AFROTC Dress and Appearance Highlights

AFROTC DET 225
UNIFORM OFFICE

"The Supplyin' Irish"

Updated 27 June 2017
Introduction

This slideshow is intended to familiarize you with Dress and Appearance standards for the United States Air Force.

The information presented is found in AFI 36-2903 (found under “Helpful Documents” https://afrotc.nd.edu/admin/pages/76971)

This information is not all inclusive.

For the purposes of this presentation the word “Conservative” will be used in the following context: moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive, faddish or extreme.
Hair

- Hair for both Males and Females will be clean, well-groomed, and present a professional appearance.
- It will not be worn in any faddish style (Mohawk, dreadlocks, etc.).
- It will not touch either eyebrow.
- If dyed it will appear to be of natural human hair color.
- It will not contain excessive amounts of grooming aids (e.g. gel, mousse, pomade).
Female Hair:

- No shorter than one inch
- Will not exceed 3 inches in overall bulk from the scalp
- Females are not authorized shaved heads, flat tops, dreadlocks, etc.
- Hair will end above the bottom edge of collar
- If worn, hairpins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes must match the hair color (i.e., blonde, brunette, natural red, black, grey)
- Ornaments are not authorized (i.e., ribbons, beads, jeweled pins)
- Scrunches are not authorized.
- Hair will be styled in a manner that prevents loose ends from extending upward on the head
- When hair is in a bun, all loose ends must be tucked in and secured
- The bun will be no wider than the width of the head
- When hair is in a pony tail, it must be pulled all the way through the elastic band and may hang naturally downward not extending below the bottom of the collar (except while in the PTU)
- Braids, micro-braids, and cornrows are authorized – they will not be excessive or extreme or present a faddish appearance
- Multiple braids will be of uniform dimension and approx. 1.4 inch in diameter
- There will be no more than ¼ inch of scalp between each braid
- Braids must be worn in a straight line
Female Hair

Longest hair - 1-inch from scalp

Shortest hair 1/4-inch from scalp, but may be graduated to the hair line

Bottom edge of collar

Short Hair Length

Medium Hair Length

Max. 2 Inches

Max. 3 Inches

Long Hair Length

Bulk of Hair

Buns may be no wider than the width of the head

Less than 1-inch difference in length from front to back

Bottom edge of collar

Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow

AIM HIGH ... FLY, FIGHT, WIN
Male Hair:

• Tapered appearance on both sides and the back of the head (a tapered appearance is one that when viewed from any angle outlines the member's hair so that it conforms to the shape of the head)
• A block-cut is permitted with tapered appearance.
• Hair will not exceed 1 ½ inch in bulk, regardless of length and ¼ inch at natural termination point; allowing only closely cut or shaved hair on the back of the neck to touch the collar.
• Hair will not touch the ears or protrude under the front band of headgear
• Cleanly shaven heads, military high-and-tight or flat-top cuts are authorized
• Men are not authorized hair extensions

Sideburns:

• Sideburns will be straight and even width (not flared)
• Will not extend below the bottom of the orifice of the ear opening.
• Will end in a clean-shaven horizontal line.

Mustaches:

• Only male Airmen are authorized to have mustaches
• They will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme)
• Mustaches will not extend downward beyond the lip line of the upper lip or sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from both corners of the mouth

• Beards are not authorized in AFROTC
• Shaving Waivers are not authorized in AFROTC
Male Hair

Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow

AIM HIGH ... FLY, FIGHT, WIN
Fingernails and Cosmetics

**Fingernails:**

- Male Airmen are not authorized to wear nail polish
- If worn by females nail polish will be of a single/solid color
- It will not distinctly contrast with the female Airman’s complexion, detract from the uniform, or be extreme in color
- Some examples of extreme colors include but are not limited to: purple, gold, blue, black, bright red and florescent colors
- Do not apply designs to nails or apply two-tone or multi-tone colors
- White-tip French manicures are authorized.
- Fingernails must not exceed ¼ inch in length beyond the tip of the finger
- Must be clean and well-groomed
- Fingernails must not interfere with the performance of assigned duties

**Cosmetics:**

- Male Airmen are not authorized to wear cosmetics
- Female Airmen may wear cosmetics; however, if worn, they will be conservative and in good taste
- Female Airmen will not wear shades of lipstick that distinctly contrast with their complexion, that detract from the uniform, or that are extreme in color
- Cosmetics will not be worn during field conditions
Contact Lenses and Glasses

Eyeglasses/Sunglasses/Contact Lenses:

