

# Body Armor Needs Cleaning, Too



If you ignore your body armor when you clean your clothing and other gear, you could get an unpleasant surprise when you try to turn it in.

The CIF (Central Issue Facility) expects clothing to be clean when you turn it in—and that goes for body armor, too. If you let sweat and dirt set for months in body armor, the armor becomes very difficult to get clean. One CIF reported that some soldiers have had to clean their armor four different times before it was clean enough to turn in. That's aggravation you want to avoid when you're processing out.

The body armor's collar is a real collector of sweat and dirt and it's the toughest area to clean. Just using a brush and water often won't do the job. You may think you've scrubbed out the dirt, but when the armor dries the dirt comes right back to the surface.



The best stuff for cleaning body armor is Jen-Brite, NSN 7930-01-359-9229. It's made specifically for the cordura material of the outer tactical vest cover. Before cleaning, remove the soft armor panels from within the vest. The panels shouldn't be cleaned or soaked in water, solvent, or cleaning solution.

Use a half-and-half mixture of Jen-Brite and water and a toothbrush to clean the collar and any other dirty spots. Non-bleach stain sticks also work well on dirty collars.

Once you're through brushing out the dirt, thoroughly rinse the whole outer tactical vest cover of your body armor in clean water. Then squeeze as much of the water out of the collar as you can. You don't need to do that for the rest of the jacket. Hang the vest cover upside-down to let it dry for at least 24 hours.



## Safety Goggles Protect Eyes

Need protection for your eyes? NSN 4240-01-292-2818 brings you dual purpose goggles that are impact resistant and protect against chemical splashes. The goggles cost about five bucks.