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Photos and DVD available on request

J.J. Marie, President of Zodiac is available for interviews

**ZODIAC FUTURA COMMANDO® COMBAT RUBBER RAIDING CRAFTS  
EQUIPPED WITH ARMORFLATE™ HEADED TO IRAQ**

*U.S. Army Reserve unit orders 60 ArmorFlate-ready boats and 24 ArmorFlate systems for protection against snipers and insurgents while conducting reconstruction missions*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (July 4, 2007) – Zodiac of North America announced today that they will be delivering sixty Futura Commando® 530 (F530) Combat Rubber Raiding Crafts (CRRC) that are pre-rigged to accept ArmorFlate™ systems, and twenty-four complete ArmorFlate systems that can be used on any of the boats. The F530 is a 17'5" version of the legendary F470 and is used for insertions, extractions, raids, recovery, and engineering operations.

Zodiac ArmorFlate is an inflatable armor protection system that inflates in less than a minute to envelope the boat operators and craft in protective armor. When not in use, the ArmorFlate stows out of the way, giving operators in the field real time mission adaptability. This ballistic protection gives U.S. warfighters a potent operational advantage, will save lives and reduce the potential for injuries.

Constructed of Dyneema® UD and proprietary composite materials, the ArmorFlate NIJ Level 3A system protects against 7.62x39mm ballistic threats (e.g. NATO Ball, AK47, Dragunov and other similar caliber rifle fire). The unidirectional configuration of the fibers in Dyneema UD allows the energy transferred from the impact of a bullet or other threat to be distributed along the fibers much faster and more efficiently than in conventional woven fabrics. The added energy absorbing qualities of Zodiac inflatable materials enhance this process.

ArmorFlate is decidedly lighter than traditional armor. "At under 4 pounds per square foot, ArmorFlate can shield rifle fire without hindering the performance of the vessel," says Brett Richardson, President of Fildi LLC and consultant to Zodiac North America. "This system is the lightest on the market." A live-fire demonstration will air on a future episode of the Discovery Network's *Future Weapons*, which airs on the Military channel.

"We are very excited with the performance testing of the ArmorFlate system, it stops even the 5.56 x 45mm SS109 round. Plus, complex shapes can be easily molded for ArmorFlate, so Zodiac is very excited about expanded applications, including any brand of boat. ArmorFlate can change the way our military thinks about armor, now they have a lightweight, inflatable option that stows out of the way for ease of transport when not needed," Todd Salus, Director of Military Operations at Zodiac, commented.

**About Zodiac Of North America, Inc.**

Zodiac of North America, Inc. is a subsidiary of Zodiac Marine and Pool, the inventor of inflatable boats, and global leader in the manufacture of RIBs, inflatable boats, life rafts and marine safety equipment. Zodiac of North America, Inc. corporate headquarters are located at 540 Thompson Creek Road, Stevensville, MD 21666; Phone: (410) 643-4141; Fax: (410) 643-4491; Internet: [www.zodiacmilpro.com](http://www.zodiacmilpro.com) and [www.zodiacacademy.com](http://www.zodiacacademy.com)

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