



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

July 5, 2007

Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Washington D.C. 20201

TO: Assistant Secretary for Health

FROM: Director, Office of Commissioned Corps Force Management (OCCFM)

SUBJECT: Revisions of Uniform, Personal Appearance and Grooming Standards.

ISSUE

A Working Integrated Project Team (WIPT) was formed in order to address numerous issues regarding the proper wear of the uniform of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps), future uniform options to the Corps uniform based on Navy supply and available uniform options, along with phase-in/out of new and previous uniforms. The charge to the WIPT was to align current Corps regulations to match as closely as possible to the uniform, personal appearance and grooming standards of the U.S. Navy (Navy). The WIPT was also charged with recommending appropriate transition periods for implementing the new policies. With your approval of the new policy concepts contained in the attachment, the Office of the Surgeon General and Office of Commissioned Corps Operations, will develop a transition plan for implementing the new policies.

DISCUSSION

Item 1. Daily Uniform Wear

On 15 July 1993, Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS) CC26.3.2, Directive to Wear the Public Health Service Uniform, was enacted. In section C, the expected minimum wear of the Corps uniform was for no less than one workday per week. This instruction was for all Corps officers on extended active duty, except for officers in the Junior and Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JR/SRCOSTEP), assigned to Department of Defense (DOD) positions, assigned to Coast Guard (USCG) positions, assigned to a non-Federal agency or a program specific need.

Since this policy was first incorporated, the Corps has become a more vital link in the public health and welfare of this Nation. Other members of the other uniformed services wear their respective uniforms whenever they are on duty, with limited exceptions such as undercover investigative agents, military attaches to foreign countries or other mission specific exclusions. The Corps should be no different in the consistent wear of the uniform. This daily wear establishes an esprit de corps, provides the Corps with a recognizable identity and solidifies our service as truly a uniformed service. This should be considered a condition of service.

