

U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations Summary of Changes (June 2016)

This Summary of Changes provides a brief description of changes made to the Navy Uniform Regulations since the last update in 05 April 2016. The changes identified in this summary reflect the approved policy changes annotated in NAVADMIN 082/16 (Tattoos and coyote brown balls caps). For specific details of those changes, see the noted chapter, section and article.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Chapter 2, Grooming Standards, Section 2, Personal Appearance, Tattoos, Article 2201.7

Removed: "7. TATTOOS/BODY ART/BRANDS. Four Criteria will be used to determine whether tattoos/body art/brands are permitted for Navy personnel: content, location, size and cosmetic.

a. Content. Tattoos/body art/brands located anywhere on the body that are prejudicial to good order, discipline, and morale or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the naval service are prohibited. For example, tattoos/body art/brands that are obscene, sexually explicit, and or advocate discrimination based on sex, race, religion, ethnic, or national origin are prohibited. In addition, tattoos/body art/brands that symbolize affiliation with gangs, supremacist or extremist groups, or advocate illegal drug use are prohibited.

b. Location. No tattoos/body art/brands on the head, face, neck, or scalp. The neck area for purposes of this regulation is any portion visible when wearing a crew neck T-shirt or open collar uniform shirt. In addition, otherwise permissible tattoos/body art/brands on the torso area of the body shall not be visible through white uniform clothing.

c. Size. Individual tattoos/body art/brands exposed by wearing a short sleeve uniform shirt shall be no larger in size than the wearer's hand with fingers extended and joined with the thumb touching the base of the index finger. Pre-existing tattoos/body art/brands that exceed size criteria are waiverable provided they do not violate the content and/or location criteria.

d. Cosmetic. This regulation does not prohibit cosmetic tattooing to correct medical conditions requiring such treatment. For the purpose of this regulation, cosmetic tattooing refers to medical or surgical procedures conducted by licensed, qualified medical personnel."

Added: "7. TATTOOS/BODY ART/BRANDS. Four Criteria will be used to determine whether tattoos/body art/brands are permitted for Navy personnel: content, location, size and cosmetic. Failure to comply with the established acceptable tattoo criteria as stated is a violation of uniform policy and subject to disciplinary action to include involuntary separation.

a. Content: Tattoos located anywhere on the body that are prejudicial to good order, discipline, and morale or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the naval service are prohibited. For example, tattoos that are obscene, sexually explicit, and or advocate discrimination based on sex, race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin are prohibited. In addition, tattoos that symbolize affiliation with gangs, supremacist or extremist groups, or advocate illegal drug use are prohibited.

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b. **Location:** No tattoos are permitted on the head, face (to include ear) and scalp. One tattoo is authorized on the neck and shall not exceed one inch in measurement in any direction. Tattoos meeting these requirements are acceptable behind the ear. Permissible tattoos on the torso area of the body shall not be visible through white uniform clothing.

c. **Size:** The size restriction for visible tattoos is limited to the area of the neck and behind the ear only. As a result of this change, leg and arm tattoos can be of any size. Tattoo on the neck or behind the ear will not exceed one inch in measurement in any dimension (height/width).

d. **Cosmetic Tattoos.** Cosmetic tattoos are authorized to correct medical conditions requiring such treatment. For the purpose of this regulation, cosmetic tattooing refers to medical or surgical procedures conducted by licensed, qualified medical personnel.

2. Chapter 7, Civilian Clothing, Section 1, General Information, Tattoos, Article 7101.6

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d. Cosmetic. This regulation does not prohibit cosmetic tattooing to correct medical conditions requiring such treatment. For the purpose of this regulation, cosmetic tattooing refers to medical or surgical procedures conducted by licensed, qualified medical personnel. Refer to Chapter 2, section 2, article 2201.4.d.

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3. Chapter 6, Special Uniform Situations, Section 8, Organizational Clothing and Privately Owned Protective Clothing, Article 6802.5.a (4)

Removed: (4) Navy and Command Ball Cap are authorized for wear in the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type II and III as optional headgear. Wear squarely on the head, with bottom edge parallel to and 1-1/2 inch above the eyebrows. The eight-point cover will remain the basic uniform component cover for the NWUs and thus will be the only appropriate cover for personnel inspections and special occasions where Sailors are ordered to wear their NWUs to ensure a uniform appearance within the command.

Added: (4) Navy and Command Ball Cap (navy blue and coyote brown in color) are authorized optional headgear worn with the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type II and III. Wear squarely on the head, with bottom edge parallel to and 1-1/2 inch above the eyebrows. The eight-point cover will remain the basic uniform component cover for the NWU Type II and III and thus the only appropriate cover for wear during personnel inspections, special occasions and as determined by the commanding officer.

4. Chapter 6, Special Uniform Situations, Section 8, Organizational Clothing and Privately Owned Protective Clothing, Article 6802.5.m (3)

Removed: (3) Head gear (8-point cap only; No watch caps, ball caps or sun hats).

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