



Ministry
of Defence



LLB(Hons)
DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

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Bristol BS34 8JH



Via:

21 May 2020 Our Ref: FOI2020/05024

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 28 April 2020 requesting the following information:

Please could you provide me with a instruction manual for the Osprey MkIV A Body Armour, not MkIV.

Also what were the modifications/changes made to the MkIV Osprey Body Armour and its associated items that called for the advancement to the Osprey MkIV A.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below and at annex A, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at sections 40 (Personal Data) and qualified exemptions provided for at sections 26 (Defence) and 38 (Health and Safety) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Sections 26 and 38 are qualified exemptions and are subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details which are operationally sensitive and would prejudice the capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details that would prejudice the security of UK personnel serving in the UK and abroad and which would provide tactical advantage to our enemies and for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

Section 38 has been applied because some of the information has the potential to adversely affect the physical and/or mental health of UK personnel as well as endanger the safety of an individual by exposing vulnerabilities in the levels of protection. The balance of the public interest test concluded that, whilst release would increase public understanding and confidence, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding this

information. I have considered it necessary to apply the higher level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of “would” rather than “would be likely to”.

In response to your question concerning modifications and changes between Mk 4 and Mk 4A Osprey body armour, I can confirm the Mk 4 had a cummerbund that wrapped around the whole body which held the side plate pouch. This was removed and changed to just a small side plate pouch for the Mk 4A version. This change reduced weight and allowed for more flexibility on positioning the side plate pouch.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

DES SEC Pol Sec Land Equipment

Osprey Mk 4A Body Armour



LAND EQUIPMENT



USER CARE AND
ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Osprey Mk 4A Body Armour



Body Armour Cover- Vest Front- x1



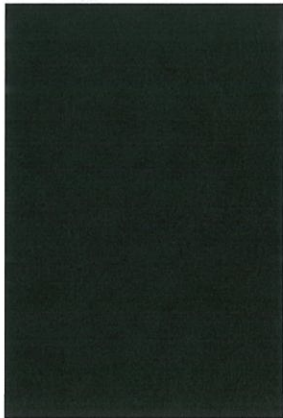
Body Armour Cover- Vest Back- x1



OPS Panel & T Bar fittings - x1



Waistbands Set - x1



Shoulder Guards, Pair
Left & Right with
elasticated fittings - x1



Brassards, Pair
Left & Right with
elasticated
fittings - x1



2 Piece Full Collar - x1



Ancillaries Set - x1

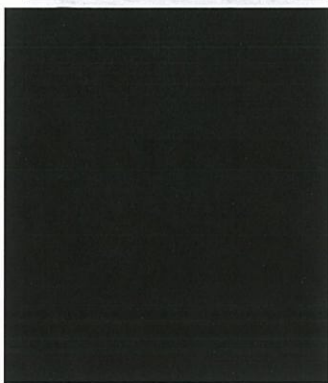
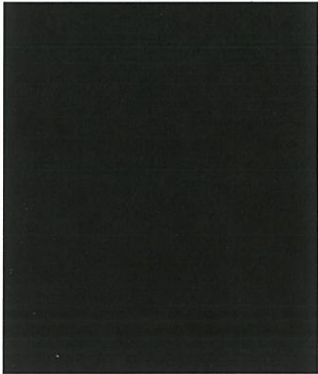
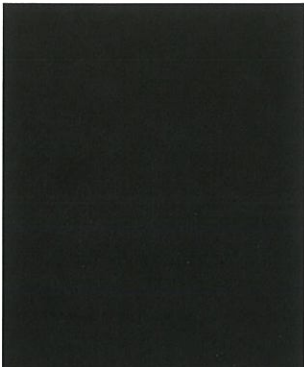
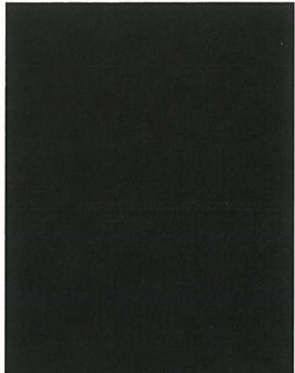


