Female Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV)

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Purpose

Provide members of the Defense Advisory Committee On Women In The Services (DACOWITS) an overview, background, and path forward for the Army's new Female Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV)

Agenda

- System Description
- Improvements and Capabilities
- System Objectives
- Background
- Milestones
- Initial Feedback
- Questions

Description

The Female Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV) is a variant of the IOTV GEN III designed through a joint effort between Product Manager Soldier Protective Equipment, the Natick NSRDEC Anthropometry Team and the Natick Design Pattern and Prototype Team. The sizing system for the female IOTV accommodates approximately 90% of the female population across eight new sizes. The vest incorporates design changes that are more form-fitting and allow additional adjustability to female Soldiers.

Improvements & Capabilities

The base Female IOTV provides several fit improvements for the female Soldier while providing the same high level of ballistic protection against conventional fragmenting munitions and 9mm handgun rounds that is provided by the standard IOTV. The vest also provides additional protection against rifle threats when combined with Small Arms Protective Inserts (SAPI) and side ballistic inserts (SBI).

System Objectives

- Improved Fit, Comfort, and Performance of the IOTV using current (Small Arms Protective Insert) SAPI geometry on female Soldiers.

- Increased number of female Soldiers who receive a functional fit in the IOTV body armor system.

Background

- JAN 09 - CJTF 101 issues a Request for Information (RFI) outlining fit and comfort issues for female Soldiers with the IOTV
- MAY – JUL 09 – Fit Studies on female Soldiers in GEN I IOTVs reveal issues with length and adjustability
- FEB 10 – GEN II IOTV provides added adjustability
- APR 10 – Follow-on Fit Studies with GEN II IOTV on Female Soldiers reveal continued concerns with fit
- OCT 10 – SEP 11 – Joint PM SPE/NSRDEC Development of GEN III Female IOTV patterns
- SEP – DEC 11 – Fit Studies with GEN III Female IOTV prototypes provide positive feedback
- MAY – AUG 12 – Production of first Female GEN III IOTVs
- AUG – SEP 12 – Limited User Evaluation and Human Factors Evaluation with Female Soldiers at Fort Campbell, KY

Milestones

Recent Milestones or Events:

- JUN 12 – Contracts awarded to procure 100 Female IOTVs for testing and evaluation.
- 21 AUG – 21 SEP 12 – Limited User Evaluation with 19 Female Engagement Team (FET) Soldiers, Fort Campbell, KY

Near Term Milestones or Events:

- SEP 12 – Human Factors Evaluation (HFE) at Fort Campbell, KY
- DEC 12 – Design and Pattern Revisions and Updates based on feedback from LUE and HFE
- JAN 13 – New specific Female IOTV Purchase Description
- JAN 13 – Contract solicitation for larger buy of Female IOTVs
- 4QFY13 – Initial Combat Brigade fielding

Initial Feedback

Examples of Female IOTV Soldier Feedback:

" I could wear this all day!"

" I could run a marathon in this."

"Are these the same plates? They feel much lighter."

"Can I have this one?"

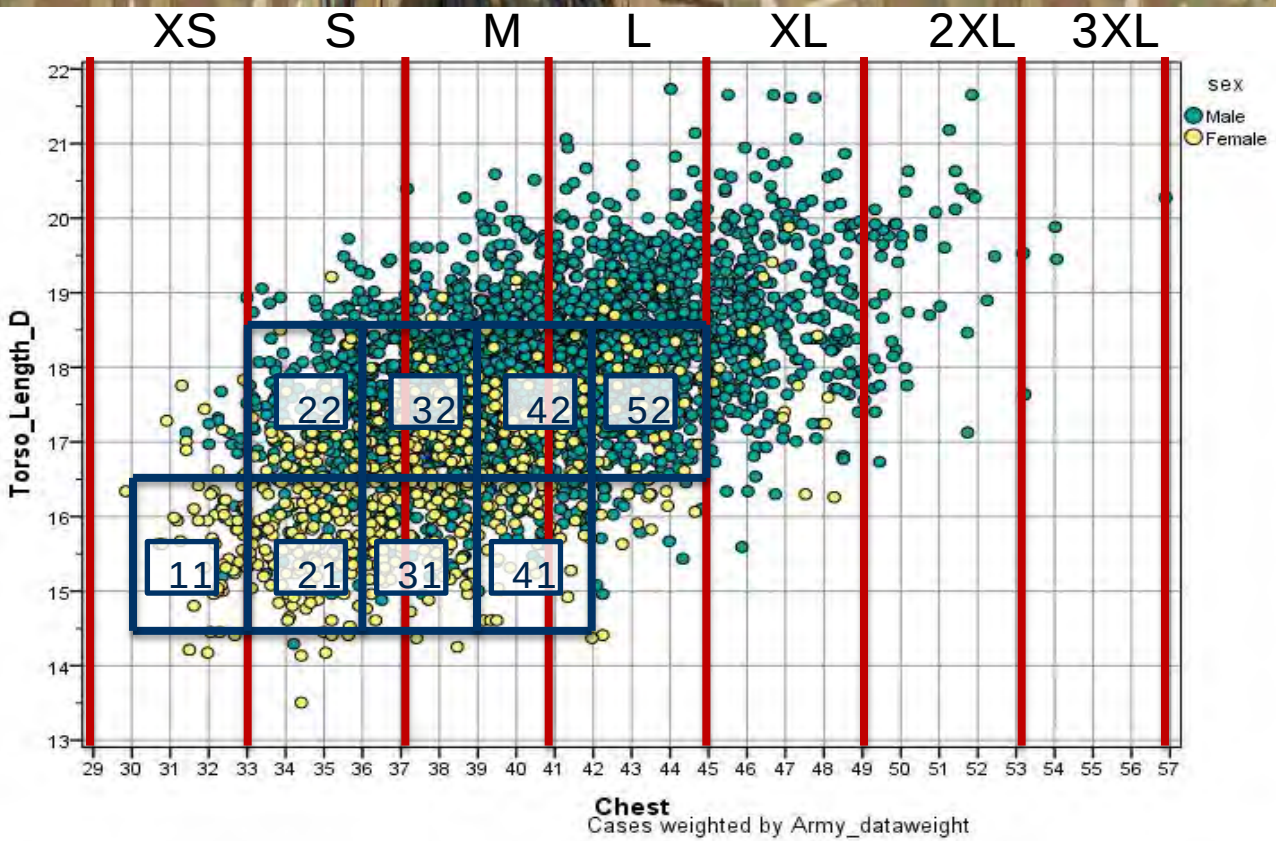
"When are we going to get these?"

"It 's about time!"

Questions?

BACKUP SLIDES

Female IOTV Sizing



2009 Female Fit and Sizing Study found:

- Current size prediction charts are inaccurate for female Soldiers
- 83% of test participants found to have best fit one to two IOTV sizes smaller than predicted size
- Many found that even XS was too big
- IOTV and side plate carriers were too long
- IOTV does not offer good fit for women even when outfitted in available best fit size

Size	Front/Back Plate	Side Plate
f.XS-Reg(11)	XS	6x6
f.Small-Reg(21)	XS	6x6
f.Small-Long(22)	13x8 (XS)	6x8
f.Med-Reg(31)	Small	6x6
f.Med-Long(32)	13x8 (Small)	6x8
f.Large-Reg(41)	Small	6x6
f.Large-Long(42)	Med	6x8
f.XL-Long(52)	Med	6x8

Proposed Female Specific Sizing

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