



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

22 JUN 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2022-09 (Soldier Tattoos)

1. References.

- a. Army Directive 2020-09 (Appointment and Enlistment Waivers), 20 August 2020
- b. Army Regulation (AR) 600–20 (Army Command Policy), 24 July 2020
- c. AR 601–210 (Regular Army and Army Reserve Components Enlistment Program), 31 August 2016
- d. AR 670–1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia), 26 January 2021
- e. Department of the Army Pamphlet 670–1 (Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia), 26 January 2021

2. Purpose. This directive announces a change in policy for the allowable placement of tattoos for currently serving Soldiers and applicants for enlistment or appointment. Changes to the Army tattoo policy allow individuals who meet all other qualifications for appointment or enlistment the opportunity to serve. They also support the Army's People Strategy, our number one priority, by offering Soldiers options for appearance that take into account professional appearance and good order and discipline.

3. Applicability. The provisions of this directive apply to the Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.

4. Policy.

- a. Effective immediately, Army policy governing tattoos authorizes:

(1) one visible tattoo on each hand (including the palm), not to exceed one inch in measurement in all directions; an unlimited number of tattoos between the fingers as long as they are not visible when the fingers are closed; and one ring tattoo on each hand.

(2) one tattoo on the back of the neck, not to exceed two inches in measurement in all directions (Tattoos are still prohibited on the head and face (except for permanent

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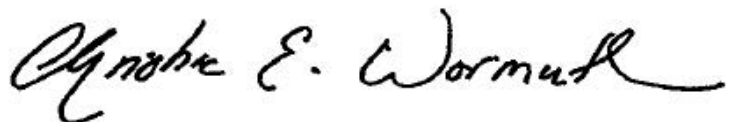
makeup as provided in reference 1d, paragraph 3–2b(2)) and inside the eyelids, mouth, and ears. Previously documented tattoos on the neck or hands, for which Soldiers have a tattoo validation memorandum, remain authorized.)

(3) one tattoo behind each ear, not to exceed one inch in measurement in all directions, not to extend forward of the ear lobe

b. Prohibitions on type of tattoo or brand remain in effect. Exceptions to policy will be submitted in accordance with reference 1d, paragraph 3–3. Soldiers may continue to submit religious accommodation requests for a waiver to Army regulations using the procedures outlined in AR 600–20.

5. Proponent. The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) is the proponent for this policy. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 will incorporate the provisions of this directive into AR 670–1 within 2 years of the date of this directive.

6. Duration. This directive is rescinded on publication of the revised regulation.



Christine E. Wormuth

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