2 Piece Half Collar - x1



Blanking Panels,
Pair - x1

Accessories & Parts Listing



First Aid Pouch x1



Commanders Pouch x1



Water Bottle Pouch x1



LMG 100 Round Pouch x1



UGL 8 Round Pouch x1



Utility Pouch x1



SA80 2 Mag Ammo Pouch x4



SA80 Single Mag Ammo Pouch x3



SA80 Single Mag Ammo Pouch x3



Sharpshooter 3 Mag Ammo Pouch x1



9mm Pistol Ammo Pouch x2



AP Grenade Pouch x2



Smoke Grenade Pouch x2

NB: A set of Soft Armour is also included but has not been illustrated.

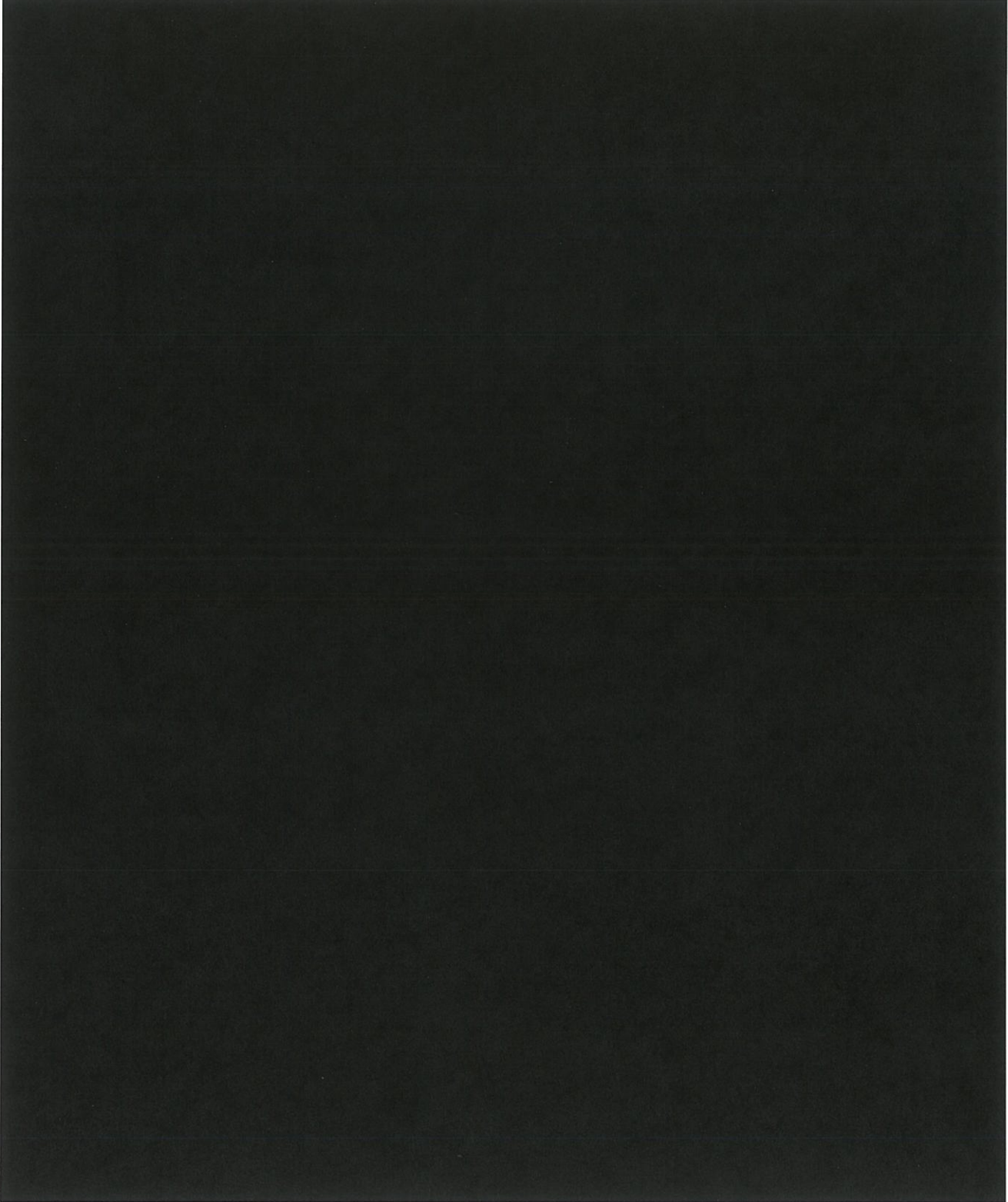
Light Fighting Order

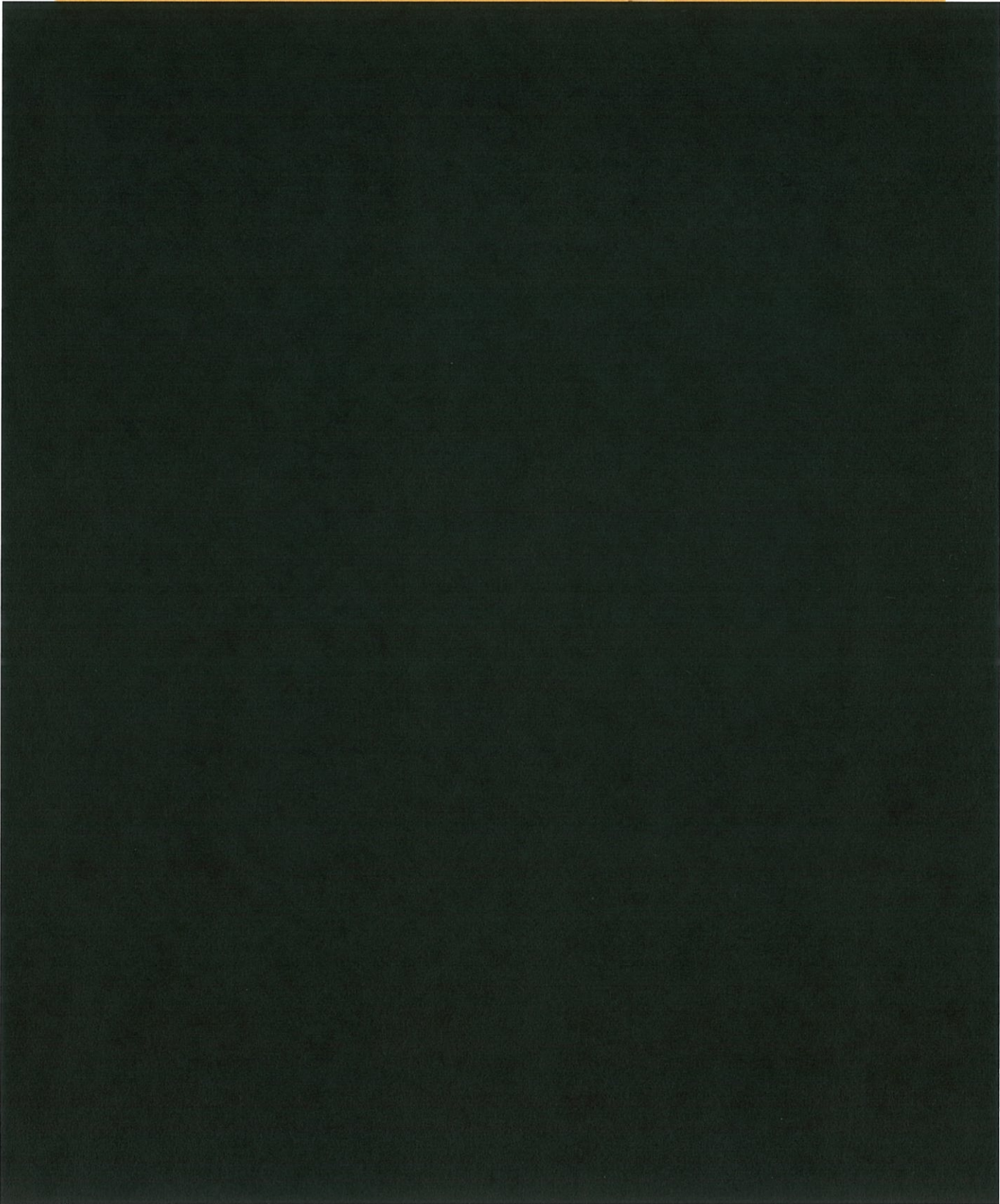


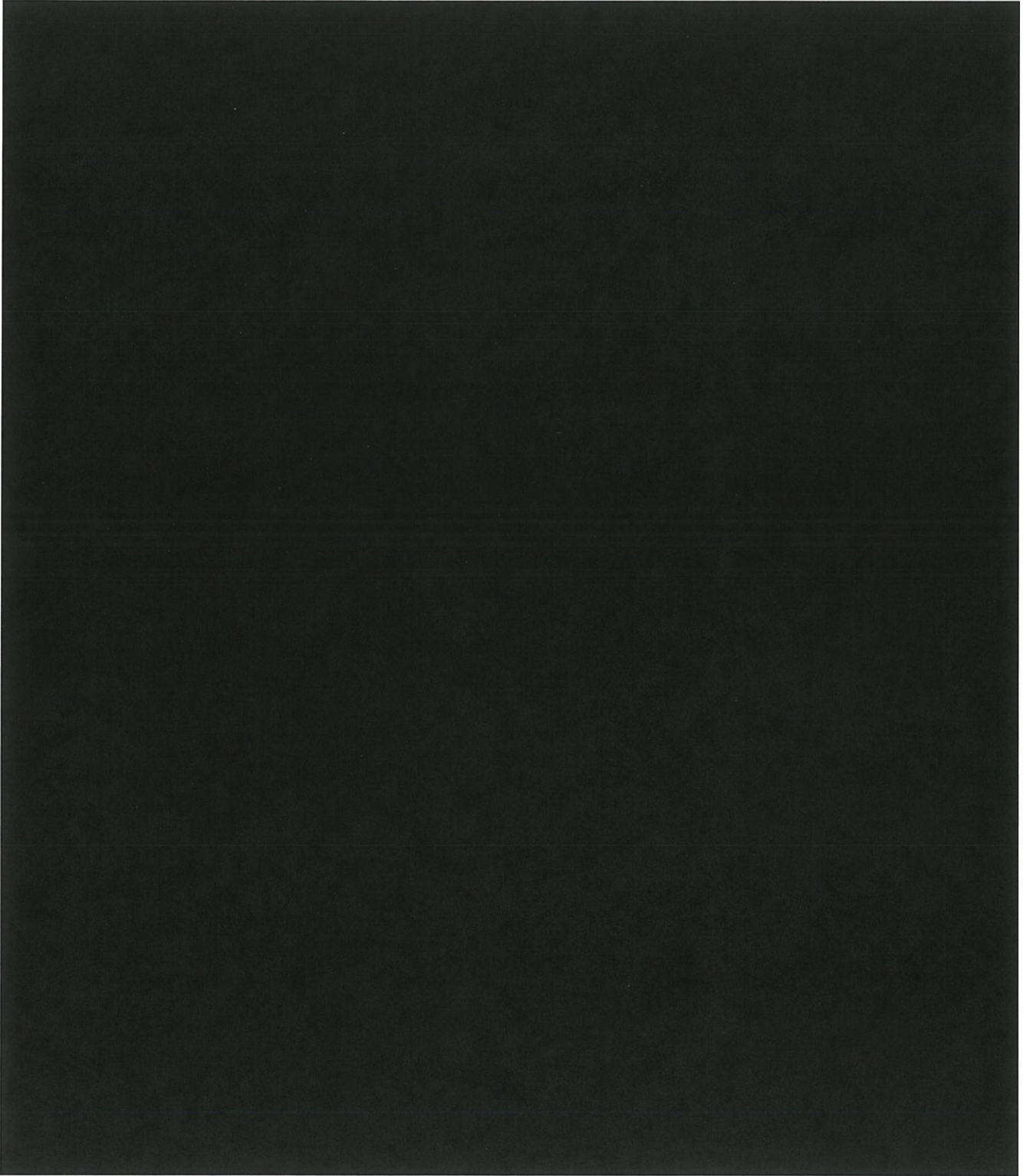
Complete Fighting Order



Assembly







Assembly

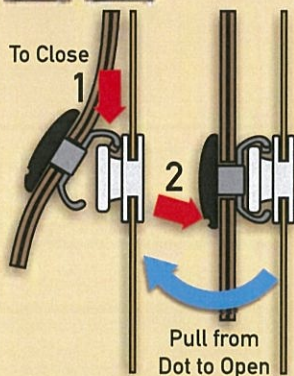
One way Studs

