

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES

PERSONNEL OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM



POM 16-001  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 5 October 2015

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By Order of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service:

VADM Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., M.B.A.

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TO: All Corps Officers on Active Duty

SUBJECT: Uniform of the Day – Fall and Winter

1. In accordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) [CC411.01](#), "Required Wear of the Uniform," this Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) prescribes the fall and winter uniform of the day for officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps).
  - a. This POM does not apply to officers under the jurisdiction of a separate uniform authority, as outlined in CC411.01.
  - b. This POM does not apply to Corps officers appointed to the Junior or Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP).
2. Effective 0001 Hours, 5 October 2015, the prescribed fall and winter uniform of the day is the Service Dress Blue (SDB). Alternative uniforms are the Service Khaki (SK) or the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU).
3. The SDB shall be worn for all official functions, high-level meetings, and ceremonies (e.g., awards and promotions) where civilian equivalent is coat and tie.
4. Officers assigned to patient care or laboratory areas may wear a suitable lab coat over the uniform when required to perform assigned duties. See [CC413.01](#), "Special Uniform Situations," for more guidance on protective clothing.
5. Special Uniform Situations, Ceremonial Uniforms, and Dinner Dress
  - a. Officers testifying before Congress, attending Congressional Hearings, or conducting official business on Capitol Hill shall wear the SDB, regardless of the season.
  - b. Officers conducting official business or attending official functions at the White House shall wear the SDB. Regardless of the pay grade, officers attending White House or State Department dinners or social functions shall wear the Dinner Dress Blue Jacket. Officers assigned or detailed to the White House may

wear the appropriate seasonal service dress or service uniform, unless White House protocol dictates otherwise.

- c. The Full Dress Blue shall be worn when participating in change of command ceremonies, occasions of State, solemnities, or when escorting or entertaining official visitors with honors or foreign officials and dignitaries.
- d. Operating Division/Staff Division (OPDIV/STAFFDIV) Heads may prescribe the SDB to be worn by officers under their jurisdiction for ceremonial occasions, high-level meetings, or other appropriate circumstances.
  - i. OPDIV/STAFFDIV Heads are prohibited from directing female officers to wear the skirt in lieu of slacks.
  - ii. OPDIV/STAFFDIV Heads are prohibited from issuing other directives concerning uniforms.
- e. Officers engaged in domestic travel may elect to wear either the service uniform of the day prescribed by the area to which the officer is traveling, or the SDB.
- f. The Dinner Dress Blue Jacket (prescribable for O-4 and above, optional for O-3 and below) or the Dinner Dress Blue (O-3 and below only) is authorized for wear at the appropriate dinner or social function where the civilian dress equivalent is white or black tie. Officers should consult with their host to determine the appropriate dinner dress uniform.

6. Uniform Guidance

- a. When attending high-level meetings or ceremonies, the SDB coat shall be worn.
- b. The Black Windbreaker Jacket (BWJ) is authorized for wear in lieu of the SDB coat. The BWJ shall not be worn in lieu of the SDB coat when attending ceremonies or high-level meetings; in such cases, the SDB coat shall be worn.
- c. The Navy sweater or Army Cardigan is not authorized to be worn in conjunction with the SDB coat.
- d. The ODU Command Ball Cap shall be worn with the ODU unless otherwise prescribed.
- e. The Utility Cap (8-point style utility cover) may be worn with the ODU when prescribed by the SG or his/her designee during response operations.
- f. The ODU shall not be worn for high-level meetings or ceremonies; in such cases, an appropriate service uniform shall be worn. The ODU may only be worn at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building or the Wilbur J. Cohen Building with supervisory approval.

- 7. Requests for exception to wearing the prescribed uniform and/or for specific events must be submitted in writing to the SG, through the Uniform Coordinator, for approval.

8. Daily uniform wear and continuous attention to detail will ensure the uniform is worn properly. A sharp and properly worn uniform will positively reflect on the officer wearing the uniform and the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. Pride in appearance is the mark of respect, responsibility, and professionalism expected of every Corps officer.

-signed-  
Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., M.B.A.  
VADM, USPHS  
Surgeon General