

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
502D AIR BASE WING
JBSA INSTRUCTION 36-2903

15 February 2026

Personnel

DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE
JBSA SUPPLEMENT

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction supplements Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Department of the Air Force Personnel. It establishes local policies and procedures specific to Joint Base San Antonio. All provisions of DAFI 36-2903 apply unless specifically modified by this supplement. In case of conflict, DAFI 36-2903 takes precedence.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This revision adds new guidance on fitness trackers and smartwatches, clarifies cold weather gear policies, expands civilian dress day options to include jeans on Fridays, adds morale patch guidance, and updates the special events uniform matrix. New section 4.7 addresses hydration systems.

CHAPTER 1

UNIFORM WEAR AREAS

1.1. Duty Uniform. The duty uniform at JBSA is the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform unless otherwise specified by the member's commander or duty requirements.

1.2. Flight Duty Uniform (FDU). Members in flying positions may wear the FDU when

performing flying duties or as authorized by their commander.

1.3. Uniform of the Day (UOD). Organizations may establish a Uniform of the Day for specific occasions. UOD will be announced via official communication channels.

1.4. Service Dress Requirements. Service dress uniform is required for:

1.4.1. Formal events and ceremonies as announced

1.4.2. Appearing before promotion boards

1.4.3. Formal office calls with general officers

1.4.4. Court appearances

1.4.5. Formal inspections as designated

1.5. Off-Installation Uniform Wear.

1.5.1. Members may wear the duty uniform off-installation for brief stops (e.g., gas station, picking up food, quick errands).

1.5.2. Extended off-installation activities (shopping, dining, entertainment) in uniform are discouraged but not prohibited.

1.5.3. Uniform wear in establishments where alcohol is the primary commodity is prohibited unless in an official capacity.

CHAPTER 2

PHYSICAL TRAINING UNIFORM

2.1. Authorized Wear Hours. The Physical Training Uniform (PTU) may be worn:

2.1.1. During organized PT sessions

2.1.2. Two hours before and two hours after scheduled PT

2.1.3. To and from the fitness center

2.1.4. During lunch hours for fitness activities

2.2. PTU Off-Installation.

2.2.1. PTU may be worn off-installation for brief convenience stops only.

2.2.2. Dining in restaurants in PTU is not authorized (drive-through is acceptable).

2.2.3. Extended shopping or entertainment in PTU is not authorized.

2.3. Unit PT Shirts.

- 2.3.1.** Unit PT shirts may be worn during organized unit PT activities.
- 2.3.2.** Commanders must approve unit PT shirt designs before purchase.
- 2.3.3.** Designs will be conservative and maintain professional appearance.
- 2.3.4.** Morale shirts are authorized for wear on Fridays during unit PT if approved by the unit commander.

2.4. Civilian Athletic Attire.

- 2.4.1.** Civilian athletic attire may be worn during individual PT at fitness centers.
- 2.4.2.** Attire must be modest and appropriate for a professional environment.
- 2.4.3.** Shirts are required in all areas except designated pool areas.

2.5. Fitness Trackers and Smartwatches During PT. (NEW)

- 2.5.1.** Fitness trackers and smartwatches may be worn during PT.
- 2.5.2.** Devices must be conservative in appearance (black, gray, navy, or neutral colors).
- 2.5.3.** Bright colored bands (neon, pink, etc.) are not authorized with the PTU.
- 2.5.4.** GPS and location tracking should be disabled on military installations.

CHAPTER 3

CIVILIAN ATTIRE

- 3.1. Civilian Dress Days.**
 - 3.1.1.** Civilian dress may be authorized on designated days by the wing or unit commander.
 - 3.1.2.** "Casual Friday" is authorized JBSA-wide unless mission requirements dictate otherwise. (CHANGED - now JBSA-wide standard)
 - 3.1.3.** Members in civilian attire must still maintain a professional appearance.
- 3.2. Business Casual Standard.** When civilian attire is authorized, business casual is the minimum standard unless otherwise specified:
 - 3.2.1.** Acceptable for Men:
 - 3.2.1.1.** Collared shirts (polo shirts, button-down shirts)
 - 3.2.1.2.** Slacks or khakis
 - 3.2.1.3.** Closed-toe shoes
 - 3.2.1.4.** Jeans (clean, without rips or excessive fading) (CHANGED - now standard)

