

U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations Summary of Changes (Nov 2018)

This Summary of Changes provides a brief description of changes made to Navy Uniform Regulations (NAVPERS 15665I) since the last update of 31 October 2018. The changes identified in this summary reflect the policy concurrence with Religious Accommodations, forwarded for updates to NAVPERS 15665I. For specific details of changes, please refer to the noted chapters, sections and articles below.

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1. Chapter 2, Section 2, Grooming Standards, Personal Appearance, Article 2201.

Removed:

"Because it is impossible to provide examples of every appropriate or unacceptable hairstyle or of "conservative" or "eccentric" grooming and personal appearance, the good judgment of leaders at all levels is key to enforcement of Navy grooming policy. Therefore, hair/grooming/personal appearance while in uniform shall present a neat, professional appearance."

Added:

"2201. PERSONAL APPEARANCE. Because it is impossible to provide examples of every appropriate or unacceptable hairstyle or of "conservative" or "eccentric" grooming and personal appearance, the good judgment of leaders at all levels is key to enforcement of Navy grooming policy. Therefore, hair/grooming/personal appearance while in uniform shall present a neat, professional appearance. Commanding officers will ensure facial hair does not impede the ability to safely wear and properly utilize emergency equipment when required."

2. Chapter 2, Section 2, Grooming Standards, Personal Appearance, Shaving and Mustaches (Men), Article 2201.2

Removed:

"The face shall be clean shaven unless a shaving waiver is authorized by the Commanding Officer per <BUPERSINST 1000.22>. Mustaches are authorized but shall be kept neatly and closely trimmed. No portion of the mustache shall extend below the lip line of the upper lip. It shall not go beyond a horizontal line extending across the corners of the mouth and no more than 1/4 inch beyond a vertical line drawn from the corner of the mouth. The length of an individual mustache hair fully extended shall not exceed approximately 1/2 inch. <Figure 2-2-1> refers. Handlebar mustaches, goatees, beards or eccentricities are not permitted. If a shaving waiver is authorized, no facial/neck hair shall be shaved, manicured, styled or outlined nor exceed 1/4 inch in length. **Supervisors of individuals with shaving waivers shall actively monitor and ensure treatment regimen is followed.**"

Added:

"The face shall be clean shaven unless a shaving waiver is authorized by the Commanding Officer per <BUPERSINST 1000.22> or a religious accommodation has been granted per <BUPERSINT.1730.11>. Mustaches are authorized but shall be kept neatly and closely trimmed. No portion of the mustache shall extend below the lip line of the upper lip. It shall not go beyond a horizontal line extending across the corners of the mouth and no more than 1/4 inch beyond a vertical line drawn from the corner of the mouth. The length of an individual mustache hair fully extended shall not exceed approximately 1/2 inch. <Figure 2-2-1> refers. Handlebar mustaches, goatees, beards or eccentricities are

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not permitted. If a shaving waiver is authorized per BUPERSINST 1000.22 or BUPERSINST 1730.11, no facial/neck hair shall be shaved, manicured, styled or outlined nor exceed 1/4 inch in length. **Supervisors of individuals with medical shaving waivers shall actively monitor and ensure treatment regimen is followed.** The following personnel are not authorized to wear any facial hair except when medical waivers or religious accommodation have been granted:

- a. Brig prisoners.
- b. Brig awardees.
- c. Personnel in a disciplinary hold status (i.e., who are serving restriction or hard labor without confinement or extra duties as a result of a court-martial or NJP).
- d. Personnel assigned to a transient personnel unit who are awaiting separation:
 - (1) By reason of a court-martial sentence.
 - (2) To benefit the service <(MILPERSMAN 1910-164)>.
 - (3) Pursuant to the recommendation or waiver of an administrative discharge board, for misconduct <(MILPERSMAN 1910-140)>."

