



Advanced Planning Brief for Industry

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USMC Mountain/Cold Weather Clothing Initiative



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Overall Item Description



The Marine Corps requires a Mountain/Cold Weather Clothing System with improvements that provide:

- Better moisture management
- More flexibility in layering to better adapt to changing environment and level of protection needed (-40°F to 70°F temperature, wet/dry, wind, camouflage, activity level).
- Faster drying time
- Lighter weights
- Lower pack volume
- Improved Marine performance/effectiveness in harsh climates



Overall Item Description



- USMC has completed field user evaluation and validated a broad range of products and systems that best meet M/CW clothing requirements.
- The M/CW clothing system will increase operational effectiveness by integrating capabilities from technology, material, and construction advances, commercial products and military product developments.



Overall Item Description



- The M/CW System will consist of 5 pieces:
 - Windpro Fleece Jacket
 - Happy Suit (jacket, trousers, booties)
 - Lightweight Exposure Suit (lightweight hardshell rainsuit)
 - Snow Overwhite (jacket, trouser, pack cover)
 - Mitten System & Liner



Windpro Fleece Jacket



The garments designed provide the following features:

- The windpro fleece jacket will be worn in mountainous and cold weather environments. It provides improved wind resistance, breathability and water repellency when worn in intermediate to cold weather environments.
- The pit zips and reinforcement patches on the upper chest, back and shoulders have been deleted.
- To reduce bulk, the collar uses one layer of a Taslan material.
- Stretch fleece side/ underarm panels have been added for increased mobility and breathability.
- The jacket will come in the Desert MARPAT print w/ a durable water repellent finish, the finish imparts wind resistance, breathability, and water repellency performance characteristics.



Happy Suit (Jacket, Trousers, Booties)



- USMC requires an Extreme Cold Weather (ECW) parka and trouser over garments for bivouac, rest and sentry activities in mountain conditions.

- The garments designed provide the following features:

- Garments are lightweight, water resistant, and easily packed to a minimum volume to be carried among the variety of other mission essential gear.
- Garments provide maximum insulation while at rest.
- The Mar 07 final data collection results will be used to finalize the salient characteristics for item procurement.





Lightweight Exposure Suit



- USMC requires lightweight, low volume rain protection. The jacket and trouser must be durable over garments, enabling Marines to quickly don wind and rain protection that is both water vapor permeable and minimizes overheating from strenuous activities
- The garments designed provide the following features:
 - ❖ Quick donning/doffing over multiple clothing layers.
 - ❖ shell material shall be highly water repellent and wind resistant.
 - ❖ Construction shall be waterproof for the life of the garment,
 - ❖ Hook fasteners minimize icing and lint build-up.
 - ❖ Abrasion resistant knee and seat reinforcement patches.
- Final user evaluations at Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA. Data collected will be used to finalize salient characteristics.



Snow Overwhite (Jacket, Trouser, Pack Cover)



- The snow camouflage parka and trousers and pack cover are designed to be worn as overgarments when snow camouflage protection is required
- In Nov 06 the Snow Camo parka and trousers were issued to the Mountain Warfare Training Center and to the Marine Reserve unit in Elmendorf, Alaska for final field evaluations.
- Mar 07 completed final user evaluations at Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA. Data collected will be used to finalize salient characteristics prior to contract award.
- The garments designed provide the following features:
 - Ultra lightweight water resistant shell material
 - Disruptive snow camouflage print
 - Low pack volume



Additional Cold Weather Clothing Items



- The remaining M/CW Clothing items (Fleece cap, Silk Weight fleece, Grid fleece) will be issued at the Consolidated Issue Facility. The Marine Corps is working with DSCP to transition the old fleeces to the new items.



Fleece Cap



- The hardface micro fleece cap is intended for wear by Marines in mountainous and cold weather environments.

The garments designed provide the following features:

- The Cap provides improved wind resistance, durability and water repellency when worn in intermediate to cold weather environments.
- The fleece cap will be incorporated into the M/CW clothing ensemble as needed.



Silk Weight Underwear



- Silk Weight commercial underwear (shirt and drawers).
- The silk Weight underwear are a variant of Army Gen III silkweight underwear.
- The silkweight underwear can be incorporated into the M/CW clothing ensemble as needed.



Grid Fleece Jacket & Trousers



- The Grid fleece Jacket & Trousers are intended for use as a general purpose insulation layer that can be incorporated into the M/CW clothing ensemble as needed.
- The Marine Corps M/CW Grid fleece is a variant of the Army Gen II program.



Current Status



- Completion of data analysis from final wear evaluation is ongoing.
- Changes to salient characteristics based on final wear test data is ongoing.



Contract Strategy



Five Year IDIQ:

- One Base Year with Four Option Years
- Each item in the system is a separate CLIN
- Min/Max Quantities for each ordering period/CLIN

Anticipated Prime Vendor:

- Shift item management to contractor with expertise.
- One P.O.C for government to deal with if issues arise

Questions concerning contracting strategy contact:

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Milestones



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- | <u>Event</u> | <u>Estimated Date</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Solicitation issue (FedBizOpps) | May 07 |
| • Proposal evaluations | June 07 |
| • Award | July 07 |
| • Incremental deliveries begin | Oct 07 |



Future



- The Marine Corps desires Flame resistant silkweight fleece and grid fleece items (No Requirement as of yet).
- We are actively searching for alternate fleece fabrics that are **No Melt/No Drip** and could be considered as a replacement for the current fabrics.
- Investigation required to identify an FR M/CW neck gaitor which provides the desired warmth without exhibiting melt/drip properties.