



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

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MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU/CC
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FROM: HQ USAF/A1
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

SUBJECT: CY22 Uniform Board Updates

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) approved several initiatives submitted to the November 2022 Air Force Uniform Board for implementation in DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and United States Space Force Personnel*. Authorized changes, effective 1 April 2023, demonstrate our Service culture, are steeped in heritage, and connect us to our proud traditions. Additionally, the changes allow the Air Force to remain linked to our Sister-services to represent our Nation. A few examples of approved changes include authorizing wear of heritage-like morale patches on the Flight Duty Uniform (FDU), the wear of 4 badges on the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP), Friday morale shirts with squadron logo on the front and back (coyote brown t-shirt color), a more flexible gym/handbag policy, and approved wear of the OCP patrol cap and tactical OCP cap with the FDU. The board also approved designating Child Development Centers as no-hat, no-salute areas.

The Air Force is committed to a culture of innovation, and key to this culture is an environment where Airmen share ideas and contribute to solutions. We leveraged technology and innovation to collect inputs and ideas to review 94 submissions at the Uniform Board. Recommendations varied widely and the board considered underlying requests and proposals and considered the impact of the proposals individually and collectively. We are part of a joint force representing our Nation so we also took into consideration the policies and procedures of our Sister-services; we will not approve changes that stand out when we deploy as a joint force.

An overview of the CSAF approved changes is attached. Most grooming requests focused on adjustments to the tattoo policy and permitting the wear of beards without a profile. The revised tattoo policy was released ahead of the Uniform Board results to authorize immediate use by Air Force Recruiting Service. The rationale provided to support beards rested on concerns that wearing a beard causes disparity in our ranks. To combat the disparity, we opened career fields with the exception of those which have an Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirement, eliminating assignment limitations for those with approved accommodations and expanded opportunities to Airmen with accommodations. We continue to review and approve (where appropriate) medical and religious accommodation requests to wear beards for men from all faiths, races and ethnicities. Furthermore, we are updating our accommodation procedures to streamline the process, remove non-value-added steps and

expedite decisions. Approved accommodation requests must not present barriers to Airmen achieving their full potential.

I continue to value the dress and appearance inputs our Airmen provide to the Uniform Board process and I remain committed to fair consideration, feedback, and your ideas.

CAROLINE M. MILLER
Lieutenant General, USAF
DCS, Manpower, Personnel, and Services

Attachment
November 2022 Uniform Board Results

November 2022 Uniform Board Results

Uniform Board Composition (19 Voting Members)

- Reflected the demographics of the Air Force as closely as possible
- Air Staff Representatives
- MAJCOM Representatives
- Non-voting Advisors (11)

Summary of Approved Changes

- Authorize wear of “heritage-like” morale patches on the Flight Duty Uniform (FDU)
- Authorize wear of 4 badges on the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform
- Allow any size logo on gym bags
- Authorize Friday morale shirts with squadron logo on front and back (coyote brown t-shirt color)
- Wear of cold weather headband, as an alternative/additional option to earmuffs
- Approved wear of the OCP patrol cap and tactical OCP cap with the FDU
- Designate Child Development Centers as no-hat, no-salute zones
- Wear of parkas by characteristics (commercially purchased OCP or coyote brown outerwear)
- Approved “small logos” on purses and handbags
- Olive drab green authorized backpack color

Summary of Deferred Changes

- Authorize career field managers to approve the wear of functional school patches (Joint Interface Control Officer Course/Advanced JICC Operators Course)
 - Pending established criteria/approval level
- Update the Enlisted and Officer rank thread colors and size to enhance visibility
 - 18-24 months (acquisition)
 - Adopt the Space Force’s 2x4 enlisted rank Velcro tab and enlarge the embroidered rank

Summary of Disapprovals

- The wear of beards without a waiver or approved religious accommodation
- Restrict authorized nail polish colors to clear and French manicure
- The wear of locs, braids, twists, micro-braids, French braids, dutch braids, and cornrows for males
 - Sister-services authorize these hair styles for men through the RAR process for deeply held religious beliefs
- Adopt the Army’s OCP black thread color for ranks
- Service members to unbutton their service coat while in a seated position (like when in seated position in a civilian suit)
- Crew neck shirts to be worn while in blues
- Sister service patches/badges be worn on breast pocket, so long as the sister service guidance dictates patch wear