The studs used throughout the items in the Osprey Mk4 Body Armour, use 'One Way Studs' these prevent accidental release of fastenings whilst in use. They require no special equipment or tools to open. Any use of tools could permanently damage the fixings.

The stud is designed to only fasten or release when pushed or pulled in one direction, this direction is indicated by a dot on the stud button.



The top stud features a locking nub on the top of the inner rim



To close the stud the locking nub at the top of the female stud should be looped onto the raised rim of the male. Push the base of the stud and the two units lock.

To Open, simply pull the stud from the base.

Assembling the Main Vest Body

1

- ▶ On a suitable flat area. Lay out both parts of the Vest as indicated.



2

- ▶ Connect the Front & Back Vest panels together at the shoulders using the Hook & Loop and the two stud fixings.



3

- ▶ To complete the vest assembly bring the extended sides of the back panel around to fix to the front panel, fasten these at the sides by hook & loop fabric.



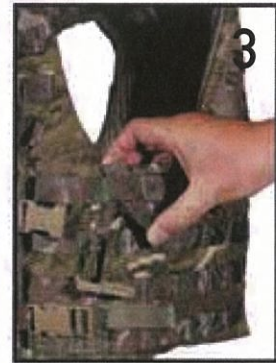
The waist band (pre fitted) is adjustable.

Assembly

Fitting the OPS Panel



▲ First Fixing of the OPS Panel is by Hook & Loop



- ▲ The studded loops hold the OPS Panel to the main vest body
- ▲ T Bars & Webbing straps add fixing points to the sides.
- ▲ The Webbing can be adjusted for fitting & comfort.

Assembly

Fitting the Collars

A choice of collars may be fitted. The full collar or the Half Collar.

Both Collars are supplied as a two piece unit and fit similarly.



▲ Full Collar



▲ Half Collar



1

Join the two collar sections, and fit the collar to the Vest Collar Flaps using the Hook & Loop fixings and complete by closing the three studs on each side.

▶ At the back of the collar, pull the webbing strap through the central top loop on the Vest Mollé Webbing



2



3

▶ Close the stud on the webbing strap to complete fitting.

The front of the collar is adjustable for comfort.

Assembly

Fitting the Brassards & Shoulder Guards

The Brassards & Shoulder Guards offer integrated protection for the upper arm and shoulder. Properly fitted they will not impede movement & flexibility.

- ▼ To fix the Brassard to the Vest. Open the main shoulder fixing and attach the top tab to the exposed vest using the Hook & Loop fixings. Reattach the shoulder fixing.



