SOTech BLOCS System

SOTech conceived the BLOCS system in 2002 with a desire to unify the pouches, vests and packs in our product range into a singular interoperable modular load carriage system. As custom nylon designers, we realized that a base harness system with a strong modular mounting system could be module tailored to fit each mission specialty once those specialties had been designated and organized.

SOTech established its internal magazine chest harness as a base. We created a full front and split front varieties along with plain panel racks and internal magazine racks. We then extended these with bibs and into vest patterns. From there we covered all the angles with hydration and armor integration. Soon operators appreciated that our company looked at load bearing kit as a series of mission supporting platforms and not just as vests and pouches that may or may not fit together. Marc Callahan, an SF operator recognized this and worked with us to develop the Callahan plate carrier which mission tailored to an SF ODA's skill sets. This system deployed in significant numbers with 20th SFG and has been a favorite throughout the GWOT.

The pouch arrangements that we arranged started as an attempt to cover every possible need in Generation 1. The pouch list was extensive. But with input from an elite SOF organization, SOTech moved to a simplified load out list, finding which pouches could be



multi-tasked. At the same time we developed the Flex-tab TM system which removed the metal MOLLE snap, making it field repairable and wind tunnel tested at 750 Knotts. Also on recommendation from this SOF organization, we led the way in implementing lighter weight and simplified nylon systems including 500 denier Cordura. BLOCS Gen 2 was arranged as a set of chest rigs, armor carriers and pouches in a load out bag tailored to the operator, but the system was much simpler and lighter than other comparable systems in use at the time. Additionally, as a rule the BLOCS system components were designed to integrate completely with all pack elements of SOTech's Mission Pack System.

A base range of pouches for the common rifleman was establishes, while a specialize set of add on modular pouches were created tailored to leaders, medics, heavy weapons operators, snipers, breachers, grenadiers, bomb techs, and

commo operators. These pouches were announced under the Ground Warrior Augmentation Kit (GWAK) Program. These kits were set to augment the SOTech Gen III rifleman set or the basic Army or SOCOM issued kits.

Finally, SOTech fielded BLOCS Gen III as a development project with NAVSPECWAR West Coast elements. Modernizing its plate carrier and soft armor carrier, SOTech integrated the two into a modular integratable pair that also accepted a modular floatation harness and a heating and cooling module. Taking direction from the evolution from Gen I to Gen II, we continued the trend by simplifying and lightening the rig even further. Working to minimize the profile of the operator, SOTech went a step beyond our competitors and integrated hydration, communications, ammunition and medical systems into the low profile body of the vest, providing the simplest, lightest and most maneuverable vest available.

