

Chapter 13

PERSONAL APPEARANCE of CADETS

As a cadet you could be issued up to three different uniforms, the standard “Blues” and “PT” uniform will be issued to every cadet; and ABUs for those members of the Kitty Hawk Honor Society, Squadron Leadership, and members of Group. The “Blues” uniform will be inspected weekly and is treated as a “Major Test” grade. Blues is the “OFFICIAL” uniform for KY-951, which means you must adhere to all standards for all unit uniforms. Proper conduct, actions, and attitudes will create and sustain a favorable public reaction, which will enhance your image and that of KY-951. Any objectionable behavior in public will create an unfavorable reaction towards yourself, your family, the KY-951 AFJROTC program, your high school, community, AFJROTC, and the U.S. Air Force.

As an Air Force JROTC cadet, you must constantly strive to present a hygienic appearance to include: being clean, neat, and well-groomed appearance. **Cadets should shower (or bathe) every morning on any day a cadet wears the Air Force blue uniform, no EXCEPTIONS. This is the time to take “Pride & Honor” in your unit and present the best that you can be!!** Again, uniform inspection is considered a “Major Grade” (Test) each week.

Appearance and Grooming. When a cadet wears the uniform, they are responsible for presenting a neat, clean, and professional military image. Appearance, grooming, and hygiene standards help every cadet present a professional image of disciplined cadets who can be relied upon to do the job they are called on to do. **A professional military image has no room for the extreme, the unusual, or the faddish.**

The standards for wearing the uniform consist of **five elements: neatness, cleanliness, safety, uniformity and military image.** The first four are absolute, objective criteria for the efficiency, health, and well-being of the force. The fifth standard, military image is also very important, military appearance is subjective, but necessary. People, both military and civilian, draw conclusions as to the military effectiveness of the Air Force by how they perceive those in uniform.

SASIs do not have authority to waive grooming and appearance standards except as identified by AFI 36-2903 & HQ AFJROTC. The personal grooming standards listed are minimum standards that represent common appearance issues and are not all-inclusive. The Air Force has defined what is and what is not an acceptable, professional military image for Airmen.

BOTTOM LINE: Uniform day is one day a week, all cadets should exhaust every effort to look their best, every week. All day, every uniform day!!!

Male Cadets

HAIR. Keep your hair clean, neat, and trimmed. Will not contain excessive amounts of grooming aids (e.g. creams, oils, gel, mousse, pomade, spray, and moisturizer) that remain visible in the hair. Should never appear lopsided, touch either eyebrow, or end below an imaginary line across the forehead at the top of the eyebrows that is parallel to the ground. When your hair is groomed, it should not touch your ears or eyebrows, and only the closely cut or shaved hair on the back of your neck should touch the collar.

Your hair should not exceed 1 1/4 inch in bulk regardless of the length. **Bulk is the distance that the hair projects from the scalp when groomed (as opposed to length of the hair).** The bulk and length of your hair must not interfere with wearing any Air Force headgear properly, and it must not protrude below the front band of the headgear. Your hair must have a tapered appearance on both sides and back, both with and without headgear. A tapered appearance means that, when viewed from any angle, the outline of the hair on the side and back will generally match the shape of the skull, curving inward to the end point. Cleanly shaven heads, military high-and-tight or flat-top cuts are authorized.

Your hair may not contain or have attached to it any visible foreign items. If you dye your hair, it should look natural. You may not dye your hair an unusual color or one that contrasts with your natural coloring. You may have sideburns if they are neatly trimmed and tapered in the same manner as your haircut.

Prohibited examples (not all inclusive) are Mohawk, mullet, cornrows, dreadlocks. Braided hairstyles, spikes, lines or initials/lettering shaved into the head, or etched design, or any other bizarre hair styles, including unnatural hair color, and partially shaved heads. Men are not authorized hair extensions are not authorized.

Such hairstyles will result in minus 100 points (a zero grade) during weekly uniform inspection.

