



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD
LATHAM, NY 12110-3514

MNAG-TAG

21 MAY 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Authorized Exemptions for the Wearing of Beards

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia).
- b. AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy).
- c. Inspector General Update, Volume 23-2 (Guidance on Facial Hair Standards and Accommodations).

2. This policy is applicable to all members assigned to the New York Army National Guard.

3. All Army leaders can ask a Soldier if they have a profile or religious accommodation to keep a beard. Only the Soldier's Commander and Senior Enlisted Leader can verify these profiles or religious accommodations. Army leaders may consult the Soldier's Commander or Senior Enlisted Leader to confirm the existence of an approved profile or religious accommodation.

- a. Soldiers are not required to carry their profiles or religious accommodations. Commanders and Senior Enlisted Leaders can view profiles through the e-Profile system, negating many of the needs for Soldiers to carry their profiles.

4. Soldiers issued a medical profile (DD Form 3349, issued through e-Profile) will groom their facial hair to a maximum of one-quarter inch in length.

- a. One-quarter inch length for medical profiles follows general medical advice.
- b. Soldiers with these profiles will not shape, edge, or fashion their facial hair in a manner contrary to Army Regulation.

5. Religious accommodations are granted on a case-by-case basis and must be approved before the Soldier begins growing their beard. Beards must be maintained to a length of 2 inches in length or less when measured from the bottom of the chin.

- a. MNP shall maintain a repository of approved religious accommodations, which shall be made available to Commanders and Senior Enlisted Leaders on an as-needed basis to verify the existence of an approved religious accommodation.

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6. Commanders can suspend religious accommodations and these profiles when there is a credible threat of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) exposure in a non-training tactical environment.

a. Per AR 600-20, Commanders can suspend these profiles when Soldiers are entering a tactical environment where a protective mask is required. However, a Soldier may wear a beard while participating in tactical and training simulations designed to ensure the Soldier is fully familiar with the use of a protective mask.

b. Soldiers with a religious accommodation allowing the wear of a beard may not attend military schools requiring toxic chemical agent training and may not be assigned to positions requiring compliance with CBRN surety requirements. This prohibition does not include military schools having chlorobenzylidene malonitrile (C2 gas) exposure for Soldiers to build equipment familiarization.

7. The point of contact for this memorandum is Mr. N. David Berge, General Counsel at (518) 786-6033 or at nestor.d.berge.mil@army.mil.



RAYMOND F. SHIELDS, JR.
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