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(54) **UNIFORM KITS AND METHODS THEREOF**

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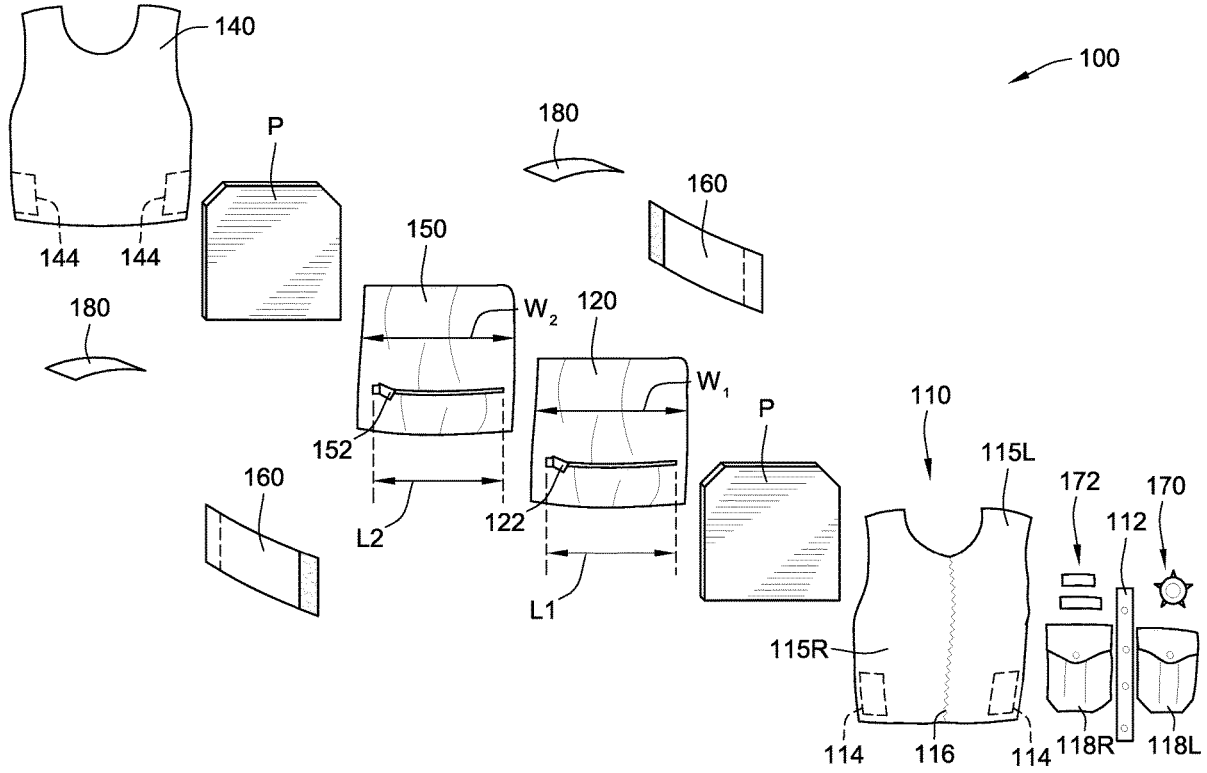
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A vest cover kit for making a customizable vest cover includes a front and back cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest and back, respectively, a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism that allows for insertion of a first insert, a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism that allows for insertion of a second insert, a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover, and at least one side strap, wherein the side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the customizable vest cover on the user.



