



Army Project Office

Grooming Standards Update



September 2025

Religious Accommodations

Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, states *"The Army places a high value on the rights of its Soldiers to observe tenets of their respective religions or to observe no religion at all; while protecting the civil liberties of its personnel to the greatest extent possible, consistent with its military requirements."*

Soldiers may request religious accommodations based on one or more of the following:

- **worship practices;**
- **dietary practices;**
- medical care (including immunizations);
- wear and appearance of the uniform; and
- personal appearance and grooming practices.

Soldiers submit a memorandum to their commander, citing their religious beliefs and specific request(s). The commander will consult with the senior chaplain for guidance.

Accommodation requests should be resolved within 30 days (60 days for reserve components or active duty OCONUS).

Facial Hair

The Army introduced standardized facial hair guidelines on 7 July 2025, emphasizing uniformity and discipline while enabling legitimate medical condition and religious accommodation. The most common condition is *Pseudofolliculitis Barbae* (PFB, also known as razor bumps).

Overall Policy Shift

- All male Soldiers must remain clean shaven while in uniform or on duty
- Mustaches are still authorized
- Permanent shaving profiles are now prohibited
- **Temp Medical Profiles** require DA 3349-SG and O-5 signed ETP
- Religious Accommodations must be officially approved.
- Mandatory Presentation: Soldiers must retain and present documentation as needed.

Shaving Profiles

Soldiers may receive a temporary shaving profile, in phases, if they have a diagnosed skin condition. Facial hair will be kept trimmed to a maximum of ¼ inch in length. Grooming will not be shaped, edged, or fashioned.

Soldiers must present their ETP or religious accommodation decision memorandum upon request by a VO/SSM.

DoD Manual 6025.18 authorizes the release of protected health information, such as profile information, to military command authorities to enable them to execute their military missions.



Army Project Officer
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For Questions or Clarification

Submit your request to:

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.apo-requests@army.mil

(For more information, see "Wearing of Uniform in Common Access (CAC) Photos Memorandum dated, 25 June 2023" in the SPO Folder on VOIS")

Pertinent Regulations/Policies:

- **Army Directive (AD) 2025-13**, Facial Hair Grooming Standards, 7 JUL 2025
- **HQDA EXORD 263-25**, Implementation of AD 2025-13, 11 JUL 2025
- **Army Regulation (AR) 40-501**, Standards of Medical Fitness, 27 JUN 2019
- **AR 40-502**, Medical Readiness, 27 JUN 2019
- **AR 600-20**, Army Command Policy (mainly para. 5-6 and Appendix G)
- **AR 670-1**, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia
- **DA PAM 670-1**, Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniform and Insignia
- **Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 40-502**, Medical Readiness Procedures, 18 DEC 2023
- **Technical Bulletin (TB) MED 287**: Pseudofolliculitis of the Beard and Acne Keloidalis Nuchae, 16 JUL 2025
- **DA Form 3349-SG**, Physical Profile Record