



## **Toyobo Praises Body Armor Manufacturers for Used Vest Testing and Officer Safety Initiatives**

Osaka, Japan, September 15, 2004 – Toyobo Co., Ltd. welcomes and appreciates the recent Armor Safety Report made public by DHB Armor Group ("DHB"), parent company to Point Blank and PACA. DHB reports that it established a testing protocol to inspect and test armor panels that have been in the field or stored in its non-environmentally controlled South Florida warehouse. Included in the tests were vest models that contain Zylon® fiber, which is manufactured by Toyobo.

“Toyobo is pleased that DHB has acted to confirm the safety of its Zylon-containing vests and to provide comfort, knowledge and security to the thousands of law enforcement officers who wear those vests” said Masakazu Saito, General Manager of the Zylon Department for Toyobo. “Officer safety is the paramount issue here and we are pleased with the efforts of DHB to provide police officers with knowledge of -- and confidence in -- their vests.”

Recently, Armor Holdings also announced a series of test results in conjunction with its American Body Armor (ABA) Xtreme ZX vests safety initiative. “Toyobo respects DHB and Armor Holdings for undertaking intensive testing protocols to ensure the safety of their Zylon-containing vests,” said Mr. Saito.

Toyobo has always encouraged -- and continues to encourage -- all body armor manufacturers to conduct any testing they deem necessary and appropriate on new and used armor. Toyobo also strongly endorses the public release of all test results so the law enforcement community can draw its own conclusions and make the most suitable choice in selecting body armor for officers faced with different threat levels and different applications. Toyobo commends DHB and Armor Holdings for their industry-leading decisions to test their used vests and publicly disclose their internal, and external, testing data.

Toyobo continues to work with the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice and other federal agencies in efforts to understand the science behind the effects of wear and degradation on the ballistic performance of used vests. According to NIJ, care and

maintenance of a vest have a greater impact on continued ballistic resistance than just the age of the vest.

Toyobo is currently distributing a free video to law enforcement organizations called “Care for Your Vest, and It Will Help Care for You.”

Toyobo Co., Ltd. is a versatile multi-national company based in Osaka, Japan active in chemicals, fibers, textiles, films, biochemicals, and pharmaceutical products. Toyobo was founded in 1882. Toyobo stock is traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Contact: Kent Jarrell at 202.230.1833 or [Kjarrell@apcoworldwide.com](mailto:Kjarrell@apcoworldwide.com)