

RFI Category and Number: Pregnancy in the Military, RFI #5

RFI Question:

The Committee requests a written response from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Department of the Air Force, and Coast Guard detailing maternity uniform pilot programs, maternity uniforms currently in use, as well as plans to update maternity uniforms.

- a. Provide an update on the status of your Service's maternity uniform pilot program (e.g., utilization rate, findings, etc.).
- b. **Army:** Has a maternity uniform pilot program been implemented? If not, when is it expected to begin? Provide additional details (e.g., who can/will be able to participate (officer and/or enlisted); geographic location(s); etc.).
- c. **Marine Corps:** Provide the rationale for restricting the pilot to female officers within a 100-mile radius of MCB Quantico.
- d. In September 2016, via RFI 11, the Committee asked the Military Services to provide information/data on current maternity uniforms and any future prototypes (to include those being wear tested/piloted). Update this information/data utilizing a blank Maternity Uniforms Chart for questions 1-18.
- e. Do the Services collaborate on maternity uniform design concepts? If so, how and at what level?
- f. Do the Services separately contract for maternity uniform production, and do they use a common or separate vendor.
- g. Who has the lead for the procurement of maternity uniforms?
- h. How long does the process take for selection (e.g., award to contract to delivery)?
- i. Provide a flow chart which depicts the steps from design to production to procurement to receipt. Annotate the timeline between each phase.

RFI Response 5a:

As of August 2023, Navy has 465 Sailors participating in its Maternity Pilot Program (MPP). The ratio of officer/enlisted is 42/58 (196Officers –269Enlisted). Total participant count since implementing the program in January 2022 is 965 (445 Officers – 520 Enlisted). Forensics show 95% of returned maternity uniforms are re-issuable. For CY 2023, Navy expanded the MPP participant goal to 800 (previously 400 for CY2022), and provided participants their choice of maternity uniform components that best suit their assigned duties and individual command uniform requirements. The program is called 'Select Your Seabag' and is in full execution with 52 participants to date.

RFI Response 5d:

Refer to attached Maternity Uniform Chart.

RFI Response 5e:

The services have joint discussions on their maternity uniforms at the action officer level during various clothing and textile meetings. Design concepts are shared through verbal and periodic

written exchange for situational awareness, concept interests and opportunity for potential shared usage. Each service has their own maternity uniforms concepts and designs.

RFI Response 5f:

Commercially procured maternity uniforms are obtained through direct purchase via purchase orders and are not under contract. Government procured maternity uniforms are contracted separately.

RFI Response 5g:

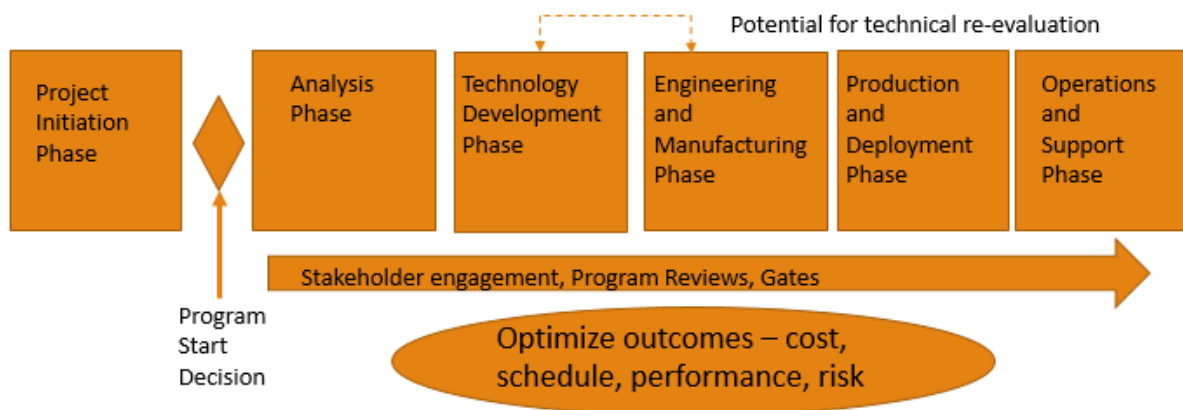
Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) is the lead for commercially procured maternity uniforms. Defense Logistics Agency-Troop Support (DLA-TS) is the lead for government procured maternity uniforms.

RFI Response 5h:

Commercial items vary pending the complexity of the item, availability of patterns, capacity of the manufacturer and existing inventory of out-going items. DLA-TS's uniform contract award to delivery takes approximately 18-24 months. NEXCOM's process takes approximately 14-18 months.

RFI Response 5i:

Flow chart for government procured uniforms are not available. See below for commercial component design to delivery flow chart.



Project Initiation Phase- Approximately 3-6 months upon receipt of funding.

Analysis, Technology and Engineering Mfg. Phase -12-24 months, phases can run concurrently with the overall timeframe dependent on the depth of the evaluation and development effort.

Production and Deployment Phase - 6-9 months.

Sustainment – Component life cycle begins and continues through its replacement.

Hours Expended Answering this RFI: 4 hours

POC or office responsible: N13X