



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402

USNAINST 6240.7A
4/FireDept
27 June 1988

USNA INSTRUCTION 6240.7A

From: Superintendent

Subj: HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR HAIR AND BEARDS FOR FIRE
DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO WEAR BREATHING APPARATUS
AND/OR ENGAGE IN FIRE FIGHTING

Encl: (1) Sketches to be used as visual guides to meet minimum
health and safety standards for hair and beards

1. Purpose. To issue instructions pertaining to health and safety standards for hair and beards for Fire Department personnel required to wear breathing apparatus and/or engage in fire fighting.

2. Cancellation. USNA Instruction 6240.7 ✓

3. Background. The Superintendent is responsible for making sure personnel required to work in hazardous conditions are properly equipped for the work assigned. In addition, the command is responsible for making sure employees do not unnecessarily hazard themselves. Excessive hair, sideburns, and mustaches reduce the effectiveness of breathing equipment and increase the risk of serious burns or infections. These standards are established to provide minimum acceptable risk to employees while allowing some freedom of expression.

4. Policy. The grooming of individual members of the Fire Department must be consistent with the conditions under which they are employed.

a. Firefighters' duties require them to work in highly heated, toxic, poorly illuminated, abnormal, and unsanitary conditions. Smoke inhalation, heat prostration, lacerations, burns, and falls are common consequences of fire fighting. Hair of excessive length on the head and hair on the face of any length will increase the probabilities of the indispositions mentioned above. Reliably proven by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, the National Bureau of Standards, and others, a satisfactory seal on a bearded person is impossible with face mask piece designs now in use. Flowing hair is more readily ignited and hair excessive to any degree acts as an insulator, retaining body heat and raising body temperature at a time when eliminating body heat through exposed skin surface is highly desirable. The health of the individual firefighter is also compromised when working in an unsanitary environment. Exposed hair is a breeding place for germs. Lacerations on hair-covered surfaces are subject to infection in direct proportion to the area and depth of the hair, thereby complicating the injury and extending recuperation period. (R)

5. Standards. The standards published below are established to satisfy health and safety requirements. Enclosure (1) is to be used as visual guides to determine compliance with these standards.

a. Hair: (R)

(1) Hair will be neat, clean, and trimmed to present a tapered and groomed appearance. It will not be of such length and/or bulk that it prevents the uniform cap, safety helmet, or hard hat from fitting securely on the head. Hair on the sides of the head may not extend below the earlobes. Hair on top of the head will be neatly groomed. Hair on the back of the head may extend two-thirds of an inch over the shirt collar. The hair will be groomed so that when the head is covered the hair does not interfere with the proper seal of the air-mask face piece.

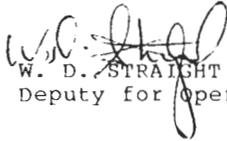
(2) If the individual desires to wear sideburns, they will be neatly

USNAINST 6240.7A
27 June 1988

trimmed, close to the face, not extend downward beyond the lowest part of the earlobe where they will end with a clean-shaven horizontal line. Sideburns will not interfere with the proper seal of the air-mask face piece.

(3) The face will be clean-shaven, except that a well-trimmed mustache is permissible. If worn, the mustache will not extend more than one-half of an inch beyond the corners of the mouth. Mustaches will be trimmed in such a manner to leave the upper lip visible, and no portion extending beyond the corners of the mouth will fall more than one-half of an inch below a line parallel with the bottom of the lower lip. Handlebar mustaches, goatees, and beards are not permitted. No facial hair that would interfere with the proper seal of the air-mask face piece or oxygen mask mouthpiece will be permitted.

(4) These standards will be monitored by the supervisor. If a discrepancy is noted, the employee will be requested to comply with proper grooming standards within four calendar days of the time the grooming discrepancy is brought to the employee's attention. Repeated infractions may cause the employee to be subject to disciplinary action per appropriate regulations.


