



Breaking In The New Boss By Darren Gallagher

Facial hair is a well regulated affair for those in uniform. Here is a brief snapshot of the rules covering attempts at hirsute coverage.

Mutton Chopping - Sideburns in all three services are not to extend below the lines level with the points where the bottom of the ear joins the face. All Services demand that sideburns be neatly trimmed, with Navy specifying a maximum width of three cm, and the Air Force four cm. The Army have no maximum but ban overly bushy affairs.

Santa Style - Only Navy personnel can routinely grow beards, but must include moustaches in their facial ensemble, and may only grow one with permission. Beards in the other services can be permitted if on medical, religious, or operational grounds. For the Army, a notable exception is the Pioneer Sergeant of 4th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment, who may wear a beard for traditional purposes.

For the Navy, when permission to grow a beard is given, the use of the razor is to be discontinued except for the removal of shaggy growth at the extremities of the beard, in particular on the neck. Patchy, spotty clumps of facial hair are not considered full beards and as such are not permitted. Beards and moustaches are to be kept neat and trim and closely cropped, to a minimum bulk of 16 mm (a No 4 comb) and a maximum bulk of 50 mm.

Mo Worries - Moustaches in the Air Force are to cover the entire top lip, are to be kept neatly trimmed, and not to extend below the upper lip. In the Army they must be likewise trimmed, cannot exceed two cm in length, and cannot extend below the top lip or the corners of the mouth. Handlebar and similar styles are not permitted. In the Navy, the moustache must be a part of a beard combo, or it's a no go.

So here you are. You have arrived at the new place. There might still be those four or five cartons in the shed that have yet to be unpacked (you most likely won't unpack them - and they probably just contain 'Stuff').

The kids are back in school. The mail has kind of been re-directed. Now all you need to do is to get to know your new peers.

There are certainly many upsides to this whole Defence caper - and 'Breaking in the New Boss' isn't one of them ... at least not for this black duck. The way your new boss responds to you is a pivotal point of the whole posting (be you the Defence member, or loving partner), so it needs to go well. The problem is - I have one of those faces that wants to smile. Even when I am trying to be serious, my face wants to smile.

'So, what's wrong with that?' I hear you think. Well, it's a bit like this. When you want to smile, and try to stop yourself, you end up with this awkward kind of a look on your face. The look that says either:

- A. I'm constipated
- B. I'm trying not to laugh at that scrap of food on the side of your mouth; or
- C. I'm being a smart Alec with respect to whatever information it is that I am trying to get across.

My face has taken a lot to get used to. I have had it all my life (in fact, I grew it myself) and the vast majority of people have responded to it the same way. So what to do?

Well, being in the Navy, at the end of each posting cycle, I would grow a beard. Beards are great for covering up cheeky faces. That way, when I posted into the new locality, I would be taken seriously. After a while, when the new boss has become used to my ... idiosyncrasies - I would then shave the beard off (much to my partner's relief).

Not convinced that this works? - What about Robin Williams? He grows a beard every



time that he wants to be taken seriously, and shaves it off when he wants to do a comedy. Eg: He had a beard in *Awakenings* and *Good Will Hunting*, but there was no beard action in *Fathers Day*, *Toys*, or *Mrs Doubtfire*. Ok, I will agree that last one was a bit weak given that he was playing an old woman, but you get the hint.

My solution was working well. Right up until the point where I transferred to the Air Force.

There is nothing more questionable looking than this unsavoury character sporting the soup strainer. I look like an out of work 70's News Anchor. Which takes me from the cheeky look, to the creepy look. So I have had to abandon that approach.

So, in wrapping up. For those male sailors out there that suffer from Cheekemus-Faciamus, take a page from my book and get that cease shaving chit in.

For my Blue and Green offsiders, try the old Mustachio on for size.

The last thing I want is a case of *Mo-staken* identity. (Oh come on! The joke was there - I had to take it.)

So, in wrapping up. For those male sailors out there that suffer from *Cheekemus-Faciamus*, take a page from my book and get that cease shaving chit in. For my Blue and Green offsiders, try the old Mustachio on for size. Check out just how much it will add or subtract for your common look. I strongly recommend a trial over a leave period.

And last but not least for the ladies. Given that growing a beard might not be too easy - if you have just got to town, smiling is a winner so go for it. If you are missing your old locality and can't quite raise that elusive smile. Try thinking of me, my boss, and the first time I tried to pull off that dodgy moustache.



The Australian Defence College Sponsorship Program

The Australian Defence College (ADC) at Weston Creek, Canberra is home to the staff and students of the Australian Command and Staff College, as well as the staff and students of the Defence and Strategic Studies Course.

In 2006 there will be 70 students from overseas participating in courses at Weston Creek from Major (Equivalent) to Colonel (Equivalent). As part of the support network for overseas students the college has a community sponsorship program in place so that all overseas officers attached to the ADC have a community sponsor.

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Sponsors will have the opportunity to participate in a number of social activities arranged by the College. This program is an informal arrangement between the officer and the sponsor family and there is no financial obligation on the part of the sponsor family. The Overseas Student Liaison Office (OSLO) welcomes all enquiries and is happy to discuss the program with any individuals or families who are interested in sponsoring an overseas student.

If you would like to participate in the ADC community sponsor program in 2006, or would like more information about the program please contact the OSLO.

Contact: Overseas Student Liaison Office, ADC
 Phone: 02 6266 0521
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