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FM CG MARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA CESS(UC)
TO COMMARFORCOM G-4
COMMARFORPAC G4
CG I MEF G-4
CG II MEF G4
CG III MEF G-4
COMMARFORRES G4
CG TECOM QUANTICO VA G4
22 MEU
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26 MEU
13TH MEU
11TH MEU
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31ST MEU
INFO CMC WASHINGTON DC PPO
CG MCCDC QUANTICO VA
CG MARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA
CG MARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA CESS
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MSGID/GENADMIN/CG MARCORSYSCOM CESS//

SUBJ: INDIVIDUAL BODY ARMOR COMPONENT FIELDING CONCEPT//

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1. BACKGROUND. MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND (MCSC) IS PROCURING INDIVIDUAL BODY ARMOR (IBA) COMPONENTS TO SAFEGUARD MARINES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR. THIS MSG SUMMARIZES THE ESTABLISHED FIELDING CONCEPT FOR ENHANCED SMALL ARMS PROTECTIVE INSERTS (E-SAPI), SIDE SAPI, QUADGARD AND COOLING VESTS.

2. E-SAPI. E-SAPI PLATES PROVIDE MARINES AN INCREASED LEVEL OF PROTECTION FROM ENEMY SMALL ARMS FIRE. E-SAPI PLATES REPLACED THE EXISTING SAPI PLATES. E-SAPI PLATES ARE EASILY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM SAPI PLATES; E-SAPI PLATES ARE GREEN WHILE SAPI PLATES ARE BLACK.

A. E-SAPI PROCUREMENT. DELIVERY OF E-SAPI PLATES TO USMC BEGAN IN SEP 05 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 4TH QTR FY07.

B. E-SAPI FIELDING CONCEPT. PRIORITY OF FIELDING HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH HQMC PP&O AND IS BASED UPON UNIT DEPLOYMENT STATUS AND OPERATIONAL NEED. THE FIELDING PRIORITY IS:

(1). UNITS DEPLOYED TO IRAQ. THE COALITION FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND (CFLCC) PROVIDED E-SAPI PLATES TO MARINES DEPLOYED IN IRAQ. FIELDING WAS

COMPLETED IN FEB 06. E-SAPI PLATES PROVIDED BY CFLCC ARE CONSIDERED A THEATER ASSET AND MUST REMAIN IN THEATER.

MARINES RECEIVING E-SAPI PLATES FROM CFLCC MUST MAINTAIN THEIR SAPI PLATES AS PART OF THEIR PERSONAL GEAR AND REDEPLOY TO CONUS WITH THEIR SAPI PLATES.

(2). UNITS ASSIGNED TO A MEU. E-SAPI PLATES WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE SUPPORTING CIF AS E-SAPI PLATES BECOME AVAILABLE.

(3). REMAINING MEF UNITS. THE MEF CE WILL DETERMINE UNIT FIELDING PRIORITY. IF A UNIT CANNOT DRAW E-SAPI PLATES FROM THE CIF PRIOR TO DEPLOYING INTO THEATER, THEY WILL DRAW E-SAPI PLATES FROM THE IN-THEATER STOCKS DISCUSSED IN PARA 2B(1) ABOVE.

(4). MARFORRES UNITS. THE MARFORRES CE WILL DETERMINE UNIT FIELDING PRIORITY. IF A UNIT CANNOT DRAW E-SAPI PLATES FROM THE CRITICAL ASSET RAPID DISTRIBUTION FACILITY (CARDF) PRIOR TO DEPLOYING INTO THEATER, THEY WILL DRAW E-SAPI PLATES FROM THE IN-THEATER STOCKS DISCUSSED IN PARA 2B(1) ABOVE.

(5). SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT. PM INFANTRY COMBAT EQUIPMENT AT MCSC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING FIELDING TO SE COMMANDS.

3. SIDE SAPI. SIDE SAPI SETS WERE FIELDED TO PROVIDE MARINES INCREASED BALLISTIC PROTECTION TO THE SIDE TORSO AREA.

A. SIDE SAPI PROCUREMENT. FIELDING OF SIDE SAPI SETS BEGAN IN NOV 05 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1ST QTR, FY08. TWO TYPES OF BALLISTIC CARRIERS ARE BEING FIELDED WITH SIDE SAPI. THE BALLISTIC CARRIER MADE BY PPI ONLY ACCOMODATES THE 6_X8_ PLATE BEING FIELDED AS PART OF THE SIDE SAPI SET. THE BALLISTIC CARRIER MADE BY MED-ENG ACCOMODATES AN X -SMALL E-SAPI PLATE AS WELL AS THE SMALLER 6_X8_ SIDE SAPI PLATE. TYPICALLY, MARINES THAT WEAR AN X-SMALL TO MED OTV WILL USE THE 6_X8_ SIDE SAPI PLATE WHILE MARINES THAT WEAR A LG TO X-LARGE OTV WILL USE AN X-SMALL E-SAPI PLATE. INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTACHING THE BALLISTIC CARRIER TO THE OTV ARE LOCATED AT THE WEBSITE SHOWN IN PARA 6 BELOW.

