

# IMPROVED LOAD BEARING EQUIPMENT

## DESCRIPTION

The Improved Load Bearing Equipment (ILBE) is a load-bearing system designed to provide a durable and lightweight means for the deployed Marine to transport his or her individual combat clothing and equipment. Major proposed improvements include durability, comfort of wear, reduced system complexity, reduced system weight and sustainability, and greater integration with the Outer Tactical Vest.

## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

An improved load-bearing system will result in less fatigue and more combat effectiveness during the execution of assigned missions.

## PROGRAM STATUS

Milestone C approval for full-rate production of the pack occurred in August 2003. Fielding of the pack is scheduled to commence in January 2004. The Marine Corps expects to make a contract award for the Assault Load Carrier (ALC) element in the second quarter of FY 2004, with production starting in the third quarter of FY 2004. (The existing Fighting Load Carrier will continue to be used until the ALC is fielded.) Initial operational capability is anticipated in the fourth quarter of FY 2004 and full operational capability in the first quarter of FY 2009.

<b>PROCUREMENT PROFILE:</b>	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>
Quantity:	60,000	60,000
<b>DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER</b>		
Propper International, St Charles, MO		
Assault load carrier: TBD		