



Texas State Guard

INSTRUCTION

TXSGI 1300.06

05 JAN 2023

NGTX-TZ

SUBJECT: Texas State Guard Tattoo, Brand, and Body Mutilation Policy

1. PURPOSE. This directive specifies the restrictions on tattoos, brands, piercings, and other body modifications within the Texas State Guard (TXSG).
2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE. This instruction applies to all TXSG personnel.
3. DEFINITIONS. NA.
4. POLICY.
 - a. Tattoos, brands, and body mutilation as described in this document are unauthorized for serving members of TXSG and individuals applying to join TXSG.
 - b. Per TXSG regulation 1710.10, Enlistments and Appointments, paragraph 3-4, Tattoos, Brands and Body Mutilation, "Applicants that do not meet the current federal service uniform and appearance regulations, as listed in Appendix A of the above regulation, are ineligible". Effective 05 January 2023, only [AR 670-1](#) and [DA Pam 670-1](#), "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia" (both dated 26 JAN 2021), as well as Army Directive 2022-09 "Soldier Tattoos" (dated 22 JUN 2022) guidance will be used to enforce this requirement."
 - c. Tattoos or brands that may be considered offensive, regardless of where they appear on the body, are unauthorized:
 - 1) Extremist tattoos and brands, defined as those affiliated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities. These include those that feature philosophies, groups or activities that promote racial or gender intolerance; encourage discrimination based on numerous factors, including race, gender and religion; advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution, and Federal or State law.
 - 2) Indecent tattoos. These include tattoos and brands that are grossly offensive to modesty, decency, propriety, or professionalism.
 - 3) Sexist tattoos. These include tattoos and brands that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on gender.
 - 4) Racist tattoos. These include tattoos and brands that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.

d. Tattoos and brands, regardless of subject matter are prohibited on the head; face—except for permanent makeup, as provided in paragraph 3–2b (2) of AR 670-1; neck—anything above the t-shirt neckline to include on/inside the eyelids, mouth, ears, below the wrist bone, and hands. New tattoo exceptions, per AD 2022-09, consist of:

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.

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

The TXSG doesn't allow recruits or Soldiers to cover disallowed tattoos with bandages or makeup.

e. TXSG service members are prohibited from any form of body mutilation—the willful mutilation of the body or any body parts in any manner. This prohibition does not include authorized medical alterations performed at a medical treatment facility or cosmetic, reconstructive, or plastic surgery procedures. Examples of unauthorized body mutilation include, but are not limited to, tongue bifurcation (splitting of the tongue); ear gauging (enlarged holes in the lobe of the ear that are greater than 1.6mm); unnatural shaping of teeth; ear pointing (or elfing); scarification (cutting to create intentional scarring); or body modifications for the purpose of suspension (hanging by body hooks).

f. Before Soldiers decide to obtain a new tattoo, they should be advised to speak with a unit leader/chain of command to make sure the tattoo will abide by TXSG policy.

g. If a Soldier is found to have a tattoo that breaks the policy, the commander is instructed to take several steps, beginning with counseling of the Soldier about the tattoo policy. If a Soldier with a disallowed tattoo or brand refuses to have it removed, then the commander is instructed to initiate discharge or deny entry as appropriate.


5. RESPONSIBILITIES. TXSG Leaders will enforce this policy throughout their units. TXSG Recruiters will ensure all new recruits are aware of this policy.

6. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS. NA.

7. RELEASABILITY. Unlimited.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This directive will expire two (2) years from the effective date of publication unless sooner rescinded or superseded.

9. POINT OF CONTACT. T-1, TXSG at 512-782-6595.


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Commanding

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