3.2.2. Acceptable for Women:

- 3.2.2.1.** Blouses, collared shirts, professional tops
- 3.2.2.2.** Slacks, skirts (knee-length or longer), dresses
- 3.2.2.3.** Closed-toe or professional open-toe shoes
- 3.2.2.4.** Jeans (clean, without rips or excessive fading) (CHANGED - now standard)

3.2.3. Not Acceptable:

- 3.2.3.1.** T-shirts without collar (unless part of approved morale event)
- 3.2.3.2.** Tank tops, halter tops, or clothing exposing midriff
- 3.2.3.3.** Athletic wear (shorts, sweatpants, yoga pants, leggings as pants)
- 3.2.3.4.** Flip-flops or beach sandals
- 3.2.3.5.** Clothing with offensive graphics or language
- 3.2.3.6.** Ripped, torn, or excessively distressed clothing

3.3. Spirit Days.

- 3.3.1.** Organizations may authorize spirit wear (unit shirts, sports jerseys) on Fridays or designated days.
- 3.3.2.** Sports jerseys or team apparel must be worn with appropriate pants/shorts.
- 3.3.3.** College or professional team apparel is acceptable during spirit days.
- 3.3.4.** Unit commanders may authorize themed dress days (e.g., Air Force birthday, heritage months) with appropriate attire. (NEW)

3.4. Contractor and Civilian Employee Attire.

- 3.4.1.** DoD civilian employees will dress in business casual or better during duty hours.
- 3.4.2.** Contractors will follow their contract requirements and company dress code.
- 3.4.3.** All personnel should dress appropriately for their work environment and duties.

CHAPTER 4

LOCAL APPEARANCE STANDARDS

4.1. Hair Standards Clarification.

- 4.1.1.** All hair standards in DAFI 36-2903 apply.
- 4.1.2.** Supervisors will address hair standard questions professionally and refer to DAFI 36-2903 or MPF if uncertain.

4.1.3. Medical profiles for hair standards will be honored as documented.

4.2. Tattoo Review.

4.2.1. Members with tattoos that may not comply with current standards should request a review through their chain of command.

4.2.2. Tattoo reviews are conducted by the 502 ABW/JA with input from the member's commander.

4.2.3. Tattoos obtained before restrictive policy changes are generally grandfathered unless exceptionally objectionable.

4.3. Nail Polish Standards (Per DAFGM 2026-01).

4.3.1. Female Airmen may wear clear, French manicure, or American manicure nail polish.

4.3.2. Ombre, designs, patterns, and colored nail polish are NOT authorized.

4.3.3. Nail length will not exceed 1/4 inch beyond the fingertip.

4.3.4. Male Airmen are not authorized to wear nail polish (clear polish for nail health may be authorized with medical documentation).

4.4. Boot Height Requirements (Per DAFGM 2026-01).

4.4.1. Combat boots worn with the OCP uniform must be 6 to 12 inches in height.

4.4.2. Compliance Deadline: 30 September 2026.

4.4.3. Boots purchased before this change that meet the 8-10 inch standard may continue to be worn until the compliance deadline.

4.5. Eyewear and Sunglasses.

4.5.1. Conservative sunglasses may be worn outdoors when not in military formation.

4.5.2. Mirrored lenses are NOT authorized in uniform.

4.5.3. Meta glasses, AI-enabled glasses, or glasses with recording/streaming capability are NOT authorized in uniform.

4.5.4. Prescription eyewear with photochromic (transitional) lenses may be worn indoors and outdoors.

4.6. Watch Cap and Cold Weather Gear.

4.6.1. The watch cap is authorized for outdoor wear from 1 October through 31 March.

4.6.2. Watch caps will be solid black or coyote brown.

4.6.3. Watch cap will be pulled down snugly; no portion of the forehead is required

to be visible.

