

Chapter 13

UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA

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13.1 The uniform. USPS has adopted a yachting-style uniform to add dignity and uniformity to official appearances of members. Yachtsmen have worn standard dress for many years and, while USPS has introduced some unique features, much of its uniform code conforms to those traditions. Designed in traditional yachting style, but with unique USPS insignia, the uniform

provides identification and recognition of the wearer both within and without the organization. In lieu of the uniform, active members may wear the regulation blazer with a distinctive USPS emblem. In addition, certain USPS emblems may be worn on casual attire such as shirts, windbreakers and caps. This chapter describes those items in detail. The uniform, blazer and insignia of USPS may be

worn only by persons who are currently members of USPS, except that a life member pin may be worn for life. No insignia other than those prescribed in this chapter are to be worn on the USPS uniform or blazer [Refer to Tailor's Guide on page B.1].

While some squadrons have a tradition of uniform wear, there is no requirement that any member buy or wear any uniform. Although most members will never wear a uniform, those who so choose will want to do so correctly.

13.2 Purpose of the uniform. The USPS uniform is worn in the more formal and official settings. On it a member may display insignia of his or her administrative and educational achievements, including rank, grade and merit marks.

The uniform is most frequently worn:

- When representing USPS, or one of its districts or squadrons at external functions or when speaking to the public or a private group
- At Governing Board and annual meetings of USPS
- At formal and semi-formal district or squadron social affairs
- At district business and social functions such as conferences and rendezvous
- By flag officers at regular squadron meetings,
- At funerals, where USPS honors are being paid the deceased

Although the appropriate uniform may be worn by any member at a meeting where one is prescribed, the blazer or appropriate civilian dress is more commonly worn by the general membership at regular squadron meetings, business meetings or similar activities.

13.3 Uniform categories. Several styles of uniform are provided to allow for different circumstances and climate. Two of these, uniforms "A" and "B", are formal and when worn with a bow tie serve as the counterpart of a tuxedo. With a four-in-hand or crossover tie they should be considered as the "dress" uniform. The other uniforms, C through F, are the "operational" uniforms and represent combinations of shirt styles with either black or white trousers/skirts; selection

of the proper one is a function of the climate and nature of the activity of the day. Men's and women's uniforms, while obviously different, follow the same general patterns [Refer to Tailor's Guide on page B.1].

13.4 Dress code. At official functions, a dress code (similar to what is called "uniform of the day" in the military) is prescribed by the presiding officer. Members are encouraged to wear this uniform, but may certainly wear other attire suitable for the occasion. Color guards may wear a uniform different from the one prescribed if such is dictated by the officer in charge.

Something to consider: Adding, combining or omitting uniform articles in a way not consistent with specifications is not authorized. The jacket is to remain buttoned whenever worn, except in private. The jacket is never removed when a bow tie is worn.

Note that if USPS standard long sleeved shirt is worn, uniform A or B with four-in-hand or crossover tie becomes uniform F or C when the jacket is removed. The wearer would then be "out of uniform". The wearing of a USPS uniform other than the one prescribed is in poor taste.

Chaplains may substitute the ecclesiastical black shirt and white collar when wearing uniform A or B.

The cap should be worn by color guards and at formal outdoor occasions. It may, however, be removed for normal "back and forth" activities.

13.5 The uniform jacket for men (once referred to as the "blue uniform") is generally known as the regulation yachting uniform, shade 3346, with buttons of USPS design. The uniform jacket for women is the female naval officer's uniform jacket with buttons of USPS design or,

alternatively, the navy woman officer's service four button coat. For both men and women, uniform A uses black trousers/skirt; uniform B, white.

Trousers/slacks worn by women members are fly-front with side seam pockets, without belt or cuffs. They are the same material and color as the jacket, above. The skirt is six-gore, A-line, of a length below the knee. The black skirt is the same material and color as the jacket, above. The white skirt is made of washable polyester gabardine, lined with washable fabric. When a bow tie is called for in the dress code, women may wear a long skirt of style, fabric and color consistent with uniform A or B, as specified.

For both men and women members, a plain long-sleeved white dress shirt may be worn (and is recommended) with uniforms A and B in lieu of a regulation shirt.