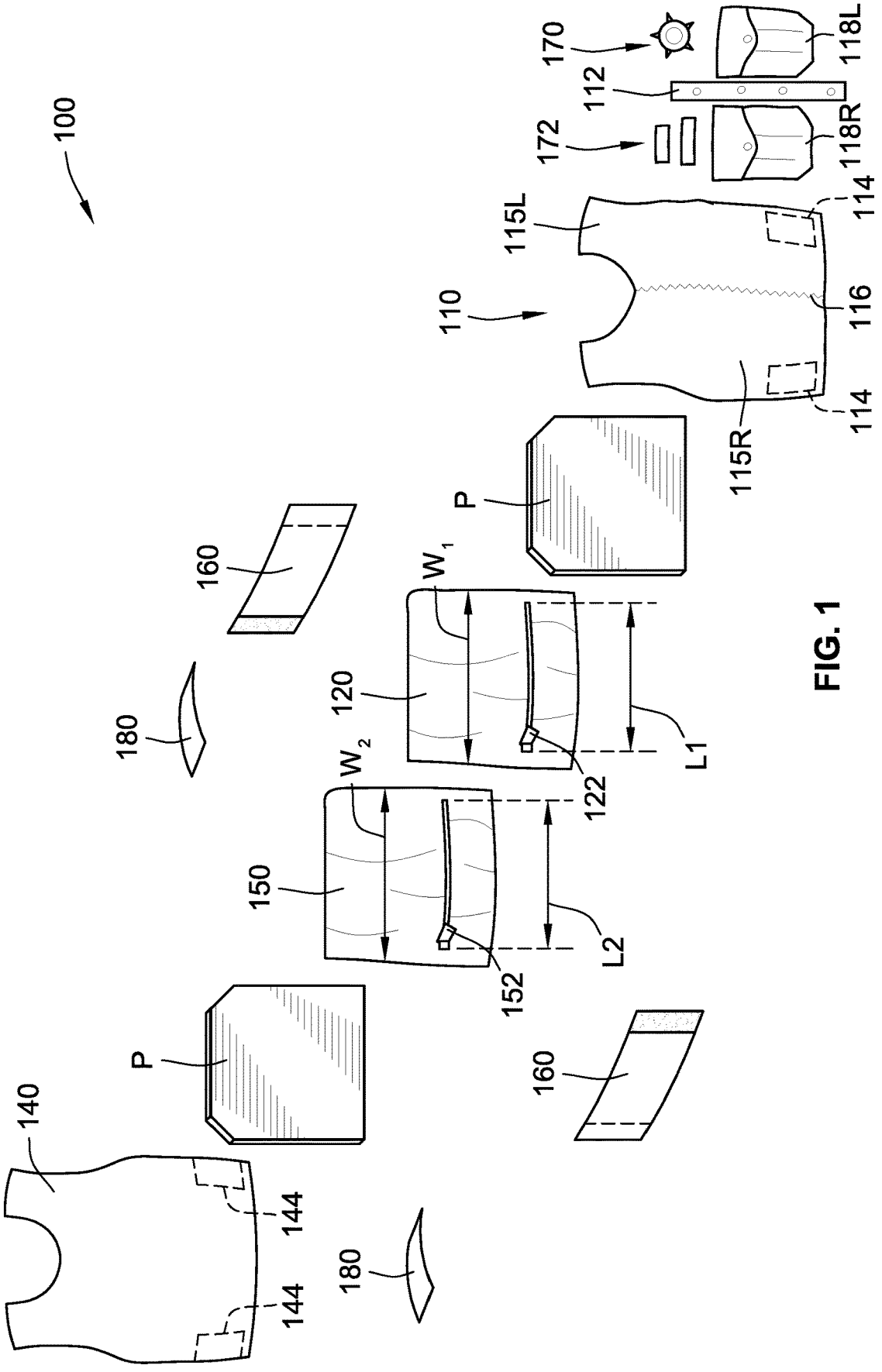

100
110
115L
115R
116
114
118L
118R
112
170
172
120
122
150
152
140
144
160
180
P
W_1
W_2
L1
L2

FIG. 1

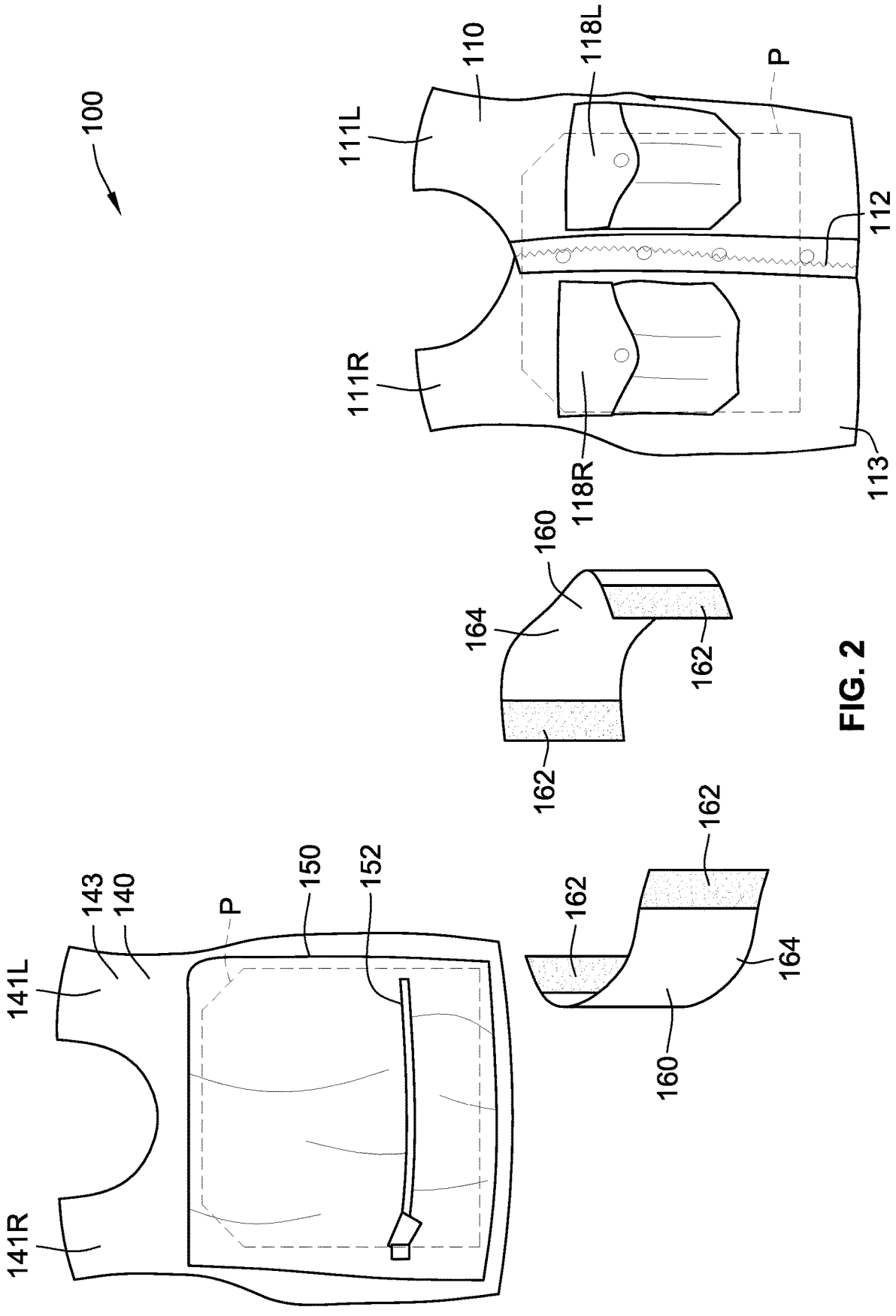

100
110
118L
P
111L
112
111R
118R
113
160
164
162
162
162
162
164
160
141L
143
140
P
150
152
141R

FIG. 2

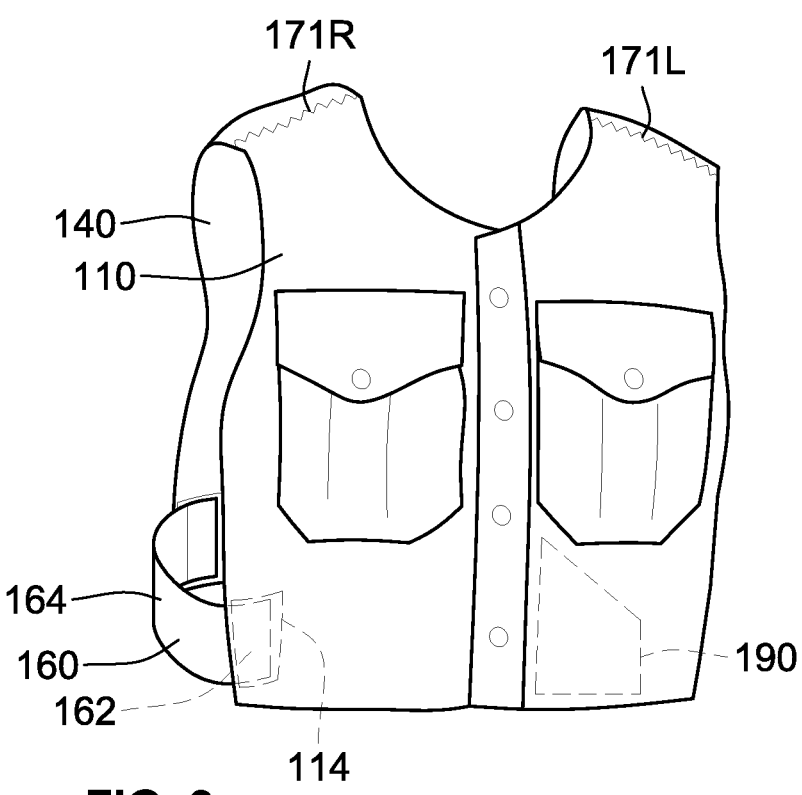


FIG. 3

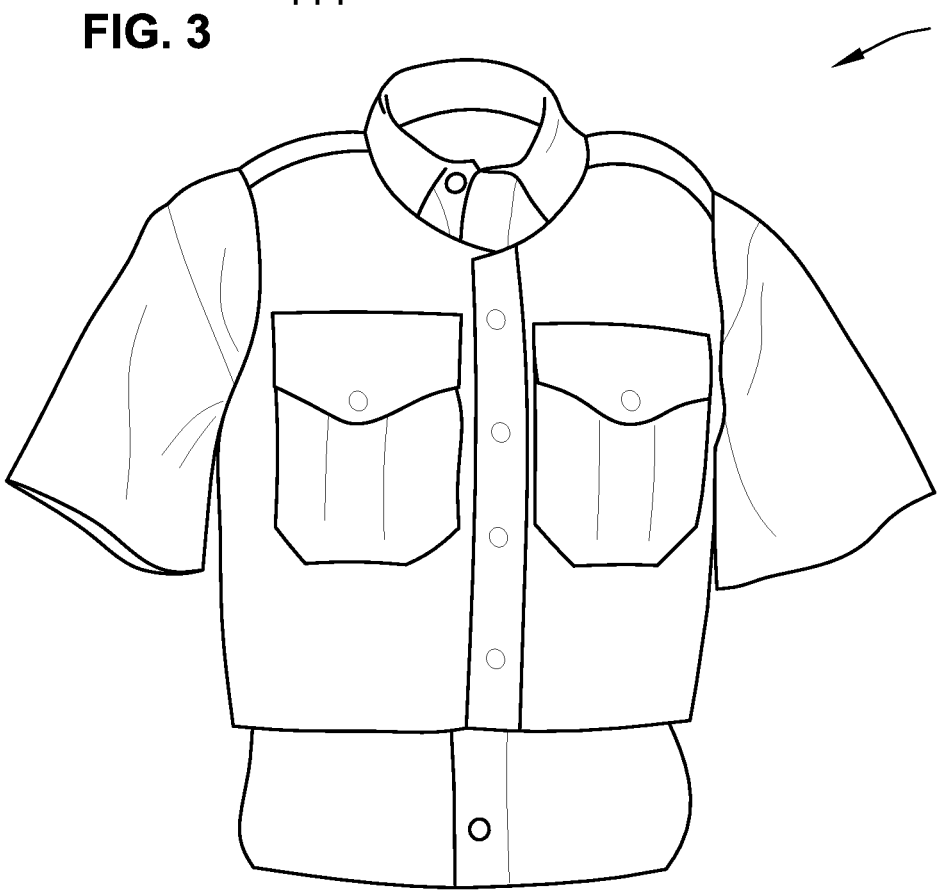


