



Updated Hair Policies for Navy Women

New interactive viewer available

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

This week Navy wrapped up the review of its hairstyle policies for women. The almost yearlong effort was informed heavily by Fleet feedback and lessons learned from recent Navy and Department of Defense questions concerning hair and grooming standards.

The result of the review was an update to Navy's hairstyle policies to provide clearer guidance on what is and isn't allowed. The updated policies authorize a slightly broader range of acceptable hairstyles, while continuing to emphasize the need for a neat and professional appearance.

The Navy's review and new standards take into account the wide range and textures of hair, including curled, wavy and straight hair. The new regulations provide guidance on hair styles, hair coloring, wigs, and hair accessories for women.

Highlights of the changes and guidelines include:

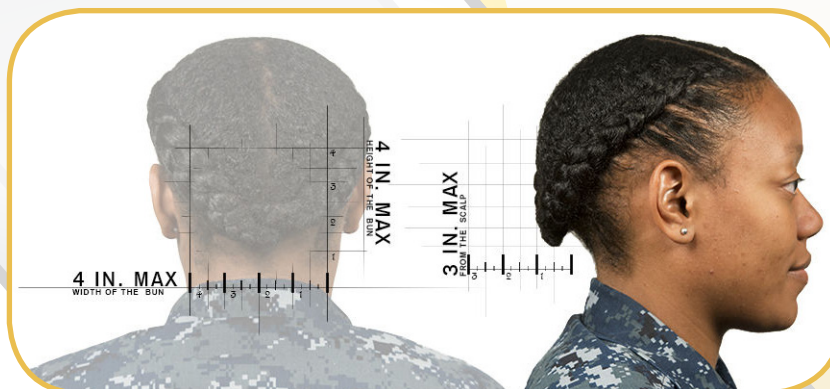
- Hairstyles must allow for the proper fit of headgear and not interfere with the proper wear of protective masks or equipment.
- When in uniform, hair may touch, but not fall below a horizontal line level with the lower edge of the back of the collar. With service dress jumper uniforms, hair may extend a maximum of 1 1/2 inches

below the top of the jumper collar.

- Layered hairstyles are authorized, provided that the layers present a smooth graduated appearance. No portion of the bulk of the hair (except the bun) as measured from the scalp will exceed 2 inches.
- The bulk of the bun shall not exceed 3 inches from scalp. The diameter of the bun will not exceed 4 inches. Loose ends must be tucked-in and secured. Buns must not protrude through the opening in the back of a ball cap.
- Angled hairstyles may not exceed 1 1/2 inches difference in length from front to back.
- All hairstyles must minimize scalp exposure.

- Two strand braids (a type of twist) are authorized. Braided hairstyles shall be conservative and conform to the grooming standard guidelines.

The updated policy in its entirety can be found by clicking the following link http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/documents/hair%20regulation%20final2.pdf.



The Navy took to heart suggestions that grooming standard resources (pictures, websites, guidance) needed a facelift. To better inform Sailors and leadership, Defense Media Activity created a smart-device-compatible hair viewer that provides photographic examples of authorized hairstyles.

Click the link to see the viewer http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/um/femalehair.html!

The hair viewer page is divided into long hairstyles and short hairstyles and illustrates approved grooming standards such as hair dimensions, bulk of hair and width of buns.

