



**FREEZE
BALLISTIC
PLATES?**

NOT!



It's hot. It's muggy, and the heat is unforgiving for personnel wearing full combat gear.

Keeping cool in the desert is a must for those wearing the interceptor body armor (IBA) with ballistic plates.

To get temporary relief from the heat, some soldiers freeze their ballistic plates before putting on their gear.

In the short run this practice may seem OK, but in the long run it could be deadly.

The constant freezing and thawing of plates over an extended period of time can degrade plate adhesives.

This is a big problem between the spill cover and the internal plate components, but more importantly, between the backing material and the ceramic tile within the plate. Repeated freezing and thawing can cause separation or debonding of material within the plates.

On one hand, you'll be cool for a while. On the other, repeatedly freezing and thawing plates can result in a catastrophic plate failure that can put your life in harm's way.

If you're hot, find another way to stay cool, but never freeze ballistic plates.