

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

RFI #3:

Aircrew Personal Protective Equipment For Women



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Version 1**

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3a. What are the processes/practices to evaluate the effectiveness of PPE for women in integrated career specialties?

- **Users and/or Major Commands (MAJCOMs) identify equipment shortfalls and develop requirements documents or modification requests for submission**
- **The Aircrew Performance Working Group and Aircrew Performance Executive Council (APEC) reviews submissions, prioritizes needs and uses these priorities to direct Human Systems Division (HSD) acquisition/sustainment actions**
- **HSD serves as the approval authority for implementation of new aircrew flight equipment items**
- **Users/MAJCOMs may also submit issues outside of the formal APEC process as needed**



3a (continued)

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- **HSD conducts flight equipment integration testing (with aircraft & other equipment), sourcing male and female aircrew/test subjects**
- **Functional clothing item/requests (used specifically for flight operations only) is handled in accordance with the APEC/requirements process and involves user/MAJCOM/HSD participation**
- **Units requesting flight suit wear deviation or approval will refer to AFI 36-2903 and route questions through local Force Support Squadrons to the Air Force Uniform Office**



3a (continued)

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- **Functional flight clothing can be pursued as a Cost Per Flying Hour (CPFH) purchase**
- **Uniform Items are O & M funded; limited O & M funding can negatively impact equipping airmen**
 - **AF inclusion of flight suits, flight jackets etc. as uniform items has indirectly led to cases of aircrew not being adequately equipped**
 - **Aircrew Flight Equipment and Aircrew Clothing items should all be CPFH purchases**
 - **Permanent exemption/waiver should be granted on the CPFH FSC Exclusion Policy Letter (A4)**



3b. What is the timeline and process to obtain equipment in supply channels or to request alternative equipment?

- **Timeline (varies for each item):**
 - **Common stock number listed items in the official supply system are generally stock controlled and available with minimal delays (quantify timeline: “within xx days”)**
 - **Commercial items/uncommon items may not be readily stocked and/or have significant lead times**
- **Process:**
 - **Standard USAF supply transactions are used to order stock number listed items**
 - **Government Purchase Card (GPC) may be used for commercial items**
- **Only approved flight equipment items may be used and there is usually a small number of options/alternatives**



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3c. How is equipment procured for unique fits if it is not in normal supply systems?

- **Varies for each specific item**
 - **Commercial items will be procured through the vendor with the GPC following applicable equipment/Air Force Instruction guidance**
 - **Uncommon stock number listed items are ordered using the standard supply transaction however, a supply difficulty letter may be used to request expedited receipt**
- **Special/Custom ordering is an option and would involve coordinating with HSD or direct contact with the vendor**
- **“Unique fit” items will likely have a long lead-time**



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3d. Is the same equipment used in training as for real world missions?

- **AFI 11-301 Vol 1 requires that training equipment mirror operational equipment**
 - **Based on availability issues, units may use operational equipment for training**



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3e. Is all combat equipment issued for training? If not, why?

- **Aircrew Flight Equipment training covers all equipment types utilized by aircrew/aircraft**
- **Aircrew weapons are only issued for exercises or specific weapons qualification training (designated hands-on forums)**
 - **Weapons are discussed during additional training events**



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3f. What methods are used to leverage new and changing technology to improve PPE for women?

- **Expanding anthropometric ranges, increasing sizing options, and increasing female participation in requirements/new projects**
- **Engaging with sister services, similar career fields and industry for lessons learned, synergy and solutions**



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QUESTIONS?