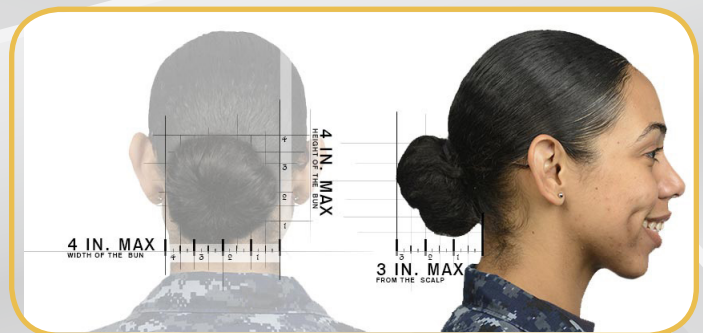
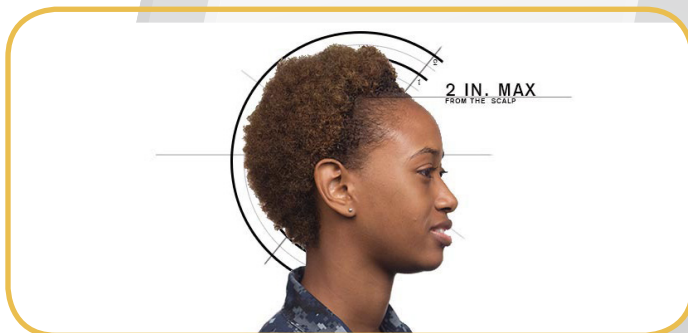
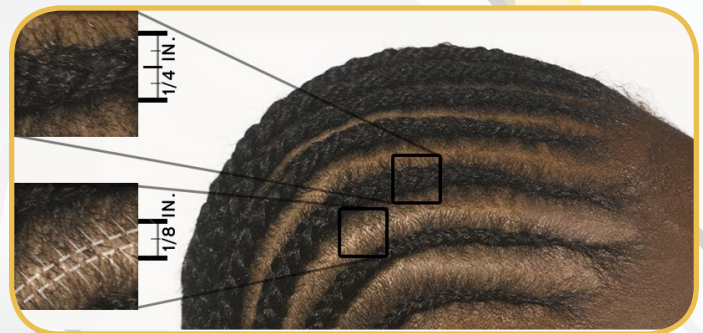
This is an interactive viewer--clicking on any of the hairstyles from the home page enables a 360 degree view of the hairstyle. Moving the cursor left and right across a Sailor's photo rotates the head to show front, side and back of hair styles. Below each photograph is an explanation of the regulations that are specific to that particular hairstyle.

The online hair viewer should help Sailors better understand the regulation requirements. It is impossible to address every situation and every hairstyle. The ultimate judgment call still lies with commanders.

In addition to feedback on Fleet policies and Sailor resources, Sailors had suggestions about the hair policies for new recruits. Beginning January 2015,

Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) will initiate a pilot program to cease mandatory female haircuts at Recruit Training Command (RTC) and Officer Training Command (OTC). The pilot was established after receiving feedback that junior Sailors and officers are not taught proper grooming standards during their initial training. Grooming standards education will be incorporated into the curriculum, but will not impact other training. This will allow women to style longer hair in the same manner that they would wear it daily in the Fleet while providing the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the standards before transferring to the Fleet. If desired, women will still have the opportunity to cut their hair upon arrival and during training at RTC and OTC.

Sailor feedback and questions on the new hairstyle guidelines and other uniform policies are always welcome. As always, Sailors can reach out to the Uniform Matters Office by emailing UMO_CMC@navy.mil or usnpeople@gmail.com.



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TO NAVADMIN

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SUBJ/UNIFORM UPDATE FEMALE HAIR GROOMING POLICY//

NAVADMIN 271/14

MSGID/GENADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N1/DEC//

REF/A/DOC/NAVPERS 15665I/1JAN03//

AMPN/REFERENCE A IS THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNIFORM REGULATIONS.

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN announces the revision of Navy*s female hair grooming policy. This policy applies to female Sailors while wearing the Navy uniform and when wearing civilian clothes in the performance of duty.

2. Acceptable Hairstyle Criteria.

a. Hairstyles and haircuts shall present a professional and balanced appearance. Appropriateness of a hairstyle shall be evaluated by its appearance when headgear is worn. All headgear shall fit snugly and comfortably around the largest part of the head without distortion or excessive gaps. Hairstyles will not interfere with the proper wearing of headgear, protective masks or equipment. When headgear is worn, hair shall not show from under the front of the headgear, with the exception of the Tiara and Beret. Hair (including bun) is not to protrude from the opening in the back of the ball cap.

b. Lopsided and extremely asymmetrical hairstyles are not authorized. Angled hairstyles will have no more than a 1-1/2 inch difference between the front and the back length of hair. Layered hairstyles are authorized provided layers present a smooth and graduated appearance.

c. Hair length, when in uniform, may touch, but not fall below a horizontal line level with the lower edge of the back of the collar.

With jumper uniforms, hair may extend a maximum of 1-1/2 inches below the top of the jumper collar. Long hair, including braids, shall be neatly fastened, pinned, or secured to the head. When bangs are worn, they shall not extend below the eyebrows. Hair length shall be sufficient to prevent the scalp from being readily visible (with the exception of documented medical conditions).

d. Hair bulk (minus the bun) as measured from the scalp will not exceed 2 inches. The bulk of the bun shall not exceed 3 inches when measured from the scalp and the diameter of the bun will not exceed 4 inches. Loose ends must be tucked in and secured.

e. Hair, wigs, or hair extensions/pieces must be of a natural hair color (i.e. blonde, brunette, brown, red, gray, or black). Hair extensions/pieces must match the current color of the hair. Wigs, hairpieces and extensions shall be of such quality and fit so as to present a natural appearance and conform to the grooming guidelines listed herein. Tints and highlights shall result in natural hair colors and be similar to the current base color of the hair.

