



**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
DACOWITS QBM DECEMBER 2022
GENDER INTEGRATION**

In 2018, the Committee recommended that, “The Secretary of Defense should require all Military Services, including the Reserve/Guard, provide servicewomen with gender appropriate and properly fitting personal protective equipment (PPE) and gear for both training and operational use.” Though the Military Services have made strides in improving PPE and combat gear for women, the Committee remains interested in the development, procurement, and timelines servicewomen must navigate to obtain gender appropriate and properly fitting PPE, combat gear, and uniforms.

Question 5.a. What process is currently being applied to evaluate the effectiveness of PPE and combat gear for women?

Response: The National Guard’s components, Army National Guard and the Air National Guard do not evaluate the effectiveness of PPE and combat gear for women. This is activity carried out by the Department of Army and the Department of the Air Force.

Question i. Provide date of last anthropometric study used to develop PPE and combat gear for women.

Response: The National Guard’s components, Army National Guard and the Air National Guard do not implement anthropometric studies to develop PPE & Combat gear for women. This activity is carried out by the Department of Army and the Department of the Air Force.

Question ii. Provide any additional technology/studies utilized to improve PPE and combat gear for women.

Response: The National Guard’s components, Army National Guard and the Air National Guard do not implement anthropometric studies to develop PPE & Combat gear for women. This activity is carried out by the Department of Army and the Department of the Air Force.

Question 5.b. What is the current timeline and process to procure equipment via existing supply channels?

Response: Given the complexity of the structure of the National Guard, the responsibility for procurement resides at the State level and there is no national level mechanism or system to track, synchronize or streamline the procurement process at the State level.

Question 5.c. What is the current timeline and process to procure alternative equipment (e.g., unique fit) not obtainable via existing supply channels?

Response: Given the complexity of the structure of the National Guard, the responsibility for procurement resides at the State level and there is no national level mechanism or system to track, synchronize or streamline the procurement process at the State level.

Question 5.d. Provide an update on modifications to or the development of gender specific PPE, combat gear, and uniforms since June 2018, to include:

i. Updates/modifications to maternity uniforms.

Response: The National Guard implements actions/ modifications to maternity uniforms IAW Department of Army and Department of the Air Force policy.

ii. Updates/modifications to grooming standards.

Response: The National Guard implements actions/ modifications to grooming IAW Department of Army and Department of the Air Force policy.

Question iii. Information related to studies conducted to improve female flight suits.

Response: The National Guard's components, Army National Guard and the Air National Guard do not conduct studies to improve female flight suits. This activity is carried out by the Department of Army and the Department of the Air Force.

Question 5.e. Provide an onsite visual display that depicts new gender specific PPE and combat gear developed for women.

Response: National Guard service members PPE and Combat Gear is depicted by the Department of Army and the Department of the Air Force.