

CHAPTER 7 – DRESS AND APPEARANCE STANDARDS/UNIFORM OPTIONS

1. **AFJROTC** cadets generally wear the same uniform as that worn by active-duty personnel in the Air Force. We expect Cadets to honor the uniform—to wear it properly and with pride. The uniform is an important aspect of Air Force Junior ROTC. Whenever you wear the uniform—during indoor and outdoor training periods, at cadet social functions, and during base visits—you represent the Corps.



How you wear the uniform exposes you and the Air Force to praise or fault from fellow cadets, fellow students, and society.

2. **Cadet Uniform Standards:**

- a. **Uniform Do's and Don'ts**—Here are a few general do's and don'ts about wearing the uniform.

Do

- Wear the Air Force service uniform properly and with pride.
- Ensure the uniform is clean/pressed and worn on the established day.
- Keep your shoes polished and shined, including the heels and edges of soles.
- Ensure badges, insignia, belt buckles and other metallic devices are clean and free of scratches and corrosion.
- Keep ribbons clean; replace them when they become worn, frayed, or faded.

Don'ts

- Do not wear the uniform with other clothing or lend to anyone.
- Do not allow articles such as wallets, pencils, pens, and combs to be visible.
- Do not wear earphones or headphones while in uniform, unless required for duty.
- Do not carry cell phones, unless required for duty. (When required for duty, they must be clipped to the waistband or purse or be carried in the left hand when not in use.)

- b. **Uniform Standard Exceptions**—Because Abilene High School is an educational institution and not a military installation, a few uniform exceptions have been put in place for the convenience of the cadet population and apply **ONLY** while on campus.

Hat Area—the issued Air Force hat will always be worn while outside in uniform, on and off campus. The only exception to this rule is during **AND ONLY** during **LUNCH** while **IN THE COVERED CAFETERIA PATIO AREA**. Cadets are reminded that not only are they wearing the same uniform as active-duty Air Force members, but that Abilene is a military community and the population is very conscience of people in uniform. If someone tells you to put your hat on...put it on!

Service Coats/Lightweight Jackets—Because of the varying temperatures in school classrooms, cadets may remove their Service Dress coat while in classrooms. Upon leaving the classroom for any reason, the cadet must wear and button the coat. Additionally, although designed as an outer garment, for the same reason, the lightweight jackets may be kept on while in classrooms but will be removed for uniform inspections.

- c. **Hats**—will always be worn with the uniform outside. This includes the covered walkways.

- d. **Insignia Placement**—Insignia on the AFJROTC uniform will be worn according to the figures contained in this chapter. Only AFJROTC authorized rank, badges, insignia, ribbons, medals, etc. may be worn by cadets.
 - e. **Shoulder Patches**—wear of the AFJROTC official shoulder patch and Abilene High School Unit patch is mandatory on the short sleeve blue shirt, service coat, lightweight blue jacket and ABUs.
 - f. **Gloves**—solid white or solid black gloves are authorized for special teams.
 - g. **Shoulder Cords**—if properly earned, cadets are authorized to wear one distinctive shoulder cord with any blue service uniform combination (they will not be worn on the lightweight jacket or ABUs). Shoulder cords will not be worn with civilian clothing. Cords will be worn grounded to the left shoulder seam and pinned to the shoulder with the pin hidden beneath the cord. Authorized cords are described as follows:
 - (1) **Corps Commander** will wear a single black with silver braid.
 - (2) **Deputy Corps Commander/Squadron Commanders/Director of Staff/Superintendent** will wear a single gray braid.
 - (3) **Flight Commanders/Flight Sergeants** will wear a single gold braid.
 - (4) **Element Leaders** will wear single black braid.
 - (5) **Top Ten Academic cadets** will wear a single white braid.
 - (6) **Drill Team/Color Guard team members** will wear cords as determined by the SASI/ASI.
 - (7) No other shoulder cords are authorized to be worn unless approved by the SASI/ASI.
 - h. **Shoulder Tabs**—shoulder tabs are either cloth or metal arches denoting participation in an AFJROTC activity. Shoulder tabs are optional. If worn, cadets are authorized to wear one shoulder tab on the right shoulder of the service dress coat and the light blue shirt, centered between the unit patch and the shoulder seam. Shoulder tab requirements are outlined in their respective activity handbook/training plan. Currently, the only authorized tabs are Color Guard, Sabre Team and Rifle Team.
3. **Cadet Appearance and Grooming Guidelines**—when a cadet wears the uniform, he/she is responsible for presenting a neat, clean, and professional military image. Appearance and grooming standards help cadets present the 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 or the unusual. **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 a very important aspect of military appearance. People, both military and civilian, draw conclusions as to the military effectiveness of the Air Force by how they perceive those in uniform. Hands in pockets are allowed while standing or walking and beverage consumption as indicated while walking.
- a. **Jewelry**—while in uniform will be plain and conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) as determined by the SASI.
 - b. **Rings**—Cadets 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 may be worn on the thumb.
 - c. **Necklaces**—Necklaces will not be visible at any time. If worn, will be concealed under a collar or undershirt.

