



# GENTEX<sup>®</sup>



*The National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) supports a Member Tested Program designed to offer law enforcement product manufacturers with a formal process to field-test products within the law enforcement community. Also, the program ensures the law enforcement community product is field-tested and is recommended by peers.*

*The NTOA is exclusively limited to active members of law enforcement agencies, or military SWAT / tactical / crisis negotiations units. Currently, there are approximately 3,500 participating police agencies across the United States. Its members can actively participate in a Product Field Test program as a tester, test new or revised products, rate products, and submit the ratings along with a summary of the test to the NTOA. When a product's score exceeds a rating of 3.0, the product is designated as a NTOA Member Tested & Recommend Product.*

*Presently, five Gentex products are member tested and member approved by the NTOA. For complete product details, please visit our web site: [www.gentexcorp.com](http://www.gentexcorp.com).*

## RAMPART Suit

Overall Score: 4.51

TESTER: Police officer from Missouri

Design: 5

Performance: 5

Ease of Use: 4

Size: 4

Quality: 5

Durability: 5

Storage: 4

Versatility: 5

Convenience: 5

Application: 5

Comfort: 5

Accuracy: NR

Cleaning & Maintenance: NR

Individual Score: 4.73

The Gentex® Rampart Suit is a two piece (bib type and jacket) chemical protective suit, that offers the fit, finish, and comfort of a high quality tactical/raid ensemble. I clearly (and thankfully) was unable to test the effectiveness of the chemical protection capability, but the overall quality of the outfit was top drawer. In order to test the suits "user friendliness" in an environment comparable to a long police operation, I wore it for two days while involved in hard physical labor (attaching barn siding and cutting firewood. The bib and jacket were worn over my standard SWAT BDU pants/shirt. I found that the outfit was comfortable, fit perfectly, very durable, and easy to wear for hours on end. Should an agency be looking for an easy to use-ready access chemical "add on" suit, it would be hard to find on that is any better made, or geared more towards the tough use a SWAT operator would demand of it. The only reason I did not rate it a five across the board is that the bulk necessary to provide the chemical protection makes the suit a little stiff and bulky to store-initially put on, as compared (understandably) to an all cotton or blended BDU.

TESTER: Police officer from New Mexico

Design: 4.0

Performance: 4.5

Ease of Use: 5.0

Size: 4.0

Quality: 4.0

Durability: 4.0

Storage: 4.0

Versatility: 3.5

Convenience: 3.0

Application: 5.0

Comfort: 4.0

Accuracy: NR

Cleaning & Maintenance: 5.0

Individual Score: 4.17

The Gentex® Rampart Suit is a two piece chemical /biological protection suit designed to withstand 24 hours of direct chemical

exposure or 30 days of continued use. The life expectancy of the suit is 10 washings which are located on the suit and very easy to understand. I wore the suit on four occasions, three during tactical training and once inside a chemical exposure room. The suit was evaluated for comfort during high risk warrant training and while moving through the shoot house. It was also put through a scrambler course to see how the material would hold-up to the elements. The outside temp during the evaluations was in the low to mid 60°F. Wearing the suit was hot even in the mild temperatures however it was not as restricting as I thought it would be. I found I could move easy with less limitations then a conventional level II suit. Wear on the suit was very similar to a pair of rip-stop BDU's. Wear on the knees and elbows were experienced during the scrambler course but no rips were encountered. The suit was worn in the gas house and subjected to CS and CN gases. After washing the suit showed no signs of retaining the chemicals. Wet decontamination was used after the gas house to check the suit against a liquid utilizing water and florescent dye. The suit did not allow the liquid to pass through the suit however the two piece design did allow florescent dye to hit my clothing underneath when removing the in accordance with standard wet decon guidelines. Recommend staying with dry decon procedures when in the two piece suit. Overall the suit functioned as stated on the Gentex® web site and literature. I would recommend the suit for use in Chemical/Biological environments. Optional colors would also be useful as the suit tested was LE blue, while our work is done in OD green.

