



THE IG UPDATE



Volume 25-5, August 2025

Army Religious Accommodations

Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, states “*The Army places a high value on the rights of its Soldiers to observe tenets of their respective religions or to observe no religion at all; while protecting the civil liberties of its personnel to the greatest extent possible, consistent with its military requirements.*”

Soldiers’ requests for religious accommodations are generally in these five categories:

- **worship practices;**
- **dietary practices;**
- **medical care** (including immunizations);
- **wear and appearance of the uniform;** and
- **personal appearance and grooming practices**

To initiate a request for religious accommodation, a Soldier will notify their immediate commander, orally or in writing, citing their religious beliefs and specific accommodation request(s). The commander will consult with the senior chaplain for guidance.

Accommodation request processing times may vary depending on the nature of the request, the Soldier’s component, and the location of the Soldier (CONUS/OCONUS).

Decision Authorities

- **NONE:** Routine requests where no waiver or unit command approval is required. Relates to issues specifically permitted by AR 670-1. Command approval is not required but should be aware. *This includes opportunities to participate in religious services, wear of religious bracelets, Kufi, Yarmulke, etc.*
- **UNIT COMMANDER:** Routine requests where unit command approval is required, but not affected by AR 670-1. Unit commanders may approve a formal or informal waiver/exception from standards/uniformity rather than waiver from Army-wide policy/regulations. *Includes temporary or permanent adjustments to work and duty rosters/schedules, wear of long APFU pants during PT, Religious MREs, etc.*
- **General Officer with Court-Martial Convening Authority (GCMCA):** Uniform and grooming requests requiring approval by GCMCA. Uniform and grooming standard waivers for hijabs, beards, and turbans are issued IAW AR 600-20 and AR 670-1.
- **HQDA:** Uniform and grooming requests requiring approval by Secretary of the Army. This includes requests of Army-wide policies/regulations exceeding GCMCA approval authority. Examples: *Medical boards, immunizations, beard length exceeding two inches, uncut hair, Jewish payots (sidelocks), head coverings exceeding AR 670-1, etc.*

Soldiers granted facial hair accommodations on religious grounds are required to produce a copy of the decision memorandum on request.

– HQDA EXORD 263-25, para 3.A.5



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Pertinent Regulations/Policies:

- **HQDA EXORD 263-25**, Implementation of Army Directive (AD) 2025-13
- **AD 2025-13**, Facial Hair Grooming Standards
- **DoDI 1300.17**, Religious Liberty in the Military Services
- **AR 600-20**, Army Command Policy (*specifically para. 5-6 and Appendix G*)
- **AR 670-1**, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia
- **DA PAM 670-1**, Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia
- **Example Accommodation Memo:** <https://go.mil/dl7yw75y1h>

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Soldiers may request religious accommodations based on one or more of the following five categories:

- **worship practices;**
- **dietary practices;**
- **medical care** (including immunizations);
- **wear and appearance of the uniform;** and
- **personal appearance and grooming practices.**

To initiate a request for religious accommodations, a Soldier will submit a memorandum to their immediate commander, citing their religious beliefs and specific accommodation request(s). The commander will consult with the senior chaplain for guidance.

Accommodation requests should be resolved within 30 days for active duty, or 60 days for reserve components or active duty OCONUS.

Decision Authorities

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21st TSC

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