



Grooming Standards Update

POC: USN N1 Religious Accommodations

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BLUF

NAVADMIN 180/26 provides updated guidance on religious and medical facial hair accommodations.

Who needs to know?

- All Active and Reserve Sailors
- Command Triads
- Medical providers
- Religious Program Specialists and Chaplains

What you need to know – key points

- **Religious Accommodations**
 - Previously approved religious accommodation requests must be resubmitted for reevaluation. Requests that are not resubmitted will be processed for rescission.
 - Pending requests submitted before the release of NAVADMIN 140/26 will be administratively closed.
 - Commands must notify affected Sailors and report completion to BUPERS-3 by Aug. 7, 2026.
 - Commands must notify BUPERS-3 if Sailors cannot meet timelines due to deployment, TAD, hospitalization, or other exceptional circumstances.
- **Medical Facial Hair Accommodations**
 - Only commanding officers may approve medical shaving waivers.
 - Medical shaving waivers are documented on NAVPERS 1000/1 and may be approved for up to 90 days at a time.
 - Medical facial hair accommodations may not exceed 12 consecutive months before evaluation for continued service.
 - Sailors with approved medical accommodations must carry a signed NAVPERS 1000/1 while in uniform.
 - Commands must submit monthly facial hair accommodation reports by the 15th of each month beginning Aug. 2026.

Key Actions and Responsibilities

- Commands must immediately notify affected Sailors of the updated religious accommodation requirements and complete required reporting to BUPERS-3.
- Sailors requiring a religious accommodation must submit updated requests in accordance with current policy.
- Commanding officers are the approval authority for all medical shaving waivers.
- Medical providers and commands must ensure NAVPERS 1000/1 is properly completed and maintained for approved medical accommodations.
- Commands must begin submitting monthly medical facial hair accommodation reports by the 15th of each month beginning August 2026.

Sample POD/POW Note

- NAVADMIN 180/26 updates policy for religious and medical facial hair accommodations. Sailors with facial hair accommodation should review the updates and ensure their documentation is current.