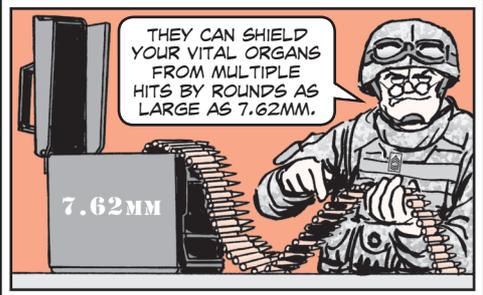


# TAKE AN INTEREST IN CERAMIC INSERTS

THE ENHANCED SMALL ARMS PROTECTIVE INSERTS (ESAPI) AND THE ENHANCED SIDE BALLISTIC INSERTS (ESBI) IN YOUR IMPROVED OUTER TACTICAL VEST (IOTV) ARE COMPONENTS OF THE FINEST BODY ARMOR EVER MADE.



THEY PROTECT YOU, SO HOW ABOUT DOING A LITTLE WORK TO PROTECT THEM?

THAT INCLUDES INSPECTING, CLEANING AND STORING.



## No Rough Stuff

For starters, don't play rough with the inserts. That means no throwing them to the ground or dropping them on hard surfaces. Even though they're tough, the inserts are ceramic and they can crack if you manhandle them. And cracks weaken an insert's ballistic protection.



## Inspecting

INSPECT EACH INSERT FOR CRACKS BEFORE EACH MISSION AND ONCE A DAY DURING GARRISON OR FIELD USE.

- Handle the insert to see if it flexes.
- Listen for crunching sounds that indicate broken pieces.

● Shake the insert and listen for loose pieces rattling around.



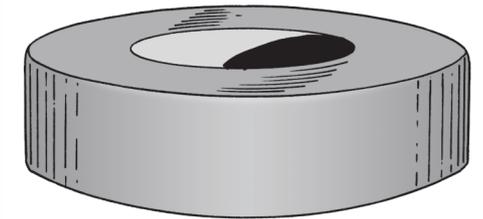
IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST LOOKING IT OVER, BECAUSE CRACKS MAY BE HIDDEN UNDERNEATH THE FABRIC.

HERE'S HOW TO INSPECT YOUR INSERT...



- Look for rips, tears or holes in the fabric that expose the black ceramic tile.

If you find any of these problems, the insert is unserviceable. Turn it in to support and get a replacement. As a field fix during operations, you can patch torn fabric with 100-mph tape, NSN 7510-00-266-5016. But remember, this is a temporary fix until you can replace the insert.



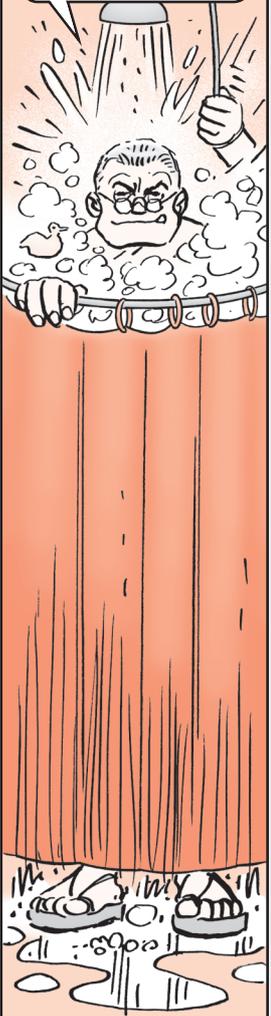
Patch fabric with 100-mph tape

If your ESAPI or ESBI gets hit by bullets or fragments, its ballistic protection is weakened. So play it safe. Turn in damaged inserts to support.



## Cleaning

DIRTY, GRIMY INSERTS NEED A GOOD CLEANING, ESPECIALLY BEFORE YOU TURN THEM IN TO THE CENTRAL ISSUE FACILITY (CIF).



