

BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

WOMEN'S GROOMING STANDARDS IN THE AIR FORCE (RFI 11)

TOP LINE MESSAGE

- Female Airmen have the right to express their individuality through their appearance within established AF limits
- The Air Force continuously reviews dress and personal appearance standards to ensure they reflect the professionalism and diversity of our team
- On a monthly basis AF Recruiters, during their Delayed Entry Program meetings, may discuss and provide a demonstration (as necessary), either directly or with use of an applicable website video on how to set female hair to meet AF standards

PURPOSE:

- Provide the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) information on women's tutorials or instruction material to achieve Air Force grooming standards

BACKGROUND:

- Air Force Instruction (AFI), 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, Chapter 3 addresses women's grooming standards

DISCUSSION:

- AFI, 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel* includes photos of hairstyles and provides an example of how some authorized hair styles should look

Q: RFI 11a/b: Please provide copies of instructional materials, curricula, videos or other media use to demonstrate and teach servicewomen how to achieve these and any other styles which require pulling or twisting hair.

A: AF does not have formal instructional material, curricula, videos or other media used to demonstrate or teach Airmen on how to achieve authorized hairstyles.

Q: RFI 11c: Are servicewoman specifically and service members generally (particularly supervisor/commanders), educated about the potential harm resulting from hairstyle that excessively pull/twist hair and, if so, how?

A: Airmen do not receive formal education or instructions about the potential harm that may result from hairstyles that excessively pull or twist the hair.

Q: RFI 11d. Although Service grooming standards do not require "tight" pulling of the hair or "tight" buns. Committee members have observed many servicewoman who do wear such hairstyles. Is there any unit practice or encouragement to achieve a more professional looking appearance by employing this styling techniques?

A: AF does not have a unit practice nor encourages "tight" pulling of the hair or "tight buns" to achieve a more professional looking appearance

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- None, for information only