- ▲ The Brassards are additionally fixed to the vest by two short elasticated studded straps. The first attaches to the top front shoulder, as seen above.
- ▶ The second is attached 'through' the shoulder fixing to its fixing point on the back, see the photograph right.



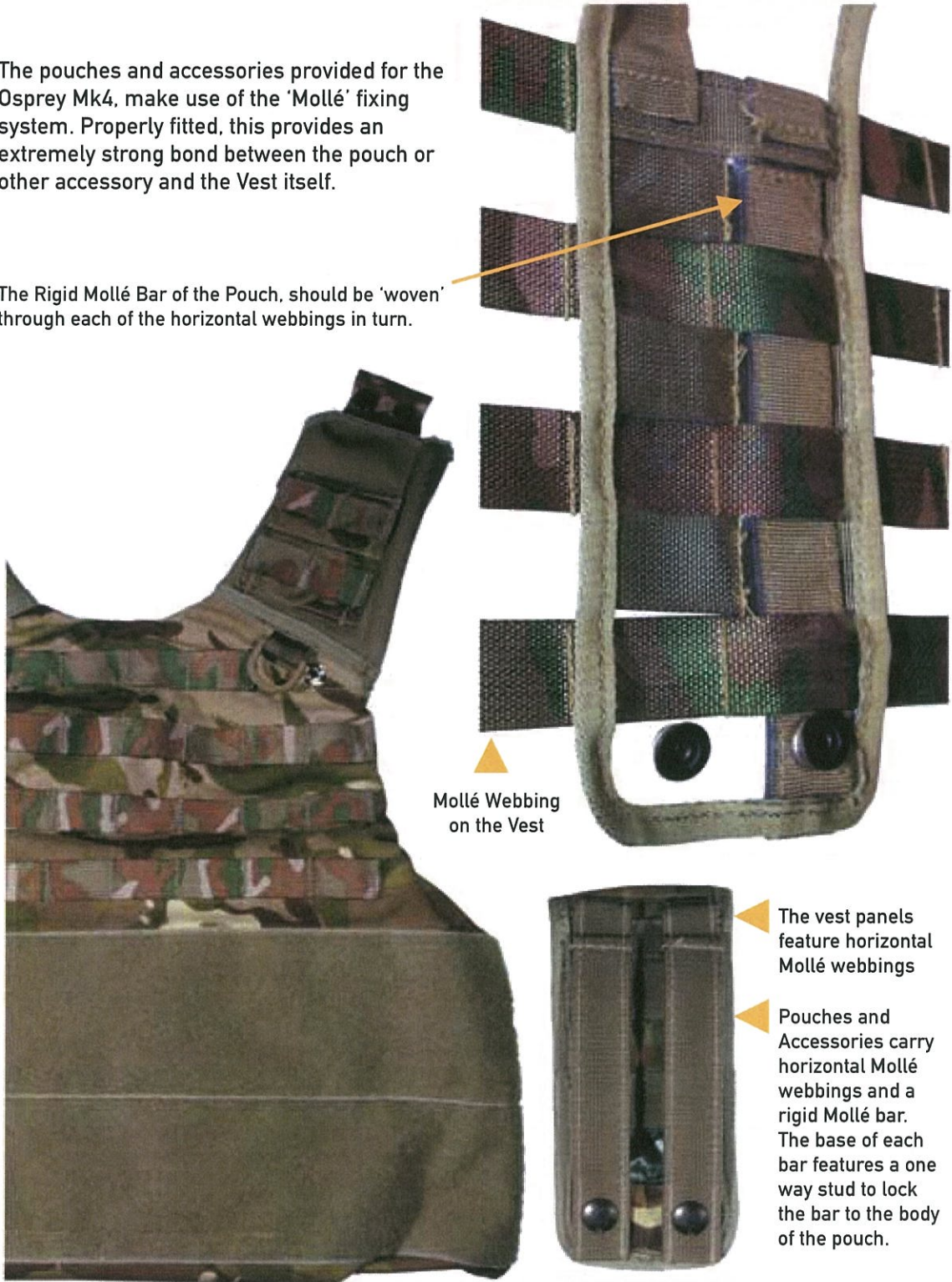
- ◀ The Shoulder Guards attach to the vest body using hook and loop fixings & 3 studs. Additional stability & flexibility is provided by attaching the studded elasticated strap to the Brassard.



