

Uniform Policy Frequently Asked Questions (as of April 2015)

Am I authorized to wear headphones or ear buds while wearing a physical fitness or combat uniform in the gym?

No. AR 670-1, para 3-6a(2)(d) states, "Soldiers are not authorized to wear wireless or non-wireless devices/earpieces while wearing Army uniforms."

How many tattoos can I have on my arms and legs, and how big can they be?

There is no restriction to the amount or size for tattoos on the arms and legs. Tattoos on any part of the body that are extremist, racist, sexist, or indecent are prohibited.

Can I get a sleeve tattoo?

Yes, Sleeve tattoos are now authorized as long as it is not extremist, racist, sexist, or indecent.

How do I have my tattoo validation memo removed from my Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR)?

Tattoo validation memos will not be removed from the AMHRR. This documentation is still required for Soldiers with grandfathered hand and neck tattoos. Tattoo validation memos are not seen by selection boards and do not impact a Soldier's career progression.

I have a tattoo behind my ear. Is this tattoo grandfathered?

No. Head and face tattoos were never authorized unless the Soldier received a written waiver or exception to policy upon entry into the Army. Soldiers with face or head tattoos must be processed IAW AR 670-1, paragraph 3-3f.

Neck tattoos were previously authorized and are grandfathered. The glossary in AR 670-1 defines the neck as anything above a crew T-shirt neckline (in a standard uniform T-shirt) and also below the jaw line (in the front of the head) and below a parallel line from the lowest point of where one ear connects to the head to the lowest point of where the other ear connects to the head (in the back of the head).

I have a tattoo on my face. Is this tattoo grandfathered?

No. Face tattoos were never authorized unless the Soldier received a written waiver or exception to policy upon entry into the Army. Soldiers with face or head tattoos must be processed IAW AR 670-1, paragraph 3-3f.

I received a black backpack with my unit crest embroidered on it when I reenlisted. It also says "Stay Army." Am I authorized to wear it over my shoulders?

Yes. Army or unit logos are not commercial logos. AR 670-1, para 3-7f(2) states, "If Soldiers choose to wear a shoulder bag while in uniform, the bag must be black or match the camouflage pattern uniform being worn, and may not have any commercial logos." Army logos should be conservative and professional.

How should my Drill Sergeant badge be worn on my combat uniform?

Badges will be worn parallel to the ground and centered on the appropriate pocket (not including the pocket flap). (DA Pam 670-1, paragraph 22-17)

May I wear my infantry shoulder cord for my DA photo?

No. AR 670-1 (paragraph 21-31) identifies the approval authority to authorize the award of the shoulder cord to infantryman, the authorized wearers, and the authorized assignments for wear of the shoulder cord. Since this shoulder cord is not considered a permanent award, it should not be worn by Soldiers in an official DA photo.

The regulation says that females can wear pony tails in physical fitness uniforms. Does this mean I can wear a pony tail anywhere as long as I'm wearing my PTs?

No. The intent of the policy is to allow Soldiers to wear pony tails during physical fitness. "Within the scope of physical fitness" includes traveling to and from PT. It does not include such things as medical appointments, when PT is prescribed as the daily uniform for anything other than PT (such as organizational days or post clean-up) or females wearing PTs for other than PT activities in a deployed environment. Commanders should include specific examples in their written uniform policy. (AR 670-1, paragraph 3-2a(3)(I))

My last name is very unique and contains special characters. Am I authorized to wear it on my nametape?

No. The letters on the nametape must be 3/4 inch high and 1/2 inch wide. No punctuation, symbols, or special characters are authorized on the nametape. Last names consisting of 11 letters or more are constructed using Franklin gothic extra-condensed print (48 point), 1/2 inch high. (DA Pam 670-1, paragraph 21-25)

I take the bus or train to work each morning. Am I authorized to commute locally to and from work in combat uniform or Class B uniform?

Yes, provided you wear the uniform properly and are not otherwise restricted by your Commander.

Am I authorized to use an umbrella while in combat uniform in inclement weather?

No. Umbrellas are only authorized to use during inclement weather while wearing service (Class A and Class B), dress, and mess uniforms. Also, the umbrella must be black with no logos or designs. (DA Pam 670-1, paragraph 20-27)

What is the wear-out date for the Army green uniform?

The current wear-out date for the Army green service/dress uniform is 30 September 2015. The mandatory possession date for the Army Service Uniform is 1 October 2015. (DA Pam 670-1, paragraph 13-1)

How do I calculate my overseas service bars?

The months of arrival to, and departure from the areas of operations during the periods which are authorized overseas service bars are counted as whole months only when the period of each deployment is over 6 months. (AR 670-1, paragraph 21-29)

Periods of overseas service of less than 6 months may be combined by adding the number of months and days spent in the area(s) of operation. For calculation purposes, thirty days equal one calendar month. When continuous deployment periods are less than 6-month periods, only the number of days (spent in the authorized area) in the months of arrival to, and departure from the area of operations are counted. Soldiers must have 6 full months (in addition to any other time counted in periods of more than 6 months) for each additional service bar worn.

While deployed, I received combat pay and a GWOTEM. Do I automatically receive a combat patch?

No. The requirements for Soldiers to earn the Global War on Terrorism-Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM), receive Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay (HF/IDP), and to wear a Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service (SSI-FWTS) each have three distinct sets of criteria. A Soldier is not authorized an SSI-FWTS simply because they earned the GWOTEM or received HF/IDP. Soldiers are only authorized to wear an SSI-FWTS if they meet the requirements set forth in AR 670-1, paragraph 21-17.

Is the black fleece authorized for wear with my Army Combat Uniform?

The black fleece is currently authorized for wear as an outer garment unless restricted by the Commander IAW DA Pam 670-1, paragraph 4-7c. Please check with your Commander's uniform policy (usually written at the installation level or lower in a policy letter) for restrictions due to reasons such as safety or having other issued gear more suitable for wear.

This item does not currently have a wear out date because it is an OCIE (Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment) item. However, Commanders may direct Soldiers to wear better suited OCIE-issued items in lieu of the black fleece.

Am I authorized to wear my fleece cap in ACUs?

The foliage green or black micro fleece cap is worn with the physical fitness uniform or with the combat uniform in field environments when the ACH is not worn, on work details, or in other environments where wearing the patrol cap is impractical, as determined by the commander. Installation Commanders will determine temperature, wind-chill, and extended duty time warranting wear of the cap in non-field, non-deployed environments.

If conditions (such as extreme cold or wind chill) support the wear of the fleece cap when other items (such as the neck gaiter) are less practical to wear, then the Commander should include specific guidance for wear of the items in his/her written uniform policy. Such policies are normally done at Installation level. (DA Pam, paragraph 4-10c)

Am I authorized to wear my black knit cap with my Army Service Uniform?

No. Neither AR 670-1 nor DA Pam 670-1 authorizes the wear of the black knit cap with any uniform. The wear out date was 30 September 2009.