



UNCLASSIFIED

27 July 2007

Information Paper

Mr. Dan Fitzgerald, Program Manager ICE, Daniel.fitzgerald@usmc.mil

Extreme Cold Weather Parka & Trouser (Happy Suit)



Requirement:

USMC Cold Weather ORD NO LOG 42.4 w/chg 1, 2, 3

Description:

USMC requires an Extreme Cold Weather (ECW) parka and trouser over garments and booties for bivouac, rest and sentry activities in mountain conditions. The garments are lightweight and easily packed to a minimum volume to be carried among the variety of other mission essential gear.

Background:

USMC adopted Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS) in 1985 to replace Korean War era Cold Weather (EW) Clothing. Over the last 20 years USMC made periodic low risk product changes to improve material performance of selected layers with only minor design changes. Recent conflicts have identified needs to provide our Marines with better "Systemized" equipment and clothing.

Fielding Status:

Initial AO: 20,000

Follow-on AO – 35,000

The fielding plan will be subject to funding availability.

Gear to be fielded to the STAP's

In Nov 06 the ECW parka and trouser were issued to the Mountain Warfare Training Center and to the Marine Reserve unit at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska for

field evaluations. Evaluation is on going for the bootie which is scheduled to be tested at MWTC with candidate sleeping bag systems.

Deliveries to the STAP in Camp Pendleton, CA began in Dec 06.

Production:

Vendor: Initial GSA Advantage Purchase, follow-on IDIQ contract

Manufacturer: Wild Things

Test Unit Production began: Sep 06

Delivery of 1000 jackets and trousers completed Dec 06.

Delivery of 30 test booties Aug 07

Programmatic:

- Nov 06 conducted Industry Information/Market Research Conference in support of M/CW clothing procurement effort under GSA blanket purchase agreement.

- Jan 07 conducted midpoint data collection to validate baseline clothing system. Industry participated in user discussions; the information collected was incorporated into garment improvements

- Feb 07 Draft solicitation forwarded to Natick Contracting for review.

- Mar 07 completed final user evaluations at Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA. Data collected will be used to finalize salient characteristics.

- Jun 07; the Mountain Cold Weather pre-solicitation notice was posted for the IDIQ contract.

- Jul 07; due to the IDIQ contract solicitation delays, decision was made to procure initial MCW items via GSA. Advantage program.

- Nov 07 Incremental deliveries begin



UNCLASSIFIED

27 July 2007

Information Paper

Mr. Dan Fitzgerald, Program Manager ICE, Daniel.fitzgerald@usmc.mil

Extreme Cold Weather Parka & Trouser (Happy Suit)



- It is expected that follow-on quantities will be procured under a Natick IDIQ contract in FY08 pending availability of funds.

Issues:

- The cold weather bootie will be considered part of the happy suit. Currently Marines are buying their own down booties.
- Incorporated final design changes into salient characteristics prior to contract award.
- Maintaining shade standards will be critical. Shade testing requirements have been included in the solicitation and spectral reflectance values are included in the salient characteristics. All proposals received will be tested to ensure conformance with shade standards.
- Availability of funds
- Jul 07; due to the IDIQ contract solicitation delays, decision was made to instead procure MCW items via GSA.
- Ability to award contracts before losing funds.
- Industry is continuing to develop materials/technologies that may warrant further testing.

Project Officer

Email: Edwin.Rodriguez3@usmc.mil

Phone: (703) 432-3299

Program Support

Email: betsy.a.moore@us.army.mil

Phone: (508)233-6341

Email: Jennifer.fernald@us.army.mil

Phone: 508.233.5449