Advanced Planning Brief for Industry

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USMC Mountain/Cold Weather Clothing Initiative

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Current Status

– 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 and military product developments.

– The M/CW layering system is indented too integrate into the sleeping bag system.

– The M/CW layering system gives the individual Marine the ability to better configure layers if protection to specific conditions/operations.

Characteristics

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

- Improve moisture management
- More flexibility in layering to better adapt to changing environment and level of protection needed (-40^{0}F to 70^{0}F temperature, wet/dry, wind, camouflage, activity level).
- Faster drying time
- Lighter weights
- Lower pack volume
- Improved Marine performance/effectiveness in harsh climates

Future

- The M/CW Layering System required will consist of 5 pieces:
  - Windpro Fleece Jacket
    - Most probable temp: 30 and below

  - Lightweight Exposure Suit (lightweight hard-shell rain suit)
    - Most probable temp: 70 and below – rain and or wind

  - Happy Suit (jacket, trousers, booties)
    - Most probable temp: 30 and below/below 10

  - Snow Camouflage Overwhite (jacket, trouser, pack cover)

  - Mitten System & Liner
    - Most probable temp: Below 0

Windpro Fleece Jacket Characteristics

- The windpro fleece jacket will be worn in mountainous and cold weather environments. It provides improved wind resistance, breathabilty and water repellency when worn in intermediate to cold weather environments.

- The windpro fleece jacket is an updated version of the current fleece jacket – 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.

- Desert MARPAT print w/ a durable water repellent finish, the finish imparts wind resistance, breathability, and water repellency performance characteristics.

Lightweight Exposure Suit Characteristics

• USMC M/CW environment requires lightweight, low volume rain protection.

• Garments are water vapor permeable and minimizes overheating from strenuous activities.

• Quick donn/doff over multiple clothing layers.

• Shell material highly water repellent and wind resistant.

• Abrasion resistant knee and seat reinforcement patches.

• Mid-Point/Final user evaluations conducted at Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC), Bridgeport, CA.

• Data collected at MWTC will be used to finalize salient characteristics.

Prototype

Happy Suit
(Jacket, Trousers, Booties)
Characteristics

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

• 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.

• Mid-Point/Final user evaluations conducted at Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC), Bridgeport, CA.

• Data collected at MWTC will be used to finalize salient characteristics.

Prototype

Snow Camouflage Overwhite (Jacket, Trouser, Pack Cover) Characteristics

Prototype

- USMC required snow camouflage parka and trousers and pack cover to be worn as overgarments when snow camouflage protection is required.

- Ultra lightweight water resistant shell material.

- Low pack volume.

- Mid-Point/Final user evaluations conducted at Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC), Bridgeport, CA.

- Data collected at MWTC will be used to finalize salient characteristics.

Acquisition Objective

- FY 08 Approx: 20,000 Systems

- FY 10 Approx: 15,000 Systems

- AO: 35,000 Systems

- Follow-on/Sustainment quantities

Additional Cold Weather Clothing Items

- The remaining M/CW Clothing items: Fleece cap, Silk Weight underwear, and Grid fleece pullover/drawer will be issued at the Consolidated Issue Facility (CIF).

- These items will be issued to individual Marines for every day uses.

- The M/CW layering System intended too Integrate the Sleeping Bag.

Current Status

- Completion of data analysis finalizing final wear evaluation is ongoing.

- Finalize Salient Characteristics:

  - Windpro Fleece Jacket

  - Lightweight Exposure Suit

  - Happy Suit (ECW)

  - Snow Camouflage Overwhite

Current Status

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.
- Visit https://www3.natick.army.mil for pre-announcement.
- It will also be posted on FedBizOpps.
- Question can be directed to Betsy Moore.

Milestones

- **Event**   **Estimated Date**
- Solicitation issue (FedBizOpps)   May 07

- Proposal evaluations   June 07

- Award   July 07

- Estimated deliveries
  begin   Oct 07

Future

- The Marine Corps is actively challenging industry for fabrics that are no melt/no drip and could be considered as a replacement for the current fabrics.

- The Marine Corps desires Flame Resistant (FR) neck gaiter, silkweight underwear and grid fleece items (Anticipate Requirement).

- Investigation required to identify an FR M/CW neck gaitor which provides the desired warmth without exhibiting melt/drip properties.

- The Marine Corps will work with DSCP to transition the old fleeces to the new items