



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-4
500 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0500

DALO-SPT

7 MAY 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Hard Armor Ballistic Inserts/Plates Inspection Policy

1. References:

a. Technical Manual (TM) 10-8470-210-10, (Operator's Manual for Improved Outer Tactical Vest Generation III (IOTV GEN III) Part of the Interceptor Body Armor System), December 2012.

b. Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 5-19, (Risk Management), April 2014.

c. Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 385-30, (Risk Management), December 2014.

d. Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 memorandum, "Body Armor to Support Annual Training, Deployment, and Contingency Requirements", December 2016. Superseded.

2. Purpose. Enable Soldiers and units to have the required level of ballistic protection necessary for a range of missions and conditions.

3. Scope. Provisions for both Operator Level and Organizational Level inspections are provided herein. Each is critical and complementary to the other for ensuring Soldiers continue to have the highest level of ballistic protection possible.

4. Applicability. Army wide-Regular Army, U.S. Army Reserve, and National Guard of the United States.

5. Background. Reference 1.a provides operator instructions on inspection criteria for hard armor plate serviceability.

a. Hard armor ballistic inserts/plates are developed and produced to defeat specific small arms threats Soldiers may encounter on the battlefield.

b. Each Soldier is issued a set of four hard armor plates; two torso plates worn in the front and back, and two side plates.

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6. Operator Level Inspection Policy.

a. Proper and regular visual inspection of the hard armor, in accordance with Reference 1.a, will be performed to ensure the hard armor plates are in proper operating condition. These inspections are critical, because they can detect internal and external material failures.

b. Leaders will ensure Soldiers understand all aspects of the required procedures through training and education on hard armor care and maintenance.

c. Hard armor plates must be inspected by the user before each planned mission to determine if hard armor plates are serviceable (see Reference 1.a, Chapter 3).

(1) When multiple operations are conducted over a short period of time, the inspection will be performed prior to the start of the initial operation.

(2) If events occur during operations that might cause damage, an additional inspection will be performed as tactical circumstances allow.

d. A hard armor plate is considered serviceable after an inspection is conducted, in accordance with Reference 1.a, and no faults are found.

e. A hard armor plate is considered unserviceable and must be replaced if any of the following conditions are present:

(1) Outer cover is damaged exposing the ceramic tile material.

(2) Hard armor plate is cracked and loose pieces are rattle when plate is shaken.

(3) Creaking or squeaking of ceramic tile heard when hard armor plate is twisted by hand.

(4) Composite backing is delaminating (backing material plies are separating).

(5) Cracking of the ceramic tile is felt or heard as you firmly pinch the outer ½-inch perimeter of the hard armor plate.

(6) Hard armor plate has been hit by a bullet or fragment. The ballistic resistance is compromised if the mass exceeds 2.0 grams.

Note: An unserviceable hard armor plate must be turned into the nearest Central Issue Facility (CIF) for exchange. The hard armor plate will be marked "Unserviceable" by the CIF and sent to Defense Reutilization & Marketing Service for disposal.

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7. Organizational Level Inspection Policy.

a. The Tank and Automotive Command's Central Management Office employs the Armor Automated Inspection System (AIS) Non-Destructive Test Equipment (NDTE) to determine whether hard armor plates have any hidden internal manufacturing defects. Disposition labels are applied to the hard armor plate and information is captured by the Armor AIS operating system. Note: The NDTE inspection is a snapshot in time and is only valid at the time performed. There are five disposition labels:

(1) Passed Inspection: Hard armor plate maintains ballistic resistance. There are no restrictions on usage. Soldiers are still required to conduct visual inspections prior to any operation even if the hard armor plates have a "Passed Inspection" label.

(2) Requires Further Testing: Soldiers will not be issued hard armor plates with this label.

(3) External Material Defect: Hard armor plate cover requires repair. Soldiers will not be issued hard armor plates with this label.

(4) Do not reissue: Hard armor plate was identified to be taken out of circulation. Soldiers will not be issued hard armor plates with this label.

(5) Training Purpose Only (TPO): Soldiers may use these hard armor plates for form, fit, and function. Its usage is restricted to training events classified as low risk and does not involve multiple weapons and/or multiple weapon platforms with fire and maneuver (e.g. a shoot house, which is considered high risk because it involves multiple weapons with movements).

