



Toyobo Praises Armor Holdings for Announcing New Safety Initiative

Osaka, Japan, August 23, 2004 – Toyobo Co., Ltd. welcomes and respects Armor Holdings’ announcement of its new safety initiative on its American Body Armor™ (ABA) Xtreme ZX vests. Those vests contain Zylon® fiber, which is manufactured by Toyobo.

Toyobo is especially pleased that Armor Holdings conducted an intensive series of tests designed to confirm the safety of certain Armor Holdings’ body armor and has acted affirmatively to ensure the safety of law enforcement officers.

“Officer safety is the paramount issue here and Armor Holdings clearly wants police officers to have confidence in their vests,” said Masakazu Saito, General Manager of the Zylon Department for Toyobo. “Armor Holdings is acting in a responsible manner by continuing to harvest data about used body armor and processing that information into real-life action.”

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 Armor Holdings for its industry-leading decision to disclose its 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.

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