

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

SOFMAG.COM

 **Adventure**

Quartermaster

Impedimenta Control

There are those Thoreauian curmudgeons among us who dream of a desert isle with no sat phones, no beepers, no clandestine cameras nor radios, headsets, ear-phones, wires, batteries, tie-tack cameras, transmitters nor anything else more complicated than a sharp stick to dig clams and a good knife to open coconuts.

Now, back to the real world: The electronic wizardry and gadgets available to contemporary operators, or even just those who haunt Radio Shack and the Sharper Image catalogs is, like all useful tools, worth having with you for various missions at hand. That is, if you can keep it all straight and useful without taking your concentration from your mission. The time has long past when a good safari jacket with its four pockets could do the job — today's selection of toys is just too big to fit in Santa's pack anymore.

What you need to carry what you need, may well be some "Technology Enabled Clothing™" — the Scott eVest™, Version 2.0. The ScottVest is a lightweight jacket with 17 pockets that let the wearer discreetly hold, conceal and connect cell phones, pagers, PDAs and CD/MP3 players via its 17 pockets



and an internal conduit system for the wires from various connected electronics and mission-essential gear. Special pockets accommodate digital cameras, portable keyboards, GPS devices, small laptop computers, radios — even such modern "essentials" as bottled water, tickets, books/magazines, wallets, keys and such. At the airport, you can doff the whole unit and send it through the scanner without unloading and disconnecting it all (at risk, of course, of confusing technologically challenged scanning personnel). The sleeves dismount to reveal a vest with

nearly the same capabilities. Made from very comfortable, soft micro-fiber, the unit is available in black, olive, khaki.

Designed to keep the operator operating hands-free, special features help keep earphones in place, which can be important when your hands are integral to the job at hand — even if you are just driving and cell-phoning in mandated hands-free areas such as Asia, Europe or New York. Be a closet geek: hide your electronics and paraphernalia, whether they are tools or toys.

You can order toll-free at 866-909-VEST; or check them out on the web at www.scottevest.com; or contact them by mail: at ScottVest LLC, Dept. SOF, 1456 N. Dayton St., Chicago IL 60622. I just might order one out to hold my knife and sharp stick.