13.6 Long-sleeved shirt. The **men's** long-sleeved shirt, worn with uniforms C and F, is a white shirt of preshrunk fine combed cotton or synthetic fibers with a collar shaped and convexed over the shoulder. It is coat-style with seven simulated pearl buttons in front and simulated pearl-button barrel cuffs (French cuffs are not appropriate.) Shoulder straps (epaulets) of the same material are attached to the shirt with USPS gilt buttons. There are two breast pockets with flaps fitted with similar gilt buttons. Grade, senior member, merit mark and officer insignia may be worn as provided elsewhere in this section.

For **women**, the current long-sleeved shirt is identical to the men's; however, an earlier design remains authorized as follows: A tailored white blouse with pointed, non-button-down collar and a single breast pocket, without flap, on the left side.

Grade, senior member, merit marks and officer insignia (but not braid) may be worn as provided elsewhere in this section.

13.7 Short-sleeved shirt. The **men's** short-sleeved shirt is a white open-neck shirt of fine combed cotton or synthetic fibers to which are added epaulets, two pocket flaps and gilt buttons as

on the regulation long-sleeved shirt. A tie is not worn with this shirt.

The **women's** short-sleeved shirt is similar to the long-sleeved shirt (either version) but with open neck.

Grade, senior member and officer insignia (but not merit marks or braid) may be worn as provided elsewhere in this section.

13.8 Headgear. The **men's** formal uniform cap is the traditional formal yachting cap with black visor, white top, black USPS buttons and black cord chin-strap. Officer insignia may be worn as shown in the tailor's guide Refer to B.10 on page B-5.

The **women's** hat is a navy-style woman's hat (combination) with white cover and black brim, fitted with USPS cap device. It is worn straight on. Officer insignia may be worn as shown in the tailor's guide Refer to B.21 on page B-11.

The formal cap and the women's hat are worn **only** with the uniform not with the blazer or casual attire.

An **informal cap** ("baseball" or "flattopper" style) may be worn by men or women with uniforms C, D, E, F and G when engaged in on-the-water activities on or around boats where the formal cap would be cumbersome or inconvenient. The USPS cap device **without** officer insignia is to be attached. Color is to be white or black as specified by the officer in charge. Members may wear these caps for any activity with or without the uniforms specified.

Headgear of any type (formal or informal, men's or women's) is removed indoors except when worn by a member of a color guard or in a house of worship whose tenets require otherwise.

13.9 Shoes. Shoes should be plain-tipped, conservative in design and black or white as appropriate. Canvas or woven material is not appropriate for wear with the uniform, except when there is a likelihood of the wearer's being on board a vessel. **Women's** shoes are mid-heel

pumps in black or white as appropriate, or white boat shoes or flats when participating in a boating activity.

13.10 Belt. A white webbed belt should be worn with men's uniforms C, D and E, and a black webbed belt with uniforms F and G, if trousers are provided with belt loops. A USPS brass buckle with ship's wheel logo is recommended. The free end of the belt is inserted into the buckle so that the metal tip just conceals the metal of the buckle backplate, "metal to metal," as the Navy says.

13.11 Tie. For men, the tie is a standard four-in-hand black necktie or if the dress code calls for it, a black bow tie. The women's tie is a Navy-style black crossover with button snap. When the dress code calls for a black bow tie, women wear a small version.

13.12 Gloves. White gloves may be worn by members, male or female, when acting in an official honor guard, color guard or as pallbearers.

13.13 Some special thoughts for women members. Hosiery, worn with all uniforms except E, is of natural tone. For uniform E white ankle socks are appropriate. Women may wear minimal appropriate jewelry, but brooches and other pins are not permitted on the uniform.

13.14 Purse. A purse, black or white consistent with the color of the uniform, may be of her own choosing but preferably of real or simulated leather, without trim.

13.15 USPS blazer. Active members are authorized and encouraged to wear USPS blazer in informal situations within or without USPS when it is desirable to be identified with the organization. *The blazer is not a uniform, but it may be worn in lieu of a uniform at times other than at formal and semi-formal (bow tie) functions.*

The official blazer is a dark blue, two - or three-button single-breasted jacket with notched lapel and patch or welt style pockets. For those whose physique can handle it, a double breasted blazer may be substituted. Buttons are gold or black USPS design.