- d. **Bracelets**—Ankle bracelets are not authorized. Cadets may wear one bracelet around their wrist. If worn, the bracelet will be conservative in design, 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; however, if worn, they will be conservative. Bracelets espousing support for cause, philosophy, individual or group are *not* authorized (**Exception:** Traditional metal POW/MIA/KIA bracelets remain authorized). **Colored/rubber or fabric bracelets are not allowed.**
- e. **Watches**—Must be conservative and only one can be worn around the wrist while in uniform or PTG, or Option E in an official capacity. Conservative examples (not all inclusive) are solid color black, brown, silver or gold. Prohibited examples are diamond covered, neon, bright colors, and bands that exceed 1 inch width.
- f. **Eyeglasses or Sunglasses**—Eyeglasses and sunglasses may have conservative ornamentation on nonprescription sunglasses or eyeglasses. Conservative, clear, slightly tinted, mirrored or photosensitive lenses are authorized. Sunglasses are not authorized while in a military formation. Neither eyeglasses nor sunglasses can be worn around the neck while in uniform.

*Cadets may wear sunglasses during in ranks inspection with the approval of the SASI/ASI.

- g. **Tattoos or Brands**—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. The SASI may exercise discretion if a new cadet arrives with a tattoo that may not be in full compliance with the above guidance.
- h. **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, eyebrows, lips, or any exposed body part (includes visible through the uniform). Cadets may not cover any of these articles with make-up, band aids, or wearing clear post pins to hide body piercings. **NOTE: Getting a new piercing in an unauthorized body part (e.g., ear cartilage, belly button, nose, tongue etc.) that requires healing time, WILL NOT make it authorized to be worn in uniform, EVEN IF IT IS ALLOWED BY THE DISTRICT DRESS CODE. These items will have to be removed or the uniform will have to be taken off and the cadet will be given a zero for uniform wear.**
- i. **Gauges**—are not authorized. Plugs for gauge holes in the ear lobes are **not authorized** (regardless of color, i.e., flesh colored).
- j. **Dental Ornamentation**—Teeth, whether natural, capped, or veneered, will not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, etc. The use of yellow gold, white gold, or platinum caps (permanent or temporary) merely to add ornamentation to the teeth and not required by dental/medical necessity is prohibited.
- k. **Electronic Devices**—wear/use of an earpiece, any blue tooth technology or headphones, while in uniform, indoors or outdoors, is prohibited, unless specifically authorized for the execution of official duties. Exception: Headphones and earphones [iPods, MP3-type players, etc.] are authorized during travel on public transportation i.e., bus, train or air travel or as designated by SASI.
- l. **Undergarments**—Appropriate undergarments are required to be worn with all uniform combinations. Wear the white V-neck or athletic style tank top undershirt when wearing opened collar service uniforms only. Undershirt will be tucked into trousers. Undershirts will not have pockets.
- m. **Hair-male and female.** Will be clean, well-groomed, present a professional appearance, allow proper wear of headgear and conform to safety requirements. Will not contain excessive amounts

of grooming aids (e.g. gel, mousse, pomade, or moisturizer), 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. If applied, dyes, tints, bleaches and frostings must result in natural hair colors. Examples of natural hair colors are brown, blonde, brunette, natural red, black or grey. All Cadets are authorized to wear hair in a natural color regardless of their natural born hair color. Prohibited hair color examples (not all inclusive) are burgundy, purple, orange, fluorescent or neon colors.

4. Specific Female Cadet Grooming Guidelines:

- a. **Hair—no minimum hair length, to a maximum bulk of 4 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 unless pulled back and secured or worn in an authorized ponytail or equivalent or long braid(s). If hair is pulled back and secured behind the head, radius will not exceed 6 inches from the point where the hair is gathered (i.e., no more than 6 inches to the left and 6 inches to the right, 12 inches total width; and 6 inches protruding from where hair is gathered) and must allow for proper wear of headgear. One or two braids or a single ponytail or equivalent may be worn down the member's back with length not extending below a horizontal line running between the top of each sleeve inseam at the under arm through the shoulder blades. The braid(s) or ponytail or equivalent cannot be worn over the shoulder or pulled in front of the body. They shall extend down the member's back.

