

Improved Load Bearing Equipment

DESCRIPTION

The Improved Load Bearing Equipment (ILBE) is designed to provide a durable and lightweight means for deployed Marines to transport their individual combat clothing and equipment. ILBE is a modular system consisting of a 4500 cubic-inch main ruck sack, a 1500 cubic-inch detachable assault pack, and a 100-ounce on the move hydration system. The main ruck sack has two side pockets with associated compression straps for irregularly shaped gear such as 60mm or 81mm mortar rounds, skis, snowshoes, or SMAWs. This program will replace the Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) system in the Marine Corps. Major improvements include superior durability, greater comfort of wear, reduced system complexity, reduced system weight and sustainability, and better integration with the Outer Tactical Vest. Currently, a reconnaissance variant of this pack system is being produced for the recon community (AO 3,500) and a medical bag version of the

assault pack, the Corpsman's Assault Pack, is under production to replace the MOLLE med-bag (AO 6,000).

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

This improved load-bearing system will result in less fatigue, fewer equipment failures, and more combat effectiveness during the execution of assigned missions.

PROGRAM STATUS

Milestone C approval for full-rate production of the pack occurred in August 2003. The equipment was fielded in January 2004. Initial operational capability was achieved in second quarter FY 2005. Full operational capability is slated for first quarter FY 2009.

Procurement Profile:	FY 06	FY 07
Quantity:	49,000	37,000
Developer/Manufacturer:	• Propper International, St Charles, MO	
	• Assault load carrier: TBD	