



Facial Hair Grooming Standards Updates Fact Sheet

POC: ALTN Navy Religious Accommodations

@navy.mil

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BLUF

NAVADMIN 140/26 announces the policy and procedures for the resubmission and reevaluation of all religious accommodation requests for facial hair in accordance with the “Grooming Standards for Facial Hair Implementation” memo issued by SECWAR August 20, 2025.

Who needs to know?

- All Male Sailors
- Navy Medical Staff
- Command Triads
- Chief Petty Officer Mess

What you need to know – key points

• **Mandatory Resubmission**

- All currently approved and pending religious accommodation requests for facial hair must be resubmitted for a new evaluation.
- The authority to approve Sailor requests is outlined in a new BUPERSINST 1730.11B on myNavyHR.

• **New Timelines**

- Sailors have 10 days from notification to submit an updated request.
- Commands must process and forward the resubmitted packages within 30 days of submission.

• **Religious Accommodations Package Requirements**

- Resubmitted packages must include:
 - A sworn written attestation affirming belief, a statement describing the specific religious belief for the basis of the request
 - An explanation of how the requirement to be clean shaven burdens exercise of religion
 - Supporting information or evidence demonstrating religious belief is sincerely held
 - Any additional documentation supporting the request
- Commanding officers shall provide a written assessment of the sincerity of that religious belief.

What's Next

- Commands are required to immediately notify all affected service members.
- Affected Sailors must inform their CoC of their intent to prepare and submit their updated request packages within the 10-day timeline.
- Commands will then endorse and forward the packages for adjudication within 30 days.
- For new military applicants, requests must be fully adjudicated prior to entry onto Active or Reserve Duty.

Resources

<https://media.defense.gov/2025/Sep/15/2003799859/-1/-1/1/GROOMING-STANDARDS-FOR-FACIAL-HAIR.PDF>

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/References/US-Navy-Uniforms/Uniform-Regulations/Chapter-2/>