



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

Protective Equipment

Reduction and Prevention of Eye Injuries

Researchers at the US Army Product Manager Soldier Protective Equipment (PM SPE) and the USAPHC are studying prevention and reduction of eye injury through the issue and use of ballistic fragmentation protective eyewear as part of the Military Combat Eye Protection (MCEP) program. Injury data and Service Member feedback has been gathered and analyzed to improve the protection of the eyewear and reduce eye injuries since the implementation of MCEP in 2004. During this period, the number of eyewear injuries has decreased, while the number of attacks and blast events seen by the Warfighter continued to increase. Results also indicate that eyewear injuries seen from these events were less severe (reduced on the Abbreviated Injury Scale [AIS] by one or more) than those who were not wearing eye protection. These findings directly influenced requirements for the next generation of eye protection: the Transition Combat Eye Protection (CEP), a subsystem of the SPS.