W. D. STRAIGHT
Deputy for Operations

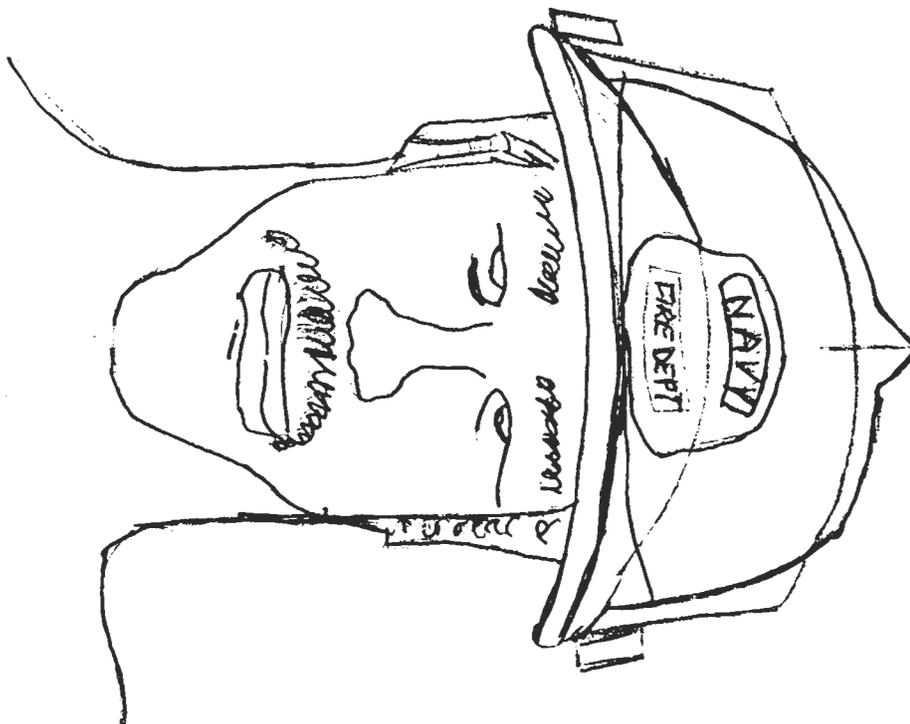
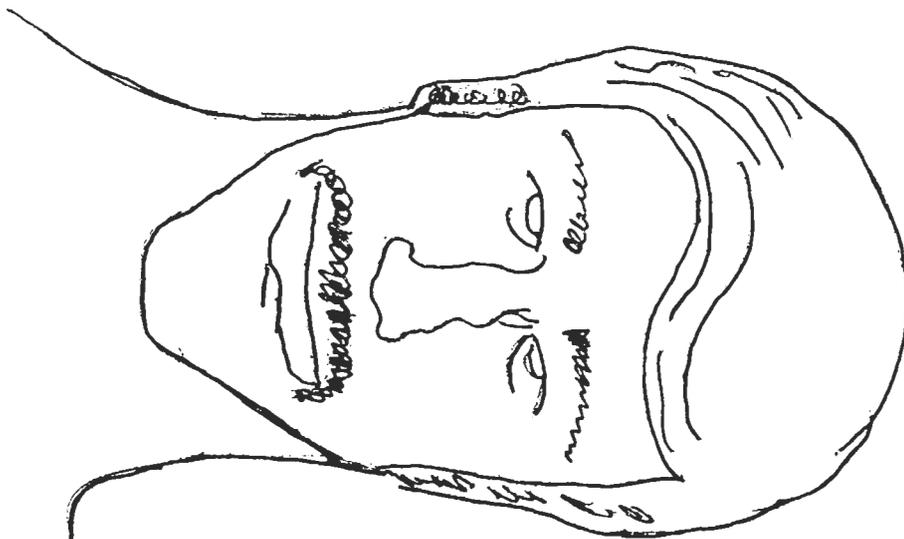
Distribution:
AA
Security (Fire Dept.)
Fire Dept. Personnel