- Will be worn in the manner for which they are made
- Eyeglasses and sunglasses will not be worn around the neck or on top/back of head or exposed hanging on the uniform
- Eyeglasses and sunglasses may have conservative ornamentation
- Frames may be black or brown material or gold or silver wire
- Brand name glasses may be worn with small logo on frames or lenses
- Logo must be same color as frames or lenses
- Conservative wrap-around sunglasses may be worn
- Conservative, clear, slightly tinted or photosensitive lenses are authorized
- Faddish styles and mirrored lenses are prohibited
- Sunglasses are not authorized in formation
- Contact lenses will be natural looking in shape and design
- Contact lenses will be clear in color and not change the color of the Airman’s natural eye color
Tattoos, Brands, Piercings, Modification, and Ornamentation

Tattoos:

- Tattoos will not be obscene, gang related, or extremist
- Tattoos will not advocate sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination
- Tattoos will not exceed 25% of the exposed body part in any air Force uniform – this policy does not apply to wearing PTUs
- Any tattoos/brands above the collarbone, i.e. on the neck, head, face, tongue, lips, and/or scalp, are prohibited
- Initial accessions must disclose any tattoos/brands with their Detachment Cadre

Body Piercing/Ornamentation:

- In uniform, with the exception of earrings for women, all members are prohibited from attaching, affixing, or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue, eye brows, lips, or any exposed body part (includes visible through the uniform)

Body Alteration/Modification:

- Intentional alterations and/or modifications to a members 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 tongue splitting or forking, tooth filing, acquiring visible, disfiguring skin implants, and gouging (piercing holes large enough to permit light to shine through)
Jewelry

**Earrings:**
- Male Airmen are not authorized to wear earrings on a military installation while in uniform
- Female Airmen may wear small (not exceeding 6 mm in diameter) spherical, conservative earrings
- Earring must be round
- Earrings will be white diamond, gold, white pearl, or silver earrings as a set with any uniform combination
- Only one set of earrings are authorized to be worn in uniform and will be worn in the lower earlobes
- Earrings will match and fit tightly without extending below the earlobe

**Bracelets:**
- Ankle bracelets are not authorized
- Airmen may wear one conservative bracelet around their wrist
- Bracelets will be no wider than ½ inch, gold or silver in color, and will not have any inappropriate pictures or writing
- Medical alert/identification bracelets are authorized
- Gemstones/tennis bracelets may only be worn with the mess dress uniform
- Traditional metal POW/MIA/KIA bracelets, which come in colors besides silver, bronze, or gold, remain authorized

**Watches:**
- Must be conservative
- *Only* one watch can be worn around the wrist while in uniform
- Conservative examples are: solid color black, brown, silver or gold
- Prohibited examples are diamond covered, neon, bright colors, and bands that exceed 1-inch width
Jewelry

Rings:

- Airmen may wear a total of no more than three rings
- Wedding sets count as one ring when worn as a set
- Rings will be worn at the base of the finger, and will not be worn on the thumb

Necklaces:

- Will not be visible at any time
- If worn, will be concealed under a collar or undershirt
Backpacks, Gym Bags, Handbags

Gym Bags:

- Will be solid dark-blue or black in color with matching stitching and carried in the left hand
- When wearing ABUs, Airmen can also use olive drab, Air Force sage green or ABU patterned gym bags
- Small logos are authorized

Back Packs:

- Black back packs may be worn with any uniform combination
- Only solid-color black backpacks will be worn with blue uniform combinations
- ABU patterned back packs, olive drab and Air Force sage green may be worn with the ABU
- Small logos are authorized
- Airmen may wear a back pack on the left shoulder or both shoulders (not to interfere with rendering the proper salute)
- Back packs will not have ornamentation, a high-gloss, designs, or hanging/dangling objects
- Small gold or silver clasp authorized, but chains are not authorized
Backpacks, Gym Bags, Handbags

Handbags and Clutch-Style Purses:

- Handbags for all uniform combinations will be solid black leather or vinyl without ornamentation
- with or without plain fold-over flap
- with or without single placed silver or gold-colored clasp
- with black stitching only
- Handbags may have up to two adjustable shoulder straps with or without buckles on the straps
- Handbags will not exceed 13(W) x 9(H) x 4 ½ in bulk
- Clutch-style purses for all uniform combinations will be plain black smooth or scotch-grain leather, patent leather, high-gloss or manmade material without ornamentation, with black stitching only
- Fabric, suede, and patent leather may be carried with the mess dress, formal dress and ceremonial dress uniforms
- Clutch-style purses will be no larger than 6 ½ (H) x 11(W) inches or no smaller than 5(H) x 9(W) inches
- Clutch-style purses will have a concealed closure and may have a wrist strap