




SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

06 MAY 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2016-20 (Authorization to Use Headphones in Uniform)

1. Reference Army Regulation (AR) 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia), 10 April 2015.
2. Effective immediately, unless the unit or installation commander prohibits otherwise, Soldiers may use headphones, including wireless or non-wireless devices and earpieces, in uniform only while performing individual physical training in indoor gyms or fitness centers. Soldiers may not wear headphones beyond the permitted area in any manner, including around the neck or attached to the uniform. Headphones will be conservative and discreet. Ear pads will not exceed 1-1/2 inches in diameter at the widest point. Soldiers may wear electronic devices, such as music players or cell phones, as prescribed in AR 670-1, paragraph 3-6a(2)(b). They may also wear a solid black armband for electronic devices in the gym or fitness center. Soldiers may not wear the armband beyond the permitted area.
3. These provisions are punitive with regard to Soldiers. Violation by Soldiers may result in adverse administrative action and/or charges under the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
4. This directive applies to the Active Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.
5. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 is the proponent for this policy and will ensure its incorporation into AR 670-1 as soon as practicable.
6. This directive is rescinded upon publication of the updated AR 670-1.

  
Patrick J. Murphy  
Acting

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