13.16 Accessory clothing. No specific accessory clothing (trousers, skirts, shirts, et cetera) is designated for wear with the blazer. Members are encouraged, however, to wear attire that is in good taste and appropriate to the occasion.

13.17 USPS emblem. Members entitled to wear the blazer may wear on the breast pocket a unique USPS emblem incorporating a device identical to the regulation cap device, with (or without if desired) officer and grade insignia. If the device is worn without an officer insigne, it is encircled by a circle of gold Mylar thread (gold bullion is "grandfathered"). If the emblem is worn with an officer insigne, it follows the same design as that of the cap. Grade insignia may be worn above the emblem or officer insigne. Grade insignia are smaller versions of those authorized for the uniform. Only active and past officer insignia are permitted, namely tridents, binoculars, speaking trumpets and fouled anchor.

13.18 Blazer and cap device. These distinguishing USPS devices consist of a ship's wheel with eight spokes, embroidered in gold, so placed that the two upper spokes are at equal angles to an imaginary vertical line. Spokes within the rim are not shown, and in their place a raised white enameled disc is inserted, showing the USPS ensign in color, in a size such that the four corners of the flag touch the circumference of the disc. The cap device is centered vertically, half on the cap band and half above it. The blazer device is centered on the left breast pocket.

Officer insignia may be worn in conjunction with either device. *As officers often change positions, become past officers, et cetera, it is recommended that officer insignia **not** be worn on the cap.* The blazer, however, is worn much more frequently; the officer insigne is recommended in this use. The cap device *without officer insignia* is also authorized to be worn on the "flat-top" or "flight-deck" casual yachting cap Refer to 13.8 on page 13-3.

13.19 Formal squadron emblems. Squadrons may elect to wear on their blazers a locally designed formal squadron emblem, in lieu of USPS emblem. Such designs must be approved by the

Flag and Etiquette Committee. If a squadron chooses to adopt a modification of the “model” emblem [Refer to Tailor’s Guide on page B.1], it will receive summary approval by the chair of FECom. *If a squadron adopts this emblem as a policy, all members should wear the same emblem; a mixture of designs can only confuse.* Officer and grade insignia may be placed on these devices in the same relative positions as with the official emblem.

13.20 Model design. The model emblem features a ship's wheel with the squadron pennant superimposed. The squadron name appears on the body of the wheel with the initials U-S-P-S spaced among the upper spokes. If only the upper portion of the wheel is required for the squadron name, the words “Power Squadron” (spelled out fully) may be placed in the lower portion, or the initials U-S-P-S may be placed there in lieu of the position among the spokes.

13.21 Other designs. Designs other than those patterned after the model will be considered by FECom on an individual basis. All proposals, including adaptations of the model, should be forwarded to its assistant chair.

13.22 Name plate. Appropriate insignia for the blazer include the items noted above and a regulation name plate. Some squadrons and/or districts may also have incidental awards or badges that may be worn. No other emblem, insigne, pin or device is authorized on USPS blazer.

Other Authorized USPS Garb

13.23 Sash. In order to show their USPS accomplishments, women members may wear a regulation sash *over appropriate formal attire* (not with the uniform) at events where the specified uniform is either A or B with bow tie. The sash may be either white or black, coordinating with the dress which is worn. It is worn over the left shoulder, fastened with a shoulder tab which may bear an insigne of rank. It comes together and is fastened at the right hip with the front portion on top. The sash must bear a USPS emblem with grade (if any) but without rank, positioned one-quarter of the way from shoulder to hip. The sash is

not to be worn when a woman is acting in an official capacity. For a source of the sash contact the Flag and Etiquette Committee.

13.24 Ancillary attire. When weather conditions require, it is suggested that members in uniform wear the regulation Navy black raincoat, windbreaker, or Woolly Pully[®] sweater. The latter two items are not to be worn with uniforms A or B. Soft shoulder tabs denoting rank or position (the same as those prescribed for the uniform shirt) may be worn on these garments. Likewise, the USPS emblem, without rank or grade insignia, may be worn on the sweater.

13.25 Informal or casual attire. For less formal outdoor or on-the-water activities where a form of cohesiveness and squadron identity is desired, most squadrons will adopt a sport shirt, either knit or broadcloth, or some other dress bearing a “casual patch” consisting of the squadron’s burgee, the burgee crossed with USPS ensign or similar emblem. This is encouraged and for many members will be the closest to a uniform that they will own.