Using the Mollé fixing system

The pouches and accessories provided for the Osprey Mk4, make use of the 'Mollé' fixing system. Properly fitted, this provides an extremely strong bond between the pouch or other accessory and the Vest itself.

The Rigid Mollé Bar of the Pouch, should be 'woven' through each of the horizontal webbings in turn.



Fitting the Ancillary items

Drop Sling Attachment



- ▲ The Drop sling is secured to the rear of the vest, using a T Bar fed into a rear Mollé

Firstly detach the T Bar and D ring from the and feed this through the Mollé webbing.

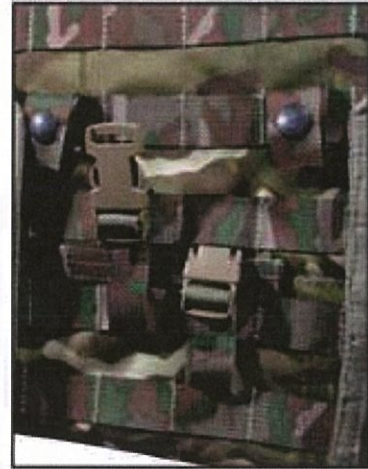
Reattach the sling ready for use.

Hydration Unit Fixings.

Fixings are provided to meet the requirements of most Hydration units. These can be positioned onto the Vest using the integral Mollé webbings.



- ▲ 2 x Side release buckles mounted on a T Bar provide attachments for the top of the hydration unit.



- ▲ An additional T Bar with 2 x Side release buckles with adjustable webbing straps provide attachments for the base of the hydration unit.

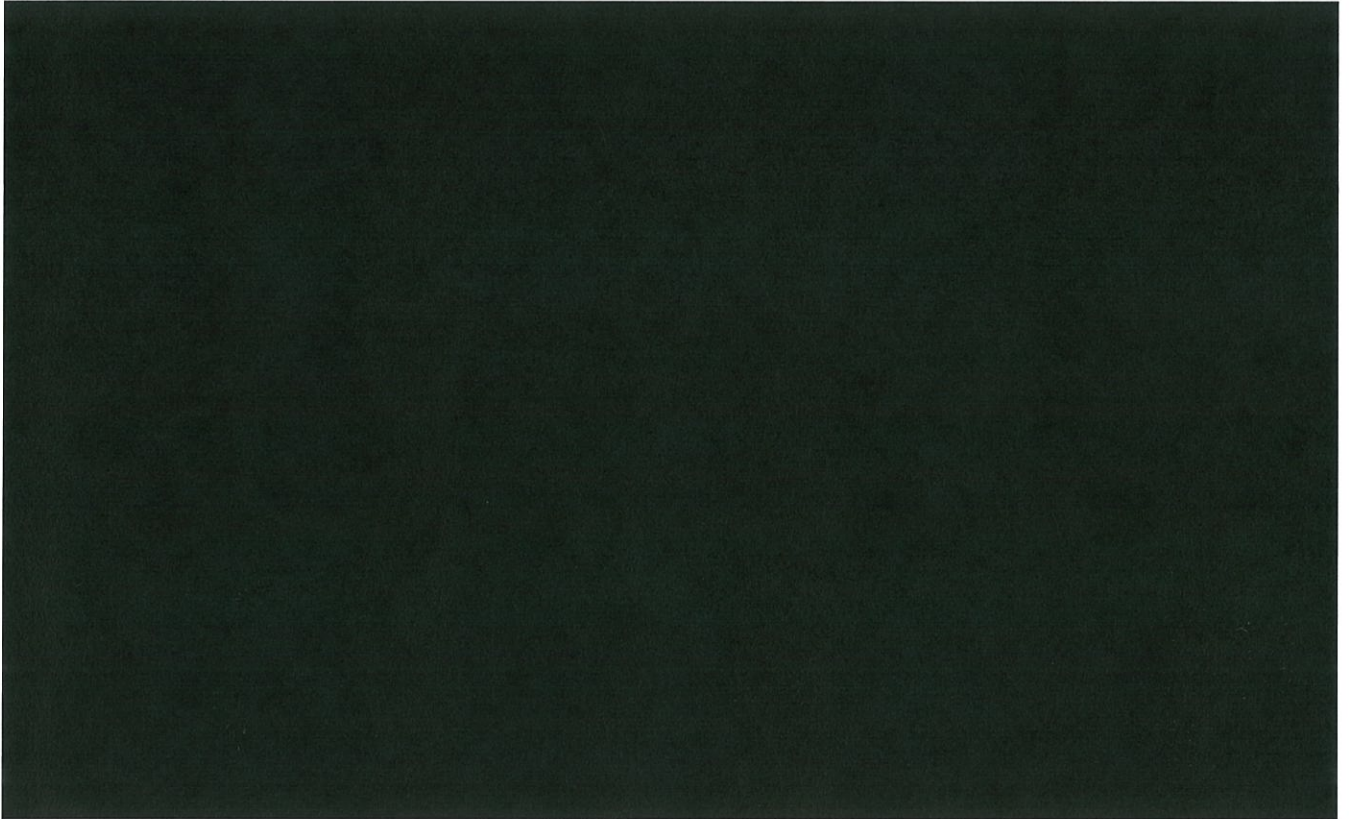
Further support is provided by 6 x short studded webbing fixings.