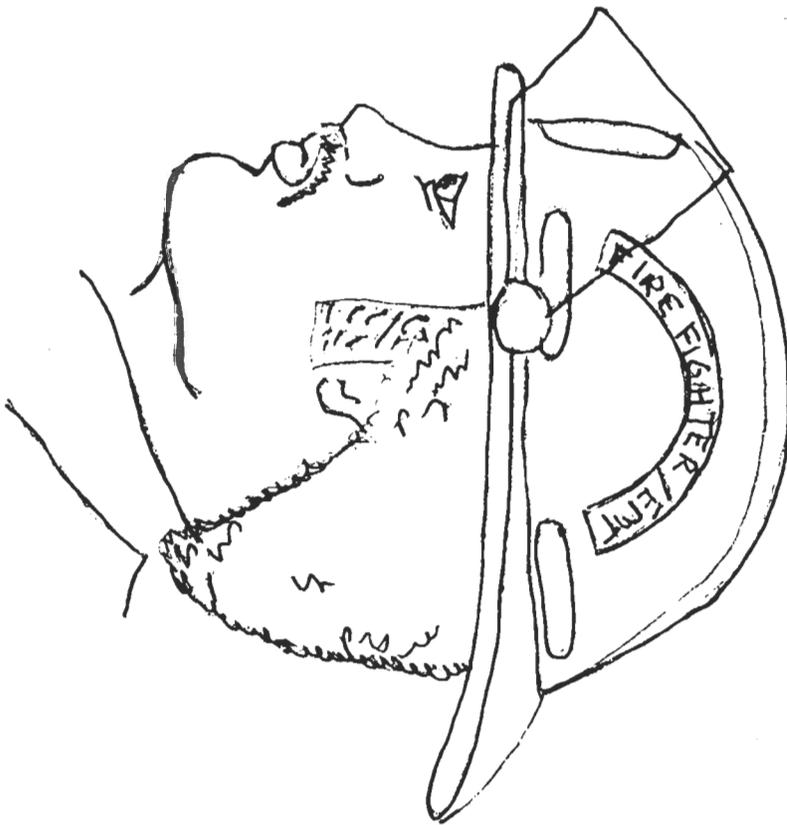
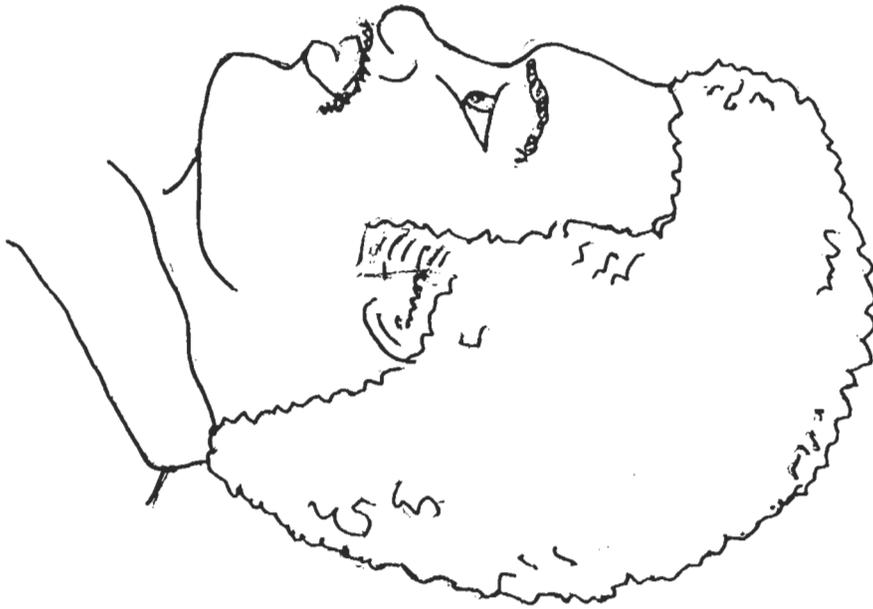
USNAINST 6240.7A

27 June 1988

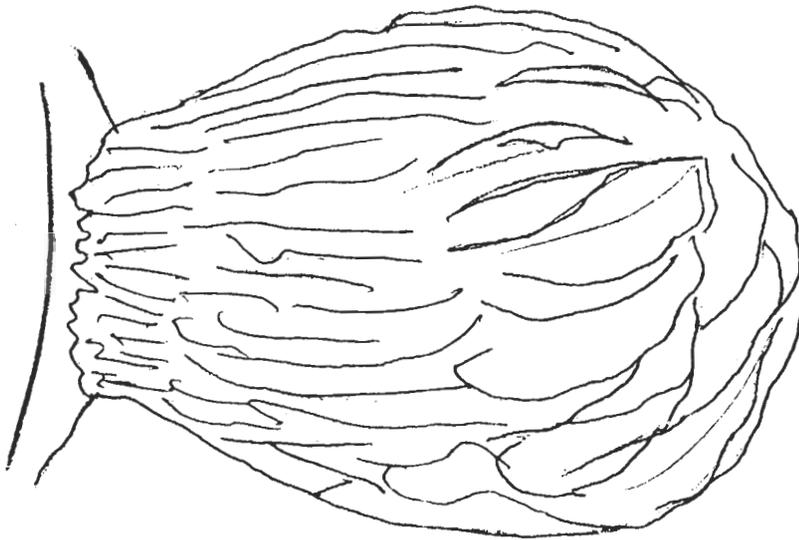
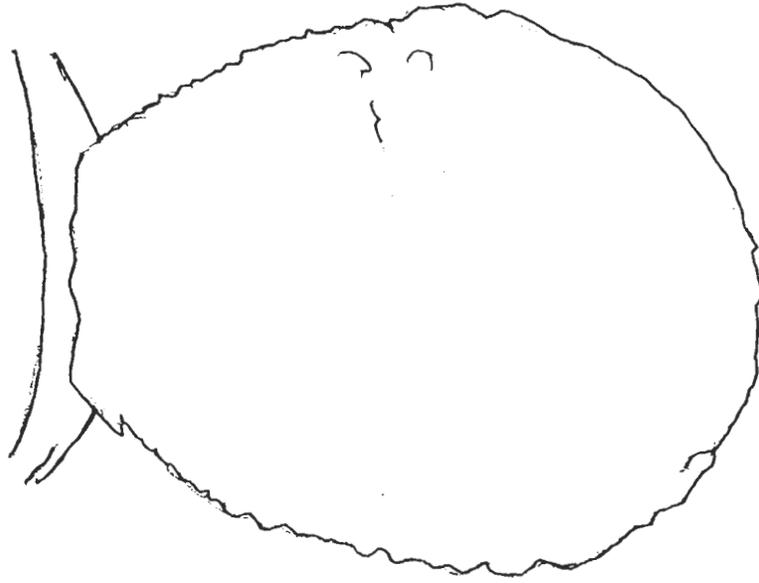
The attached artist's sketches meet minimum safety standards for hair and beards. They will be used as visual guides in determining compliance with this instruction.