Such casual patches are authorized to be worn on jackets, shirts, “flat top” caps, et cetera. They are often embroidered into the fabric of the clothing and designs usually are noticeably breezier than those of the more formal squadron blazer emblem. Squadrons may design their own patches and forward them to the assistant chair of the Flag and Etiquette Committee for review. Those that differ only in burgee and squadron name from styles already approved, have automatic summary approval. Innovative designs will be reviewed more extensively by the FECom which will be happy to provide guidance when needed.

13.26 Insignia. USPS insignia recognize membership, position (rank or committee affiliation), educational accomplishment, seniority and contribution (the merit mark.) The several items of insignia may be worn on the uniform and the blazer or in the case of rank, may appear on the flag of an officer. This section describes the various items of insignia and provides pictures of each Refer to B.11 on page B-5.

Insignia material Throughout this chapter reference is made to “gold” insignia for rank, grade, senior member, merit marks, cap device, et cetera. On the uniform jacket these are to be embroidered in gold Mylar thread. The previously authorized gold bullion may continue to be worn by those having it. All “gold” insignia on a uniform should, however, be of the same material. On the regulation white shirt, “gold” insignia are embroidered on yellow silk thread. Past officer insignia (or “silver”) follow the same requirements.

13.27 Membership pin. Active, associate and honorary members of USPS may wear on informal clothing a membership lapel pin consisting of a gold-colored ship's wheel substantially one-half inch in diameter, with a raised USPS ensign, in color, superimposed on the wheel in bas-relief. The ensign simulates a waving flag, which, if displayed flat, would touch the rim of the wheel at the four corners. Gold may be used instead of white for the stars and the fouled anchor. The ship's wheel has eight spokes, positioned so that one spoke is uppermost.

The membership pin, with or without officer tab, should not be worn on USPS blazer when it duplicates the insignia worn on the breast pocket; it is redundant.

13.28 Some exceptions:

- A 25-year, 50-year, life-member or Governing Board member emeritus pin is permitted - none of these are part of the pocket patch
- A membership pin with officer tab may be worn *if a rank insigne is not incorporated into the pocket emblem*
- If an active rank (gold or red) is incorporated into the pocket emblem, a membership pin with officer tab may be worn *if the tab signifies a higher past rank.* (A past district commander, say, may choose to wear in his pocket emblem, the tridents of a current squadron position)
- In lieu of an officer tab a member may attach to his membership pin a lower tab of brushed gold on which is indicated the number of merit marks earned, in increments of five merit marks. Members should note that the merit

mark tab does not duplicate any other item on the blazer and as such is not redundant.

13.29 Adjuncts to the membership pin. Twenty-five-year pin. One who has been a member for twenty-five years may wear a membership pin surrounded by a gold laurel wreath.

13.30 Life-member pin. A life member may wear for life a membership pin surrounded by a silver rope.

13.31 Fifty-year pins. One who has been a member for fifty years may wear a membership pin as follows:

A) For those who have been awarded fifty merit marks: The life-member pin with an upper tab containing a diamond;

B) For those who have been awarded at least twenty-five but fewer than fifty merit marks: The life-member pin with an upper tab bearing the representation of a spread eagle and the numerals “50”;

C) For those who have not been awarded twenty five merit marks: The twenty-five-year membership pin with an upper tab bearing the representation of laurel wreaths with the numerals “50”.

13.32 Officer tabs. Active and past officers listed below may wear, in conjunction with the lapel pin to which they are entitled, a lower tab having a blue field on which appears the following gold insigne:

- Chief commanders: Three long-staffed crossed tridents
- Vice commanders: Two long-staffed crossed tridents
- Rear commanders: One long-staffed trident
- Staff commanders: One long-staffed trident without crossbar but with a circle superimposed on its staff
- District commanders: Three delta tridents with the middle trident higher than the others
- Commanders: Three short-staffed tridents with the middle trident higher than the others
- Tabs are not approved for district or squadron *lieutenant* commanders.

