U.S. Navy awards Contract for Body Armor Vest to Propper & Applied Fiber Concepts

By Scott Burton

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Body armor for female soldiers

The United States Navy has contracted with two prominent body armor companies to produce their newest Naval Security Forces Vest (NSFV). Propper International, along with Applied Fiber Concepts, Inc. will, in a joint effort, manufacture body armor to protect our sailors in uniform.

The Naval Surface Warfare Center – Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) initiated the request for this innovative new ballistic vest for sailors. The vest is designed so that it can be tailored for various protection levels. It has a basic vest with modular components that can be added to protect against multiple fragmentation and ballistic threats while performing Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) and security duties.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Applied Fiber Concepts, Inc., widely known in the industry for their innovative approach to ballistic protection," said Anderson Ward, Sr. VP for Propper's Global Supply Chain Operations. "The sailors wearing this body armor can be confident about their level of protection when performing their missions."

Michael Haynes, Applied Fiber Concepts VP of Business Development, added, "Being able to provide the most advanced ballistic body armor that can be tailored to best meet the threats being faced will enable the brave women and men who are responsible for protecting us to focus on their mission feeling confident about their safety."

Propper Int'l will produce the outer carriers while Applied Fiber Concepts will manufacture the ballistic inserts and yoke/collar assemblies to meet Level IIIA ballistic standards. The contract is for one year with an option to extend it for up to four more years.

The ballistic materials used in manufacturing the NSFV have all been fully certified by the NIJ and tested to meet NIJ 0101.06 standards, which is the highest possible standard in terms of ballistic protection. Under this contract, it is projected that more than 51,000 NSFV units will be produced.