TESTER: Police officer from Florida

Design: 4

Performance: 5

Ease of Use: 5

Size: 4

Quality: 5

Durability: 5

Storage: 4

Versatility: 4

Convenience: 5

Application: 5

Comfort: 5

Accuracy: NR

Cleaning & Maintenance: NR

Individual Score: 4.64

The Rampart is a two piece garment system designed to protect the wearer from known concentration levels of chemical and biological threats. Originally designed for DOE SWAT, it is very similar to the MIL-SPEC DOD JSLIST ensemble. It was clearly designed with tactical or combat operators in mind. Air permeable garment reduces heat stress compared to Tyvek.

The pants are similar to a bib overall (with adjustable suspenders) which insures adequate body coverage and connection with the coat. I did find the plastic quick release buckle on the suspenders difficult to operate with butyl gloves on. The release button could be larger. The pants have oversized zipper/Velcro openings at the bottom to allow the pants to be donned while wearing your tactical boots. Went on over the boot without a problem. Pants are very comfortable and allowed for movement. I would like to see built in Velcro keepers for a gun belt though. Large cargo pockets on both legs, similar to BDUs. The coat was easy to do and move in. Design allowed for free movement at shoulders and elbows. Velcro could be extended around entire cuff to cinch down extra strap. Coat has sewn on Velcro patch holders on chest and back for agency identification. Would like to see those on the shoulders as well. Large cargo pockets on both sides of chest.

Overall this is an outstanding product\*. A clear demonstration of the PPE manufacturing community starting to develop products specifically designed for civilian law enforcement use.

*\*DISCLAIMER: Users of PPE ensembles should consult with a qualified Hazardous Material Technician or Industrial Hygienist when conducting a hazard analysis and subsequently selecting appropriate personal protective equipment.*

## TBH-II Helmet

Overall Score: 3.85

TESTER: Police officer from California

Design: 5  
Performance: 5  
Ease of Use: 5  
Size: 5  
Quality: 5  
Durability: 3  
Storage: 3  
Versatility: 3  
Convenience: 3  
Application: 5  
Comfort: 5  
Accuracy: NR  
Cleaning & Maintenance: 3  
Individual Score: 4.27

The TBH-II is the most comfortable helmet I have ever worn. For starters it is much lighter than the PASGT helmet I have worn in the past. The helmet also has a four point adjustable retention system that makes it both stable and comfortable.

The adjustable retention system affords the wearer a custom fit. It consists of 7 sizing pad inserts that secured to the helmet via

Velcro. Each sizing pad insert consists of one ½ inch pad and two ¼ inch pad which are enclosed in a fabric cover. The wearer can remove or add a pad insert to allow proper fit and optimum stability and comfort.

The helmet's reduced profile allows the wearer an expanded upward and peripheral field of view. A night vision mounting bracket is available and the helmet shell provided level IIIA ballistic protection.

I tested the helmet in a moderate California climate 60° to 90°. And it was as comfortable as anything I could ask for. I would purchase the helmet myself and recommend the helmet for my team. Teams or Units who will be operating in extreme conditions i.e. very high and very low temperatures may want to test the helmet in those conditions before purchasing.

TESTER: Police officer from New Jersey

Design: 4  
Performance: NR  
Ease of Use: NR  
Size: 3  
Quality: 3  
Durability: 3  
Storage: NR  
Versatility: NR  
Convenience: NR  
Application: 4  
Comfort: 4  
Accuracy: NR  
Cleaning & Maintenance: 3  
Individual Score: 3.43

First I have to start with the chin straps and say "great job". They are very comfortable and convenient, especially the rear padding on the portion that covers the back of the head. The helmet it self is light and appears would be good for long hours. During the test I used it for three to four hours at a time. The low cut rear portion of the helmet works good when you have a collar on your body armor, it does not restrict movement.

The inner cushions are comfortable, but you will need to take time in adjusting them for fit. It took a little playing with but once fitted, the helmet felt comfortable. The cushions could be made stronger and I suggest that you hand wash them so they could last. I don't think they would last long in a full time SWAT unit, where they will be used on a daily bases, good full a part time unit.