13.33 Merit mark tab. Refer to 13.28 on page 13.6.

13.34 Insignia of rank. In USPS all ranks are shown by combinations of one or more tridents, each differing in dimensions or details of design. Squadron level tridents bear a short staff; district level a mid-length staff with a superimposed triangle (delta trident); and national level tridents bear a long staff, with one subset, the staff commander, having a superimposed circle.

13.35 At **squadron** level, the commander merits three gold tridents arranged in a triangular pattern. The lieutenant commanders merit two gold tridents side by side while elected first lieutenants have one gold trident. Appointed lieutenants wear a red trident.

13.36 At **district** level, the commander merits three gold delta tridents arranged in a triangular pattern. The lieutenant commanders merit two delta gold tridents side by side while elected first lieutenants have one gold delta trident. Appointed lieutenants wear a red delta trident.

13.37 At **national** level, the chief commander merits three crossed long staffed gold tridents. The vice commanders merit two crossed long staffed gold tridents and rear commanders have one long staffed gold trident. Staff commanders have one long staffed gold trident with superimposed circle.

13.38 Insignia denoting position. Certain positions at each level of USPS merit unique insignia. These are worn in substantially the same way and locations as the tridents of an officer; however, officer tridents and committee insignia are not to be worn simultaneously. (Refer to B.4 on page B-2 for wearing insignia of Governing Board membership.) These positions are:

Squadron level:

- Flag Lieutenant
- Fleet Captain
- Members of Local Boards

District level:

- Flag Lieutenant
- Fleet Captain
- Aide to D/C
- Chaplain

National level:

- Flag Lieutenant
- Aide to C/C
- Advanced Grades Division
- Elective Courses Division
- Governing Board Members
- Members, Committee on Rules

Refer to Appendix B.17 through B.19 for illustrations of each insigne.

13.39 Sleeve stripes (braid). On the uniform jacket, a member may wear on both sleeves, stripes (also referred to as braid) denoting his or her current rank or position. These stripes may be retained after retirement from office. Stripes are made of heavy navy blue¹ mohair of differing widths depending on the wearer's office. The lower edge of the bottom stripe is placed two inches above the end of the sleeve. The number, width and separation of stripes is described below.

13.40 Squadron sleeve stripes.

- Commanders: Four half-inch stripes spaced one-half inch apart
- Lieutenant commanders: Three half-inch stripes spaced one-half inch apart
- First lieutenants: Two half-inch stripes spaced one-half inch apart
- Lieutenants, including aides to the commander, the flag lieutenant, chaplain, fleet captain and chairs of local boards: One half-inch stripe

13.41 District sleeve stripes.

- District commanders: One one-inch stripe with three half-inch stripes above it, spaced one-quarter inch apart
- District lieutenant commanders: One one-inch stripe with two half-inch stripes above it, spaced one-half inch apart

1) Stripes formerly were black when the uniform was truly blue. The combination is now seldom seen, although it may continue to be worn.

- District first lieutenants: One one-inch stripe with one half-inch stripe above it, spaced one-half inch apart
- District lieutenants, aides to the district commander, the district flag lieutenant, the district fleet captain and the district chaplain: One one-inch stripe

13.42 National sleeve stripes.

- Chief commanders: One two-inch stripe with three half-inch stripes above it, spaced one quarter inch apart
- Vice commanders: One two-inch stripe with two half-inch stripes above it, spaced one-half inch apart
- Rear commanders and chairs of *ad hoc* committees: One two-inch stripe with one half-inch stripe above it, spaced one-half inch apart
- Staff commanders, aides to the chief commander, the national chaplain, the national flag lieutenant, general and emeritus members of the Governing Board, and members of all national committees: One two-inch stripe.

Some members have asked, “Why such somber stripes; why not gold?” This is one of the traditions of the sea. Gold stripes indicated the paid crew of one’s yacht; the owner wore black stripes, thus to differentiate them from one another.

13.43 Consistency of tridents and stripes.

Members serving in an office of lesser rank than one held previously may continue to wear the stripes of the former position. An example might be a past squadron commander serving as a squadron lieutenant.

13.44 Merit marks. A member may wear on the left sleeve of the black uniform jacket and the long-sleeve white shirt, a quantity of merit marks, each a vertically oriented gold bar, commensurate with the cumulative number awarded [Refer to Tailor’s Guide on page B.1].

