

CADET APPEARANCE AND GROOMING GUIDELINES

7.9. Appearance and Grooming. When a cadet wears the uniform, he/she is responsible for presenting a neat, clean, and professional military image. Appearance and grooming standards help cadets present the image of disciplined cadets who can be relied upon to do the job they are called on to do. A professional military image has no room for the extreme, the unusual, or the faddish. The standards for wearing the uniform consist of five elements: neatness, cleanliness, safety, uniformity and military image. The first four are absolute, objective criteria for the efficiency, health, and well-being of the force. The fifth standard, military image is also very important, military appearance is subjective, but necessary. People, both military and civilian, draw conclusions as to the military effectiveness of the Air Force by how they perceive those in uniform.

7.9.1. Jewelry. While in uniform will be plain and conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) as determined by the SASL.

7.9.1.1. Rings. Cadets may wear a total of no more than three rings; wedding sets count as one ring when worn as a set. Rings will be worn at the base of the finger, and will not be worn on the thumb.

7.9.1.2. Necklaces. Will not be visible at any time. If worn, will be concealed under a collar or undershirt.

7.9.1.3. Bracelets. Ankle bracelets are not authorized. Cadets may wear one bracelet around their wrist. If worn, the bracelet will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) (which is defined as plain, not drawing attention or faddish) in design, no wider than ½ inch, gold or silver in color, and will not have any inappropriate pictures or writing. Medical alert/identification bracelets are authorized; however, if worn, they will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) (which is defined as plain, not drawing inappropriate attention or faddish). Bracelets espousing support for cause, philosophy, individual or group are *not* authorized (**Exception:** Traditional metal POW/MIA/KIA bracelets, which come in colors besides silver, bronze, or gold, remain authorized). **Colored/rubber bracelets that support a cause are not allowed to be worn in uniform.**

7.9.2. Eyeglasses or Sunglasses. If you wear glasses, they must not have any ornaments on the frames or lenses. Eyeglass lenses that are conservative, clear, slightly tinted, or have photosensitive lenses may be worn in uniform while indoors or while in military formation. When outdoors and in uniform, sunglasses and eyeglasses must have lenses and frames that are conservative; faddish or mirrored lenses are prohibited. Sunglasses are not allowed while in a military formation. Neither eyeglasses nor sunglasses can be worn around the neck while in uniform.

7.9.3. Tattoos or Brands. Whether you are in or out of uniform, tattoos or brands anywhere on the body are not allowed if they are obscene or if they advocate sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination. Tattoos or brands that might harm good order and discipline or bring discredit upon the Air Force are also barred, whether you are in or out of uniform. The SASI may exercise discretion if a new cadet arrives with a tattoo that may not be in full compliance with the above guidance.

7.9.4. Body Piercing. Cadets in uniform are not allowed to attach or display objects, articles, jewelry, or ornamentation to or through the ear (other than authorized in para 7.9.7), nose, tongue, or any exposed body part (including anything that might be visible through the uniform). Cadets may not cover any of these articles with make-up, band aids, or wearing clear post pins to hide body piercings.

7.9.5. Back Packs. Cadets may wear a back pack on the left shoulder or both shoulders (not to interfere with rendering the proper salute).

7.9.6. Wear/use of an earpiece, any blue tooth technology or headphones, while in uniform, indoors or outdoors, is prohibited, unless specifically authorized for the execution of official duties. Exception: Headphones and earphones [iPods, MP3-type players, etc.] are authorized during travel on public transportation i.e., bus, train or air travel.

7.11. Specific Male Cadet Grooming Guidelines. (See Figure 3-1)

7.11.1. Men's Hair. Keep your hair clean, neat, and trimmed. It must not contain large amounts of grooming aids such as greasy creams, oils, and sprays that remain visible in the hair.

7.11.2. Men's Hair will be tapered appearance on both sides and the back of the head, both with and without headgear. A tapered appearance is one that when viewed from any angle outlines the member's hair so that it conforms to the shape of the head, curving inward to the natural termination point without eccentric directional flow, twists or spiking. A block-cut is permitted with tapered appearance. Hair will *not* exceed 1¼ inch in bulk, regardless of length and ¼ inch at natural termination point; allowing only closely cut or shaved hair on the back of the neck to touch the collar. Hair will not touch the ears or protrude under the front band of headgear. Cleanly shaven heads, military high-and-tight or flat-top cuts are authorized. **Prohibited examples (not all inclusive) are Mohawk, mullet, cornrows, dreadlocks or etched design. Men are not authorized hair extensions.**

7.11.3. Sideburns. If worn, sideburns will be straight and even width (not flared), and will not extend below the bottom of the orifice of the ear opening. Sideburns will end in a clean-shaven horizontal line. See Figure 3-1, orifice of the ear opening is at reference point A.

