



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

Protective Equipment

Reduction and Prevention of Eye Injuries

In collaboration with USAPHC, PM SPE is preventing and reducing the severity of eye injuries through the issue and use of ballistic fragmentation protective eyewear through the Military Combat Eye Protection program. Every Service Member is provided with military combat eye protection that was evaluated, tested, and acquired by PM SPE. Since the implementation of Military Combat Eye Protection program in 2004, the number of eyewear injuries has decreased, while the number of attacks and blast events seen by the Service Member continued to increase. In addition, eyewear injuries seen from these events were less severe (reduced on the abbreviated injury score by one or more) than those who were not wearing eye protection. PM SPE continues to monitor Service Member feedback and injury data to improve the protection of the eyewear and reduce eyewear injuries. Information gathered directly influenced requirements for the next generation of eye protection: the Transition Combat Eye Protection, a subsystem of the SPS.