## BOA Goggles

Overall Score: 5

TESTER: Police officer from Iowa

Design: 5

Performance: 5

Ease of Use: 5

Size: 5

Quality: 5

Durability: 5

Storage: 5

Versatility:

Convenience: 5

Application: NR

Comfort: 5

Accuracy: NR

Cleaning & Maintenance: 5

Individual Score: 5

*These goggles are the best I have worn. The biggest problem I have had in the past has been fogging. I wore these goggles in a variety of situations where fogging would have occurred in the past. I have yet to have these goggles fog over. They are quite comfortable to wear. To change lenses is a breeze and could not be easier. The goggles came with a very nice pouch that can be attached to my load bearing vest. I have yet to scratch the lenses during cleaning, although I am very careful about it. At this time I have only positive things to say about these goggles and can recommend them.*

TESTER: Police officer from Michigan

Design: 5

Performance: 5

Ease of Use: 5

Size: 5

Quality: 5

Durability: 5

Storage: 5

Versatility:

Convenience: 5

Application: 5

Comfort: 5

Accuracy: NR

Cleaning & Maintenance: 5

Individual Score: 5

*I have used many type of tactical goggles that have never quite met the standards the companies claimed. I have finally found a pair of goggles that meet the requirements demanded by the job. The BOA goggles are ruggedly built with easily interchangeable ballistic lenses. They are built so that the lens does not bend to fit the wearers face, but the rubber mask they set into does; this prevents vision distortion. This goggle allows a full field of vision.*

*I have not been able to make the goggles fog up. It is almost impossible to fog the lenses with hot breath, but any bit that may form disappears instantly. I wore these goggles while training in 90° heat where I*

*sweated so much, I had pools of water stuck inside of the goggles, yet the lenses were still fog free. These are the first goggles that I have been able to see through under such circumstances.*

*The BOA goggles are fairly low profile. They came with a handy nylon carry case with a compartment for the lenses, and easy access to the mask. This case can be attached to your belt. Unfortunately, I could not put them through winter weather tests yet. Even so, these goggles already have proven to be the best tactical eyewear I have used.*

## EPS-21

Overall Score: 4.46

TESTER: Police officer from Maine

Design: 5

Performance: 5

Ease of Use: 4

Size: 5

Quality: 5

Durability: 5

Storage: 5

Versatility: 5

Convenience: 4

Application: 5

Comfort: 5

Accuracy: 5

Cleaning & Maintenance: 5

Individual Score: 4.85

*Upon removing the EPS-21 Goggles from the OD green nylon carrying case, I noticed the familiar smell of the soft silicone rubber face seal reminiscent of my scuba mask. However, this is where any similarities ended.*

*The Gentex® EPS-21 Goggle system is serious tactical eyewear. The supplied skier-style strap was easily adjustable and secure over my tactical helmet. Upon donning the goggles, I was greeted by an optically clear field of view which boasts protection against sun, UV, wind, dust, and ballistic fragmentation. Optional sunshade, contrast enhancement, and laser protection outserts are reportedly available. The advertised anti-fog coating on the lens proved to be pleasantly true for me while at the firing range on a hot and humid training day. Although the field of view was slightly impaired over the malar eminences (cheekbone area), this proved to be an asset when firing a long gun due to the goggle's low profile and sleek design. The supplied neutral gray sunshade outsert lens took me several minutes to learn how to attach/detach since two hands positioned over separate portions of the goggles are required.*

*Overall, the Gentex® EPS-21 Goggles are highly recommended for anyone desiring serious tactical eye wear in a low profile design.*

**TESTER:** Police officer from Pennsylvania  
**Design:** 3  
**Performance:** 4  
**Ease of Use:** 4  
**Size:** 4  
**Quality:** 5  
**Durability:** 4  
**Storage:** 5  
**Versatility:** 4  
**Convenience:** 4  
**Application:** 4  
**Comfort:** 4  
**Accuracy:** 4  
**Cleaning & Maintenance:** 4  
**Individual Score:** 4.08  
**Product:** Combat Goggle  
**Company:** Gentex®  
**Model:** EPS-21

The Gentex® Combat Goggle, model EPS-21 has an innovative design that holds the goggles in place utilizing an elastic retention strap that is placed over the head prior to donning a ballistic helmet. Once the retention strap is over the head, the helmet holds the retention strap in place. To secure the goggles, places the goggles over the face and pull the side retention straps and secure the ends around the rear of the helmet. The ends of the straps are held in place with hook and pile or "Velcro" type fastener. The goggles can be removed by pulling the goggles and storing them on top of the helmet or by loosening the straps and allowing them to hang in front of your neck. The EPS-21 goggles comes with a removable tinted lens and an OD green nylon case which easily attaches to your belt or equipment vest.

