



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC**

MEMORANDUM FOR AIR FORCE MILITARY PERSONNEL

FROM: HAF/A1

SUBJECT: AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, Paragraph, 4.1.2.7, Exception to Policy for Women's Wear of Men's Mess Dress Trousers

1. Effective immediately, women may purchase and wear men's mess dress trousers as an option for their mess dress uniform. This will continue to remain an option after women's mess dress slacks are developed and fielded for purchase and wear in approximately 18 to 24 months. Once available, women will then have three mess dress options: skirt, women's slacks, or men's trousers depending on their preferences.
2. Wear guidance for women will be as follows: Trousers will be blue, without pleats and cuffs. They will have a high-rise with side pockets and  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch blue striping down pant legs. Trousers will fit naturally over the hips with no bunching at the waist or bagging at the seat. The bottom front of the pant legs will rest on the front of the shoe or on top of the foot if wearing pumps, with a slight break in the crease. The back of the pant legs will be approximately  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch longer than the front. The trousers will be tailored, straight hanging, with no flare at the bottom or additional alterations to further taper the leg. The trouser material will match the mess dress coat fabric and shade. Suspenders are optional for women and will be either solid white, dark blue or black and will be attached to the trousers and will not be visible if worn. Black low quarter shoes or black pumps may be worn with the mess dress trouser.
3. Alterations for women (officer and enlisted) opting to wear the men's mess dress trousers will be provided by AAFES at no cost to the member. Free alterations apply to one pair of mess dress trousers.
4. My point of contact for this exception is Mr. Cortney L. Teasley DSN 612-4060 or commercial, 240-612-4060.

BRIAN T. KELLY  
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DCS, Manpower, Personnel and Services