FIG. 4

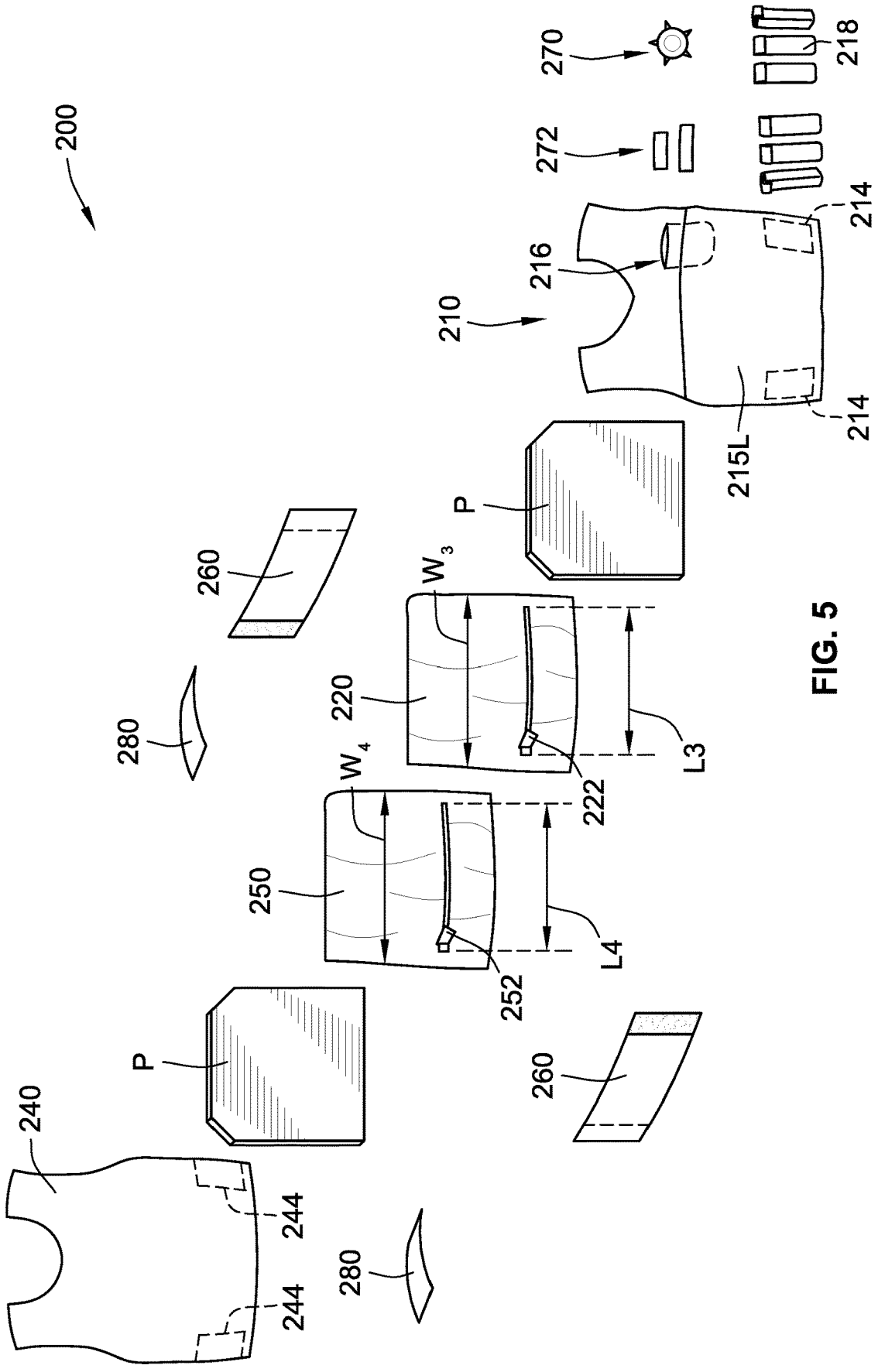

200
270
218
272
214
216
210
214
215L
P
260
W_3
220
280
W_4
222
L3
250
L4
252
P
260
240
244
244
280

FIG. 5

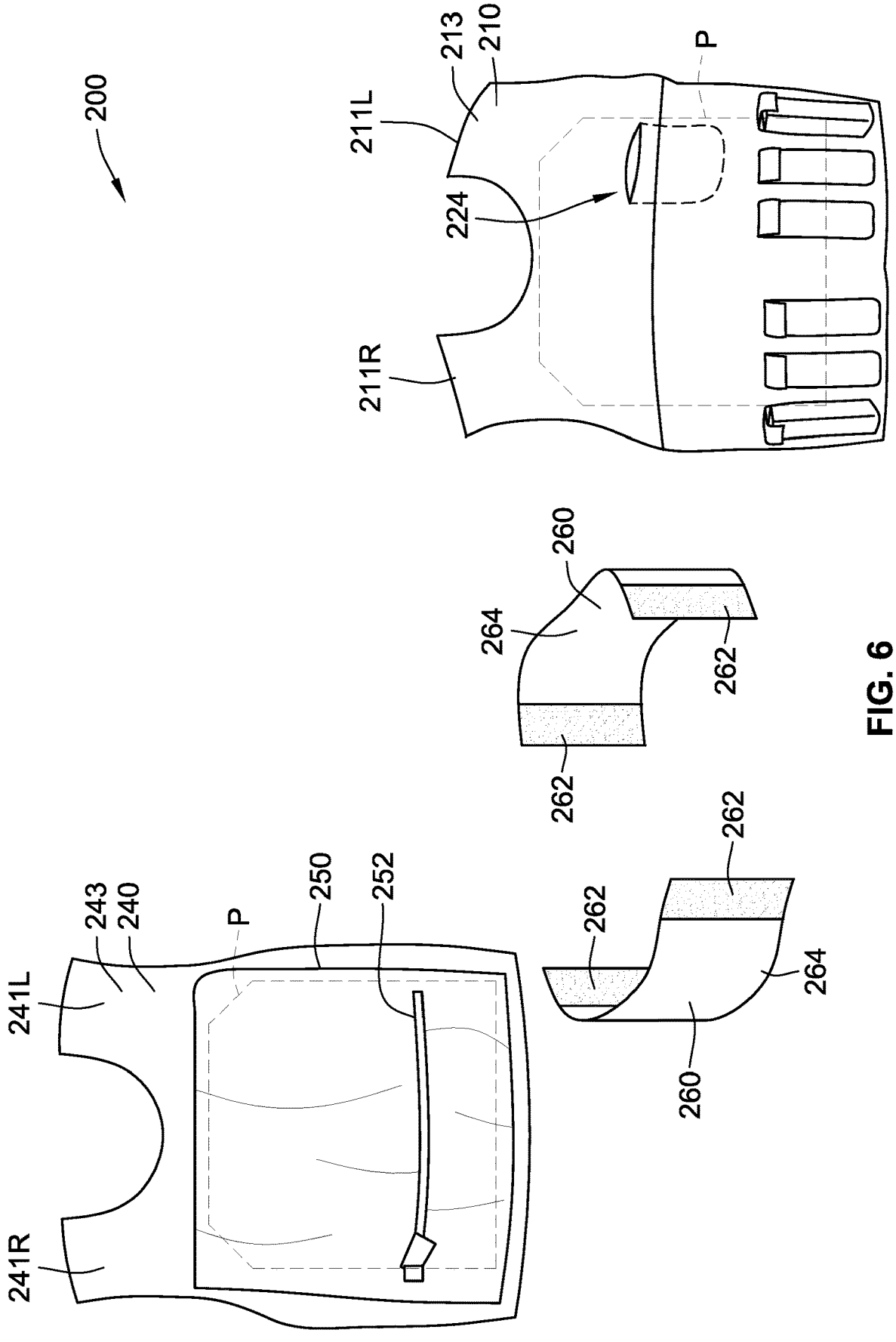

200
211L
213
210
P
224
211R
260
264
262
262
262
262
264
260
241L
243
240
P
250
252
241R

FIG. 6

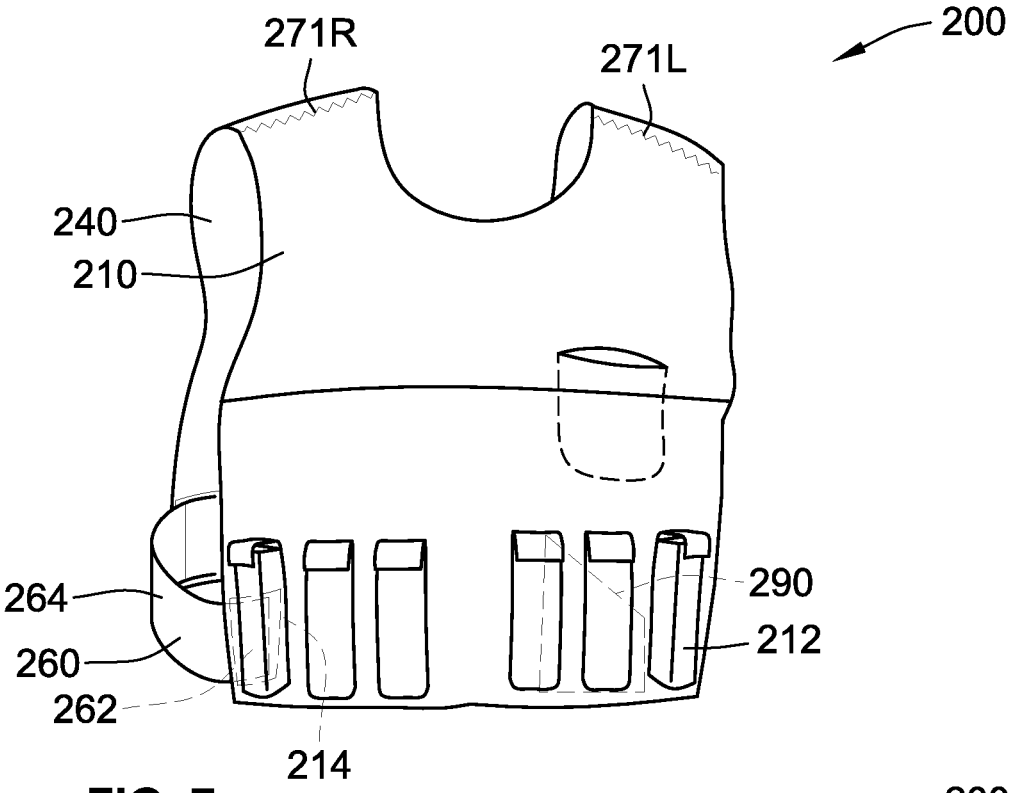


FIG. 7

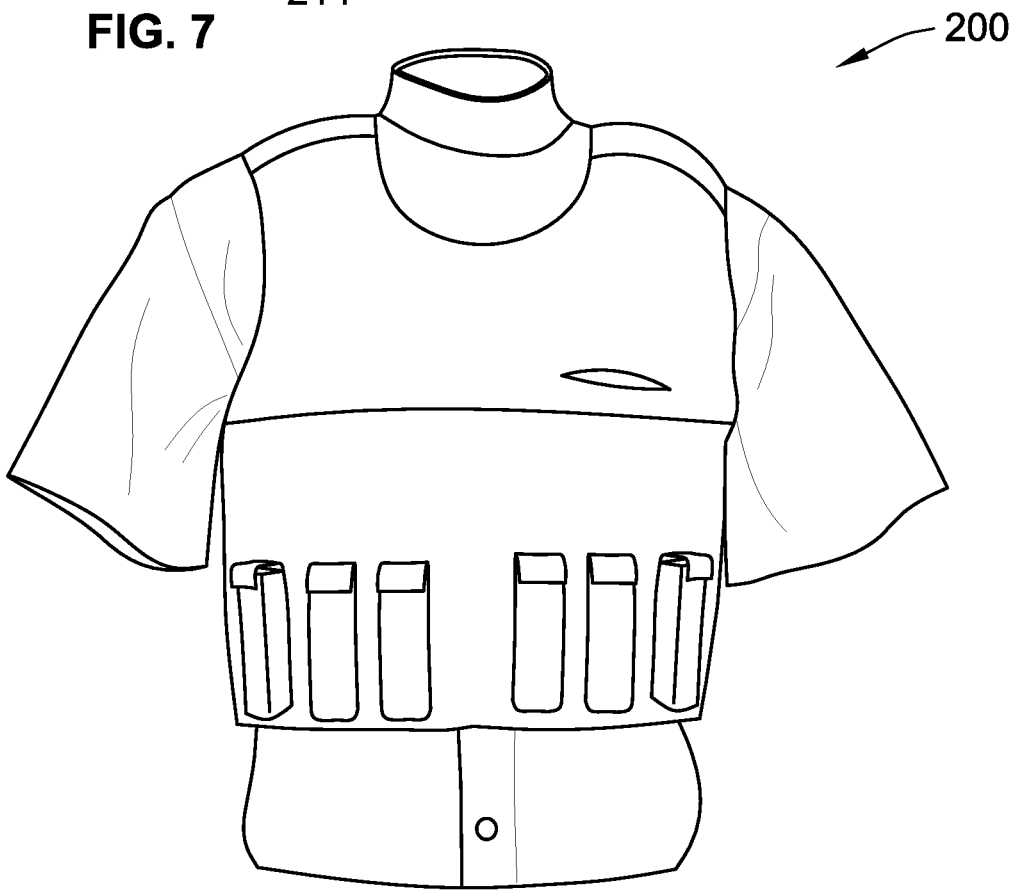