3. Hairstyles. Hairstyles shall not detract from a professional appearance in uniform. Styles with shaved portions of the scalp (other than the neckline), those with designs cut, braided, or parted into the hair, as well as dyed using unnatural colors are not authorized. The unique quality and texture of curled, waved and straight hair are recognized. All hairstyles must minimize scalp exposure. While this list shall not be considered all inclusive, the following hairstyles are authorized.

a. Three strand braids and two strand braids (also referred to as twists) are authorized. Braided hairstyles shall be conservative and conform to the guidelines listed herein.

b. Multiple braids. Multiple braids consist of more than 2 braids and encompass the whole head. When a hairstyle of multiple braids is worn, each braid shall be of uniform dimension, small in diameter (no more than 1/4 inch), and tightly interwoven to present a neat, professional, well groomed appearance. Foreign material (e.g., beads, decorative items) shall not be braided into the hair. Multiple braids may be worn loose, or may be pulled straight back into a bun, within the guidelines herein.

c. Two individual braids. One braid worn on each side of the head, uniform in dimension and no more than one inch in diameter. Each braid extends from the front to the back of the head near the lower portion of the hair line (i.e., braids are closer to the top of the ear than the top of the head to prevent interference with wearing of headgear). A single French braid may be worn starting near the top of the head and be braided to the end of the hair. The end of the braid must be secured to the head and braid placement shall be down the middle of the back of the head.

d. Corn rows. Must be in symmetrical fore and aft rows, and must be close to the head, leaving no hair unbraided.* They must be no larger than 1/4 inch in diameter and show no more than approximately 1/8 inch of scalp between rows. Corn row ends shall not protrude from the head. Rows must end at the nape of the neck and shall be secured with rubber bands that match the color of the hair. Corn rows may end in a bun conforming to the guidelines listed herein, if hair length permits.

e. Rolls. Two individual rolls, one on each side of the head, must be near the lower portion of the hair line (i.e., rolls are closer to the top of the ear than the top of the head and will not interfere with wearing of headgear). Rolls must be of uniform dimension and no more than one inch in diameter.

4. Hair Accessories. When hair accessories are worn, they must be consistent with the hair color. A maximum of two small barrettes, similar to hair color, may be used to secure the hair to the head. Bun accessories (used to form the bun), are authorized if completely concealed. Additional hairpins, bobby pins, small rubber bands, or small thin fabric elastic bands may be used to hold hair in place, if necessary. The intent is for pinned-up hair to be styled in a manner that prevents loose ends from extending upward or outward from the head. For example, when using barrettes or hairpins, hair will not extend loosely from the head; when hair is in a bun, all loose ends must be tucked in and secured. Hair accessories shall not present a safety or foreign object damage hazard. Hair nets shall not be worn unless authorized for a specific type of duty. Headbands, scrunchies, combs, claws and butterfly clips, are examples of accessories that are not authorized; this list is not to be considered all inclusive.

5. Unauthorized Hairstyles. While this list shall not be considered all inclusive, the following hairstyles are not authorized: ponytails; pigtails; braids that are widely spaced and/or protrude from the head; and locks. Locks, also called dreads, are fused or coiled strands of hair such that they cannot easily be combed out.

6. Grooming Standards Exception. During group command/unit physical training, commanding officers are authorized to standardize unit policy for the relaxation of female hair grooming standards with regard to having hair secured to the head (e.g., ponytails). Hair restraining devices, if worn, will be consistent with the current hair color.

7. Examples of authorized hairstyles may be viewed through the Hair Viewer at http://devnavy.dmaana.dma.mil/ah_online/femalehair.html.

File this NAVADMIN until revisions are incorporated into the BUPERS Directive CD-ROM change or U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations on the Navy Uniform Matters Office website at

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/uniforms/uniformregulations/Pages/default.aspx>.

8. General questions and comments regarding this NAVADMIN should be addressed to the Uniform Matters Office (N131U) points of contact below:

- a. Mr. Robert Carroll, OPNAV N131U, via e-mail at robert.b.carroll(at)navy.mil;
- b. CMDRCM(SW/AW) Rita Carman, via e-mail at rita.carman(at)navy.mil;
- c. CTRC(IDW/NAC/SW/AW) Erin Piazza via e-mail at erin.piazza(at)navy.mil

9. This NAVADMIN will remain in effect until superseded or canceled, whichever occurs first.

10. Released by Vice Admiral W. F. Moran, N1.//

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