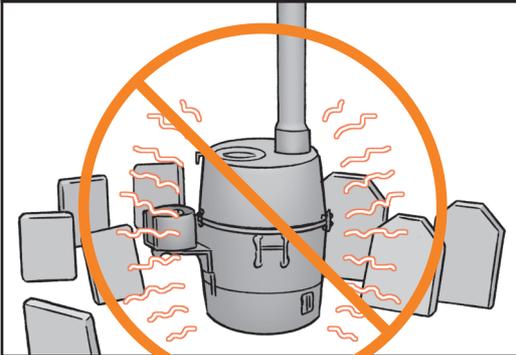
- Never machine wash or dry. That causes too much wear and tear on the ESAPI and ESBI, not to mention the washer and dryer.
- Use a cloth or soft brush to remove loose dirt or lint from the surface. Never use a stiff-bristled brush. You could tear the fabric.

- Wet the ESAPI and ESBI with warm (**not hot**) water. Hand wash with a mild soap or detergent and a cloth or soft brush. Scrub badly soiled areas with GI soap. Scrub only long enough to remove the soil.



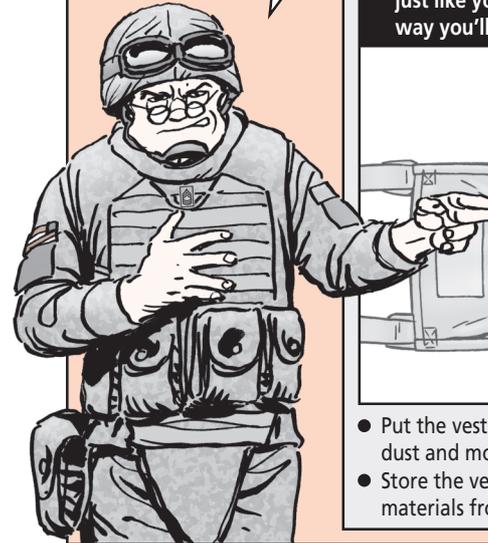
- To clean heavy grease and oil, apply a mix of detergent and dry cleaning solvent, NSN 6850-00-110-4498, directly on the spots and scrub with a soft brush.
- After washing, rinse with clean, warm water until all suds are gone.

- Lean the inserts against a post or wall and let them air dry. **Never** dry them near a heater or open flame. That could degrade the ballistic protection.



## Storing

ALWAYS CLEAN THE ESAPI AND ESBI BEFORE STORING.



- Put the inserts into the IOTV vest pockets—just like you were going to wear them. That way you'll know exactly where they are.



- Put the vest in a plastic bag to keep out dirt, dust and moisture.
- Store the vest as flat as possible to keep the materials from bunching.

## NSNs and Sizes

THE **ESBI**, NSN 8470-01-536-7227, IS A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL INSERT.

THE **ESAPI**, HOWEVER, COMES IN FIVE SIZES.



As a rule, to fit properly, the ESAPI should be the same size as the vest. For example, if you wear a medium vest, order the medium ESAPI. The exception to the rule is if you wear an XX-, XXX- or XXXX-large vest. The ESAPI doesn't come in those sizes, so order the X-large inserts. All size inserts are interchangeable between front and back pockets.

NSN 8470-01-520-	Size
7360	X-small
7370	small
7373	medium
7385	large
7382	X-large

MAKE SURE YOU'RE WEARING THE RIGHT INSERTS...



- The ESAPI and ESBI have dark green covers.
- The older small arms protective insert (SAPI) has a black cover.
- The ESAPI offers better protection than the SAPI.
- If you're in theater, wear only the ESAPI.
- If you have the SAPI, turn it in and replace it with the ESAPI.
- SAPI should be used for training only.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT THESE REFERENCES AND THEIR WEBSITES...



TM 10-8400-203-23, *General Repair Procedures for Individual Equipment* (May 90 w/ Ch 12, Nov 08), Chapter 25  
<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/online.cfm>

*Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV) Use and Care Manual*, Specialty Defense Systems, AKO website

PS, *The Preventive Maintenance Monthly*, articles in issues 627 and 644:  
<https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/archives/PS2005/627/627-46-47.pdf>

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/archives/PS2006/644/644-50-52.pdf>

TACOM LCMC MAM 09-005, IOTV, ESAPI/ESBI, DTG 311610Z Oct 08,  
<https://aeps.ria.army.mil/aepspublic.cfm>

#### IMPROVED OUTER TACTICAL VEST (IOTV) USE AND CARE MANUAL



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