Up to twenty merit marks are worn in a single row. (They are purchased in strips of appropriate number.) Those in excess of twenty are worn on

one or more additional rows. When additional merit marks are awarded, it is recommended that a complete new strip be affixed, to avoid inconsistencies in color (particularly with bullion) and errors in spacing and/or alignment.

13.45 Shoulder tabs. Insignia of rank or position worn on the regulation white shirt (both short and long-sleeved), sash, windbreaker, sweater or raincoat are sewn on a soft black shoulder tab. Material for tabs is similar to that used for the backing on insignia applied to the black uniform (shade 3346), folded into a sleeve with the specific insigne centered on the exposed portion. Insofar as possible, gold and silver insignia are to be of Mylar. The tab is designed to slide onto a shoulder strap stitched at the shoulder seam only. *Tabs may not fit properly on some “police shirts” sometimes sold for use as USPS uniforms, as additional shoulder stitching significantly reduces the free end of the strap.*

13.46 Past-officer tridents. Past chief, vice, rear, district, staff and squadron commanders may continue to wear the tridents of their former office except that they become silver on retirement. Past lieutenant commanders, district and squadron, *who have served at least three years in that rank* (not necessarily consecutively), former general members of the Governing Board who have served three years in that capacity and past national flag lieutenants may also wear silver insignia.

13.47 Mutually-exclusive insignia. Officer tridents, committee insignia and Governing Board member insignia are not to be worn simultaneously.

13.48 Squadron sleeve insignia.

- Commander: Three gold short-staffed tridents
- Lieutenant commanders: Two gold short-staffed tridents
- First lieutenants: One gold short-staffed trident
- Flag lieutenant: One red speaking trumpet, placed vertically with mouthpiece upward
- Lieutenants and the chaplain: One red short-staffed trident
- Fleet captain: A red fouled anchor, placed vertically

- Members of local board for boating: A right isosceles triangle, in gold outline, resting on its hypotenuse
- Members of the local board for advanced grades: A pair of gold dividers with legs open at an angle of 80 degrees
- Members of the local board for elective courses: A gold outline square

13.49 District sleeve insignia.

- District commander: Three gold delta tridents
- District lieutenant commanders: Two gold delta tridents
- District first lieutenant: One gold delta trident
- District flag lieutenant: Two red speaking trumpets, crossed at 90 degrees, positioned at equal angles to the vertical with mouthpieces upward
- District lieutenants: One red delta trident
- Aides to the district commander and the district chaplain: One red binocular with eyepieces upward
- Fleet captain: A red fouled anchor, placed vertically

13.50 National sleeve insignia.

- Chief commander: Three gold long-staffed tridents, crossed at 45 degrees one-quarter inch from their bottom, with the center trident placed vertically
- Vice commanders: Two gold long-staffed tridents crossed at 90 degrees one-quarter inch from their bottom, positioned at equal angles to the vertical
- Rear commanders: One gold long-staffed trident placed vertically
- Staff commanders: One gold long-staffed trident with a circle whose diameter is equal to the width of the trident superimposed on the staff so that it touches the crossbar connecting the tines. The staff is not visible through the circle
- National flag lieutenant: Two gold speaking trumpets, crossed at 90 degrees, positioned at equal angles to the vertical with mouthpieces upward
- Aides to chief commander and the national chaplain: One gold binocular with eyepieces upward

- General members of the Governing Board: One gold scallop shell, with base down ... Refer to B.4 on page B-2 regarding wearing this insigne with tridents.
- Emeritus members of the Governing Board: The insigne for general member of the Governing Board surrounded by a gold laurel wreath ... Also Refer to B.4 on page B-2 regarding wearing this insigne with tridents
- Members of the Committee on Rules: A gold scroll in outline, having a gold disc in the center
- Members of the advanced grades division: A pair of gold dividers with legs open to an angle of 80 degrees, with a disc placed centrally between the legs
- Members of the elective courses division: An outline of a gold rectangle with a disc in its center

13.51 Grade Insignia. A member may wear on the black uniform jacket, on the regulation USPS white shirt (long or short sleeved) and on USPS blazer an insigne denoting the highest advanced grade in which he has qualified.