I had the opportunity to wear the Combat Goggles while shooting and training on room entries. I wore the goggle while moving and static. The goggles were worn for an extended period and I found them to be very comfortable, they remained secure on my face and fog free. I would recommend the Gentex®, EPS-21 Goggles.

**Lightweight LE IIIA Helmet**  
**Overall Score:** 4.49

**TESTER:** Police officer from Michigan  
**Design:** 4  
**Performance:** 4  
**Ease of Use:** 5  
**Size:** 4  
**Quality:** 5  
**Durability:** 5  
**Storage:** NR  
**Versatility:** 2  
**Convenience:** 3  
**Application:** 4.5  
**Comfort:** 4  
**Accuracy:** NR  
**Cleaning & Maintenance:** 5  
**Individual Score:** 4.14

Our team is currently utilizing the military PASGT Helmet rated for fragmentation. We have looked at a lot of ballistic helmets on the market that are NIJ certified threat level IIIA.

Our team tested the Lightweight Gentex® LE IIIA helmet which was sent to us was a size large and in OD green. This helmet is also available in black and three other sizes. Two suspension systems are available, one being the headband and a crown pad and the other being adjustable sizing pads, which we tested. Because we were limited to a large size helmet and the pads that came with the helmet, it is not a one size fits all. By those who head it did fit, found it very comfortable over the hours they wore it during training. Because of the temperature which caused sweating while wearing, the pads did retain moisture which is a concern during cold weather operations. What happens to the pads after getting wet during extreme cold weather operation and the helmet is taken off? This was not tested but our concern would be that the pads would freeze and cause the wearer discomfort.

The retention system that came with the helmet was integrated chin/nape retention. This included a nape pad with adjustable straps and also an adjustable Velcro chin strap which we preferred over others that are a plastic chin cup. The adjustment on the retention system was more than enough to assure a secure fit onto the wearers head.

Overall design of the helmet is very similar to the military PASGT helmet but is cut higher in the back which helps eliminate the helmet from shifting forward over your eyes when wearing body armor in a prone position. We had no problem inserting ear plugs or ear mic's with the helmet on and the retention system secured. We attempted to wear the helmet after donning our gas mask, but found that the helmet didn't fit unless adjustments were made. Wearing goggles or protective glasses was comfortable while the helmet was on and secured to wearers head.

The quality and durability of this product is very good along with the comfort level over several hours. Overall, I would recommend this product to be purchased by our team.

**TESTER:** Police officer from Pennsylvania  
**Design:** 4  
**Performance:** 5  
**Ease of Use:** 5  
**Size:** 5  
**Quality:** 5  
**Durability:** 5  
**Storage:** 5  
**Versatility:** 4  
**Convenience:** 5  
**Application:** 5

**Comfort: 5**  
**Accuracy: 5**  
**Cleaning & Maintenance: 5**  
**Individual Score: 4.85**  
**Product: Tactical Ballistic Helmet, GT-2000**  
**Company: Gentex®**  
**Size: Medium**  
**Color: Black**

*The Gentex® Tactical Ballistic Helmet, level III-A meets NIJ standards provides added protection over the standard level II Ballistic Patrol Helmet. The helmet comes with a 4-point adjustable retention system. The suspension system utilizes several thick pads that add comfort for the user. The pads are adjustable and can be removed depending on the users preference or circumstance. The padding is held in place using hook and pile, "Velcro" style tape. The profile of the GT-2000 is reduced enabling the user better peripheral and look up field of vision.*

*I had the opportunity to use the helmet during tactical training over a three-day period. I found the helmet to be very comfortable and stable. The restraint system utilizes a retention strap that snugly fits across the base of the skull. This prevented the helmet from tilting forward or backward. The helmet was used on numerous entries and shooting drills, as well as in conjunction with a gas mask. During the three-day training session, I found the helmet fit snugly with little movement. I found the GT-2000 to be superior to the older more traditional helmet I'm currently using. I would recommend this product for any patrol or tactical organization.*

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