



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

24 FEB 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Appearance and Grooming Policies for the United States Army

1. This message announces the immediate actions to modify the appearance and grooming policies outlined in AR 670-1.
2. I recognize that previously authorized appearance and grooming policies failed to accommodate the different and unique physical characteristics of all Soldiers. We are committed to ensuring Soldiers are offered options for grooming and appearance that take into account professional appearance, health and wellness, good order and discipline, functionality, diversity, and inclusion. The Army conducted a panel consisting of a diverse group of subject matter experts across commands in order to ascertain the best policies to comply with each of these goals. These changes are a direct result of the panel recommendations.
3. The following changes are effective immediately:
  - a. There is no minimum hair length for female Soldiers and all Soldiers are permitted to wear natural highlights.
  - b. Female Soldiers are permitted to wear a ponytail or braid in the utility uniform during physical training and tactical operations, and are authorized to wear a short ponytail in all uniforms if they are unable to form a bun due to length or texture.
  - c. Female Soldiers are authorized to wear multiple neat in appearance hairstyles at once.
  - d. All Soldiers are permitted to wear clear nail polish and female Soldiers may wear other non-extreme colors.
  - e. Female Soldiers may wear non-extreme shades of lipstick.
  - f. Female Soldiers may wear stud earrings while in the Army Combat Uniform.
4. I direct removal of all offensive wording (including, but not limited to: Mohawk, Fu Manchu, Dreadlock, eccentric and faddish) from AR 670-1.

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5. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, will ensure that the Army's appearance and grooming policies are revised to implement these standards.



**John E. Whitley  
Acting**

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