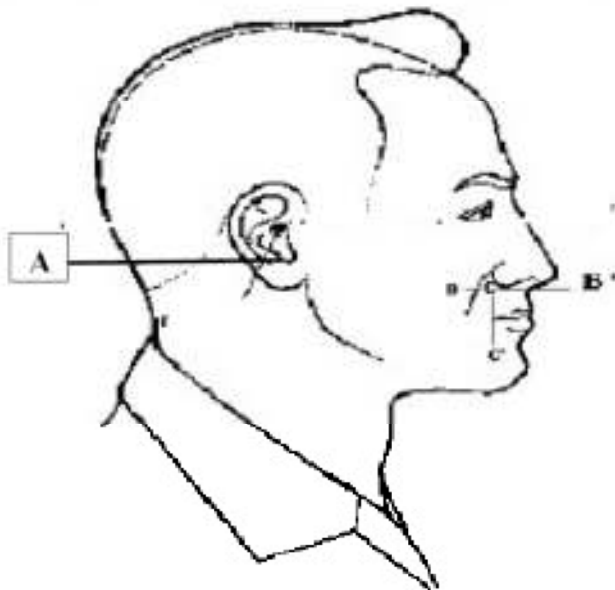
7.11.4. Mustaches. Male cadets may have mustaches; however they will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) and will not extend downward beyond the lip line of the upper lip or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from both corners of the mouth. See Figure 3-1, reference points B, C, and D.

7.11.5. Beards. Beards are not authorized unless for medical reasons, when authorized by a SASI on the advice of a medical official. SASI will submit waiver request in WINGS for review by HQ AFJROTC Waiver Review board. Members will keep all facial hair trimmed not to exceed ¼ inch in length. Individuals granted a shaving waiver will not shave or trim any facial hair in such a manner as to give a sculptured appearance.

7.11.6. Fingernails. Male cadets are not authorized to wear nail polish.

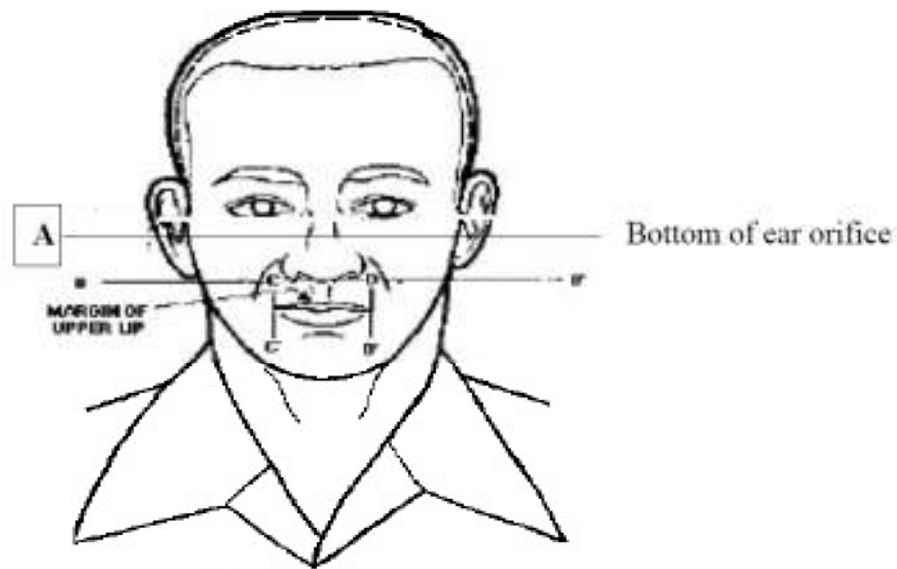
7.11.7. Earrings. Male cadets in uniform may not wear earrings or any other type of facial piercings.

Figure 3.1. Male Hair Grooming Standards.



----- SCALP LINE

Male Grooming Standards (Side View)



MARGIN OF UPPER LIP

Bottom of ear orifice

----- SCALP LINE

Male Grooming Standards (Front View)