

Soldier Enhancement Program

By Sergeant Major Thomas House and Mr. Larry T. Hasty

There is a process in the Army that was established to help soldiers get needed commercial items fielded in a short period of time. The Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP) was congressionally approved in 1989, initially for the "foot soldier," but revised in 1992 to include all soldiers. The objective of the SEP is to increase the lethality, survivability, mobility, command and control, and sustainability of the soldier through an accelerated acquisition process to get lighter, more lethal weapons and improved "soldier items" into the hands of soldiers quicker. SEP recommendations from soldiers and their commanders are highly encouraged. Participation by soldiers and their commands enhances the credibility of the program and ensures that SEP dollars are focused where they will do the most good.

Proposals go to the SEP Council, which convenes quarterly. To qualify for a SEP project, a proposal must be—

- An item that will be worn, carried, or consumed by individuals in a tactical environment.
- A nondevelopmental item that is now commercially available, off-the-shelf.
- An item soldiers are buying with their own money to make life better in the field.

Upon approval by the SEP Council, the proposal will be assigned to one of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) proponent schools to develop a tailored capability development document (CDD) for the item, and the CDD will be approved by that school's commandant to expedite the process. For some items, such as other government agency items or items in the General Services Administration catalog, a CDD may not be required.

The SEP is not an incentive awards program. No monetary awards are given for proposals that are adopted for use and that result in savings to the government.

Current programs in various stages of the SEP process include the following:

- Rapid wall-breaching kit
- XM102 reloadable hand grenade
- M9 pistol rail
- Blast-protection footwear
- Enhanced fuel bar
- Electric stun device
- Petroleum, oil, and lubricant (POL) handler gloves
- Family of metal detectors
- Semiautomatic sniper system
- Close combat mission capability kit
- Close quarters battle kit
- Modular accessory shotgun

- Family of suppressors
- Integrated laser white-light pointer
- 12-gauge extended-range nonlethal round
- XM104 nonlethal bursting hand grenade
- Fuel handler coveralls
- Future handgun system
- Military operations in urban terrain lifeline
- Maxillofacial shield

SEP proposals can be submitted through the automated process at <http://peosoldier.army.mil>. Proposal forms can be obtained by e-mailing Sergeant Major Thomas House or Mr. Ken Sutton at the TRADOC System Manager-Soldier office at Fort Benning, Georgia, at houset@benning.army.mil or suttonk@benning.army.mil or calling DSN 835-1189/6047/3327 or commercial (706) 545-1189/6047/3327 or mailing—

Mr. Ken Sutton
6751 Constitution Loop
Building 4, Room 632
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

The Assistant TRADOC System Manager-Soldier at Fort Knox, Kentucky, can also provide information and SEP proposal forms. E-mail Lieutenant Colonel Craig Carson at craig.carson@knox.army.mil or Mr. Larry T. Hasty at larry.hasty@knox.army.mil or call DSN 464-3662/3519 or commercial (502) 624-3662/3519.



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Correction

An article entitled "Wearing Synthetic Fiber Underwear Under the Nomex CVC Uniform," (*Engineer*, October-December 2003, page 37) contained National Stock Numbers (NSNs) for obsolete combat vehicle crewman gloves. The recommended replacements are "Gloves, flyers, summer (green)*," or "Gloves, mounted crewman," with the following NSNs and sizes:

Gloves, flyers, summer (green)		Gloves, mounted crewman	
8415-01-482-8417	4	8415-01-446-9247	5
8415-01-040-2012	5	8415-01-446-9248	6
8415-01-040-1453	6	8415-01-446-9252	7
8415-01-029-0109	7	8415-01-446-9253	8
8415-01-029-0111	8	8415-01-446-9254	9
8415-01-029-0112	9	8415-01-446-9255	10
8415-01-029-0113	10	8415-01-446-9259	11
8415-01-029-0116	11		
8415-01-482-8420	12		

* Other colors may be available.