Enclosure (1)

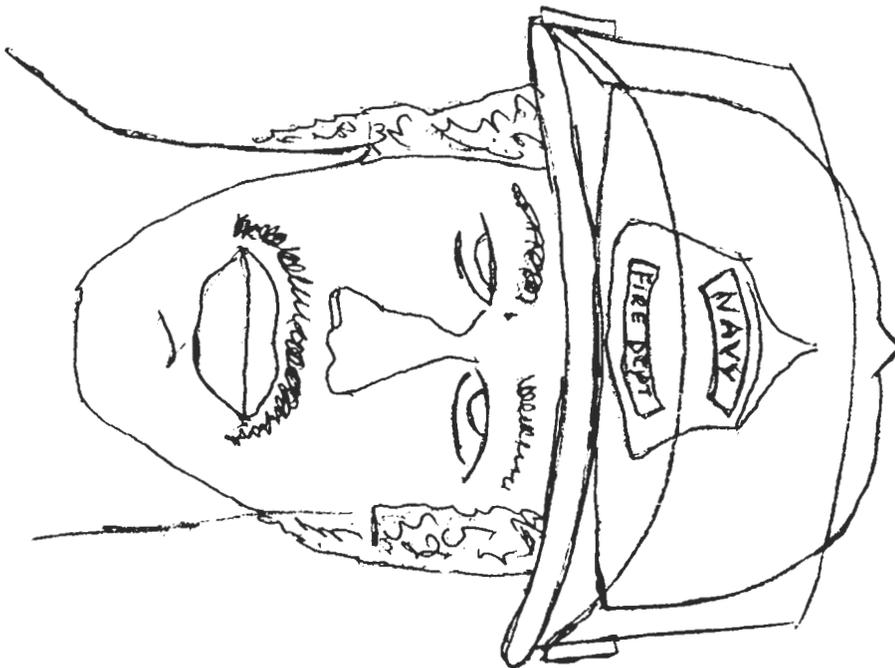
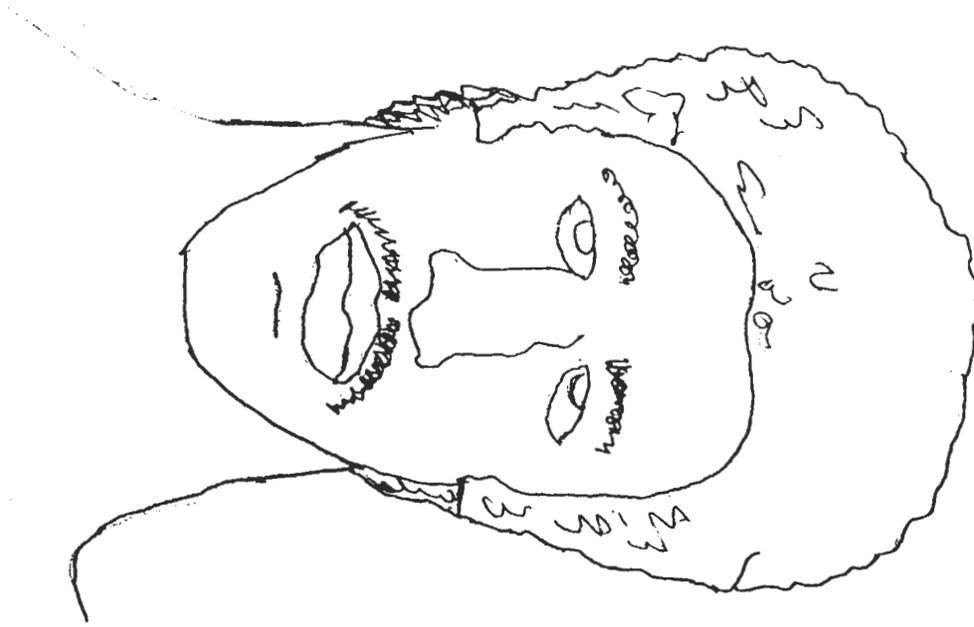