Bangs, or side-swiped hair may touch eyebrows but will not touch or cover eyes (see below example). When in doubt, assess correct length of hair with Cadet standing in the position of attention.

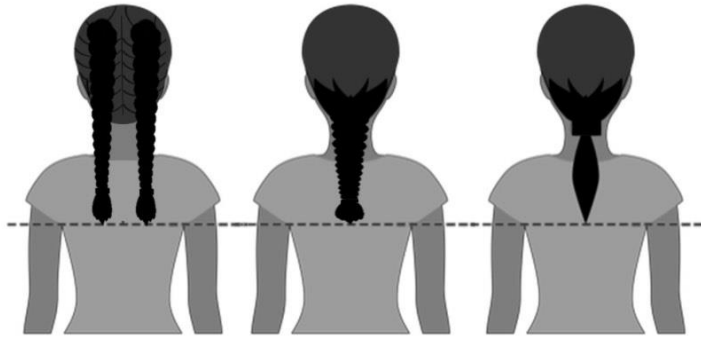
Pinned-up hair should be styled in a manner that prevents loose ends from extending upward on the head. When hair is in a bun, the bun must be a single bun; all loose ends must be tucked in and secured. When hair is in a ponytail or equivalent, it must be a single ponytail or equivalent that does not extend below a horizontal line running between the top of each sleeve inseam at the under arm through the shoulder blades.

Locs, braids, twists, micro-braids, French braids, Dutch braids and cornrows are authorized. Locs are defined as portions of hair that have been intentionally or unintentionally fused together to form a loc or locs. 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) and conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme). Multiple locs, braids, twists or cornrows may come together down the back in one or two braids or a single ponytail. Hair must not exceed length and bulk standard and headgear must fit properly.

All locs, braids and twists, when worn will be of uniform dimension, no wider than one inch, with natural spacing between the locs, braids, and twists and must be tightly interwoven to present a neat, professional and well-groomed appearance. When worn, multiple locs, braids, or twists shall be of uniform dimension, small in diameter (approximately ¼ inches), show no more than ¼ inch of scalp between the locs, braids, or twists and must be tightly interwoven to present a neat, professional appearance.

Unauthorized—Mohawk, mullet or etched design.

Female Hair Style Examples (Ponytails)



Female cadets may wear their hair in up to two braids or a single ponytail with bulk not exceeding the width of the head and length not extending below a horizontal line running between the top of each sleeve inseam at the under arm through the shoulder blades. In addition, women's bangs may now touch their eyebrows, but not cover their eyes.

Authorized Female Hair Style Examples



Braids



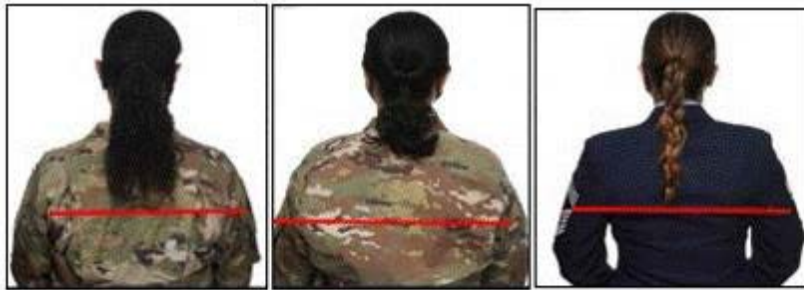
Twists



Locs



Authorized Female Hair Style Examples



Unbraided Single Ponytail/Pull-through Ponytail Style/Braided Ponytail



Braided Ponytails/Multiple Braids in a Single Ponytail



Pulled back secured and does not exceed 6 inch radius



Pulled back secured and does not exceed 6 inch radius



Two Braids Looped Underneath/Two Braids

Unauthorized Female Hair Style Examples



Exceeds Length Requirement



Ponytail Fasten on the Crown of Head.

