



# S.O. TECH

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## S.O.Tech Falcon Chest Harness Internal Magazine Slotted Chest Rack and Hydration Carrier

NSN: *pending*

S.O. Tech custom modified its Hellcat Chest Harness with Hydration Harness to the exact specifications of the Falcon Brigade of the 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN Division.



**Problem:** Lack of PALS attachment points on the Govt Issue body armor vest.

**Solution:** S.O.Tech developed the internal magazine slot system (patent pending) to drop the six rifle magazines into the flat panel that makes up the body of the chest panel.

- ? This eliminates three MOLLE double M4/M16 magazine pouches from the soldier's vest.
- ? It adds PALS attachment points where it was not before – especially on the center of the vest.
- ? The integral hydration harness system on the back accomplishes the same goal by allowing additional pouches to be added to the back on PALS on the outer face of the Hydration Carrier.
- ? Medics, grenadiers, SAW gunners and M240 gunners now have more space to attach their mission specific pouches.

**Problem:** Issue vest with pouches attached to front is too bulky and thick for movement within vehicles and buildings.

**Solution:** The internal magazine slots lay the six magazines flat against the soldier's waist, reducing his/her profile. With the bulk of operations in OIF beginning in a cramped vehicle, moving into a cramped building, and then returning to the cramped vehicle, S.O.Tech's internal magazine slot vests have become a favorite of urban operators. The low profile also allows the soldier to lay flat and closer to the ground while prone.

### Other Features of the Falcon Chest Harness:

- ? Elastic magazine retention loops provide quick access for speed loading. Velcro flaps are also available. The Falcon brigade chose elastic because it would last longer than hook and loop.
- ? Open topped magazine slots are battle proven by SOF operators as providing quick access with no reports of fouling, dirt or feed problems.

- ? Internal “map pouch” allows additional storage and the placement of S.O.Tech’s Internal Pistol Holster Module. This chest mounting of the holster is preferred in the field for its easy access while in cramped vehicles during ambushes.
- ? Radio can be dropped into a magazine slot and MBITR antennae can route through shoulder strap loops.
- ? Thick and durable shoulder and waist straps provide comfort and strength. No padding in shoulders allows lower profile for backpack wear.
- ? Six Fastex buckles at all attachment points allow for easier mounting by right and left handed soldiers.
- ? Mesh on the inside of the panel provides for ventilation of the soldier.
- ? Shoulder straps have routings for radio antennae and hydration hose.
- ? Drag handle for extraction of wounded soldiers and easy carry of gear.
- ? Some soldiers semi-permanently lashed their Falcon Chest Harnesses over their Govt. Issue body armor.

**Design History:** S.O.Tech developed this design in the late 90’s with a Ranger medic who needed space for his medical pouches and rifle magazine pouches. The design was perfected with a Special Forces operator. The design was marketed as the Hellcat MK 1, 2 and 3 and the BLoCS system. The design was combined with the plate carrier to form the Callahan Convertible Plate Carrier system used first by 20<sup>th</sup> SF Group in Afghanistan and later throughout the SOF community. The design was combined with a Combat Life Saver Pack to form the Warrior Medical Chest Harness. This system went to war with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain DIV and is being purchased by units of the 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV and Stryker Brigades. A version similar to the Falcon was recently chosen with medical pouches as the Medical Assault Chest Harness by USASOC and was officially added to the SOF Medical Equipment Set list.



Other options pictured: Internal Pistol Holster mounted in map pouch (above left). Split front internal magazine chest harness (from BLoCS) showing center split for easy opening (above right). Warrior medical chest harness (WMCH) showing internal CLS kit (below left). BLoCS plate carrier system allows chest harness to attach to plate carrier with Flex Tab (MOLLE type attaching system) (below left).



FALCON SPECIFICATIONS (mil spec materials are available on request).

PLASTIC PARTS	MATERIAL	BREAK STRENGTH / Tensile Load (lbs)
1" D-Ring	Acetal	170
2" Tri-Glide	Acetal	45
2" Side Release Buckle	Acetal	225
2" Loop	Delrin	180
FABRIC		
1000 Denier Du-Pont Cordura	Nylon	
Mesh	Nylon	
WEBBING		
1" Binding Tape	Nylon	525
1" Woven Webbing / Comparable to Mil-W- 43668	Nylon	1200
2" Woven Webbing / Comparable to Mil-W- 43668	Nylon	2200
3" Woven Webbing / Comparable to Mi-W-17337	Nylon	3200
3/16" Bungee Shock Cord	Polypropolene	Not Rated
1" Woven Elastic	Polyester	Not Rated
Size 92 Nylon Heavyweight Bonded Thread	Nylon	