Ballistic Materials for High-Performance Body Armor

Protecting the Protectors
Honeywell Spectra Shield® and Gold Shield® Materials for Body Armor

Honeywell Spectra Shield® and Gold Shield® ballistic materials have been protecting military and law enforcement personnel for more than 20 years. These high-performance composites have been specially designed for comfort and flexibility. Both use Honeywell's patented unidirectional Shield technology to enhance ballistic properties and are manufactured under a comprehensive quality control process.

- Gold Shield materials provide a balance of performance and value.
- Spectra Shield materials deliver some of the most efficient protection available today and are used to meet extreme performance and weight requirements. Spectra Shield contains Honeywell Spectra® fiber, which is pound for pound up to 15 times stronger than steel yet light enough to float.

A Proven Track Record

With excellent stopping power in multi-hit and angle-shot situations, Honeywell materials provide ultimate protection for those who protect all of us. Today, more than half of all NIJ.06 certified vest models rely on Honeywell ballistic materials to deliver the performance demanded by law enforcement and military personnel throughout the world. In South America:

- Vests produced with Honeywell ballistic materials have passed the stringent RETEX requirements in Brazil and the RENAR requirements in Argentina.
- Vests made with Honeywell ballistic materials have been used by Fondo Rotatorio de la Policía (FORPO) and the Ministry of Defense (MOD) in Colombia, by the Departamento de Policía Federa, the Policía Rodoviária Federal, the Policía Civil and the Forças Armadas Brasileira in Brazil and by the Carabineros de Chile.

Throughout the world, Honeywell’s ballistic materials are used in vests for the U.S. Military, Special Forces, Coast Guard, Border Patrol, FBI, CIA, Customs and Secret Services; Australian Special Forces; Royal Netherlands Army; Ecuadorian Army; Indian Border Security Force; Israeli MOD; National Police Agency of Japan; Royal Thai Police; Spanish Ministry of Defence and Taiwan National Police Agency and Army.

Protecting the Protectors

When used in bullet-resistant vests and other armor goods, Honeywell ballistic materials provide:

Protection against fragmentation—Reducing injury and death from ballistic fragments caused by improvised explosive devices, hand grenades, shrapnel and pipe bombs.


Lower back-face protection—Honeywell unidirectional Shield products spread the energy of impact over a wider area than woven products. This reduces blunt-force trauma, which can cause significant injury and death.

Comfort and concealability—The light weight, high performance and flexibility of Honeywell ballistic materials improve comfort and make it easier for users to wear their vests all day. Our materials also help vest manufacturers design vests that are easily concealed under uniforms.

Negligible moisture absorption—Vests made with Honeywell ballistic materials have passed the stringent NIJ.06 requirement for maintaining ballistics performance after being submerged in water.

Lighter weight—Vests containing Honeywell ballistic materials are up to 10% lighter than vests made from woven products and meet the same ballistic performance levels.

Custom Solutions

Honeywell’s Shield technology revolutionized armor systems more than 20 years ago. Since then, Honeywell has been recognized worldwide as a premier source of ballistic materials for law enforcement, military and security applications. Honeywell produces more than 20 ballistic composites that offer protection from fragments and bullets while balancing economic, performance, comfort and durability requirements.

Honeywell’s extensive in-house material research and developmental capabilities, coupled with our global sales and technical support network, can help you identify the best ballistic material for your program. Contact us today.

Honeywell Spectra® Materials Provide Ultimate Protection

Spectra Shield II is a high performance ballistic material that has been incorporated into several NIJ.06 certified vests. The stopping power of this material is depicted in the illustration below.

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