



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
121 BLAKE ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-5000

COMDTMIDNINST 6000.5  
12 Apr 04

### COMDTMIDN INSTRUCTION 6000.5

Subj: GROOMING STANDARDS FOR MIDSHIPMEN WITH MEDICAL  
AUTHORIZATION NOT TO SHAVE DUE TO PSEUDOFOLLICULITIS  
BARBAE (PFB)

Ref: (a) Midshipmen Regulations (USNA Regs, Part II)  
(b) BUPERSINST 1000.22

1. Purpose. To establish procedures and grooming standards for midshipmen granted medical authorization not to shave due to Pseudofolliculitis Barbae (PFB).

2. Cancellation. COMTMIDNINST 6000.2

3. Background. The growing of moustaches, beards, or other forms of facial hair is prohibited by reference (a). However, it is recognized that some midshipmen are afflicted with Pseudofolliculitis Barbae and require special medical treatment to deal with this condition per reference (b). The approved medical treatment of choice is to cease shaving for specified periods of time. This instruction details the procedures by which medical authorization not to shave will be granted and the grooming standards to be met by midshipmen granted such authorization.

#### 4. Procedures

a. Midshipmen may be issued an initial authorization not to shave by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC) of the Brigade Medical Clinic staff after a tentative diagnosis of PFB has been established. Hospital Corpsmen may not grant such authorization. This initial authorization will be written to expire when his Primary Care Manager has evaluated the midshipman in one through three phases. Each phase will usually not exceed 30 days.

b. If the midshipman fails treatment and the "no shave" period continues beyond the third phase, the midshipman will be referred to a Dermatologist to have a definitive diagnosis established and long term treatment prescribed. If treatment includes authorization not to shave, in no case will this period exceed three months without re-evaluation by a Dermatologist. (Exceptions: If a midshipman previously diagnosed by a Dermatologist as having PFB has an acute exacerbation of symptoms between evaluations, a practitioner of the Brigade Medical Clinic

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staff may authorize no shaving until the next evaluation by a Dermatologist.)

c. If it is determined by a Dermatologist that a midshipman will require authorization not to shave for an extended period of time (e.g., greater than six months), he will advise the Brigade Medical Officer. The Brigade Medical Officer will, in turn, advise the Commandant before the extended authorization is granted and will personally issue the authorization.

5. Grooming Standards

a. All beards grown under the provisions of this instruction will be uniform and not exceed one-quarter (1/4) inch in length. The shaving of selected facial areas is specifically prohibited. The beard will not be unkempt in appearance and will not be manicured to any style.

b. Beards will be trimmed by scissors or electric clippers. The use of clippers for beard trimming is authorized by this instruction only for those midshipmen on a "no shave" program. These clippers must be authorized by the Company Officer. Clippers must have an electrical safety inspection certified by the First Lieutenant and will not be loaned for use by others.

c. Midshipmen will be clean-shaven for any special occasions, such as television interviews, appearances before the Academic Board or military performance Board, etc.



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