



THE IG UPDATE



Volume 25-3, August 2025

Army Facial Hair Standards Updated

The Army introduced standardized facial hair guidelines on 7 July 2025, emphasizing uniformity and discipline while enabling legitimate exceptions tied to medical and religious grounds. The most common condition is *Pseudofolliculitis Barbae* (PFB-razor bumps).

Overall Policy Shift

- All male Soldiers must remain clean shaven while in uniform or on duty
- Mustaches are still authorized
- Permanent shaving profiles are now prohibited
- **Medical Profiles** require DA 3349-SG and O-5 signed ETP
- **Religious Accommodations** must be officially approved and documented
- **Mandatory Profile Presentation:** Soldiers with exemptions must retain and present documentation as needed.

Note: Treatment plans must be approved and monitored by the first O-5 within the chain of command. Exemption periods totaling over 12 months in any two-year window may prompt a review for potential administrative separation.

Command Team Actions

NLT 7 OCT 25

- Review all current facial hair ETPs for medical conditions.
- Ensure Soldiers with shaving profiles are re-evaluated by medical providers.
- Validate and enter religious accommodation decisions into IPPS-A or AMHRR.
- Conduct grooming standards review across the unit for compliance.
- Actively monitor Soldiers' progress through treatment plans.
- Issue valid, time-limited grooming ETPs based on re-evaluations.

PFB Treatment Plans

Phase 1 (Mild): Max Duration 30 days; Lesion treatment & shaving pause.

Phase 2 (Moderate): Max Duration 60 days; continued treatment including depilatories.

Phase 3 (Severe): Max Duration 90 days; extended evaluation & grooming pause.

Phase 4 (Optional): Max Duration case based; government-funded laser referral.

Pertinent Regulations/Policies:

- **Army Directive (AD) 2025-13**, Facial Hair Grooming Standards, 7 JUL 2025
- **HQDA EXORD 263-25**, Implementation of AD 2025-13, 11 JUL 2025
- **Army Regulation (AR) 40-501**, Standards of Medical Fitness, 27 JUN 2019
- **AR 40-502**, Medical Readiness, 27 JUN 2019
- **Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 40-502**, Medical Readiness Procedures, 18 DEC 2023
- **Technical Bulletin (TB) MED 287:** Pseudofolliculitis of the Beard and Acne Keloidalis Nuchae, 16 JUL 2025
- **DA Form 3349-SG**, Physical Profile Record

Soldiers on duty status who do not meet facial hair grooming standards for medical reasons must produce an ETP. If it's for religious reasons, the Soldier must produce an ETP or accommodation decision memorandum on request.

HQDA EXORD 263-25,
11 JULY 2025



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