

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

PERSONNEL POLICY MEMORANDUM



EFFECTIVE DATE: **PPM 08-019**
28 August 2008

By Order of the Assistant Secretary for Health:

ADM Joxel Garcia, USPHS

TO: All Regular and Reserve Corps Officers on Extended Active Duty

SUBJECT: Wear of Skill and Breast Badges

1. Effective 1 April 2008, all Regular and Reserve Corps officers serving on extended active duty are authorized to wear a maximum of two duly authorized skill badges and two breast/identification badges on the Corps uniform.
2. This PPM amends [CC26.3.3](#), "Wearing of Medals and Ribbons," Section I, Wearing of Badges, dated 15 July 1993, and [Manual Circular 372](#) dated 21 April 2003. This establishes within the several groups of uniforms and their components, where badges (and other insignia) are to be placed and, as appropriate, establishes other restrictions and provides options.
3. Except as specifically provided, all badges and insignia must be securely affixed to the specified component of the uniform in the approved location.
4. Standard and miniature badges may be worn with formal, dinner dress, service dress blue, service dress white, summer white, service khaki, winter blues, and service blue (a.k.a. salt and pepper) uniforms.
5. Standard Badges.
 - a. 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. The miniature size is worn post-tour;
 - b. Recruiter badge, Associate Recruiter Lead (ARL) badge, Associate Recruiter (AR) badge;
 - c. Field Medical Readiness badge (FMRB);
 - d. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Identification (HHS ID) badge; and
 - e. Other badges and breast insignia issued by other uniformed services.

- (1) Earned while an officer of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps);
- (2) Earned while a member of another uniformed service in which that badge or insignia would be worn on that uniformed service's officer uniform;
- (3) Officers who seek to wear any non-Public Health Service (PHS) badge earned while in another uniformed service must provide documentation to the Awards Coordinator, Office of Commissioned Corps Operations, that the badge has actually been awarded; and
- (4) 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. 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 below the PHS 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 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.
- b. The Recruiter, ARL, and AR 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, and AR badges may not be worn after an officer's responsibility for, or association with recruitment ends.
 - (1) Specifically, male officers must place the Recruiter, ARL, and AR badges in the area of the left pocket below the service ribbons, centered on the pocket below the pocket flap. If a male officer is wearing another authorized breast insignia in this location, the Recruiter, ARL, and AR 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, and AR badges to the area centered above the PHS name tag.
 - (3) The Recruiter, ARL and AR 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.
- c. The FMRB is worn on the left side of the uniform above the left pocket or ribbons.
- 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, summer blue (a.k.a. salt and pepper), service khaki, and formal or 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 above the left pocket or above the ribbons.
 - (3) The full sized HHS ID badge is worn on the service dress blue and service dress white uniform. Male officers wear the full size HHS ID badge centered below the left pocket tab or below the lowest row of full sized medals on the left chest.
 - (4) For formal and dinner dress, both males and females wear the miniature HHS ID badge 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 PHS identification or skill badge is already there.
- (1) If no PHS 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.
 - (2) If a PHS identification badge is already in this location, the non-PHS badge may be placed on the right side. Specifically, male officers may wear the badge centered below the PHS 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 PHS name tag on the right side.
 - (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 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.
 - (d) The full sized non-PHS skill badge must be worn on the service dress blue and service dress white uniform.
 - f. Badges that are worn centered above the ribbons or above the left pocket must be placed with a ¼ inch space above the pocket or ribbons. If an officer wears a second badge, it is placed with a ¼ inch space between the bottom of the top badge and the lower badge.
 - g. A badge that is worn centered above the PHS name tag is placed with a ¼ inch space above the name tag. No more than one badge is worn above the PHS name tag.
 - h. The FMRB and skill badges earned in other uniformed services in which a subdued or olive drab version exists, the officer may wear no more than two badge patches on the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU).
 - (1) Black metal skill badges are not authorized for wear on the BDU.
 - (2) Badge patches are placed on the left side of the BDU with a ¼ inch space above the USPHS tape. If a second badge patch is worn, it is placed with a ¼ inch space above the lower badge patch.
 - (3) U.S. Army or other similar combat/unit patches are not authorized for wear on the BDU.
 - i. The FMRB and skill badges earned in other uniformed services are authorized to be worn on the working khaki, indoor duty white, or working winter blue uniform.
 - (1) Identification badges (SG, DSG, OIC, CPO, HHS ID, or Recruiter badges) are not authorized for wear on the working khaki, indoor duty white, or working winter blue uniform.
 - (2) The FMRB or skill badges earned in other uniformed services are worn on the left side of the uniform centered above the left pocket with a ¼ inch space between the pocket and the badge. If a second badge is worn, a ¼ inch space is placed between the lower edges of the top badge and the lower badge.
- 7. This PPM will remain in effect until rescinded.

/s/
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