FIG. 8

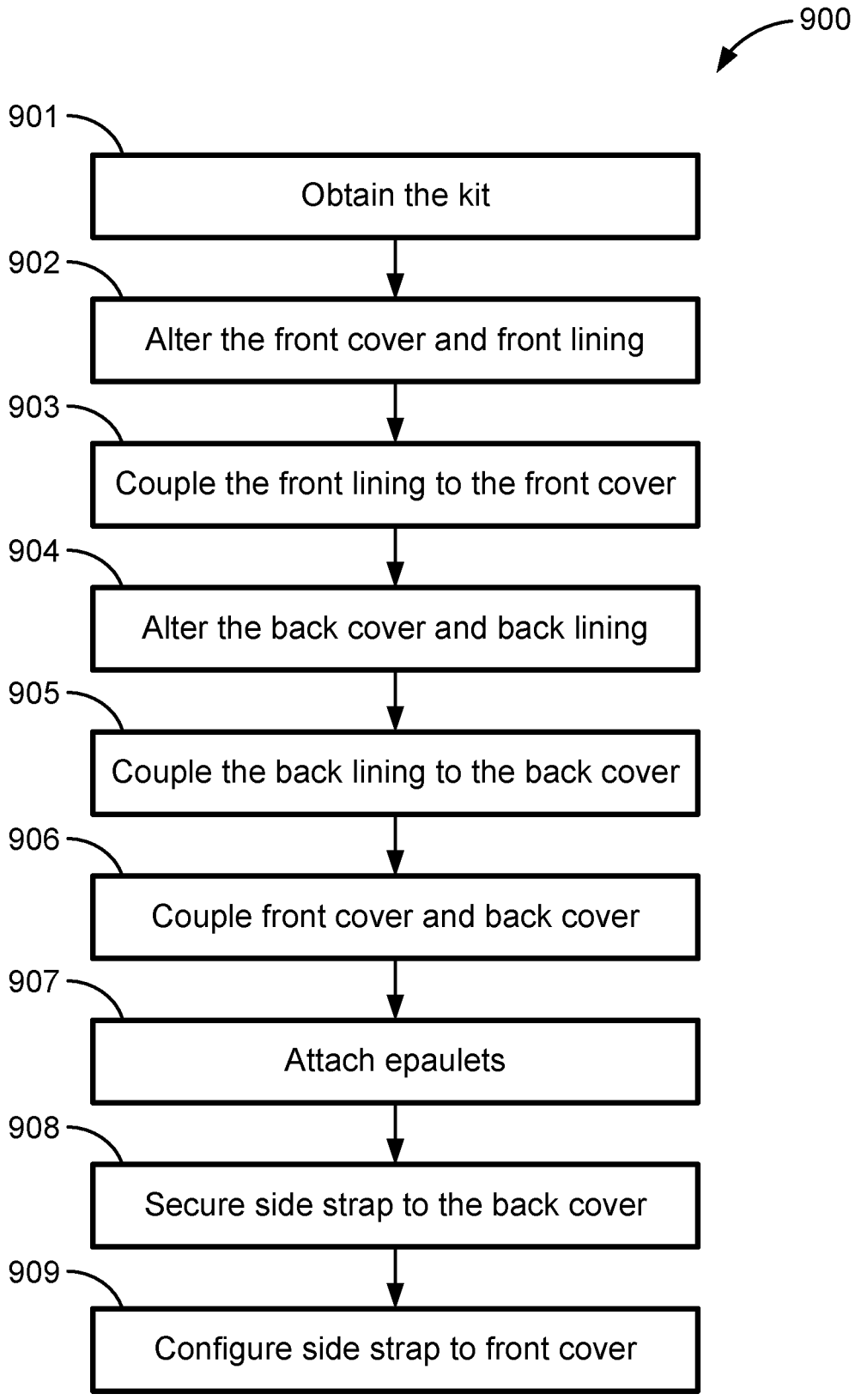

900
901
Obtain the kit
902
Alter the front cover and front lining
903
Couple the front lining to the front cover
904
Alter the back cover and back lining
905
Couple the back lining to the back cover
906
Couple front cover and back cover
907
Attach epaulets
908
Secure side strap to the back cover
909
Configure side strap to front cover