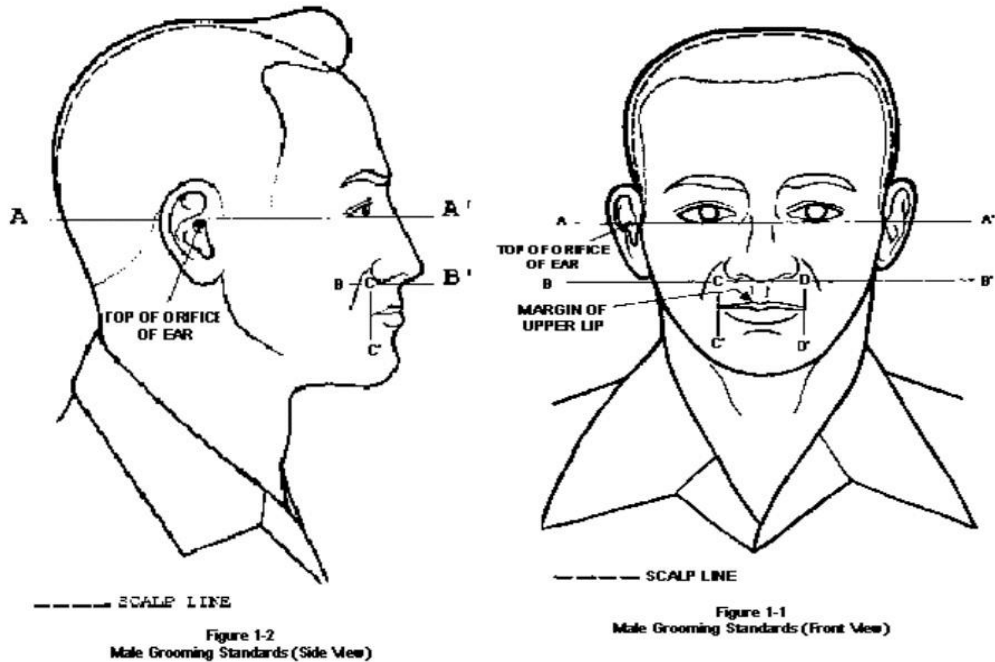
If in doubt, ask an instructor before you get a “questionable” haircut.

Cadets must be clean-shaven, with the exception of a mustache, on every uniform day (Blues, ABUs, & PT). ***Also, cadets must shave for every AFJROTC activity (Community Service & LDR programs), NO EXCEPTIONS.***

MUSTACHES. Male cadets may have mustaches; however, they will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) and will not extend downward beyond the lip line of the upper lip or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from both corners of the mouth.

BEARDS. Beards or goatees are not permitted at any time.

SIDEBURNS. Sideburns will be neatly trimmed. If worn, sideburns will be straight and even width (not flared) and will not extend below the bottom of the orifice of the ear opening. Sideburns will end in a clean-shaven horizontal line.



Female Cadets

HAIR. There is no minimum hair length, to a maximum bulk of 3½ inches from scalp and allows proper wear of headgear. Hair will end above the bottom edge of collar and will not extend below an invisible line drawn parallel to the ground, both front to back and side to side. Bangs, or side-swiped hair will *not* touch either eyebrow, to include an invisible line drawn across eyebrows and parallel to the ground. See Figure 3.3. When in doubt, assess correct length of hair with Cadets standing in the position of attention.



The intent is for pinned-up hair to be styled in a manner that prevents loose ends from extending upward on the head. For example, when using a clip or hairpins, hair will not present the appearance of a rooster tail. **When hair is in a bun, the bun must be a single bun; no wider than the width of the head and all loose ends must be tucked in and secured.** When hair is in a ponytail, it must be a single ponytail; that does not exceed bulk and length standards and does not extend below the bottom of the collar (except while in the PFTG). As with all hairstyles, a neat and professional image is essential. Hair accessories. If worn, fabric scrunchies, hairpins, combs, clips, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes must match the hair color (i.e., blonde, brunette, natural red, black, and grey). Hair must still comply with bulk and appearance standards. Headgear must fit properly. **“Headbands or fabric scrunchies”** will not exceed one-inch in width. Ornaments are not authorized (i.e., ribbons, beads, jeweled pins).

Braids, twists, micro-braids, French braids, Dutch braids and cornrows are authorized. A braid or twist is two or more portions of interwoven hair. If adding additional hair, it must be a natural looking color, similar to the individual's hair color. It must be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) and not present **“A Faddish appearance.”** Hair must not exceed bulk and length standards and must not extend below the bottom of the collar. Headgear must fit properly.



Unauthorized: Locs and shaved heads. Locs are defined as portions of hair that have been intentionally or unintentionally fused together to form a Loc or Locs. Female cadets are prohibited from wearing ribbons, beads, banana clips, and jeweled pins as a hair accessory. Mohawk, mullet, and etched designed are also not authorized.

