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MEMORANDUM THRU   0 9 DEC 2015

Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street, NW Washington DC, 20314-1000

Commander, 249th Engineer Battalion, 9450 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

FOR CPT Simratpal Singh

SUBJECT: Interim Decision Regarding Request for Religious Accommodation – CPT Simratpal Singh

1. I received your request for a religious accommodation to permit you to wear a beard, turban, and uncut hair in observance of your Sikh faith, along with the recommendations of you chain of command, on December 4, 2015. This letter constitutes my interim decision on your request. I grant your request, subject to the limitations described below, until January 8, 2016, at which time I will provide you with my final decision.

2. You may wear a beard, turban, and uncut hair in a neat and tidy manner that presents a professional and well-groomed appearance. The bulk of your hair, beard, or turban may not be such that it impairs your ability to wear the Kevlar helmet or other protective equipment or impedes your ability to operate your assigned weapon, military equipment, or machinery. You may wear a black turban with the Army Service Uniform (ASU) and the Army Physical Fitness Uniform. While wearing the Army Combat Uniform (ACU), you may wear a black or matching camouflage patterned turban. Unless your duties, position, or assignment require you to wear the Kevlar helmet or other protective gear, you are not required to wear military headgear in addition to your turban. You may display your rank on your turban, provided you remove the rank in circumstances where military headgear is not customarily worn.

3. This religious accommodation may be revoked if required by military necessity. You should be prepared to comply fully with AR 670-1, if directed to do so.

Debra S. Wada
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)