

Abstract

- The Army Combat Cloth Face Covering (CCFC) effort was initiated in response to the SECDEF memorandum signed April 5, 2020, subject: DoD Guidance on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings. In the memorandum, the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) committed to implementing all measures necessary to mitigate risks to the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The memorandum signed by the SECDEF directed that all individuals on Department of Defense (DoD) property, installations, and facilities should wear a face covering when they were unable to maintain the proper social distance in public areas or work centers.
- Program Executive Office Soldier was directed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) to identify contracting sources that could manufacture face coverings on an expedited timeline.
- The purpose of this study is to identify the acquisition strategy for the Army's CCFC program. The goal is to determine if the pursued acquisition process was the most proficient approach in terms of cost, schedule, and performance. This research identifies the Army's acquisition approach, policies, and procedures and provides recommendations on how to improve similar requirements in the future.



Type I/Type II Face Cover

Methods

- Official Documents: A review of the literature included selected primary documentation of (DoD) and Army regulations, detailed acquisition documentation, DoD and Army directives, data from other federal organizations, and published research data to identify the acquisition process, responsibilities, and authorities of the U.S. Army.
- Case Study: The developed case study serves as the method of analysis of captured data. The primary source of the case study is the interview. The research team interviewed two (2) members of the U.S. Army DEVCOM Soldier Center including the Supervisory General Engineer and the Public Affairs Officer regarding the CCFC effort. During the interview, the team discussed several important questions in order to gain an understanding of the acquisition strategy used and to collect as many details as possible to analyze the proficiency of this requirement in terms of cost, schedule, and performance.

Results & Their Impact

- The results of our analysis discovered that the approach used by the Army acquisitions community to pursue the CCFC effort was best suitable pathway in achieving material item production in less than 1 year.
- Due to the aggressive timeline placed on the acquisition community by the SECDEF in response to the spreading COVID-19 pandemic, the utilization of a revamped method using the emergency acquisitions approach was necessary to accomplish the mission in the shortest time possible.
- The agencies involved in CCFC effort were able to provide face coverings to the Warfighter by developing robust interim and permanent solutions simultaneously. The impact of this effort was significant as one of the measures necessary to mitigate risks to the spread of the COVID-19 disease. Expedient acquisition of face coverings directly supported the readiness of the armed forces.
- The revamped rapid acquisition approach and other existing methods of expeditious procurement should be utilized in the future for similar emergency requirements.