Military Combat Eye Protection (MCEP) Program

Advanced Planning Briefing for Industry (APBI)

PM-Soldier Protective Equipment
Dr. Thomas J. Pojeta, P.E.
Assistant Product Manager MCEP and NDTE
DSN 654-1723
Cmml (703) 704-1723
thomas.j.pojeta@us.army.mil

Natick Soldier Center
Ms. Michelle Markey/Mr. David Phelps
Project Engineers
DSN 256-5471/ 4145
Cmml (508) 233-5471/ 4145
Michelle.Markey@us.army.mil
David.Aaron.Phelps@us.army.mil

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The Military Combat Eye Protection (MCEP) Program is an umbrella program geared toward:

- Protecting the eye from external threats/hazards
  - Fragmentation
  - Electromagnetic Radiation
  - Wind/Sand/Dust

- Providing vision correction
  - Accommodate corrective lenses
  - Key role played by MEDCOM

- Encouraging use and feedback
  - Promote User awareness through Army and MEDCOM channels
  - Leverage feedback from the field to improve designs
MCEP Program Approach

**TESTING:** Products qualified by rigorous testing. Fragmentation, optical, and user testing in a field environment are among the tests that eyewear must successfully complete in order to be considered for approval. Commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) products that meet the eyewear specification requirements and offer an overall improvement in performance over current products are included on the Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL).

**FLEXIBILITY:** Adapt to changing needs & technology - Products on the APEL are modified or added/subtracted as User needs change and as new technologies/design improvements become available.

**PARTNERING:** Partner with Industry, the User community, the Medical Community, etc to arrive at a well rounded APEL list to best suit current and emerging User needs.

**CHOICE:** MCEP offers eye protection to Soldiers in a variety of sizes and styles. By allowing Soldiers a choice in eye protection to meet mission needs, MCEP improves Soldier acceptance of authorized protective eyewear, thus reducing the likelihood of eye injuries.
Integrated Approach

MCEP success dependent on various communities working together for a well rounded approach.
APEL Spectacles

ESS CROSSBOW
NSN: 4240-01-583-5742
RX CAPABLE

SMITH OPTICS AEGIS
NSN: 4240-01-583-5206
RX CAPABLE

WILEY X PT-1
NSN: 4240-01-510-7853

REVISION SAWFLY
NSN: 4240-01-527-4051 Regular
NSN: 4240-01-527-4018 Large
RX CAPABLE

UVEX GENESIS
NSN: 4240-01-552-4131
RX CAPABLE

WILEY X SG-1
NSN: 4240-01-504-0994

OAKLEY SI BALLISTIC M FRAME 2.0
NSN: 4240-01-525-3095
RX CAPABLE

UVEX XC
NSN: 4240-01-516-5361
RX CAPABLE

WILEY X TALON
NSN 4240-01-583-5158
RX CAPABLE

WILEY X TALON
**APEL Goggles**

**ARENA FLAKJAK**
NSN: 4240-01-548-7366 Grn
NSN: 4240-01-527-4076 Tan

**ESS PROFILE NVG**
NSN: 4240-01-540-5585 Grn
NSN: 4240-01-504-5727 Tan
NSN: 4240-01-504-6222 Blk
RX CAPABLE

**REVISION DESERT LOCUST**
NSN: 4240-01-547-6218 Grn
NSN: 4240-01-592-8619 Tan
NSN: 4240-01-547-6227 Blk
RX CAPABLE

**ESS LAND OPS**
NSN: 4240-01-540-5576 Grn
NSN: 4240-01-540-5580 Tan
WORN OVER GLASSES

**SMITH OPTICS**
NSN: 4240-01-583-4955 Grn
NSN: 4240-01-583-4954 Tan
NSN: 4240-01-583-4907 Blk
RX CAPABLE

**OUTSIDE THE WIRE**
APEL Submissions

New Submissions Shall Include:

• 40 samples of the product
  – 3 complete kits (Carrying case, frame, clear & neutral grey lenses, retention strap, cleaning cloth, antifog wipe or solution)
  – 37 frames with clear lens installed;
  – 37 neutral grey sun lenses

• 20 prescription inserts per product
New Submissions Shall Include:

• Information about the product
  – Part numbers
  – Cost
  – Product Description (including materials used)
  – Material Safety Data Sheets (flame retardants, antifog/cleaning solutions, etc)
  – Name/location of manufacturing facility used for all components
  – Performance characteristics
  – Lot size used to produce samples submitted for evaluation and testing.
New Submissions Shall Include:

- Demonstration of compliance of the submitted product with:
  - Buy American Act
  - Trade Agreement Act
  - Berry Amendment

Products made in the USA using foreign molded components shall identify this in use and care literature and on product packaging
APEL Submissions

New Submissions and Proposed APEL product design changes shall Include:

- Test data for any testing the Manufacturer has conducted to verify compliance with APEL requirements
  
  - Manufacturers are encouraged to know/understand the capabilities of their products prior to submission.
  
