

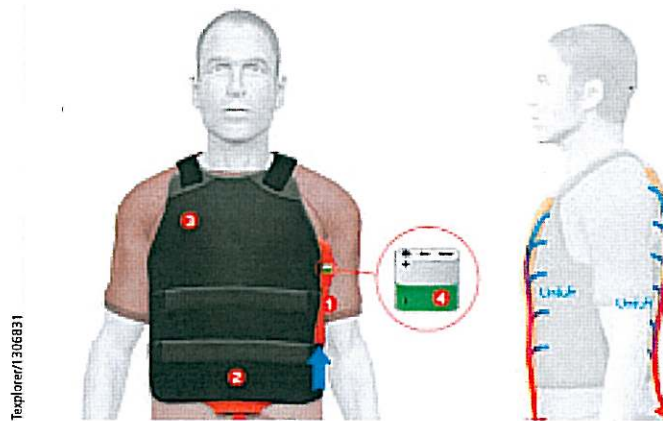
Ventilated body armour protects posture

New stab-resistant body armour provides posture support and a built-in cooling system

POLICE in Cologne are to pilot new body armour which increases the ballistic and stab resistant properties of the kit but redistributes the weight of the suit around the officer's torso to avoid back injury problems.

The new armour technology, which has been developed on the back of the 'Future Soldier' armour technology project for the German army, features a load bearing ballistic vest which does not have to be supported by the police officer's back and shoulders.

Instead, the lightweight load bearing frame in the vest sits on the officer's hips to take the stress off the officer's torso. The integrated armour system also features a collar to increase protection to the neck area and has its own cooling system which ventilates air



FUTURE SOLDIER: Armour is not supported by back and shoulders

around the torso while the kit is being worn.

A rechargeable 12 volt battery which is incorporated into the vest powers the ventilation system.

The ballistic vest has been adapted from the military version

to increase the protection against knives and sharp instruments.

A spokeswoman for Texplorer, the company which developed the equipment told *Police Product Review* that police in Cologne are set to test the new body armour.

The project "Infantrymen of the Future - Enhanced System" (IdZ-ES) lead by the German army aims at increasing the soldier's performance with regard to mobility, stamina and the ability to command and survive. As a subcontractor of Rheinmetall Defence Electronics, Texplorer will revise the garment and protection concept of the basic system. Breakthroughs in the fields of ballistic protection as well as camouflage will be developed by using the latest technology and materials while emphasising the integration of the clothing and protective system with the personal equipment of the individual soldier. The main focus is set on the development of a complete system which, guarantees a high degree of adaptability to different conditions.

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