



Helmet Pad Suspension System



Requirement

MARADMIN 480/06 states that the pad suspension system is the only authorized suspension system to be used in the LWH. Further, only the pad suspension system purchased by the Consolidated Issue Facility or the supply system is authorized for use in the LWH.

Overview

The pad suspension system consists of 7 pads that are attached to the helmet using hook disks. The pads are composed of two foam layers covered with a synthetic loop composite fabric on the side that attaches to the LWH, and a knit material on the side that rests on the Marine head.

The pads can be arranged in the configurations shown above. A minimum of 5 pads must be worn.

A Marine has the option of using two different sizes of pads. There is a size 6 (¾ inch pad) and a size 8 (1 inch pad). They can be used in any combination in order to provide proper fit.

Independent testing demonstrated that both the sling suspension system and pad suspension system provide equal protection from ballistic blunt trauma (e.g. fragmentation, shrapnel, or bullet). However, the pad system demonstrated better performance than the sling suspension system in providing protection from non-ballistic blunt trauma (e.g. blunt force, bump from falling, or falling debris).

Research is being conducted to find a means to provide protection against blast (e.g. overpressure or percussion from explosives).

Fielding Status

Hook Disks – Velcro Dots - Size 6 (3/4 inch)			
Unit	A/O	Qty Fielded	% Fielded
I MEF	771	771	100.00%
II MEF	407	407	100.00%
III MEF	101	101	100.00%
MFR	170	170	100.00%
Total	1,449	1,449	100.00%
Total Velcro Dots 5,890,500 Note: 1 case = 10 rolls; 10 rolls = 4500 velcro dots			

Unit	Pad Suspension System					
	Size 6 (3/4 inch)			Size 8 (1 inch)		
	A/O	Qty Fielded	% Fielded	A/O	Qty Fielded	% Fielded
I MEF	45,203	41,080	90.88%	11,301	3,000	26.55%
II MEF	48,358	65,109	134.64%	12,090	136,000	1124.9%
III MEF	24,379	31,000	127.16%	6,095	10,000	164.07%
MFR	32,755	1,000	3.05%	8,189	0	0.00%
SPT	39,035	0	0%	9,759	0	0.00%
Total	189,730	13,818	7.28%	47,434	149,000	314.12%
Lots in Shipment: I MEF 30,000; II MEF 39,035; III MEF 16,020; MFR: 9759						

Features

- (6) Alcohol Wipes
- (18) Hook Disks
- Circular Crown Pad
- Trapezoid Pads
- Oblong Side Pads
- Instruction Pamphlet



Training

Instructions on installing the pad suspension system into the LWH can be found on the PM ICE website. The link to the site is found in the footer of this page.

Supply/Logistics

TAMCN: N/A (Component to the Light Weight Helmet)

ID No: N/A

Nomenclature	NSN
Pad Suspension System, Size 6 (3/4 inch)	8470-01-476-5643
Pad Suspension System, Size 8 (1 inch)	8470-01-476-5648
Hook Disks (Velcro Dots)	8470-01-506-6742

Available for issue at the CIF.

Production

Team Wendy in Cleveland, Ohio manufactures the pads that are purchased for wear in the LWH. The National Institute of the Blind sews the outer cloth around the pads.

Source One manufactures the hook disks.

Project Officer

Name: Abel Perez

E-mail: abelardo.perez.ctr@usmc.mil

Phone: 703-434-3188