  - Test data should include all observations
  
  - Government reserves the right to repeat testing
Test Reports

APEL Test reports in support of New Submissions, Retention and Recertification Shall Include:

• Date range of manufacture for the products tested

• Mold cavities tested

• Manufacturer/location for where the tested parts were produced.

• Test methods used and any observations
  • If there are no observations then the report shall state that no observations were noted.

• If Rx testing is performed, the material (i.e., CR39, polycarbonate) from which the prescription lenses were made and the source of the Rx lenses shall be stated in the report
Guidance Documentation


- ANSI Z87.1.

Manufacturers are required to be compliant with the above
APEL Schedule – New Candidates

• Items can be submitted for consideration *any time* of the year.
  – Initial submission & samples needed NLT 15 January to be included in that year’s User evaluation

• User evaluation will be performed once a year, pending availability of funding & troops.
  – Anticipate May timeframe
  – Test samples needed NLT 15 April

• APEL List updated at least once a year.
• Retention test data required once every 6 months (January & July) for authorized items

• 2 year recertification test data due every 2 years in July.

• Design/process changes accepted any time of year

• Significant design changes may need to be included in User Evaluation
APEL Schedule – Authorized Items

• Next 6 month retention cycle July 2011

• APEL Manufacturers to provide:
  – Test data from Independent Lab
    • Ballistic fragmentation
    • ANSI Z87.1 (2003 version will be used)
    • Optical Distortion
    • Weight
    • Chemical resistance
    • Flame resistance (goggle strap)
    • Luminous Transmittance/Chromaticity/Neutrality
    • UV absorption
    • Abrasion
  
  – Ballistic fragmentation testing shall include prescription inserts (CR39)
  
  – ANSI Testing shall include prescription nosepiece (if applicable)
APEL Logo

• All products being provided to the US military under the APEL must bear the APEL logo as of **July 31, 2011**
  
  – Only APEL approved eyewear using the materials/processes qualified through the Army APEL program are authorized to use the APEL logo
  
  – Only product sold for US military use (Government contract, AAFES, etc) may bear the “APEL” logo
  
  – Licensing agreement needed for eyewear sold to US military if not part of a US Government contract
APEL Logo

• “APEL” Logo shall be located on the left side of the frame
  – Letters may be embossed, debossed, pad printed, etc.
  – Letters must last for the life of the item (~ 6 months) and not be easily removed.

• Changes in format/location of logo shall be resubmitted for review/approval
Future Buys

• RFI Buys
  – Estimate a need for another 60K – 100K kits in FY 11
  – Estimate a need for 127K kits in FY 12

• Items that will be bought must have a Spectacle and a Goggle with a shared/compatible prescription insert and be listed on the APEL.
Contracts

- Manufacturers are reminded that only the contracting officer can provide information/respond to questions regarding an open solicitation.
  - **Do not** contact the user, PEO or any other group/organization involved with the program to ask about a buy on the street.
Cost

• Cost reduction measures increasingly important as budgets get reduced

• Manufacturers can help by:
  – Identifying material, design & process solutions that help minimize overall cost of eye protection
  – Remain competitive
  – Provide durable products
  – Continue to maintain Quality/Performance

• Manufacturers should monitor prices their products are being sold for; inform us of any issues
Current & Future Interests

• Variable Transmission Lenses
  – Send us what you have
    • Lenses should be in an APEL format
    • Lenses need to meet APEL requirements
      – ANSI Z87.1
      – Ballistics
      – Neutral Grey in color
      – etc
    • Provide transmission range, time for full transition and any power requirements.
Current and Future Interests

• New Goggle Colors
  – Operation Enduring Freedom (OCP) Camouflage
    • Tan 499 to match
    • Current Tan APEL goggles should transition to new color as becomes available
    • Foliage green & black goggles will remain as is
    • Spectacles will remain black
    • FED-STD-595C "Colors Used in Government Procurement“ available for color matching and Quality Assurance; Color chips also available
  – Universal Camouflage color for goggles
Current & Future Interests

• Improved Scratch, Fog, Impact Resistance
  – Fogging and scratching still among chief complaints

• Improved impact protection
  – Without sacrificing other APEL requirements
  – Maintain frame integrity

• Chemical Resistance - both sides of the lens

• Universal Prescription Insert - all APEL items

• Agile laser protection

Direction to manufacturers on the needs of the program will come from the Program Office
The APEL process is working – soldiers are wearing eye protection in combat and training, injuries have been prevented.

Industry plays a key role in the evolution of the APEL products and the success of the program.

Thank You for your Continued Support to Our Soldiers.
Combat Eyewear

– Your Sight, Your Choice