Rank Strap



- ◀ The Rank strap is fitted onto the front of the vest. It should be threaded through three Mollé webbings.

Hard Armour Plate Inspection



Soft Armour Maintenance

Inspection for panels and covers should follow the same guidelines as during laundering.

It is essential that the following regular maintenance is conducted:

- As a minimum period. The body armour is to be inspected annually by the QM Department.
- The body armour should be inspected for signs of damage to armour panels and protective covers.
- Armour panels should also be inspected at the earliest convenient time if the armour has had any physical contact with objects likely to cause damage.
- The outer cover is to be cleaned in a washing machine, in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.
- Fillers are to be removed prior to laundering.

Cleaning

THE COVER AND FILLER MUST BE SEPARATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FITTING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE CLEANING

Cover The cover is washed in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Filler To clean the filler, wipe the surface of the protective cover using a damp cloth.

DO NOT IMMERSE IN WATER

Dry thoroughly before inserting back into the cover.

Fitting/Correct Sizing

If your Body Armour is **TOO SHORT** it is suggested that you may need to go up a height group to achieve a better fit.

If your Body Armour is **TOO LONG** it is suggested that you may need to go down a height group to achieve a better fit.

Size	Height	Chest
170/100	Up to 170cm	Up to 100cm
170/112	Up to 170cm	100 to 112cm
180/104	Up to 180cm	Up to 104cm
180/116	Up to 180cm	104 to 116cm
190/108	Up to 190cm	Up to 108cm
190/120	Up to 190cm	108 to 120cm
200/116	Up to 200cm	Up to 116cm
200/124	Up to 200cm	116 to 124cm

NATO Stock Numbers (NSNs)

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 170/100
8470-99-684-4611

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 170/112
8470-99-684-4612

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 180/104
8470-99-684-4613

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 180/116
8470-99-684-4614

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 190/108
8470-99-684-4615

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 190/120
8470-99-684-4616

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 200/116
8470-99-684-4617

Cover Osprey Body
Armour Mk4A
Size 200/124
8470-99-684-4618



LAND EQUIPMENT

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