FIG. 9

UNIFORM KITS AND METHODS THEREOF

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This invention relates generally to uniforms and, more specifically, kits containing the necessary components to assemble a uniform.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Some employers require their employees to be dressed in specific uniforms. For example, employees such as law enforcement officers, nurses, firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), etc. often wear specific uniforms associated with their employment. In some cases, employers do not provide their employees with the required uniforms, instead requiring employees to acquire their own uniform from a uniform vendor. Additionally, if the employer provides the required uniform, the employer often acquires the uniform from a uniform vendor. Further, some jobs require protective padding or additional clothing underneath the uniform, which requires the uniform to be configured to receive such padding. Adding to the customization is that some employers require uniforms that have decorative features (e.g., name tags, regalia, etc.). Due to the customization required for the uniforms, uniform vendors create customized uniforms from scratch. Unfortunately, creating customized uniforms is costly, time-consuming, and inefficient. Consequently, a need exists for methods and apparatuses that minimize the expense and time spent in manufacturing a customized uniform while ensuring the uniform properly fits each customer for the customer's specific needs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] Disclosed herein are embodiments of methods and apparatuses pertaining to providing a kit including the necessary parts to efficiently manufacture a work uniform. This description includes drawings, wherein:

[0004] FIG. **1** is an exploded view of a vest cover kit for a uniform vest cover, according to some embodiments;

[0005] FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a partially assembled uniform vest cover assembled from a vest cover kit, according to some embodiments;

[0006] FIG. **3** is perspective view of an assembled uniform vest cover assembled from a vest cover kit, according to some embodiments;

[0007] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of an assembled uniform vest cover assembled from a vest cover kit, according to some embodiments;

[0008] FIG. **5** an exploded view of a vest cover kit for a tactical vest cover, according to some embodiments;

[0009] FIG. **6** is a perspective view of a partially assembled tactical vest cover assembled from a vest cover kit, according to some embodiments;

[0010] FIG. **7** is perspective view of an assembled tactical vest cover assembled from a vest cover kit, according to some embodiments;

[0011] FIG. **8** is a perspective view of an assembled tactical vest cover assembled from a vest cover kit, according to some embodiments;

[0012] FIG. **9** is a flow chart including example operations for assembling a vest cover using a vest cover kit, according to some embodiments.

[0013] Elements in the figures are illustrated for simplicity and clarity and have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions and/or relative positioning of some of the elements in the figures may be exaggerated relative to other elements to help to improve understanding of various embodiments of the present disclosure. Also, common but well-understood elements that are useful or necessary in a commercially feasible embodiment are often not depicted in order to facilitate a less obstructed view of these various embodiments of the present disclosure. Certain actions and/or steps may be described or depicted in a particular order of occurrence while those skilled in the art will understand that such specificity with respect to sequence is not actually required. The terms and expressions used herein have the ordinary technical meaning as is accorded to such terms and expressions by persons skilled in the technical field as set forth above except where different specific meanings have otherwise been set forth herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0014] Generally speaking, pursuant to various embodiments, apparatuses and methods are provided herein useful to create and assemble a uniform. In some embodiments, a vest cover kit for making a customizable vest cover comprises a front cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest, the front cover having at least one pre-installed internal pocket, a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the first pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a first insert when the front lining is coupled to the inner surface of the front cover, a back cover configured to cover at least a portion of the user's back, a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the second pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a second insert when the back lining is coupled to the inner surface of the back cover, a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover, and at least one side strap, wherein the at least one side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the vest on the user.

[0015] As previously discussed, employers may require their employees to acquire customized uniforms. Uniforms can be customized in many ways. For example, uniforms can be customized based on the wearer's body dimensions and/or fit preferences. As another example, uniforms can be customized by adding name tags, emblems, regalia, etc. Often, law enforcement officers often are required to obtain their own uniform, including a bulletproof vest cover. Typically, the bullet proof vest cover is customized based on the wearer's body dimensions and/or fit preferences, as well as with one or more of name tags, emblems, regalia, etc. As another such example, firefighters often require fire-resistant uniforms customized based on the wearer's body dimensions and/or fit preferences that may include customized name tags, emblems, and/or protective padding or additional clothing underneath the uniform, which requires the uniform to be configured to receive such padding. Employees who require customized uniforms often go to a uniform vendor, and the uniform vendor makes the customized uniform from scratch. That is, the uniform vendor must take the customer's body measurements and discuss any other decorative

features of the uniform that the customer requires. Next, the uniform vendor may have to order the required materials (e.g., fire-resistant fabric, heavy-duty fabric, etc.). Then the uniform vendor will cut individual pieces from spools of fabric based on the customer's body measurements and/or fit preferences. Upon obtaining the necessary materials, the uniform vendor must rough cut the fabric into a general shape (e.g., cut a chest portion, a back portion, sleeves, etc.). Next, the uniform vendor must tailor the materials to the customer's body dimensions and/or fit preferences, and attach any desired/required decorative features. Finally, the uniform vendor must assemble the uniform. Accordingly, the ordinary process for obtaining a customized uniform is expensive, time-consuming, and inefficient.

[0016] Described herein are systems, methods, and apparatuses that seek to minimize, if not eliminate, these problems by allowing uniform vendors to create and assemble uniforms quickly and affordably from a pre-made kit. In one embodiment, uniform vendors are provided with a kit that includes all of the necessary pieces to make a customized uniform that suits the customer's needs. In one embodiment, a uniform vendor is provided with a vest cover kit used to make a customizable vest cover for a law enforcement officer's bullet proof vest. The vest cover kit includes all the necessary pieces to retain the police officer's bullet proof plates and/or protective padding. Further, in some embodiments, the vest cover kit also provides the required decorative features, such as a name tag, police department emblem, etc. Once a uniform vendor obtains a vest cover kit, the uniform vendor can trim each component to the customer's bodily dimension and/or fit preferences (if necessary) and sew the components of the vest cover kit together. Obtaining and using these vest cover kits to make uniforms eliminates, or at least reduces, the need to bulk order material (e.g., fabric, name tags, department specific logos, etc.), thereby saving the uniform vendor the expensive of ordering and storing such material. Using vest cover kits also streamlines a time-consuming process by eliminating some steps that uniform vendors often take in preparing a custom uniform. For example, the vest cover kit only requires the uniform vendor to trim the kit components to the user's body dimensions (if necessary) and assemble the components, thereby eliminating the need to obtain, store, and rough cut the bulk material. Also, in some embodiments, the vest cover kit can include the department-specific logos or emblems that customers require. Therefore, the vest cover kit allows the uniform vendors to assemble the vest cover more quickly and efficiently, allowing the customer to receive their customized uniform faster, ultimately reducing time spent for both the uniform vendor and the customer. The discussion of FIG. **1** provides an overview of an example vest cover kit.

[0017] FIG. **1** is an exploded view of a vest cover kit for a uniform vest cover **100** in accordance with some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **1**, the uniform vest cover kit **100** includes a front cover portion **110**, a front lining **120**, a back cover portion **140**, a back lining **150**, at least one side strap **160**, and a pair of epaulets **180**. The front cover portion **110** includes a left portion **115**L, a right portion **115**R, and at least one front fastener **114**. In some embodiments, the front cover portion **110** optionally includes two decorative creases and/or pleats. The front cover portion **110** is dimensioned to wrap around and cover at least a portion of a user's chest. The front cover portion **110** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the front cover portion **110**, including the left portion **115**L and the right portion **115**R, can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton spandex, rayon, etc. In some embodiments, one of the left portion **115**L and the right portion **115**R can include decorative buttons **112**. For example, as depicted in FIG. **1**, the left portion **115**L of the front cover portion **110** includes a plurality of decorative buttons **112**. Additionally, as depicted in FIG. **1** the left portion **115**L also includes a pocket **118**L, and one-half of a mating feature **116**. In this example, the right portion **115**R of the front cover portion **110** includes the other half of the mating feature **116** and a pocket **118**R. The right portion **115**R and the left portion **115**L are mated via the mating feature **116**. According to some embodiments, the mating feature **116** can be a zipper, hook and loop fastener, male-female connectors, or any other type of mechanism that would mate the right portion **115**R with the left portion **115**L. In this embodiment, the decorative buttons **112** are non-functional. However, in alternative embodiments, the decorative buttons **112** can be used in lieu of, or in addition to, the mating feature **116** to mate the right portion **115**R to the left portion **115**L.

