



Effects of Storage on the Chemical Agent Resistance of Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST)

# Gene Stark Scientific Conference on Chemical & Biological Defense Research

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- JSLIST Overview
- JSLIST Additional Source Qualification (JASQ)
- JSLIST Extended Storage Tests
- Environmental Conditioning Effects on JSLIST
- Conclusion







## Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST)





- Lightweight chem/bio protective garment includes: two piece suit, overboots, and gloves.
- First fielded in 1997.
- Air permeable to reduce heat stress.
- Can be laundered up to 6 times and worn for 45 days during service life.
- Service life of 120 days out of package.
- Recent data suggests service life can be extended.







# JSLIST Additional Source Qualification Program (JASQ)





- JSLIST liner is made exclusively by a German company.
- Goal: Identify additional manufacturers of JSLIST which will then be used by the 5 current JSLIST cut and sew production facilities for follow-on JSLIST suit production.
- Testing initiated August 2001.
- JSLIST tested side-by-side other vendors.







## **JASQ Test and Evaluation Phases**



JASQ Test and Evaluation consisted of 4 Phases:

- <u>Phase 1</u> (Aug-Sep 01) Environmental storage
- <u>Phase 2</u> (Oct 01-Feb 02) Field Durability

Developmental Test (FDDT)

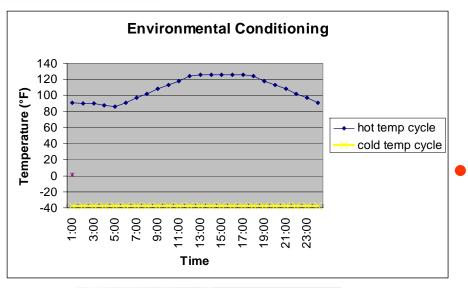
- <u>Phase 3</u> (Mar 02) MIST & Aerosol Testing
- <u>Phase 4</u> (Oct 02-Mar 03) Chemical Agent Swatch Testing







## JASQ Environmental Storage Phase 1: Aug-Sep 2001







- 60 JSLIST suits undergo accelerated storage in vacuum packaging at Dugway:
  - 30 days in hot cycle storage (86-126 °F).
  - 30 days in cold storage (-38 °F).
- Packages remain unopened throughout 60 days.







## JASQ Field Durability Developmental Test Phase 2: Oct 2001-Feb 2002

Suits with 60 days storage from Phase 1



- 300 Marines wear JASQ and JSLIST suits.
- 720 cumulative wear hours.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment performing 24- and 96- hour infantry training missions.
  0 to 90°F, desert environment and solar load.



Phase 2 testing examined durability & comfort issues







#### JASQ System Test and Evaluation Phase 3: Mar 2002





• System Testing (MOPP 4 ensembles) in aerosol chamber at Research Triangle Inc., NC.

Worn garments from Phase 2 were used for MIST and Aerosol Testing



• System Testing (MOPP 4 ensembles) in vapor chamber at Dugway Proving Ground, UT.

Phase 3 testing examined chemical performance issues for system level tests (MOPP 4 ensembles)







### JASQ Swatch Test and Evaluation Phase 4: Oct 2002-Mar 2003

Worn garments from phase 2 were used for chemical swatch and system testing



Chemical Tests:

- Worn JASQ Suits.
- 45 Days cumulative wear.
- Material swatch tests on new, worn and treated or environmentally conditioned materials with agents HD, GD and VX.

Phase 4 testing examined chemical performance issues for materials (swatch)

















## JASQ Swatch Test and Evaluation Phase 4 Cont.: Oct 2002-March 2003



- Worn JSLIST stored in sealed bags in controlled storage at Dugway from Oct 2002-April 2003.
- Baseline HD and GD wet sweat swatch testing at Dugway and Battelle HMRC in October 2002.

• Suits placed in controlled storage at Dugway from Oct 2002-April 2003.

- HD and GD wet sweat swatch testing repeated at Dugway and Battelle HMRC in April 2003.
- No statistically-significant difference ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the baseline materials and those stored for 6 months.

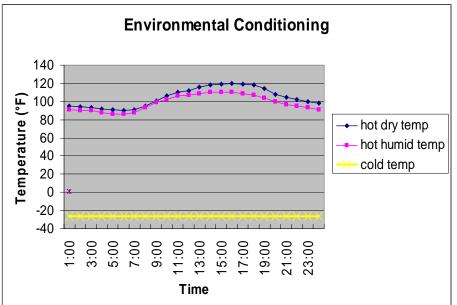
• Two-sample t-test using pooled variance used The Nation's Chemical & Biological Defense Proving Ground





## JASQ Swatch Test and Evaluation Environmental Conditioning Oct-Nov 2001







- New out of bag JSLIST stored separately:
  - Hot dry (90-120 °F) for 45 days in Dugway chamber.
  - Hot (86-110 °F), humid (up to 40% RH) for 45 days.
  - Cold (-26 °F) for 45 days.
- Daily flexing 7 times per week.
  - Unfold and Don.
  - Zip and unzip closures.
  - Doff and fold.
- After environmental conditioning complete, suits were placed in a sealed bag in controlled storage for 16 months.
- Swatch testing with HD and VX in March 2003 showed no degradation in chemical agent protection compared to new JSLIST.







## **JSLIST Shelf Life Conclusions**



- No degradation in chemical agent protection of JSLIST after:
  - 45 days of wear and between 8 and 14 months of controlled storage (60-75  $^{\circ}$ F, < 70% RH).
  - Out of package suits stored for 45 days between 90 and 120 °F at low humidity followed 16 months of controlled storage.
  - Out of package suits stored for 45 days at -26 °F followed by 16 months of controlled storage.
  - Out of package suits stored for 45 days between 86 and 110 °F at high humidity followed 16 months of controlled storage.



