



# U.S. Coast Guard Briefing to DACOWITS RFI #5 DEC 2022

Presented by:

**Mission Essential Personal Equipment Product Line (MEPE PL) DOL-44  
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# SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## Ballistics:

- Director of Operational Logistics (DOL-44) supports the Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) community, mainly Port Security Units and Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (PATFORSWA), with Ballistic Protection Systems (BPS). The BPS systems consist of Level IIIA soft body armor, Enhanced Small Arms Protective Inserts (ESAPI) plates (front and back), Enhanced-Side Ballistic Inserts (ESBI) plates (sides), and a ballistic helmet.
- The Coast Guard and the US Army have an inter-agency agreement for the US Army to inspect/repair the Coast Guard's plates as needed." It is considered unisex equipment and protects vital organs for both men and women.

## Organizational Clothing:

- We support the Navy Working Uniform Type III. This uniform is also issued mainly to PSUs and PATFORSWA. It is a US NAVY uniform, and it is also a unisex item. We have just about every size, or can order it, from XX Small & XX Short to XXX Large & XXX Long. We do not stock maternity uniforms as this is a OCONUS uniform for the Coast Guard.



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

- *The Coast Guard does not currently have a process to evaluate the effectiveness of PPE and combat gear for women.*
- *i. Provide date of last anthropometric study used to develop PPE and combat gear for women.*
  - *The Coast Guard has not conducted an anthropometric study used to develop PPE and combat gear for women.*
- *ii. Provide any additional technology/studies utilized to improve PPE and combat gear for women.*
  - *The Coast Guard has not conducted any technological studies to improve PPE and combat gear for women.*



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



**All tactical and specialized forces personal protective equipment (PPE) are procured through the Coast Guard Director of Operational Logistics (DOL-44) with program oversight by Commandant (CG-721).**

- Ballistic plates, helmets, and carriers, as well as the NWU Type III are procured through the MILSTRIP process. Lead times can vary greatly but are typically between 1 – 3 months if in stock.
- The Level IIIA soft armor is ordered via a contract managed by MEPE PL. The vendor delivers the soft body armor inserts that are required to meet specifications to fit with the BPS system. Lead times are typically 1-2 months.
- Requests for new or expanded wear of tactical PPE or other service uniforms outside of existing policies promulgated by Commandant (CG-721) shall require additional approval by Commander, Coast Guard Personnel Command PSC-PSD-mu.





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

- The sizing for BPS is standard. There is no “unique fit” alternative outside the existing standard sizes.
- The sizing for the NWU Type III ranges significantly. If we do not have what a members needs in stock, we can order it through MILSTRIP. Lead times may slightly increase but are still typically within the range of 1-3 months.
- The timeline is unknown at this time and would require a contract modification with changes approved and initiated by the program office.



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



i. Updates and modifications to maternity uniforms:

- The Coast Guard is in process of transition standard utility uniforms from the current Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) to the Coast Guard Working Uniform (CGWU). The current maternity ODU is being visually modified to provide a similar appearance to the new utility uniform. Patterns are being modified and a prototype being made to assess the changes.



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

ii. Updates/modification to grooming standards:

- Increase in hair bulk authorization up to 3.5 inches. Width of hair buns increased to up to 4 inches
- Allowance of a single or double braid or ponytail that is authorized to swing freely to a length not to exceed the center of the shoulder blades.
- Allowance of colored fingernail polish
- Authorization to wear the standard necktie with male shirts
- CG transition to all Air Force style female light blue dress shirts



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

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

- The Coast Guard has not conducted any studies related to improving female flight suits at this time. One two-piece flight suit per female pilot has been issued as of 2021.

- Maternity Flight Suits: Once approved by DoD and available through DLA, the Coast Guard will incorporate into our supply chain.





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

- New (2022) Female-specific anti-exposure (“dry suits”) have the option of one of two new zippers for toileting

Horizontal relief zipper located at the hips and back



Switlik signature U-Zip-it low slung entry zipper design