



For Immediate Release

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Lion Apparel Delivers Safety To Florida Law Enforcement Agencies

DAYTON, OHIO – June 5, 2007 – Local Florida law enforcement agencies that make up the Regional Domestic Security Task Force SWAT teams received their 675 new Tactix MT94(TM) protective ensembles thanks to a grant from the Department of Homeland Security and Lion Apparel. A one-time windfall of residual DHS funds allowed for the massive statewide purchase that will replace existing SWAT tactical ChemicalBiological protective garments in the field. The state Division of Emergency Management selected Lion Apparel after a thorough consideration of competitive offerings. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement facilitated the distribution of ensembles for the regional teams comprised of county sheriffs offices and police departments.

The MT94(TM) Ensemble guards against challenges identified in NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1994 and 1992 standards. This multi-wear ensemble is designed to provide protection against a variety of threats, including chemical and biological terrorism agents. The MT94(TM) employs GORE CHEMPAK(R) Ultra Barrier fabric, a thin, lightweight, and high-strength PTFE film with a tough NOMEX(R) outer shell. When combined with the streamlined and functional design of the MT94(TM), it delivers outstanding protection and creates a significant reduction in weight and bulk. This provides a greater range of motion, increased mobility, and ease in donning and doffing.

"Lion and Gore principally designed the MT94(TM) for high-level of vapor impermeability to protect against select chemical and biological terrorism agents," says Tom Martin, Lion Business Development Director. However, the MT94(TM) has a wide range of uses beyond HAZ-MAT and technical rescue applications. Its protection against flame and "weaponized" chemical and biological agents, high-risk entries (such as narcotics labs), and bomb threats (secondary threat protection) make MT94(TM) ideal for the mission of the Florida Domestic Security initiative.

The Florida Domestic Security initiative includes the State Working Group of local and state agencies along with liaisons from several federal and association partners. The SWG shapes Floridas prevention and response capabilities to terrorism threats. The primary group responsible for the MT94 issue is the Equipment and Logistics sub-committee. The sub-committee reviews Floridas Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) response capabilities based on best practices and technology and makes recommendations for enhancements.

"Over the past two years law enforcement members identified the need to replace the existing SWAT tactical CBRNE garment," says John Kohnke, government analyst with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Domestic Security. During the search, Diane Redden of Lion Apparel introduced the MT94 to the subcommittee. The Leon County Sheriff's Office, a regional SWAT team, took the lead on analyzing the garments potential use in a CBRNE tactical environment. "The MT94(TM) received favorable review and was recommended back to the sub-committee for consideration for future grant funding," Kohnke added.

"What separates the MT94(TM) from all other chemically-protective ensembles is its combination of durability, mobility, safety, and comfort," says Lt. Ed Allen, Emergency Management Coordinator of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, another recipient agency. "The MT94(TM) really showcases its tactical mobility. It is lightweight and easy to don and doff so that our officers can perform more efficiently and effectively. Plus, it's re-usable. We can wash and wear it multiple times as long as it hasn't been exposed or contaminated."

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