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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Modular Tactical Vest Contract Awarded Shipment of 60,000 MTVs Expected in February 2007**

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND, QUANTICO, Va. – The U.S. Marine Corps awarded a \$33,647,022.00 firm-fixed price contract last week to Protective Products International of Sunrise, Fla., for 60,000 Modular Tactical Vests (MTVs) with associated training. The work is expected to be completed by December 30, 2007, with the Marine Corps possibly receiving the first shipment of MTVs for fielding in February 2007.

The MTV provides additional capabilities to the Interceptor System's Outer Tactical Vest (OTV) and answers an "Urgent Statement of Need" request submitted by Marine Corps commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Marine Corps designed the MTV to optimize ballistic protection and enable individual Marines to carry additional armor and combat loads to best meet specific mission requirements. The new vest provides more protection from enemy threats and the environment, while considering human factors, such as comfort and usability, and the cost of production and maintenance. Additionally, the MTV addresses OTV shortfalls related to casualty treatment, comfort of wear and integration.

"Compared to the OTV, the MTV offers an increased Area of Coverage (AoC) for ballistic protection," stated Capt. John Gutierrez, an acquisition project officer for Marine Corps Systems Command. "This increase in AoC adds protection to the sides of the torso and the lower back and kidney region. The bottom line is that it offers an increased capability at approximately the same weight." According to the captain, the MTV also meets shortfalls related to quick release (emergency egress and casualty treatment), load bearing and adjustability.

Protective Products International will perform the work at its facility in Sunrise, Fla. The subcontractor Eagles Industries will perform work at its Fenton, Mo., and Lares, Puerto Rico, facilities.