



8A Inspector General

“Strength through Standards and Discipline”

Guidance on Facial Hair Standards and Accommodations



Per AR 670-1, male Soldiers must maintain a clean-shaven face in uniform, or in civilian clothes while on duty.

While mustaches are authorized, Soldiers must keep them neatly trimmed, tapered, and tidy.

Mustaches will not:

- cover any portion of the upper lip line
- extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from corners of mouth
- extend above a parallel line at the lowest portion of the nose.

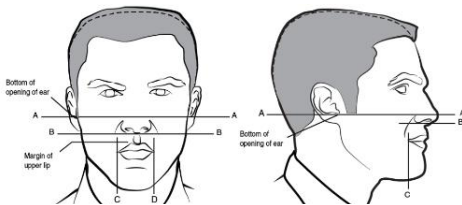


Figure 1. Mustache Standard

Handlebar mustaches, goatees, and beards are not authorized. Beards are only authorized for those Soldiers who require a medical exemption or religious accommodation.

Medical Exemption

- Soldiers may receive a profile for facial hair if they have a medical condition warranting facial hair. This will be determined by a medical provider.
- Soldier exempt from shaving during treatment process. (DA Form 3349 issued and entered in e-Profile)
- Soldier will groom facial hair to a maximum of one-quarter inch in length.
- Grooming will not be shaped, edged, or fashioned in a manner contrary to Army regulation.

Religious Accommodations

- Granted on a case-by-case basis.
- Accommodations must be approved before Soldier begins growing beard.
- Beards (including facial hair and neck hair) must be maintained to a length not to exceed 2 inches when measured from the bottom of the chin.

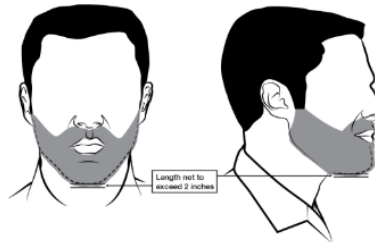
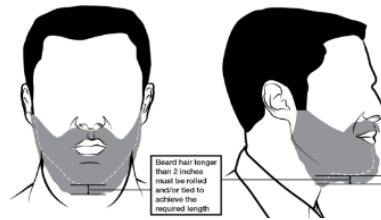


Figure 2. Beard Standard



Guidance for Soldiers and Leaders

- Soldiers do not need to carry a copy of their temporary profile or memorandum for record (MFR).
- Leaders can ask a Soldier if they have a profile or MFR if their facial hair does not comply with standards.
- Leaders can validate exemption by engaging authorized medical personnel and/or the Soldier's commander.

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References:

- AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy)
- AR 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia)
- DA PAM 40-502 (Medical Readiness Procedures)
- AR 40-501 (Standards of Medical Fitness)
- DODM 6025.18 (Implementation of HIPAA Privacy Rule in DoD Health Care Programs)
- 10 USC 774, "Religious apparel: wearing while uniform"
- DODI 1300.17, "Religious Liberty in the Military Services"
- USC 2000bb-1, "Free exercise of religion protected"
- FM 1-05 (Religious Support)
- DoDI 6025.18 (HIPAA Privacy Rule Compliance Act in DoD Health Care Programs)