TATTOO POLICY

- Unauthorized tattoo locations:
  - On the head, face, & neck, (anything above the T-shirt line to include on/inside the eyelids, mouth, & ears)
  - On the hands, fingers, wrists (below the wrist bone)
    - Each visible tattoo below the elbow or below the knee must be smaller than the size of the wearer’s hand (with fingers extended & joined with the thumb touching the base of the index finger)
    - Soldiers may have no more than 4 total visible tattoos (smaller than the size of the wearer’s hand) below the elbow or below the knee

(AR 670-1, para 3-3)
TATTOO POLICY

- Defines small tattoos within a 5 inch diameter as one tattoo
- Visible band tattoos may be no more than 2” in width; Each band tattoo counts as one tattoo & Soldiers may have no more than one visible band tattoo
- Sleeve tattoos on arms or legs are unauthorized
- Enlisted Soldiers with grandfathered tattoos may request commissioning or appointment, if otherwise recommended by the Commander

(AR 670-1, para 3-3)
CATEGORIES OF UNAUTHORIZED TATTOOS

- Extremist tattoos or brands are those affiliated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities.
- Indecent tattoos or brands are those that are grossly offensive to modesty, decency, propriety or professionalism.
- Sexist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on gender but may not meet the same definition of “indecent.”
- Racist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.

(AR 670-1, para 3-3)
TATTOO POLICY: VALIDATION

- Commanders were required to validate all Soldiers’ grandfathered or waived (upon entry) tattoos located above the neckline, below the elbows, or below the knees with a description of the shape and color on an official memorandum. Each tattoo will be a photo attachment.

- Commanders and Soldiers must ensure the documents are now filed into the Soldier’s Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR)

- Commanders will perform an annual check for new tattoos or brands in prohibited locations

- Soldier is given a copy for his/her records

(AR 670-1, para 3-3)
Commanders use same local process to upload documents (such as award certificates) to a Soldier’s Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR).

File must be in multi-page black and white Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) in 300 dpi for upload.

No requirements for specific camera settings; photo must be clear and visible.

Use nylon black and white ruler (available in supply system) to help identify tattoo size.

Photograph entire area (below arm or below leg) to help identify location.

(AR 670-1, para 3-3)
Photos must be taken using a ruler, the tattoo(s) must be clear and visible and described on the memorandum - sample available on G-1 web page.

Photos are then scanned to Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), Black and White, 300 DPI, and updated with memo to AMHRR – Tattoos must still be observable.
ANNUAL CHECK

- Commanders will also conduct an annual check for extremist, indecent, sexist, and racist tattoos.
- Tattoos in locations not above the T-shirt neckline, not on the arms (below the elbow), or not on the legs (below the knees) will not be documented on the memo for filing into the Soldier’s record.
- Check is done by the Commander in physical fitness uniform (without shoes or socks).
- If found, Soldier must be processed in accordance with AR 670-1.

(AR 670-1 and DA Pam 670-1, para 3-3)
BODY MUTILATION

- Soldiers are prohibited from any form of body mutilation, which is the willful mutilation of the body or any body parts in any manner.

- Does not include authorized medical alterations performed at a medical treatment facility or cosmetic, reconstructive, or plastic surgery procedures normally approved by the Commander.

- Soldiers who entered the Army with approved body mutilation prior to 31 March 2014 may request an exception to policy from HQDA, G-1

(AR 670-1 and DA Pam 670-1, para 3-3)
BODY MUTILATION

Examples of body mutilation include, but are not limited to:

- Tongue bifurcation (splitting of the tongue)
- Ear gauging (enlarged holes in the lobe of the ear, which are beyond the post hole size for conservative earring wearer, no more than 1.6mm)
- Unnatural shaping of the teeth
- Ear pointing (or elfing)
- Scarification (cutting to create intentional scarring)
- Body modifications for the purpose of suspension (hanging by body hooks)

(AR 670-1 and DA Pam 670-1, para 3-3)