

Interceptor Body Armor (IBA)



Specifications

Component materials: IOTV/OTV/DAP/ESBI Carrier: Cordura™, Kevlar™, and/or Twaron™. ESAPI/ESBI: Composite ballistic ceramic plate with coated ballistic fiber backing

Color: Universal camouflage pattern

Weight system: 9.30 pounds to 33.11 pounds (size medium) depending on configuration;

OTV: 9.3 pounds;

ESAPI: 10.9 per pair (size medium);

DAP: 5.03 pounds;

ESBI: 7.75 pounds per set

Size: IOTV: X-small through XXXX-large with tall sizes available in medium, large, and X-large; OTV: X-small through XXXX-large; ESAPI: X-small through X-large

“We saw that it did work. We didn’t go out the [base] gate without our helmets and vests on. It’s hot and heavy, but the protection is worth it.”

– CPT Eric Hillerson on the IBA and Advanced Combat Helmet

Interceptor Body Armor (IBA) is the most up-to-date body armor available. IBA is a modular system that consists of an outer vest, ballistic plates, and attachments that increase the area of coverage. IBA increases survivability by stopping or slowing bullets and fragments and by reducing the number and severity of wounds.

The Outer Tactical Vest (OTV) and Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV) protect against fragments and 9mm rounds. The Enhanced Small Arms Protective Inserts (ESAPI) plates and the Enhanced Side Ballistic Inserts (ESBI) increase protection and can withstand multiple small-arms hits, including armor-piercing rounds.

The OTV is compatible with the deltoid and axillary protectors, which provide additional fragmentation and 9mm protection to the upper arm and underarm areas, as well as the groin protector and throat protector. The IOTV has throat protection and underarm protection built in, and is compatible with the deltoid and groin protectors. The side-opening IOTV also increases the area of coverage over the front-opening OTV. The IOTV comes in 11 sizes, including three tall sizes; the OTV comes in eight sizes.

The IOTV is lighter than the OTV, and features a quick-release handle so Soldiers can instantly remove the vest in emergency situations. The IOTV is more than three pounds lighter than the OTV and includes multiple adjustment points to improve fit, weight distribution, and load-carriage capabilities. The IOTV also has a mesh lining for better ventilation.

With all inserts and plates, the total system weight for the IOTV, size medium, is 30 pounds, compared with 33.11 pounds for OTV.



PM Soldier Equipment
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Troops Offer Firsthand Accounts Of How Body Armor Is Saving Lives



U.S. Soldiers are volunteering dramatic personal accounts of how body armor is saving lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, demonstrating confidence in what the Army is doing to protect them.

Interceptor Body Armor (IBA) is a modular system that features an outer tactical vest with hard protective-plate inserts. Even before the latest improvements to IBA, Soldiers reported that body armor was doing what it was designed to do: stop or slow bullets and fragments and reduce the severity of wounds.

SSG Jeremie Oliver, of B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, TX, has been in Iraq since October 2006, wearing his IBA every day. "It works very well," he reports. What happened to him amplifies that low-key statement.

Oliver was shot while on patrol on June 17, 2007, Father's Day. "A shot rang out and I got hit in the chest," Oliver said. "I was in a Bradley, standing up in the hatch, plotting a grid on my GPS. At first I didn't know what had really happened, but then I felt the pain. I sat down, realized what happened, and opened my vest. The bullet had not penetrated the vest, so we continued the mission and went after the enemy."

SGT Paul Wolfley, platoon leader for B Company, 2nd Battalion, 506 Regimental Combat Team, took a hit in September of 2003. "It knocked me on my butt," Wolfley said. "I looked down at my chest. There was no blood oozing out, and I looked down on the floor of the Humvee and it was a tracer and it was burning. ... I was fine, and so I got up and I started shooting again."

Body armor is provided by the Army through Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier, which is responsible for virtually everything the U.S. Soldier wears or carries. The organization's Soldier-as-a-System approach ensures that equipment works in an integrated manner, thus preparing our troops for peak performance.

SFC class Jody Penrod described his combat experience with IBA: "I took a couple of [improvised explosive devices] and some shrapnel, and I had a fire bomb and it didn't light on fire. So I was pretty pleased." Penrod said the IBA vest protected his entire chest area, so he didn't have so much as a scratch from the shrapnel in the blast.

SSG Jason C. Ashline survived a round from an AK-47 while serving with the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan in 2002, thanks to his body armor. He stated at the recent dedication of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Institute for Nanotechnologies: "If it weren't for technology, I wouldn't be standing here today." Ashline was hit twice in the chest during a 12-hour firefight with al-Qaeda insurgents. The slugs lodged in his body armor. He was stunned but unhurt, and was pulled to safety by his buddies.

The Army doesn't keep count of Soldiers who were not killed or injured, so documenting personal accounts of positive body armor experiences is difficult. Still, there are more stories like these, and Army leaders at all levels recount apocryphal tales by the dozens.

BG Peter N. Fuller, Program Executive Officer, has repeatedly asserted that the Army is providing U.S. Soldiers with the best, most protective body armor in the world bar none. "Force protection is the number-one priority of the U.S. Army. We value our Soldiers very highly, and we do everything we can do to ensure they have the finest in force protection as they go into the battle," Fuller said.

Fuller said that PEO Soldier continues to make body armor and other equipment even better. "We don't sit back and say, 'Our job is done.'"

The latest improvement to IBA streamlined previous improvements to reduce weight and bulk while increasing the area of coverage. The Improved Outer Tactical Vest has an emergency quick-release mechanism so that Soldiers can instantly remove the vest in emergencies. The vest also features multiple adjustment points designed to improve fit and reduce bulk.