



FACE PAINT, ADVANCED CAMOUFLAGE

OVERVIEW:

Currently fielded camouflage face paint in compact form provides passive camouflage protection in the visible and near-infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, and also meets Soldier acceptability and safety criteria. Other areas of interest include thermal infrared camouflage protection, insect repellency and reduction of thermal (burn) injury. Camouflage face paint is no longer designated as a medical item. Responsibility for the item belongs to the U.S. Army Product Manager – Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment (PM-SCIE) at Fort Belvoir, VA. Natick Soldier RD&E Center, due to its expertise in Soldier camouflage, has had a long relationship (since the early 1980s) with the US Army's Medical Command as the materiel developer for camouflage face paint products. In 1998, a Joint Working Group (JWG) was formed to develop an advanced camouflage face paint compact. Agencies included Natick Soldier RD&E Center, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, U.S. Army Infantry School, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Product Manager - Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment, Defense Supply Center of Richmond, and other agencies in the U.S. Army Medical Community.



DESCRIPTION:

The advanced camouflage face paint in compact form with and without insect repellent (DEET) has been evaluated for user acceptability and is currently available to Soldiers. Camouflage Face Paint with insect repellent, National Stock Number (NSN) 6840-01-493-7334, and without insect repellent, NSN 6850-01-493-7309, provide visual and near infrared camouflage protection, while the compact with DEET provides a threshold of eight (8) hours of insect repellent. Both are furnished in compact form, which contains a full size unbreakable stainless steel mirror that is resistant to DEET and won't degrade over its shelf life. Both compacts contain five compartments of pigmented formulations (green, loam, sand, white, and black). The compacts provide sufficient material for 20 applications of green, loam, and sand, and 10 applications of black and white. The compact is suitable for multi-terrain environmental conditions from arctic to desert to withstand temperatures of 20°F through 120°F (-7°C through 49°C). Face paints with insect repellent are supplied in a brown colored compact, while the non-repellent face paints are furnished in an olive drab compact for quick identification. The overall dimension of both compacts, including positive closure and hinge, is 3.94" x 3.25" x .66". The Non-DEET compact weighs at approximately 4.6 oz, while the DEET face paint version weighs at approximately 5.6 oz. Efforts to optimize a stick version of the advanced camouflage face paint with and without DEET in multiple 2-color sticks for various terrains are concluding and stick variants should be available for purchase by 2013.



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