[0018] The front lining **120** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the front lining **120** can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton spandex, rayon, etc. In the example depicted in FIG. **1**, the front lining **120** includes a pre-installed closure mechanism **122**. The pre-installed closure mechanism **122** runs across a width W**1** of the front lining **120**; however, the length L**1** of the pre-installed closure mechanism **122** is less than the width W**1** of the front lining **120**. It should be noted, however, that the pre-installed closure mechanism **122** may run in any desired direction (e.g., across a length of the front lining, diagonally across the front lining, etc.). Further, the pre-installed closure mechanism **122** can take any suitable form. For example, the pre-installed closure mechanism **122** can be a zipper, a plurality of buttons, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, etc. When the front lining **120** is coupled to the front cover portion **110**, a user can actuate the closure mechanism **122** to an open position and insert an insert (e.g., the bullet proof plate P) such that the insert is between the front lining **120** and the front cover portion **110**. If the user were to then close the pre-installed closure mechanism **122**, the insert would be securely retained between the front lining **120** and the front cover portion **110**. As shown in more detail in FIG. **2**, the front lining **120** is dimensioned to fit within the boundary of an inner surface **113** of the front cover portion **110**. When assembled, the outer edges of the front lining **120** are coupled to the front cover portion **110**.

[0019] The back cover portion **140** is dimensioned to wrap around and cover at least a portion of a user's back. The back cover portion **140** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the back cover portion **140** can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton, spandex, rayon, etc. In the example depicted in FIG. **1**, the back cover portion **140** includes at least one rear fastener **144**. In some embodiments, the back cover portion **140** optionally includes decorative creases and/or pleats.

[0020] The back lining **150** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the back lining **150** can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton spandex, rayon, etc. Similar to the front lining **120**, the back lining **150** includes a pre-installed closure mechanism **152**. The pre-installed closure mechanism **152** runs across a width W**2** of the back lining **150**; however the

length L2 of the pre-installed closure mechanism **152** is less than the width W2 of the back lining **150**. It should be noted, however, that the pre-installed closure mechanism **152** may run in any desired direction (e.g., across a length of the front lining, diagonally across the front lining, etc.). Further, the pre-installed closure mechanism **152** can take any suitable form. For example, the pre-installed closure mechanism **152** can be a zipper, a plurality of buttons, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, etc. When the back lining **150** is coupled to the back cover portion **140**, a user can actuate the pre-installed closure mechanism **152** to an open position and insert an insert (e.g., a bullet proof plate P), such that the insert is between the back lining **150** and the back cover portion **140**. If the user were to then close the pre-installed closure mechanism **152**, the insert would be securely retained between the back lining **150** and the back cover portion **140**. The back lining **150** is dimensioned to fit within the boundary of a rear surface **143** (FIG. **2**) of the back cover portion **140**. When assembled, the outer edges of the back lining **150** are coupled to the back cover portion **140**.

[0021] In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, the side straps **160** function to mate the front cover portion **110** with the back cover portion **140** when the uniform vest cover kit **100** is assembled. In alternative embodiments, the front cover portion **110** can be mated to the back cover portion **140** through a zipper, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, male-female connectors, etc. Referring to the embodiment depicted in FIG. **1**, the side straps **160** include an elastic portion **164** and a pair of fastening portions **162**. The fastening portions **162** are sewn onto outer ends of the elastic portion **164**. One of the fastening portions **162** is used to engage the front fastener **114** of the front cover portion **110** while the other fastening portion **162** is used to engage the rear fastener **144** of the back cover portion **140**. As depicted in FIG. **1**, the fastening portions **162**, the front fastener **114** and the rear fastener **144** are hook and loop fasteners. In other embodiments, the fastening portions **162**, the front fastener **114** and the rear fastener **144** can be zippers, male-female connectors, or any other type of mechanism that would fasten each fastening portion **162** with the respective front fastener **114** and the rear fastener **144**. The elastic portion **164** allows the strap to bend, stretch, contort, or otherwise be positioned to allow for the fastening portions **162** to engage the front fastener **114** of the front cover portion **110** and the rear fastener **144** of the back cover portion **140**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, the uniform vest cover kit **100** includes two side straps **160**, the front cover portion **110** includes two front fasteners **114**, and the back cover portion **140** includes two rear fasteners **144**. However, the disclosure is not so limiting. In some embodiments, the uniform vest cover kit **100** can include any desired amount of side straps **160** and a corresponding number of front fasteners **114** and rear fasteners **144**. For example, in some embodiments, the uniform vest cover kit **100** can include 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, etc. side straps **160** and a corresponding number of front fasteners **114** and rear fasteners **144**.

[0022] In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, the epaulets **180** can be attached to the front cover portion **110**, the back cover portion **140**, or a combination of the front cover portion **110** and the back cover portion **140**. The epaulets **180** can be both decorative and functional. For example, the epaulets **180** can be used to secure equipment (e.g., wired headset, wired earpiece, etc.) to an assembled uniform vest cover kit **100**.

[0023] The uniform vest cover kit **100** also optionally includes a name tag **172** and an emblem **170**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, both the name tag **172** and the emblem **170** are coupled to the front cover portion **110**. However, the name tag **172** and the emblem **170** could, in an alternative embodiment, be coupled to the back cover portion **140**. Further, the name tag **172** and the emblem **170** are exemplary components showing possible combinations of decorative features for the uniform vest cover kit **100**. The uniform vest cover kit **100** could also include additional pockets, regalia, logos, signs, or any other type of decorative and/or functional accessory.

[0024] While the discussion of FIG. **1** provides an overview of an example vest cover kit, the discussion of FIGS. **2-4** provide additional detail regarding such a vest cover kit.

[0025] FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a partially assembled uniform vest cover assembled from a uniform vest cover kit **100**, according to some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **2**, the front cover portion **110** and the back cover portion **140** of the uniform vest cover kit **100** are partially assembled. Specifically, the front lining **120** is coupled to the front cover portion **110** such that the insert (e.g., bullet proof plate P) is secured between the front lining **120** and the front cover portion **110**, as discussed with respect to FIG. **1**. The insert is inserted between the front lining **120** and the front cover portion **110** through the pre-installed closure mechanism **122**. The back lining **150** is coupled to the back cover portion **140** such that the insert is secured between the back lining **150** and the back cover portion **140**, as discussed with respect to FIG. **1**. In this embodiment, the insert is inserted between the back lining **150** and the back cover portion **140** through the pre-installed closure mechanism **152**. When assembling the uniform vest cover from the uniform cover kit **100**, the front right shoulder edge **111**R of the front cover portion **110** is coupled to the rear right shoulder edge **141**R of the back cover portion **140** and the front left shoulder edge **111**L of the front cover portion **110** is coupled to the rear left shoulder edge **141**L of the back cover portion **140**.

[0026] FIG. **3** is perspective view of an assembled uniform vest cover assembled from a uniform vest cover kit **100**, according to some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **3**, the front cover portion **110** is coupled to the back cover portion **140**. The front cover portion **110** and the back cover portion **140** are coupled at the right shoulder **171**R and the left shoulder **171**L. The embodiment depicted in FIG. **3** also includes a pocket liner **190**. The pocket liner **190** is sewn onto the front cover portion **110** so as to function as an internal pocket for the user. In some embodiments, depending on the dimensions of the front cover portion **110**, the front liner **120**, and the pocket liner **190**, the pocket liner **190** can be sewn onto the front liner **120**. For example, if the user desires to insert large bullet proof plates into the assembled uniform vest cover kit **100**, the front liner **120** can be dimensioned to allow insertion of the bullet proof plate. In such a situation, the front liner **120** is sewn onto a larger area of the inner surface **113** of the front cover portion **110** compared to a scenario in which the user has smaller bullet proof plates and a smaller dimension of the front liner **120**.

The pocket liner **190** is then sewn onto the front liner **120** so as to allow the user to use the pocket liner **190** as an internal pocket.

