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**ABA ANNOUNCES NEW WARRANTY AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR  
XTREME ZX® MODEL VESTS**

**Armor Holdings Expands VestCheck™ Testing and Education Program**

**Armor Holdings, Southern States Police Benevolent Association Announce Settlement**

**JACKSONVILLE, FL – August 12, 2004** -- Armor Holdings Inc. (NYSE: AH) today announced a new warranty and exchange program for the ABA Xtreme ZX® model vests, and also announced a tentative settlement with the Southern States Police Benevolent Association (Southern States PBA) and associated plaintiffs of a class action lawsuit brought in April 2004. That suit was prompted by concerns regarding the use of Zylon® in body armor vests. Zylon®, the strongest and lightest manmade fiber for body armor application, has been the focus of recent industry debate regarding its use in body armor vests.

The new warranty and exchange program is based on information from used vest testing begun in 2003 by Armor Holdings Products Division (AHPD) on its Zylon®-containing vests. The tests indicate that statistically there was a potential for the ZX model to fall below the desired safety threshold when subjected to actual in-service, use and care conditions in the field. The new warranty is for 30 months. An exchange program has been implemented that enables ZX vest owners to select a new ZX level II or IIIA vest to complete the original warranty period of 60 months, or select another vest from ABA, or one of its other body armor companies. The ZX exchanges will be made at no cost to owners. Body armor in service more than 30 months will be exchanged first. Armor Holdings also announced it will expand its VestCheck™ used vest testing and vest care education program.

“Officer safety is our primary goal and the new, more conservative warranty on our ABA ZX vests, the exchange program, and the expansion of our VestCheck™ testing program help us achieve that objective,” said Steve Croskrey, President and CEO, Armor Holdings Products Division (AHPD). “We are proud of the fact that no ABA vest has ever failed to protect officers in the field. In fact, our ZX vests have recorded four saves thus far. At the end of the day, officers have to be confident in the vest they’re wearing, and these initiatives will bolster that confidence.”

On behalf of the Southern States PBA and other plaintiffs in the case, Jack Roberts, President of the Southern States PBA said, “The settlement addresses the fundamental issue we raised in our suit – the effectiveness and durability of body armor. We are very pleased that Armor Holdings has stepped up to this very important matter, presented a plan that is comprehensive and fair, and that it is committing to an expansion of its used-vest testing and care and use education programs. We think this expansion will move the entire industry forward in terms of the safety of the equipment being used by law enforcement officers.”

Since January 2000, ABA has shipped more than 25,000 ZX model vests. The exchange will begin with the approximately 5,000 vests that exceed the new 30-month warranty schedule.

Decisions regarding the new ZX warranty schedule and exchange program resulted from data collected in the industry's most comprehensive used-vest testing program to date. In-house testing at AHPD's own facility was conducted as part of AHPD VestCheck™ program, the industry's most advanced used-vest testing program, and by Exponent, a leading independent product assurance laboratory. Results showed that ZX vests were more susceptible to use, handling and heavy wear and tear than other Zylon®-containing designs, and that a shorter warranty was appropriate. Based on current testing, vests that incorporate Zylon®, other than the ABA ZX, will retain their original warranty.

Croskrey said, "As with many high-performance products, design, engineering, materials, and 'use factors' all play a role in product performance over time. The test data provided important insights that helped us develop a plan that addresses both near- and long-term needs. We are committed to expanding our testing and education program, and to expanding the level of data and information available about vest use, handling, wear and tear, and effectiveness."

Croskrey stated that the NIJ has regularly reminded officers to wear body armor as it has been credited with saving the lives of more than 2700 officers over the past 30 years. "We encourage officers to wear their vests as they do the often dangerous job of protecting our communities," he said.

### **Warranty Exchange Program**

The following are highlights of the ABA Xtreme ZX® model exchange program:

- All owners will receive a new vest at no cost. Officers and/or owners will be contacted by ABA regarding the new warranty and replacement offer, and registered into the exchange program.
- The warranty on any new ZX vest will be 30 months. The warranty on all other Zylon®-containing models will remain at 60 months (5 years).
- All current ZX model owners who elect to receive a new ZX vest (Level II or IIIA) in exchange for their current ZX vest also will receive a second carrier free of charge.
- All current ZX model owners also will receive a fully transferable \$100 manufacturer's mail-in rebate when their vest is exchanged. The rebate can be used towards the future purchase of a new vest from any AHPD business unit.
- Officers and/or agencies choosing a vest other than a ZX model can select a vest from any AHPD business unit that has the same NIJ threat level rating as their current ZX vest. Depending on the age, NIJ threat level of the ZX vest being replaced and the value of the new "other than ZX" vest being selected, owners also may be entitled to a cash rebate. Additional details on the calculation of the cash rebate are available at [www.americanbodyarmor.com/zx](http://www.americanbodyarmor.com/zx).
- ZX vests that have been in service more than 30 months will be replaced first; other exchanges will be made on a rolling basis from earliest shipped date to most recent. ABA will contact officers and/or agencies to schedule replacements.

**VestCheck™ In-Use Test Program**

The in-use testing program is the most comprehensive in the industry, and has thus far included more than 400 samples of Zylon®-containing vests. Vests used in the tests were supplied by dozens of agencies across the country. Representatives from over 40 agencies monitored the testing as it occurred.

Established in 2003, VestCheck™ provides a structured, scientific evaluation of body armor that has been in field use. Under VestCheck™ testing protocols, every vest is given a physical inspection and rated for wear and tear before it is subjected to a “ballistic test” in which live ammunition is fired at the vest. The ballistic test is conducted in accordance with NIJ used-vest guidelines to determine if the used vest still affords protection above the threat level for which it was originally designed and certified to provide. The VestCheck™ process also includes a detailed analysis of individual officer wear, storage and maintenance habits, which are important factors in durability. AHPD’s VestCheck™ program is being expanded, and used vest testing will be done on approximately one percent of the vests sold by AHPD business units. This testing will yield high-quality data that will provide the law enforcement community with valuable information to assess vest performance in the field under a wide variety of conditions.

**Customer and Distributor Contact Information:**

American Body Armor™ is initiating an owner outreach program that will include direct mail and/telephone calls and advertising in selected trade publications. The following are ways to contact ABA regarding its ZX model exchange program:

**Toll free number:** 866-815-2914

**Fax number:** 909-673-1266

**Website:** [www.americanbodyarmor.com/zx](http://www.americanbodyarmor.com/zx)

**Customer Support e-mail:** [contactus@armorholdings.com](mailto:contactus@armorholdings.com)

**Mail address:**

American Body Armor/ZX Model Exchange: 3120 E. Mission Blvd., Ontario CA 91761

**About Armor Holdings, Inc.**

Armor Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:AH) is a diversified manufacturer of branded products for the military, law enforcement, and personnel safety markets. Additional information can be found at [www.armorholdings.com](http://www.armorholdings.com).

**Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

Southern States PBA is a professional law enforcement association headquartered in McDonough, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. It is comprised of more than 21,000 law enforcement officers and support personnel employed by Federal, State, County and municipal government. The Southern States Police Benevolent Association represents its members by providing legal services and advocacy work to improve the quality of life for persons employed in law enforcement. Our office can be reached at (770) 389-5391 or [www.sspba.org](http://www.sspba.org).