

# Generation III Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS)



The Generation III Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (GEN III ECWCS) was designed to be functional in multiple cold weather climates and activities. It consists of a versatile, multi-layered insulating system that allows the Soldier to adapt to varying mission requirements and environmental conditions. New materials offer a greater range of breathability and environmental protection providing greater versatility in meeting Soldiers' needs. The GEN III ECWCS design changes are more compatible with body armor. The 12 components of the GEN III ECWCS include a lightweight undershirt and drawers, mid-weight shirt and drawers, fleece cold weather jacket, wind cold weather jacket, soft shell jacket and trousers, extreme cold/wet weather jacket and trousers, extreme cold weather parka, and trousers.

*During Operation Mountain Lion I found myself praying for bad weather, the first time in my military career I was actually begging for a cold front to come through. I knew my Soldiers could handle it and the enemy couldn't. ECWCS allowed my men to outlast the enemy on their own terrain. When the enemy was forced out of the mountains due to the bitter cold to take shelter, that's when we got them.*

— LTC Christopher Cavoli Commander 1-32  
IN BN, 10<sup>th</sup> MTN

## System Description

**Component Materials:** Base layer garments are constructed of silkweight, moisture wicking knitted polyester and polyester grid fleece. The fleece jacket uses thermal pro animal fur-mimicking insulation. The wind shirt is made of a lightweight, windproof, and water-repellent material. The soft shell jacket and trousers are made of a highly water-resistant, wind-proof material that increases moisture vapor permeability (breathability). The extreme cold weather jacket and trousers are made of a waterproof material for use in prolonged wet and/or hard rain conditions. The extreme cold weather parka and trousers are constructed with loft insulation that provides superior warmth with high compactability, low weight, and low volume.

**Color:** Desert sand (base layers); foliage green (fleece layer); universal camouflage pattern (outer layers)

**Weight:** 12.85 lbs (all layers combined)

**Size:** Small-Regular, Medium-Regular, Large-Regular, Large-Long, Xtra Large-Regular, Xtra Large-Long

**Status:** Force acceptance fielding began in December 2005 to units at Fort Drum and Fort Polk, and received very positive feedback. Initial fielding will begin in winter of Fiscal Year 2008.