[0027] In the embodiment depicted in FIG. **3**, the user can utilize the side strap **160** to additionally secure the front cover portion **110** to the back cover portion **140**. As discussed with respect to FIG. **1**, the side strap **160** has an elastic portion **164**, which allows users adjust the fit of the assembled uniform cover vest kit **100** because the elastic portion **164** stretches, bends, and/or contorts. The fastening portion **162** of the side strap **160** is secured to the front fastener **114** of the front cover portion and the rear fastener **144** of the back cover portion. As discussed with respect to FIG. **1**, alternative means of securing the front cover portion **110** to the back cover portion **140** are contemplated. For example, alternative embodiments can use zippers, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, or male and female connectors to secure the front cover portion **110** to the back cover portion **140**.

[0028] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of an assembled uniform vest cover **100** assembled from a uniform vest cover kit **100**, according to some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **4**, the user is wearing the assembled uniform vest cover kit **100**. The uniform vest cover kit **100** has been customized for the user because each component of the vest cover kit **100** is trimmed according to the user's body dimensions and/or fit preferences. As discussed with respect to FIGS. **1** and **3**, the elastic portion **164** of the side strap **160** aids in obtaining for the user his or her desired fit for the assembled uniform vest cover kit **100** by contorting to the user's body dimensions. If the user desires a snugger or looser fit, the user could adjust how the fastening portions **162** of the side strap **160** fasten to the front fastener **114** of the front cover portion **110** and the rear fastener **144** of the back cover portion **140**.

[0029] While the discussion of FIGS. **1-4** describes a vest cover kit for a uniform vest cover, the discussion of FIGS. **5-8** describes a vest cover kit for a tactical vest cover.

[0030] FIG. **5** is an exploded view of a vest cover kit for a tactical vest cover **200**, according to some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **5**, the tactical vest cover kit **200** includes a front cover portion **210**, a front lining **220**, a back cover portion **240**, a back lining **250**, at least one side strap **260**, and a pair of epaulets **280**. The front cover portion **210** includes at least one front fastener **214** and one or more internal pockets **216** The front cover portion **210** is dimensioned to wrap around and cover at least a portion of a user's chest. The front cover portion **210** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the front cover portion **210** can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton spandex, rayon, etc. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **5**, the front cover portion **210** includes one internal pocket **216**; however, the disclosure is not so limiting. In some embodiments, the front cover portion includes two, three, four, etc. internal pockets **216**. In some embodiments, the front cover portion **210** includes a plurality of tactical pockets **218**. The front cover portion also optionally includes a name tag **272** and an emblem **270**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **5**, both the name tag **272** and the emblem **270** are coupled to front cover portion **210**. However, the name tag **272** and the emblem **270** could, in an alternative embodiment, be coupled to the back cover portion **240**, Further, the name tag **272** and the emblem **270** are exemplary components showing possible combinations of decorative features for the tactical vest cover kit **200**. The tactical vest cover kit **200** could also include additional pockets, regalia, logos, signs, or any other type of decorative and/or functional accessory.

[0031] The front lining **220** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the front lining **220** can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton spandex, rayon, etc. In the example depicted in FIG. **5**, the front lining **220** includes a pre-installed closure mechanism **222**. The pre-installed closure mechanism **222** runs across a width W**3** of the front lining **220**; however, the length L**3** of the pre-installed closure mechanism **222** is less than the width W**3** of the front lining **220**. It should be noted, however, that the pre-installed closure mechanism **222** may run in any desired direction (e.g., across a length of the front lining, diagonally across the front lining, etc.). Further, the pre-installed closure mechanism **222** can take any suitable form. For example, the pre-installed closure mechanism **222** can be a zipper, a plurality of buttons, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, etc. When the front lining **220** is coupled to the front cover portion **210**, a user can actuate the closure mechanism **222** to an open position and insert an insert (e.g., the bullet proof plate P) such that the insert is between the front lining **220** and the front cover portion **210**. If the user were to then close the pre-installed closure mechanism **222**, the insert would be securely retained between the front lining **220** and the front cover portion **210**. As shown in more detail in FIG. **6**, the front lining **220** is dimensioned to fit within the boundary of an inner surface **213** of the front cover portion **210**. When assembled, the outer edges of the front lining **220** are coupled to the front cover portion **210**. If more than the outer edges of the front lining **220** are coupled to the front cover portion **210** (e.g., the middle of the front lining **220** is sewn into the front cover portion **210**), it would not be possible to insert the insert between the front lining **220** and the front cover portion **210** through the pre-installed closure mechanism **222**.

[0032] The back cover portion **240** is dimensioned to wrap around and cover at least a portion of a user's back. The back cover portion **240** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the back cover portion **240** can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton, spandex, rayon, etc. In the example depicted in FIG. **1**, the back cover portion **240** includes at least one rear fastener **244**.

[0033] The back lining **250** can be made from any suitable material(s). For example, the back lining **250** can be made from one or a combination of nylon, polyester, polycotton, cotton spandex, rayon, etc. Similar to the front lining **220**, the back lining **250** includes a pre-installed closure mechanism **252**. The pre-installed closure mechanism **252** runs across a width W**4** of the back lining **250**; however the length L**4** of the pre-installed closure mechanism **252** is less than the width W**4** of the back lining **250**. It should be noted, however, that the pre-installed closure mechanism **252** may run in any desired direction (e.g., across a length of the front lining, diagonally across the front lining, etc.). Further, the pre-installed closure mechanism **252** can take any suitable form. For example, the pre-installed closure mechanism **252** can be a zipper, a plurality of buttons, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, etc. When the back lining **250** is coupled to the back cover portion **240**, a user can actuate the closure mechanism **252** to an open position and insert an insert (e.g., bullet proof plate P) such that the insert is between the back

lining **250** and the back cover portion **240**. If the user were to then close the pre-installed closure mechanism **252**, the insert would be securely retained between the back lining **250** and the back cover portion **240**. The back lining **250** is dimensioned to fit within the boundary of a rear surface **243** (FIG. **7**) of the back cover portion **240**. When assembled, the outer edges of the back lining **250** are coupled to the back cover portion **240**. If more than the outer edges of the back lining **250** are coupled to the back cover portion **240** (e.g., the middle of the back lining **250** is sewn into the back cover portion **240**), it would not be possible to insert the insert between the back lining **250** and the back cover portion **240** through the pre-installed closure mechanism **252**.

[0034] In the embodiment shown in FIG. **5**, the side straps **260** function to mate the front cover portion **210** with the back cover portion **240** when the tactical vest cover kit **200** is assembled. In alternative embodiments, the front cover portion **210** can be mated to the back cover portion **240** through a zipper, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, male-female connectors, etc. Referring to the embodiment depicted in FIG. **5**, the side straps **260** include an elastic portion **264** and a pair of fastening portions **262**. The fastening portion **262** are sewn onto outer ends of the elastic portion **264**. One of the fastening portions **262** is used to engage the front fastener **214** of the front cover portion **210** while the other fastening portion **262** is used to engage the rear fastener **244** of the back cover portion **240**. As depicted in FIG. **5**, the fastening portions **262**, the front fastener **214**, and the rear fastener **244** are hook and loop fasteners. In other embodiments, the fastening portions **262**, the front fastener **214**, and the rear fastener **244** can be zippers, male-female connectors, or any other type of mechanism that would fasten each fastening portion **262** with the respective front fastener **214** and the rear fastener **244**. The elastic portion **264** allows the strap to bend, stretch, contort, or otherwise be positioned to allow for the fastening portions **262** to engage the front fastener **214** of the front cover portion **210** and the rear fastener **244** of the back cover portion **240**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **5**, the tactical vest cover kit **200** includes two side straps **260**, the front cover portion **210** includes two front fasteners **214**, and the back cover portion **240** includes two rear fasteners **244**. However, the disclosure is not so limiting. In some embodiments, the tactical vest cover kit **200** can include any desired amount of side straps **260** and a corresponding number of front fasteners **214** and rear fasteners **244**. For example, in some embodiments, the tactical vest cover kit **200** can include 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, etc. side straps **260** and a corresponding number of front fasteners **214** and rear fasteners **244**.

[0035] In the embodiment shown in FIG. **5**, the epaulets **280** can be attached to the front cover portion **210**, the back cover portion **240**, or a combination of the front cover portion **210** and the back cover portion **240**. The epaulets **280** can be both decorative and functional. For example, the epaulets **280** can be used to secure equipment (e.g., wired headset, wired earpiece, etc.) to an assembled tactical vest cover kit **200**.

