

DACOWITS RFI #3



**Survival Systems Portfolio Lead
Naval Special Warfare**

Mr. James Storer

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DACOWITS – RFI #3 (Evaluating Effectiveness)

What are the processes/practices to evaluate the effectiveness of PPE for women in integrated career specialties (e.g., MOS')?

- **Determining operational safety, suitability and effectiveness for female Operators are the same as those for male Operators.**
- **Naval Special Warfare (NSW) closely monitors Marine Corps and other services research regarding female sizing of PPE equipment.**
- **Every item is selected to meet validated, required capabilities from operational commands.**
 - **Tests are conducted to ensure item(s) meet the required capabilities.**
- **Acceptance testing of equipment includes an extensive user evaluation by the NSW Operator.**
- **NSW Combat Service Support, Combat Support, and Direct Support have been issued USSOCOM Operator PPE for several years.**
 - **To date, there have been no identified issues with safety, suitability, or effectiveness when utilized by a female service members.**



DACOWITS – RFI #3 (Timeline and Process)

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

- **Items stored at unit location can be hand-receipted to the Operator on the spot.**
- **Central warehouse items are ordered by service member's unit and received by the service member within 10 days.**
 - Equipment can be shipped and received within 24 hours in emergency situations.
- **Alternate equipment requests are staffed through the command to determine operational need and/or verification of a capability gap that exists with current issued equipment.**
 - Can use a Government-wide Commercial Purchase Card (GCPC) to quickly purchase commercial items.
 - New requirements would be resolved through the USSOCOM SOFCIDs acquisition process.



DACOWITS – RFI #3 (Unique Fit Procurement Process)

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

- **Current sizes of PPE have fit all NSW Operators for the past 7 years.**
 - NSW requirement is to fit 2nd to 98th percentile of SOF Operators.
- **Past SOCOM customization programs have provided unique fit equipment to an Operator within 45 days.**
 - Limited to clothing.
- **More complex items can take 6 to 24 months to reach the Operator.**
 - Extended duration is due to research, development, testing, and manufacturing.
- **NSW would add any new unique size to the program of record if it will be an enduring requirement.**



DACOWITS – RFI #3 (Combat Issued Equipment)

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

- **Yes. We train with the equipment we use in real world missions.**

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

- **Yes. We issue all combat equipment for training.**



DACOWITS – RFI #3 (New and Changing Technology)

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

- **NSW's pursuit of new improvements is based on safety, suitability, and effectiveness for ALL Operators and support personnel.**
- **A new piece of equipment that proves to be safer, more suitable, and more effective for a male and/or female Operator will be implemented using available acquisition methods.**