3. Chapter 6, Section 4, Special Uniform Situations, Specific Situations, Religious Dress and Appearance Practices, Article 6405

Removed:

"1. DEFINITION OF RELIGIOUS APPAREL. Religious apparel is defined as articles of clothing worn as part of the doctrinal or traditional observance of the religious faith practiced by the member. Hair and grooming practices required or observed by religious groups are not included within the meaning of religious apparel.

2. NORMAL DUTY HOURS. Religious items or articles not visible or otherwise apparent may be worn with the uniform, provided they do not interfere with the performance of the member's military duties, or interfere with the proper wearing of any authorized article of the uniform.

3. ORGANIZED WORSHIP SERVICES. Navy personnel may wear any required religious apparel distinct to their faith group with the uniform while in attendance of organized worship services.

4. CHAPLAINS. Chaplains have the option of wearing their uniform when conducting worship services and during the performance of rites and rituals distinct to their faith groups. Chaplains conducting such services, rites and rituals, may wear any religious apparel required by their faith groups.

5. JEWELRY. Jewelry bearing religious inscriptions or otherwise indicating religious affiliation of belief may be worn subject to the same uniform regulations prescribed for jewelry that is not of a religious nature.

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6. RELIGIOUS ITEMS DURING CEREMONIAL DETAILS. Visible items of religious apparel shall not be worn while wearing historical or ceremonial uniforms; participating in review formations, parades, honor or color guards, or similar ceremonial details and functions.

7. RELIGIOUS HEADGEAR. Navy personnel may wear religious headgear while in uniform if the headgear meets the following criteria.

- a. It must be black or hair colored;
- b. It must be of a style and size that can be completely covered by standard military headgear;
- c. It cannot interfere with the proper wear or functioning of protective clothing or equipment;
- d. It cannot bear any writing, symbols, or pictures;
- e. It will not be worn in place of military headgear when military headgear is required (outdoors, or indoors when required for duties or ceremonies)."

Added:

"1. Religious apparel is defined as articles of clothing worn as part of the doctrinal or traditional observance of the religious faith practiced by the member. Hair and grooming practices required or observed by religious groups are not included within the meaning of religious apparel.

2. NORMAL DUTY HOURS. With the exception of approved religious headwear, religious items or articles not visible or otherwise apparent may be worn with the uniform, provided they do not interfere with the performance of the member's military duties, or interfere with the proper wearing of any authorized article of the uniform.

3. ORGANIZED WORSHIP SERVICES. Navy personnel may wear any required religious apparel distinct to their faith group with the uniform while in attendance of organized worship services.

4. CHAPLAINS. Chaplains have the option of wearing their uniform when conducting worship services and during the performance of rites and rituals distinct to their faith groups. Chaplains conducting such services, rites and rituals, may wear any religious apparel required by their faith groups.

5. JEWELRY. Jewelry bearing religious inscriptions or otherwise indicating religious affiliation of belief may be worn subject to the same uniform regulations prescribed for jewelry that is not of a religious nature.

6. RELIGIOUS ITEMS DURING CEREMONIAL DETAILS. Visible items of religious apparel shall not be worn while wearing historical or ceremonial uniforms; participating in review formations, parades, honor or color guards, or similar ceremonial details and functions.

7. RELIGIOUS HEADGEAR. Navy personnel with an approved religious accommodation per BUPERSINST 1370.11 may wear religious headgear while in uniform if the headgear meets the following criteria.

- a. It must be black or navy blue and contours closely to the shape of the head and face as applicable when worn;
- b. It must be of a style and size that facilitates the proper wear of all Navy uniform covers, safety or emergency headgear when worn;
- c. It cannot interfere with the proper wear or functioning of protective clothing or safety or emergency headgear and equipment;

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- d. It cannot bear any writing, symbols, or pictures;
- e. It will not be worn in place of military headgear when military headgear is required (outdoors, or indoors when required for duties or ceremonies);
- f. It will not obstruct or inhibit the full view of the face from the front or side view. When wearing a turban or hijab, the natural hairline and ears may be fully covered;
- g. Any portion of religious headgear that extends below the collar of the uniform shirt/blouse being worn will be tucked into the neck area and over the t-shirt or under garment being worn."