Shaved heads are defined as complete removal of all hair to the skin on the head or portions of the head. A shaved head, flat-tops and military high and tight cuts are not authorized hairstyles for female cadets. See figure 3.5 below.



Hair color, highlights, lowlights, and frosting will not be faddish or extreme and will be natural looking hair color, similar to the individual's hair color (e.g. black, brunette, blond, natural red, and grey).

All braids/twists, when worn will be of uniform dimension, no wider than one inch, with natural spacing between the braids/twists and must be tightly interwoven to present a neat, professional and well-groomed appearance. When worn, multiple braids shall be of uniform dimension, small in diameter (approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ inches), show no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of scalp between the braids and must be tightly interwoven to present a neat, professional appearance. A braid/twist

must continue to the end of the hair without design and following the contour of the head and may be worn loose or in a secured style within hair standards of initial paragraph for female hair. **Exception:** Micro-braids or twists are not required to continue to end of the hair

BOTTOM LINE: Hair must be styled to present a professional appearance. Allow the wear of conservative hairpins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes. ***“Hair pins and bands must match hair color.”*** SASI will be final decision for defining a professional appearance.

EARRINGS. Female cadets may wear small round (size of a BB) white diamond, gold, white pearl, or silver earrings. If cadet has multiple holes, only one set of earrings are authorized to be worn in uniform, which will be worn in the lower earlobes. Earrings will match and fit tightly without extending below the earlobe unless the piece extending is the connecting band on clip earrings.

BODY HAIR. Female cadets will remove leg hair that is visibly protruding beyond the appropriate hosiery or causes a visibly uneven texture under hosiery.

FINGERNAILS. If polish is worn by females, nail polish will be a single color that does not distinctly contrast with the female Cadet’s complexion, detract from the uniform, or be extreme colors. Some examples of extreme colors included, but are not limited to, purple, gold, blue, black, bright (fire engine) red and florescent colors. Do not apply designs to nails or apply two-tone or multi-tone colors; however, white-tip French manicures are authorized. ***Fingernails must not exceed ¼ inch in length beyond the tip of the finger and must be clean and well-groomed.*** Fingernails must not interfere with the performance of assigned duties. Fingernails must not hinder proper fit of prescribed safety equipment or uniform items.

TATTOOS/BRANDS/BODY MARKINGS. For purposes of this instruction, a tattoo is defined as a picture, design, or marking made on the skin or other areas of the body by staining it with an indelible dye, or by any other method, including pictures, designs, or markings only detectible or visible under certain conditions (such as ultraviolet or invisible ink tattoos). A brand is defined as a picture, design, or other marking that is burned into the skin or other areas of the body. Body markings are pictures, designs, or other markings as a result of using means other than burning to permanently scar or mark the skin

Whether you are in or out of uniform, tattoos or brands anywhere on the body are not allowed if they are obscene or if they advocate sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination. Tattoos or brands that might harm good order and discipline or bring discredit upon the Air Force are also barred, whether you are in or out of uniform.

Excessive tattoos or brands, even though they do not violate the prohibitions in the above paragraph, will not be exposed or visible (including visible through the uniform) while in uniform. Excessive is defined as any tattoo or brands that exceed one-quarter of the exposed body part, and those above the collar bone and readily visible when wearing an open collar uniform.

The SASI may exercise discretion if a new cadet arrives with a tattoo that may not be in full compliance with the above guidance. The tattoo may be covered up with a skin-colored bandage while in uniform and still participate in the program.

However, tattoos and brands should be discouraged. The cadet should be counseled on the fact that tattoos and brands may preclude him or her from serving in the military.

BODY ALTERATION/MODIFICATION. Intentional alterations and/or modifications to a member's body that result in a visible, physical effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image are prohibited. Examples of prohibited conduct include (but are not limited to) tongue splitting or forking, tooth filing, acquiring visible, disfiguring skin implants, and gouging (piercing holes large enough to permit light to shine through).

AFI 36-2903 gives further guidance that you may want to review with your instructor.

*****Members who intentionally alter and/or modify any part of their bodies in order to achieve a visible, physical effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image may be subject to disciplinary action or involuntary separation, as determined appropriate by the member's AFJROTC SASI. Again, you must remember that the image of your unit, KY-951 instructors, and AFJROTC could jeopardize your ability to participate in the AFJROTC program.***

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