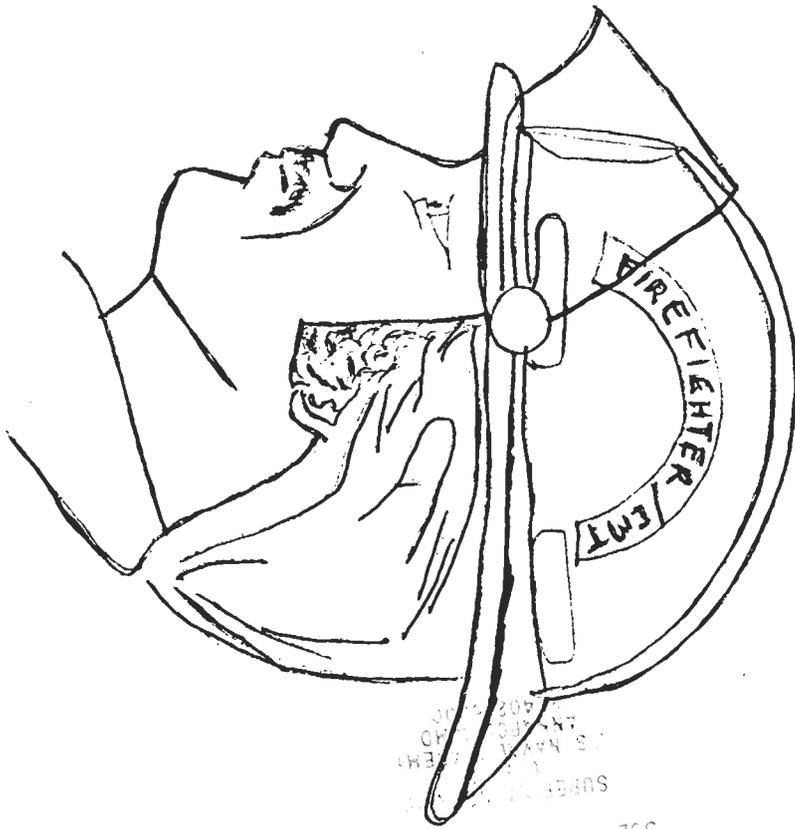
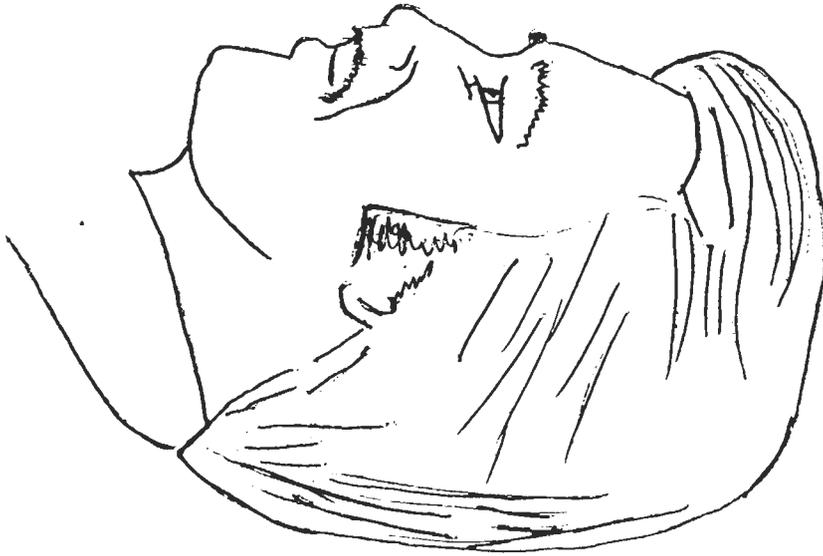


USNAINST 6240.7A
27 June 1988



Enclosure (1)





USNAINST 6240.7A
27 JUN 1988
JUL 8 3 02 PM '88

Enclosure (1)