13.52 Design. Authorized insignia for grades are as follows:

- Seaman: One bar
- Pilot: One bar
- Both seaman and pilot: Two bars
- Advanced pilot: One star flanked by 2 bars
- Junior navigator: Two stars with a single bar between them
- Navigator: Three stars separated by two bars

Members who attained advanced grades prior to 1942, when seamanship became an advanced grade, may wear the stars of the AP, JN and N insignia without the associated bars.

13.53 Insigne for educational achievement. A member who qualifies for the educational achievement award may wear the insigne for navigator surrounded by a gold rectangle. The border of the rectangle is to be of the same material as the navigator insigne.

13.54 Insigne for educational proficiency. A member who qualifies for the educational

proficiency award may wear immediately below the grade insigne a gold line extending the same width as the grade insigne.

13.55 Insigne for senior member. A senior member is entitled to wear a distinctive insigne comprised of a double-pointed gold arrow, placed horizontally, in the center of which is superimposed a Roman numeral “V”. The arrow’s staff is not visible through the numeral. On the black uniform the insigne is placed below the grade insigne or, if none, centered below the top of the left breast pocket. On the regulation USPS shirt, it is worn centered, above the pocket.

13.56 Insigne for life member. A life member may wear a distinctive insigne identical to the senior member insigne except that the Roman numeral “V” is surrounded by a simulated laurel wreath in gold.

13.57 Uniform cap insignia. Officers and members of certain committees may wear in conjunction with the regulation cap device the tridents or symbols of their position similar to those worn on the sleeve. Insignia on the cap are to be consistent with those on the wearer’s jacket or shirt. Because the cap is worn infrequently, and one’s rank changes from time to time, members should consider wearing the cap without any insignia of rank or position.

13.58 Buttons. Regulation USPS buttons bear a representation of a ship’s wheel with eight spokes, one spoke uppermost, with the letters U-S-P-S surrounding a centrally placed anchor. Black buttons are worn on black uniforms and the regulation cap; gilt buttons are worn on white uniforms. Either black or gilt buttons may be worn on USPS blazer.

13.59 Name tag (name plate). For greater ease of identification and when engaged in a USPS activity, members should wear a regulation name tag, especially when among those with whom they do not frequently associate. This applies whether in uniform, blazer or any other attire.

13.60 Style. A name tag is made of black plastic, measuring roughly three inches in length and one inch in width; however, dimensions may be increased to accommodate exceptionally long names, a second title line or a burgee. The name tag has a narrow white border, either beveled or flat.

13.61 Lettering. The name tag bears on the top line the name of the wearer, without rank or grade. First names (or the second if the first is not preferred) may be spelled fully or appropriately abbreviated by initial or by “Wm.,” “Chas.,” “Robt.,” et cetera. Nicknames - such as Bud, Chuck or Ginny - may be used if in good taste. The name is in white Gothic capital letters, no larger than seven thirty-seconds inch in height.¹ The second line (and third if more room is needed) bears, in white Gothic capital letters, no larger than three-sixteenths inch in height, one of the following:

- The name of the member’s squadron (without the words “Power Squadron”)
- The wearer’s office or the name of a committee on which he serves (treasurer, membership committee, et cetera). The appropriate department head may, if he so elects, prescribe the limits of such designations, particularly if the cost of the tag is assumed out of official funds. Committee names and positions may be appropriately abbreviated. See Common USPS Abbreviations on page 14.17
- The words “U. S. Power Squadrons” (with periods after *U* and *S*). This style is appropriate when outside USPS environment
- Unless the wearer is a chief commander, a vice commander or a “past” of either, the name tag should not include the wearer’s rank

13.62 Burgees on. Members may include on their name tag a miniature representation of their squadron burgee, but such a device is not appropriate on a tag with a district or national designation. District officers may, during their tenure in office, include a miniature representation of their district’s flag, provided that the officer’s

1) Letter height, as defined by manufacturers, is the distance between centers of top and bottom horizontal strokes of the capital letter *E*.

district is identified and his/her squadron is not named.

13.63 Placement. The name tag is worn on the uniform on the right breast at approximately the same level as grade or senior member insignia, and in a comparable position on the blazer. It is recommended that it also be worn on casual attire to promote identification.