4.6.4. Watch caps are not authorized for indoor wear or in formations unless directed.

4.6.5. Cold Weather Gear Additions: (NEW)

4.6.5.1. Black or coyote brown neck gaiters are authorized Oct-Mar.

4.6.5.2. Hand warmers may be carried in pockets.

4.6.5.3. Black or coyote brown ear muffs/ear warmers are authorized.

4.6.5.4. Fleece cap liner may be worn under patrol cap in extreme cold.

4.7. Hydration Systems. (NEW SECTION)

4.7.1. Hydration backpacks (e.g., CamelBak) are authorized during:

4.7.1.1. Field exercises and training events

4.7.1.2. Flight line operations

4.7.1.3. Outdoor duties during hot weather (Jun-Sep)

4.7.1.4. PT and fitness activities

4.7.2. Hydration systems must be OCP pattern, coyote brown, or black.

4.7.3. Not authorized for wear in administrative buildings or formal settings.

4.7.4. Commanders may authorize expanded use during heat advisories.

4.8. Morale Patches. (NEW SECTION)

4.8.1. Morale/Friday patches are authorized for wear on Fridays only.

4.8.2. Patches must be in good taste and appropriate for all audiences.

4.8.3. Patches may not contain:

4.8.3.1. Profanity or offensive language

4.8.3.2. Political statements or imagery

4.8.3.3. Discriminatory content

4.8.3.4. Sexual or suggestive content

4.8.4. Unit commanders have final approval authority on patch appropriateness.

4.8.5. When in doubt, do not wear the patch.

4.9. Fitness Trackers and Smartwatches. (NEW SECTION)

4.9.1. Fitness trackers and smartwatches may be worn with the duty uniform.

4.9.2. Devices must be conservative in color (black, brown, gray, silver, or gold).

4.9.3. Watch faces must not display offensive content.

4.9.4. Audible alerts should be silenced or set to vibrate during duty hours.

4.9.5. Bright or neon colored bands are not authorized with the duty uniform.

4.9.6. Apple Watch, Garmin, Fitbit, and similar devices are all acceptable.

CHAPTER 5

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

5.1. Warm Weather Provisions.

5.1.1. From 1 June through 30 September, the following relaxed standards apply:

5.1.1.1. Sleeves may be rolled up on OCPs using the authorized method.

5.1.1.2. T-shirt may be visible at the collar (coyote brown only).

5.1.1.3. Sand-colored boots are encouraged during summer months.

5.1.1.4. Hydration systems may be worn during outdoor duties. (NEW)

5.1.2. Individual commanders may extend or restrict warm weather provisions based on mission requirements.

5.2. Safety Gear.

5.2.1. Safety gear required by the work environment takes precedence over uniform standards.

5.2.2. Hard hats, safety glasses, reflective vests, and other protective equipment will be worn as required.

5.2.3. Remove safety gear when no longer required for the task.

5.3. Medical Accommodations.

5.3.1. Members requiring accommodation for medical reasons will coordinate with their medical provider and commander.

5.3.2. Profiles for uniform modifications will be honored.

5.3.3. Pregnancy uniform standards are addressed in DAFI 36-2903.

5.4. Religious Accommodations.

5.4.1. Religious accommodation requests are processed per AFI 52-201.

5.4.2. Approved accommodations will be documented and carried by the member.

5.4.3. Questions about approved accommodations should be directed to the chaplain or EO office.

CHAPTER 6

CEREMONIES AND FORMAL EVENTS

6.1. Retirement and Change of Command Ceremonies.

6.1.1. Service dress is the standard uniform for formal ceremonies.

6.1.2. Hosting commanders may specify alternate uniforms based on venue and weather.

6.1.3. Civilian attire equivalent is business professional.

6.2. Dining Outs and Military Balls.

6.2.1. Mess dress or semi-formal uniform is the standard for formal dining events.

6.2.2. Civilian equivalent is formal attire (tuxedo, evening dress).

6.2.3. Event invitations will specify uniform requirements.

6.3. Memorial Services and Funerals.

6.3.1. Service dress is worn for military memorial services.

6.3.2. Honor guard personnel will wear the prescribed ceremonial uniform.

6.3.3. Family members and civilian attendees should dress conservatively.

6.4. Air Shows and Public Events.

6.4.1. Uniform of the day for air shows is typically OCPs unless otherwise directed.

6.4.2. Members interacting with the public should maintain an exemplary appearance.

6.4.3. Drink water and take breaks in hot weather; health takes precedence.

6.5. Special Events Uniform Matrix. (NEW)

Event Type | Primary Uniform | Alternate

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Retirement Ceremony | Service Dress | OCPs if outdoor

Change of Command | Service Dress | As directed

Promotion Ceremony | Service Dress | OCPs

Awards Ceremony | Service Dress | OCPs

Dining Out/Ball | Mess Dress | Semi-formal

Memorial Service | Service Dress | None

Air Show | OCPs | PTU for demos

Community Event | OCPs | Civilian casual

Spouse/Family Event | Civilian casual | OCPs optional

MARK T. PATTERSON, Brig Gen, USAF

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Attachment 1: Uniform Quick Reference Card

Attachment 2: DAFGM 2026-01 Summary of Changes

Attachment 3: Religious Accommodation Request Procedures

Attachment 4: Morale Patch Guidelines