

Interceptor Body Armor

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance

MISSION

Increases Warfighter lethality and mobility by optimizing Soldier protection while effectively managing all life-cycle aspects of personal protective equipment.

DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Army’s body armor and components offer highly effective ballistic protection for our Soldiers. The system includes two types of “soft armor”: the Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV) with mission-tailored protective attachments that protect the neck, shoulders, groin, and lower back; and the Soldier Plate Carrier System (SPCS), which offers decreased area of coverage in order to increase Soldier mobility in various terrain conditions. Two types of hard armor plate systems are available for use with the IOTV and SPCS: the Enhanced Small Arms Protective Inserts (ESAPI) and Enhanced Side Ballistic Inserts (ESBI); and the X Small Arms Protective Inserts (XSPI) and X Side Ballistic Inserts (XSBI). Both systems provide classified multihit protection against numerous stressing threats. The IOTV base vest (size medium) weighs 9.86 lbs. The IOTV with yoke and collar ensemble,

groin, and lower back components weighs 15.09 lbs. All components provide robust fragmentation and 9mm protection. The ESAPI (10.9 lbs per set) and ESBI (5.1 lbs per set) provide classified multihit small arms protection. The total system with all components weighs 31.09 lbs (size medium). The IOTV is produced in eleven sizes to accommodate every Soldier on the battlefield. ESAPI and XSAPI are produced in five sizes. ESBI and XSBI are produced in one-size. Attachable throat, groin, shoulder, and lower back protectors increase fragmentation and 9mm protection. Webbing attachment loops on the vest accommodate Modular Lightweight Load-Carrying Equipment (MOLLE). A medical access panel on the IOTV allows for treatment to vital areas while a quick-release mechanism on both systems allows for rapid doffing of the system during emergency situations. The complete IOTV system provides 1,085 square inches of fragmentation and 9mm handgun protection and 456 square inches of ballistic protection for the SPCS (size medium).

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

- **Current:** In production and being fielded
- **FY11:** Fielded 172,000 IOTV; 31,000 SPCS; 71,000 XSPI; 14,000 XSBI

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **Continue:** Fielding

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development

Engineering and Manufacturing Development

Production and Deployment

Operations and Support

Interceptor Body Armor

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

CONTRACTORS

Ceradyne Inc. (Costa Mesa, CA)
Protective Products (Sunrise, FL)
KDH Defense Systems (Johnstown, PA)