13.64 Miscellaneous USPS patches and insignia. Several distinctive patches have been developed for special purposes. These are authorized for wear on casual clothing, jackets, caps, shirts, et cetera, but not on the uniform or blazer. Those authorized at this writing are:

- A port captain patch for wear by port captains designated by the boating activities
- A VSC examiner patch for wear by designated personnel
- A boating course patch for wear by anyone who successfully completes *America's Boating Course*
- A skipper saver patch for wear by anyone who successfully completes the skipper saver program
- An NOS - USPS cooperative charting patch issued by NOS to top contributors

13.65 Incidental insignia. For the duration of a meeting, rendezvous, convention or other finite period, members may wear on their uniforms or blazers such incidental badges or insignia as afford special identification. Examples of such insignia are the widely worn small red ship's wheel emblematic of contribution to the former USPS Legal Defense Fund and the "IOPIRNC" pin worn by contributors to the headquarters building fund campaign. Such insignia must first have the approval of the Flag and Etiquette Committee.

13.66 Aides to the chief commander, when on duty, may attach a distinctive blue swallow-tail ribbon to their to their regulation name tag bearing the notation "C/C Aide".

13.67 Jewelry. A wide variety of jewelry, merchandise and accoutrements for civilian attire are available through USPS Ship's Store and commercial retail outlets. Many of these items

contain a representation of USPS membership pin or logo. There is no restriction on non-members wearing or employing such articles so long as their use does not imply membership. Individuals or firms wishing to manufacture or sell merchandise bearing USPS insignia must have such designs approved by the Flag and Etiquette Committee.

13.68 Boat insignia. Advanced pilots, junior navigators and navigators may display on their boats the stars and bars representative of their grade. Members who have earned the educational proficiency award or the educational achievement award may add the customary line or box. Senior and life members may affix representations of those insignia. All are to appear substantially identical to the respective uniform insignia. Such insignia may be located on the bows of the vessel or on her topsides or on the sides of her cabin or flying bridge in such a way as not to interfere with official registration numbers or be in violation of law.

Stars, bars and educational insignia should be sized appropriately for the size of the boat. As a rule-of-thumb, the diameter of stars in inches should be approximately equal to the boat's length in tens of feet. All insignia should be dimensioned and oriented consistent with their appearance as worn on the uniform. Boat insignia may be applied in black, bronze, brass, gold, yellow, stainless steel, chrome or silver. Free-hand painting should not be attempted by a non-professional. The use of templates or commercially available decals is recommended.

13.69 Front license plates. A squadron may apply for approval of a front license plate design by following the same procedure as for a burgee except that full Governing Board approval is not required. The following design rules apply:

- When a squadron burgee is depicted, USPS ensign also is to be depicted in the same size and attitude (rigid or fluttering). The ensign is to be to the left of the burgee (as viewed) and at the same level. If depicted on crossed staffs, the staffs are to cross at an angle of approximately 45 degrees and, whenever practicable, the ensign's staff is to appear to be in front of that of the burgee

- USPS ship's-wheel logo, incorporating the ensign, may be depicted if faithfully reproduced, but no other ensign or burgee is to be shown with it
- The squadron name is to include the words "Power Squadron" or "Sail and Power Squadron", spelled fully
- The words "United States Power Squadrons" are to appear in block lettering (lower case permitted) and may be in smaller type size than the squadron name. The words "United States" may be abbreviated "U. S." (with periods). The words "a unit of" may appear and need not be in block lettering
- The legend "Sail and Power Boating" *must* appear but need not be in block lettering

13.70 Service club signs. Squadrons are authorized to exhibit a distinctive sign in company with other service club signs along roadways and waterways, such as at city limits. The USPS ensign

is to be in full color. The announcement board below the logo may recite time and location of membership meetings, regular luncheons, boating courses, et cetera, but not executive committee meetings or other events of a proprietary nature.

13.71 VSC insignia. As USPS has recently assumed a role, in association with the USCGAux of conducting Vessel Safety Checks (formerly, Courtesy Marine Examinations), a standard uniform has been prescribed for those conducting these checks. It includes, on a red knit sport shirt with left hand pocket, a representation of USPS ensign, together with appropriate wording and includes the regulation nameplate. There is not to be any representation of the individual squadron by name or burgee. The attire is completed with khaki trousers/shorts, deck shoes and an optional khaki colored baseball style cap with the same insignia Refer to J.3 on page J-2.