B. SIDE SAPI FIELDING CONCEPT. PRIORITY OF FIELDING HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH HQMC PP&O AND MCCDC AND IS BASED UPON UNIT DEPLOYMENT STATUS AND OPERATIONAL NEED. THE FIELDING PRIORITY IS:

(1). UNITS DEPLOYED TO IRAQ. IN RESPONSE TO AN URGENT STATEMENT OF NEED (USON) DTD 11 JUL 05, MCSC FIELDED 28,882 SETS OF SIDE SAPI TO SUPPORT MARINES DEPLOYED IN IRAQ. THESE SIDE SAPI SETS ARE CONSIDERED A USMC THEATER ASSET AND MUST REMAIN IN THEATER.

(2). UNITS ASSIGNED TO A MEU. IN RESPONSE TO AN USON DTD 15 FEB 06, MCSC PROCURED 17,500 SETS OF SIDE SAPI TO SUPPORT SEVEN MEUS. EACH MEU IS TO RECEIVE 2,500 SETS OF SIDE SAPI. FIELDING TO THE CIFS BEGAN IN AUG 06 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN DEC 06.

(3). REMAINING MEF UNITS. FIELDING TO THE MEF IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN 2ND QTR, FY07 AND BE COMPLETED BY 2ND QTR, FY08. THE MEF CE WILL DETERMINE UNIT FIELDING PRIORITY. IF A UNIT CANNOT DRAW SIDE SAPI SETS FROM THE CIF PRIOR TO

DEPLOYING INTO THEATER, THEY WILL DRAW THEM FROM THE IN -THEATER STOCKS DISCUSSED IN PARA 3B(1) ABOVE.

(4). MARFORRES UNITS. THE MARFORRES CE WILL DETERMINE UNIT FIELDING PRIORITY. IF A UNIT CANNOT DRAW SIDE SAPI SETS FROM THE CARDF PRIOR TO DEPLOYING INTO THEATER, THEY WILL DRAW THEM FROM THE IN-THEATER STOCKS DISCUSSED IN PARA 3B(1) ABOVE.

(5). SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT. PM INFANTRY COMBAT EQUIPMENT AT MCSC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING FIELDING TO SE COMMANDS.

(6). MOJAVE VIPER. MCSC FIELDDED 2,000 SETS OF TRAINING SIDE SAPI TO SUPPORT MOJAVE VIPER TRAINING. THESE NON-BALLISTIC PLATES ARE COLORED RED BUT ARE THE SAME SIZE AND WEIGHT OF SIDE SAPI BALLISTIC PLATES. THESE PLATES ARE ONLY TO BE USED IN A TRAINING ENVIRONMENT.

4. QUADGARD. QUADGARD IS AN EXTREMITY ARMOR SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PROTECT TURRET GUNNERS FROM SMALL ARMS FIRE AND FRAGMENTATION.

A. QUADGARD PROCUREMENT. FIELDING OF QUADGARD DESIGN IV BEGAN IN NOV 05 AND WAS COMPLETED IN FEB 06. FIELDING OF QUADGARD V BEGAN IN AUG 06 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY OCT 06.

B. QUADGARD FIELDING CONCEPT. IN RESPONSE TO AN UUNS, QUADGARD IS BEING FIELDDED TO MARINES DEPLOYED IN IRAQ. MCSC FIELDDED 4,500 SETS OF QUADGARD DESIGN IV AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF FIELDING 1,000 SETS OF QUADGARD DESIGN V. QUADGARD IS A USMC THEATER ASSET AND MUST REMAIN IN THEATER.

5. COOLING VEST. COOLING VESTS ARE WORN UNDER THE OTV TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM THE HIGH TEMPERATURES IN IRAQ.

A. COOLING VEST PROCUREMENT. 30,000 COOLING VESTS WERE FIELDDED IN 1ST QTR, FY06. AN ADDITIONAL 23,598 COOLING VESTS ARE CURRENTLY BEING FIELDDED.

FIELDING WILL BE COMPLETED DURING 4TH QTR, FY06.

B. COOLING VEST FIELDING CONCEPT. COOLING VESTS WERE SHIPPED DIRECTLY INTO THEATER. THEY ARE INDIVIDUAL ISSUE ITEMS AND ARE CONSIDERED CONSUMMABLE ITEMS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES. THE COOLING VEST MUST BE CUT DOWN BY THE MARINE IN ORDER TO BE PROPERLY FITTED UNDER THE OTV. THE SIDES OF THE COOLING VEST MUST EXTEND 1_ BEYOND THE OUTSIDE EDGE OF THE OTV TO PROVIDE FOR EVAPORATIVE COOLING.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING PM INFANTRY COMBAT EQUIPMENT FIELDDED ITEMS IS LOCATED AT WWW.MARCORSYSCOM.USMC.MIL/SITES/PMICE/. THIS SITE CAN ALSO BE REACHED VIA WWW.HOMC.USMC.MIL/ UNDER UNITS_ALPHABETICAL_OTHER LISTINGS_INDIVIDUAL COMBAT EQUIPMENT.

7. POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING IBA ISSUES IS SCOTT ADAMS AT COMM (703) 432-3323; DSN 378 AND E-MAIL SCOTT.ADAMS1@USMC.MIL.// BT