

Subject

FW: KEVLAR HELMET DEMIL BULLETIN 73007

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The attachment is the bulletin that states there is a freeze on specific Kevlar Helmets. The freeze will be in effect until further notice. Below is an excerpt from a newspaper article that talks about the issue which resulted in DOD imposing the freeze. There is no evidence that the helmets failed any ballistic test. It is the discretion of the senior police official or the Public Safety Office to determine if the law enforcement officers will continue to wear the helmets until this issue is resolved. The LESO office will continue to monitor the situation and will provide you with any updates as they become available.

Up to 2 million helmets issued by the military between 1980 and 2003 may have been manufactured with substandard Kevlar.

The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the Sioux Manufacturing Corp. of Fort Totten, N.D., for allegedly producing Kevlar that did not meet minimum standards for safety, which would violate its contract with the Defense Department, according to investigation documents obtained by Military Times.

The Kevlar went into helmets that are part of the Personnel Armor System for Ground Troops, which is being phased out by the four services. The Marine Corps has migrated to the Lightweight Helmet, while the Army is phasing in the Advanced Combat Helmet. Both services began phasing out the PASGT helmets in 2003.

At issue is the density of the Kevlar cloth - woven by SMC - that is attached to the shell of the helmet and provides ballistic protection. According to the minimum standard dating back to 1987, each square inch of cloth must contain 35 vertical strands and 35 horizontal strands.

"It appears until April 2006, SMC may not have ever complied with the 35 x 35 standard weave density in its construction of complete PASGT helmets or its manufacture of Kevlar helmet cloth," according to the Justice Department's Investigative Summary, which was sent to the Pentagon on April 9. "This practice potentially impacts an estimated 2,000,000 PASGT

helmets."

The investigation found the weave density dropped to as low as 32.5 strands.

It remains unclear whether this level of protection presents a risk to service members, but there was no evidence found in the investigation's documents of helmets failing a ballistics test used to measure its safety due to deficiencies in the Kevlar cloth.