- b. **Hair accessories**—If worn, hair accessories (e.g., fabric scrunchies, hairpins, combs, clips, headbands, elastic bands, barrettes, etc.) must match hair color. Black hair accessories are authorized regardless of hair color. Hair must still comply with bulk and appearance standards. Headgear must fit properly. Headbands or fabric scrunchies will not exceed two-inches in width. Ornaments are *not* authorized (i.e., ribbons, beads, jeweled pins).
- c. **Earrings**—Female cadets may wear small (not exceeding 6 mm in diameter) conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) round or square white diamond, gold, white pearl, or silver earrings as a set with any uniform combination. If member has multiple holes, 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 unless the piece extending is the connecting band on clip earrings. When not wearing earrings, male and female cadets are authorized to wear transparent piercing spacer(s) in lower earlobes while in uniform. Transparent spacers are not allowed in ear holes outside of the lower earlobes or any other piercing holes visible in uniform (nose, lip, eyebrow etc.). Piercing holes will not be large enough to permit light to shine through.
- d. **Cosmetics**—Female cadets may wear cosmetics; however, if worn, they will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) and in good taste. Female cadets will not wear shades of lipstick that detract from the uniform, or that are extreme colors. Some examples of extreme colors include but are not limited to, purple, gold, blue, black, bright (fire-engine) red, and fluorescent colors.
- e. **Fingernails**—If worn, nail polish will be a single color that does not detract from the uniform, nor can the polish be extreme color. Some examples of extreme colors include, 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length beyond the tip of the finger and must be clean and well-groomed

(Below LEFT is a no, no. If you spend the money, oh well, you knew not to.) Ladies, please follow the rules. The instructors want you to look professional.



(French tips are authorized)

5. Specific Male Cadet Grooming Guidelines:

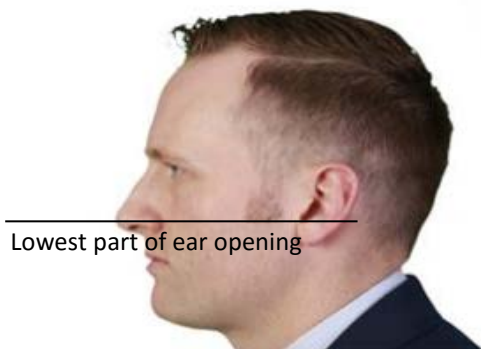
- a. **Hair**—Will be clean, well-groomed, and present a professional appearance and allow proper wear of headgear. Will not contain excessive amounts of grooming aids (e.g. gel, pomade, or moisturizer), appear lopsided, touch either eyebrow or end below an imaginary line across the forehead at the top of the eyebrows that is parallel to the ground. If applied, dyes, tints, bleaches, and frostings must result in natural hair colors. Examples of natural hair colors are brown, blonde, brunette, natural red, or black. Prohibited examples (*not* all inclusive) are burgundy, purple, orange, fluorescent or neon colors.

Tapered appearance on both sides and the back of the head, both with and without headgear. 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, curving inward to the natural termination point without eccentric

directional flow, twists or spiking. A block-cut is permitted with tapered appearance. Hair will not exceed 2.5 inches in bulk, regardless of length and $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 protrude under the front band of headgear. Cleanly shaven heads, military high-and-tight or flat-top cuts are authorized. Cadets may have one (cut, clipped or shaved) front to back, straight-line part, not slanted or curved, on either side of their head, above the temple. Part will not exceed 4 inches length or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch width. **Prohibited examples (not all inclusive) are Mohawk, mullet, cornrows, dreadlocks, or etched design. Men are not authorized hair extensions.**



- b. **Sideburns**—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 (see below drawing).
- c. **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 (see below drawing).
- d. **Beards**—Beards are not authorized unless for medical reasons, when authorized by a medical official, or as authorized pursuant to a request for a religious accommodation. Beard wear authorized for religious reasons are governed by AFJROTCI 36-2001. When authorized for medical reasons, members will keep all facial hair trimmed not to exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length. Individuals granted a shaving profile may shave or trim their facial hair to present a neat, clean, professional image.
- e. **Fingernails/Cosmetics**—Male cadets are not authorized to wear nail polish or cosmetics.
- f. **Earrings**—Male cadets are not authorized to wear earrings or any other type of facial piercings while in uniform. When not wearing earrings, male and female cadets are authorized to wear transparent piercing spacer(s) in lower earlobes while in uniform. Transparent spacers are not allowed in ear holes outside of the lower earlobes or any other piercing holes visible in uniform (nose, lip, eyebrow etc.). Piercing holes will not be large enough to permit light to shine through.



Lowest part of ear opening

Sideburns



No wider than the edge of mouth

Mustache