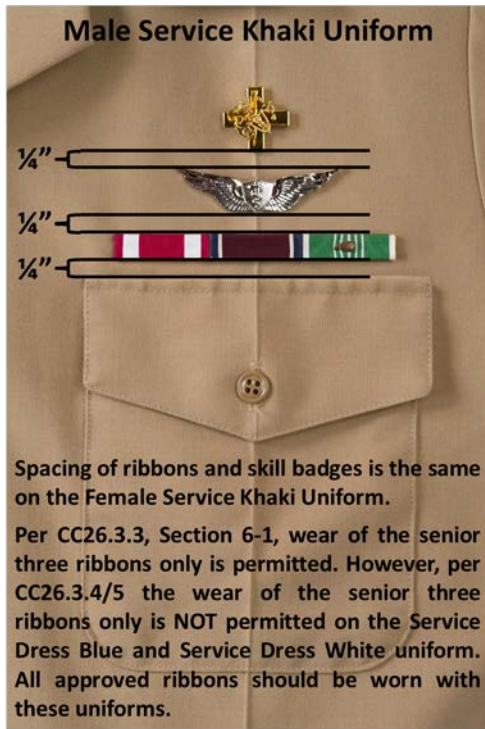


Wear of miniature-size medals: (Dinner Dress Blue/White Jacket):



Miniature medals are arranged in an identical manner on the Dinner Dress Blue jacket uniform for Male Officers

Wear of ribbons/skill badges on Service Khaki or Summer White uniform:





Wear of ribbons and badges on Service Dress Blues:

