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The modern Iron Man: TALOS

To us at home, opening a door might represent a new opportunity or returning to familiar place. However, this same concept might take on an entirely different manifestation to a soldier half a world away. To this commando, there’s no guarantee what’s waiting on the other side. A new form of protection for soldiers will help shield the lives of those in combat, as well as those at home.

Two years ago a US soldier died during a raid in Afghanistan. That day US Army General Joseph Votel, head of United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), took an oath to prevent similar losses in the future. Today, we have an answer; the gadget’s name is TALOS for Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit.

Jim Garmone writes an article encompassing what the TALO suit is and what is does. In explaining the military exoskeleton, Garmone uses an indirect method to build his credibility with the audience. As far as logos, this article is primarily scientific, so the author effortlessly loads up the facts. Each of these cold, hard reasons adds to the overall summation of the argument. The suit guards our soldier’s life and that creates a deep emotional tie to the families as well. Garmone accounts for each part of a solid argument

In this brief news clip, the author struggles to build his credibility as an individual. This lack of personal evidence is both understandable and worth mentioning. Garmone uses his skill with the written word to create a connection to those who understand the technology and its applications. Even though the author falls short of a direct understanding of the technology, he compensates with strategically placed quotes from knowledgeable experts. This use of opinions from industry leaders creates a foundation for the document. The author references a speech from the head of SOCOM, United States Special Operations Command. The lead authority of all things tech related in the military. General Joseph Votel describes the suit as:

“ …chartered to explore and catalyze a revolutionary integration of advanced technology to provide comprehensive ballistic protection, peerless tactical capabilities and ultimately to enhance the strategic effectiveness of the SOF operator of the future,” (Garamone).

Several quotes similar to this from General Joseph, provide solid footing for the article.

When a soldier loses his life as the result of an entering dangerous situation, there are many people he leaves behind. The soldier’s family goes through several emotional states and Garamone draws on these experiences to increase the TALOS’s worth. Every soldier this suit protects is another family we keep together. Furthermore, this life saving technology applies to a much broader scope than solely military. Garamone mentions how workers in extreme conditions will see benefits from the extra fortification. Firefighters, for example, may utilize the passive load bearing feature. This allows them to carry heavy loads without hindering themselves. The net effect, more lives saved. A classic tie to our human condition.

TALOS contains 4 important technical features that encompass the suits true versatilely. Firstly, the military designed this creation for unforeseen upgrades. The suit was built with open systems architecture, so as new technology becomes available the military can swap it out in a breeze. Second, this exoskeleton uses fluid technology that hardens on command. This means that a soldier can wear the suit and have the power turned off to save energy, then switch the suit on as the need for protection arises. Another feature, the heads up display, increases user visibility. This makes the operator even more aware of the surroundings than without it. Finally, the passive load bearing technology. The suit contains extra support and pneumatic cylinders that run along a humans frame. These extra structural members provide a large mechanical advantage, without adding much weight to the suit. The bottom line, passive load bearing means the suit allows a human to lift much more without increasing the actual weight of the suit by much.

This article by Jim Garamone displays the clear benefits of a highly proctective military suit. Even though Garamone doesn’t specialize in military technology, he utilizes some key information passed down by those who do. The author also linked our emotions to the issue by reminding us how families count on the safe return of their soldiers. The argument remained sound though because the document did not rely heavily on pathos appeal. Finally, Garamone drove the article home with sound logic. These facts in combination with the other aspects demonstrate how vital this piece of military technology is.