8. Procedures.

a. Deployers: All deployers will be issued scanned hard armor plates with a "Passed Inspection" disposition label. NDTE scanning is coordinated by the Commands through the local CIF no less than 90 days prior to required issue date. This allows time for scanning and transportation of hard armor plates to the nearest CIF. Units will pick up NDTE scanned hard armor plates no earlier than 60 days prior to deploying.

b. Contingency/rapid deployers: All contingency/rapid deployers will be issued scanned hard armor plates with a "Passed Inspection" disposition label. The Army must maintain sufficient quantities of scanned hard armor plates in order to equip rapid deployers from multiple deployment platforms.

c. Training: Per Army policy, commanders will conduct risk assessments to determine risk level and mitigation efforts in accordance with ATP 5-19, DA PAM 385-

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30, and local range policies. Soldiers are authorized to use all available hard armor plates with "Passed Inspection and/or TPO" disposition labels.

Ballistic protection is not required for Warrior Tasks, Battle Drills, and other non-live fire or/and low risk live fire training events. An example of a low risk live fire training event is a static firing line with very controlled actions and without any maneuver. TPO plates would be appropriate for these events as long as proper weapons training is provided to Soldiers and range safety measures are followed. If hard armor plates are used, TM level inspections should be performed even during these training events to enforce "train as you fight" practices and to ensure the hard armor plates do not have major faults that would negate their training value (e.g. major cracks that alter the form, fit, and function of the hard armor plate in the vest).

d. Live Fire Exercise (LFX): Per Army policy, commanders will conduct risk assessments to determine risk level and mitigation efforts in accordance with ATP 5-19, DA PAM 385-30, and local range policies. Scanned Hard Armor Ballistic Inserts/Plates are required for high risk LFXs which involve multiple weapons and or multiple weapon platforms with fire and maneuver. These are events where the evaluation focus is predominately on maneuver tactics, techniques and procedures, and, to a lesser degree, marksmanship skills. These training events incorporate the complete cycle of gunnery skills and culminates in the qualification of a weapon, a system, or a small unit.

Hard armor plates used during these LFXs should be NDTE certified within 12 months of the event. All issued hard armor plates will have a "Passed Inspection" disposition label. Soldiers are required to conduct TM level inspection prior to engaging in any LFX to ensure hard armor plates are serviceable.

e. The Army is currently required to maintain contingency stock of 169,560 plates. Hard armor plate requirement in support of annual training, deployment, and contingency operations will be evaluated on an annual basis as part of the Strategic Analysis Review of the Soldier portfolio.

9. The point of contact for this action is Mr. John Cisney (703) 695-1036, DSN 225-1036, or john.b.cisney.civ@mail.mil.

End

TM 10-8470-210-10, Ch 3, 1 Dec 12



PETER B. BECHTEL
Director of Supply Policy

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DAPR-ZA

20 DECEMBER 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Headquarters Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff,
G-4, ATTN: DALO-SP, 500 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-0500

SUBJECT: Body Armor to Support Annual Training, Deployment and Contingency
Requirements

1. References:

a. Department of the Army Report to Congress on Technical Study and Business
Case Analysis of Body Armor Plates, August 2016.

b. Body Armor Requirements, Business Case Analysis (BCA), 31 May 2016.

2. This memorandum establishes the US Army body armor hard armor plate
requirement in support of annual training, deployment and contingency operations. The
body armor hard armor plate requirement is established at 392,923 sets of Enhanced
Small Arms Protective Inserts (ESAPI) and Enhanced Side Ballistic Inserts (ESBI), or
modernized / next generation equivalents, and 169,560 sets of X Small Arms Protective
Inserts (XSAPI) and X Side Ballistic Inserts (XSBI), or modernized / next generation
equivalents. A "set" of hard armor plates is defined as consisting of four hard armor
plates – one front, one back and two side plates.

3. Reference 1.b. provided the analysis of the annual demand requirements, costs
associated, as well as stockpile analysis looking at sustainment and modernization of
hard body armor in the future.

a. Serviceable hard body armor is required for high risk live fire training exercises
(LFTEs), deployments, and contingency stock in support of future deployment needs.

b. LFTEs consist of events where the evaluation focus is predominately on
maneuver tactics, techniques and procedures, and, to a lesser degree, marksmanship
skills. These training events incorporate the complete cycle of gunnery skills and
culminates in the qualification of a weapon, a system, or a small unit. These events are
further delineated into three classifications based on the level of risk involved in the
training event:

(1) Low Risk LFTE – involves firing weapons without maneuver (e.g., static firing
line, very controlled).