

**Rewrite of AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*,
Questions and Answers:**

1. Question: Who may approve religious accommodations requests for Airmen currently serving?

Answer: Wing Commanders or HAF, MAJCOM, NAF, FOA and DRU Directors (O-6/GS-15 and above) are the approval authority for dress and appearance religious accommodation requests involving the following: hijab, beard, turban or under-turban/patka, unshorn beards, unshorn hair, and indoor/outdoor head coverings.

2. Question: Who may disapprove religious accommodations requests for Airmen currently serving?

Answer: The AF/A1 (Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services), AF/RE (Chief of Air Force Reserve), or NGB/CF (Director, Air National Guard), as appropriate, makes the final determination on all recommendations to disapprove dress and appearance religious accommodation requests.

3. Question: How long should it take to have a final decision on requested religious accommodations?

Answer: Final review will take place within 30 days for cases arising within the U.S. and within 60 days for all other cases, with strict limitations on exceptions for exigent circumstances.

4. Question: The rank on the OCP uniform is sometimes difficult to see or make out, has there been any discussion about adjusting rank insignia color?

Answer: Yes, we are aware that the spice brown with OCP pattern makes it difficult to see certain ranks. We are developing a lighter OCP pattern background for our insignia making it easier to identify rank insignia. We are doing the same for the branch of service and name tape backgrounds.

NOTE: The current insignia will be used until depleted and then the new lighter OCP pattern will be available for purchase.

5. Question: Are Airmen authorized to wear Army combat patches on the OCP uniform?

Answer: “Combat patch,” applies **ONLY** to Soldiers. If an Airman was previously a Soldier in the U.S. Army and was authorized the wear of shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service IAW with AR 670-1, they may wear it in addition to the mandatory Air Force higher headquarters patch on the left sleeve.

Personnel who served in a designated area as a civilian or a member of another service, but were not a member of the U.S. Army during one of the specified periods are **NOT** authorized to wear the Army’s shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service. **NOTE:** Some Airmen may have been provided an **HONORARY** Army shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service after completing a deployment with an Army unit, but it is **NOT** authorized to be worn by Airmen.

6. Question: Are morale patches authorized to be worn on the OCP uniform?

Answer: No, morale patches are not authorized to be worn on the OCP uniform. Official unit emblems as referenced in AFI 84-105, *Organizational Lineage, Honors and Heraldry* are the emblems that are converted to patches to be worn on the uniform.

7. Question: As a unit POC, whom do I contact regarding the status of my unit patch conversion?

Answer: Each MAJCOM/FOA/DRU has a designated POC for patch conversion within their personnel division whom you may contact.

8. Question: If I am an Airman that is assigned to an agency that does not have a Higher Headquarters (HHQs) patch approved or developed can I wear the U.S. Air Force shield patch, that is primarily known to be worn by Headquarters Air Force personnel?

Answer: Yes, if you are an Airman that is assigned to an Agency, DoD or otherwise (e.g. Washington Headquarters Services) that does not have an approved patch to represent the HHQs you may wear the U.S. Air Force shield on the left sleeve of your OCP uniform.

9. Question: Are Airmen authorized to wear the Airborne tab on the OCP uniform.

Answer: The Airborne tab is a temporary tab and is only authorized to be worn while assigned to an organization that prescribes wear as part of the organization's shoulder sleeve insignia.

10. Question: Why was the attachment that depicted awards and decorations order of precedence removed from the AFI.

Answer: A decorations and ribbons map can be found on AFPC's website:
<https://www.afpc.af.mil/Recognition/Decorations-and-Ribbons/>

11. Question: Why was the instruction regarding distinctive uniforms or organization clothing such as Air Force Honor Guard, Air Force Band, and Air Force Food Services removed from the AFI?

Answer: Removing the guidance from the 36 series AFI provides the functional communities ultimate ownership of their special purpose clothing items, enabling more timely and accurate wear guidance for applicable specialties.

12. Question: Why was the attachment that illustrated occupational badges removed from the AFI?

Answer: Occupational badges are normally depicted in the applicable Career Field Education and Training Plan, duplicating in AFI 36-2903 is unnecessary.

13. Question: Are there new and improved blues uniform items being worked?

Answer: There are new and improved women's and men's blue shirts that are projected to roll out in FY20. Additionally, new women's blue slacks and men's blue trousers are projected to roll out in FY21.

14. Question: Is the Air Force developing new physical training gear (PTG).

Answer: Yes, we are committed to developing new PTG that is optimized for a workout while presenting a professional appearance. Our goal is to design PTG items that Airmen will choose to wear because it is right for their workout. That's going to take some time, but we are working hard to have something ready for fit and wear testing this summer. We will also assess our policy of tucking in the PTG t-shirt while wear testing the new PTG.

15. Question: I heard there is a light weight version of the OCP uniform, when will it become available to wear?

Answer: The Improved Hot Weather Combat Uniform will not be made available as an option for Airmen until after our current OCP mandatory wear date of April 2021. A limited release of this uniform has been fielded, but is currently only authorized for the Army.

16. Question: When an Airman tries on the maternity OCPs, can they order in-store or do they have to order online?

Answer: The Airman will need to order online under their AAFES/shop my exchange account. However, the store will assist the Airman with ordering online at shopmyexchange.com if assistance is required.

17. Question: If an Airman tries on the maternity OCP and it fits, can they buy them there?

Answer: Yes, the Airman may purchase them. However, the preference is for the Airman to order them online after trying them on. If the Airman needs to purchase the try-on size, AAFES will then order a replacement for the size that was purchased.

18. Question: Will any Air Force Military Clothing Sales locations stock all maternity OCP sizes?

Answer: No, only core try-on sizes will be in stores, not all sizes.

19. Question: How long will it take for Airmen to receive maternity OCPs once they place an order?

Answer: CONUS Airmen should receive uniform order shipment within 3-5 business days and OCONUS Airmen should receive uniform order shipment within 5-10 business days.