[0036] While the discussion of FIG. **5** provides an overview of an example vest cover kit, the discussion of FIGS. **6-8** provide additional detail regarding such a vest cover kit.

[0037] FIG. **6** is a perspective view of a partially assembled tactical vest cover assembled from a tactical uniform vest cover kit **200**, according to some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **6**, the front cover portion **210** and the back cover portion **240** of the tactical vest cover kit **200** are partially assembled. Specifically, the front lining **220** is coupled to the front cover portion **210** such that the insert (e.g., bullet proof plate P) is secured between the front lining **220** and the front cover portion **210**, as discussed with respect to FIG. **1**. The insert is inserted between the front lining **220** and the front cover portion **210** through the pre-installed closure mechanism **222**. The back lining **250** is coupled to the back cover portion **240** such that the insert is secured between the back lining **250** and the back cover portion **240**. In this embodiment, the insert is inserted between the back lining **250** and the back cover portion **240** through the pre-installed closure mechanism **252**. When assembling the tactical vest cover from the tactical vest cover kit **200**, the front right shoulder edge **211**R of the front cover portion **210** is coupled to the rear right shoulder edge **241**R of the back cover portion **240** and the front left shoulder edge **211**L of the front cover portion **210** is coupled to the rear left shoulder edge **241**L of the back cover portion **240**.

[0038] FIG. **7** is perspective view of an assembled tactical vest cover assembled from a tactical vest cover kit **200**, according to some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **7**, the front cover portion **210** is coupled to the back cover portion **240**. The front cover portion **210** and the back cover portion **240** are coupled at the right shoulder **271**R and the left shoulder **271**L. The embodiment depicted in FIG. **7** also includes the pocket liner **290**. The pocket liner **290** is sewn onto the front cover portion **210** so as to function as an internal pocket for the user. In some embodiments, depending on the dimensions of the front cover portion **210**, the front liner **220**, and the pocket liner **290**, the pocket liner **290** can be sewn onto the front liner **220**. For example, if the user desires to insert large bullet proof plates into the assembled tactical vest cover kit **200**, the front liner **220** can be dimensioned to allow insertion of the bullet proof plates. In such a situation, the front liner **220** is sewn onto a larger area of the inner surface **213** of the front cover portion **210** compared to a scenario in which the user has smaller bullet proof plates and a smaller dimension of the front liner **220**. The pocket liner **290** is then sewn onto the front liner **220** so as to allow the user to use the pocket **290** as an internal pocket.

[0039] In the embodiment depicted in FIG. **7**, the user can utilize the side strap **260** to additionally secure the front cover portion **210** to the back cover portion **240**. As discussed with respect to FIG. **5**, the side strap **260** has an elastic portion **264**, which allows users to adjust the fit of the assembled vest tactical vest cover kit **200** because the elastic portion **264** stretches, bends, and/or contorts. The fastening portion **262** of the side strap **260** is secured to the front fastener **214** of the front cover portion and the rear fastener **244** of the back cover portion. As discussed with respect to FIG. **5**, alternative means of securing the front cover portion **210** to the back cover portion **240** are contemplated. For example, alternative embodiments can use zippers, snap buttons, hook and loop fasteners, or male and female connectors to secure the front cover portion **210** to the back cover portion **240**.

[0040] FIG. **8** is a perspective view of an assembled tactical vest cover assembled from a tactical vest cover kit **200**, according to some embodiments. As depicted in FIG. **8**, the user is wearing the assembled tactical vest cover **200**. The tactical vest cover kit **200** has been customized for the

user because each component of the tactical vest cover kit **200** is trimmed according to the user's body dimensions and/or fit preferences. As discussed with respect to FIGS. **5** and **7**, the elastic portion **264** of the side strap **260** aids in obtaining for the user his or her desired fit for the assembled tactical vest cover kit **200** by contorting to the user's body dimensions. If the user desires a snugger or looser fit, the user could adjust how the fastening portions **262** of the side strap **260** fasten to the front fastener **214** of the front cover portion **210** and the rear fastener **244** of the back cover portion **240**.

[0041] While the discussion of FIGS. **1-8** describes variations of vest cover kits, the discussion of FIG. **9** describes a method of assembling a vest cover kit.

[0042] FIG. **9** is a flow chart including example operations for assembling a vest cover kit in accordance with several embodiments. The flow begins at step **901**.

[0043] Step **901** of method **900** includes obtaining a vest cover kit. The vest cover kit can be for any type of vest cover, such as, for example, the uniform vest cover described with respect to FIGS. **1-4** or the tactical vest cover described with respect to FIGS. **5-8**. In one embodiment, the vest cover kit includes a front cover, a front lining, a back cover, a back lining, a pair of epaulets, and at least one side strap. For example, in some embodiments, step **901** of method **900** includes obtaining the vest cover kit **100**. The vest cover kit includes the front cover portion, the front lining, the back cover portion, the back lining, the pair of epaulets, and at least one side strap. In other embodiments, the vest cover kit additionally includes a pocket liner and/or decorative accessories (e.g., buttons, pockets, name tags, emblems, etc.).

[0044] Step **902** of method **900** includes altering the front cover and the front lining. The front cover and the front lining are altered based on the dimensions of a user's chest and/or the user's fit preferences. Using a uniform vest cover kit as an example, at step **902** of the method **900**, the front cover portion and the front lining of the uniform vest cover kit are altered based on the dimensions of the user's chest. Additionally, or alternatively, the front cover and the front lining are altered based on the dimensions of the user's inserts (e.g., protective padding and/or bullet proof plates). In such embodiments, the front cover and the front lining can be altered to a dimension that would allow the insert(s) to be securely positioned between the front cover and the front lining.

[0045] Step **903** of method **900** includes, after altering the front cover and the front lining, coupling the front lining to the inner surface of the front cover. For example, the front cover and the front lining can be coupled by sewing the front cover and the front lining together. As described herein, the front lining is coupled to an inner surface of the front cover. When coupling the front lining to the front cover, only the outer edges of the front lining are coupled to the front cover. By only coupling the outer edges of the front lining, a user can position an insert (e.g., bullet proof plate, protective padding) between the front lining and the front cover.

[0046] Step **904** of method **900** includes altering the back cover and the back lining. The back cover and back front lining are altered based on the dimensions of a user's back and/or the user's fit preferences. Using a uniform vest cover kit as an example, at step **904** of the method **900**, the back cover and the back lining of the uniform vest cover kit are altered based on the dimensions of the user's chest. Additionally, or alternatively, the back cover and the back lining are altered based on the dimensions of the user's inserts (e.g., protective padding and/or bullet proof plates). In such embodiments, the back cover and the back lining can be altered to a dimension that would allow the insert(s) to be securely positioned between the back cover and the back lining.

[0047] Step **905** of method **900** includes, after altering the back cover and the back lining, coupling the back lining to an inner surface of the back cover. For example, the back cover and the back lining can be coupled by sewing the back cover and the back lining together. As described herein, the back lining is coupled to an inner surface of the back cover. When coupling the back lining to the back cover, only the outer edges of the back lining are coupled to the back cover. By only coupling the outer edges of the back lining, a user can position an insert (e.g., bullet proof plate, protective padding) between the back lining and the back cover.

[0048] Step **906** of method **900** includes coupling the front cover to the back cover. In some embodiments, a pair of front shoulder portions of the front cover are coupled to a pair of back shoulder portions of the back cover. In an exemplary embodiment in which the vest cover kit of method **900** is the uniform vest cover kit described with respect to FIGS. **1-4**, the front right shoulder edge of the front cover portion is coupled to the rear right shoulder edge of the back cover portion. Similarly, the front left shoulder edge of the front cover portion is coupled to the rear left shoulder edge of the back cover portion.

[0049] Step **907** of method **900** includes, after coupling the front cover to the back cover, attaching epaulets. The epaulets are attached to one of the front cover and the back cover or a combination of the front cover and the back cover. Using a uniform vest cover kit as an example, at step **907** of the method **900**, each of the pair epaulets are sewn into both the front cover and the back cover at the right shoulder and the left shoulder, respectively.

[0050] Step **908** of method **900** includes securing at least one side strap to the back cover. A first of a pair of coupling mechanisms of the side strap is attached to the back cover. In an exemplary embodiment in which the vest cover kit of method **900** is the uniform vest cover kit described with respect to FIGS. **1-4**, the side strap includes an elastic portion and a pair of fastening portions. One example of a fastening portion is a hook and loop fastener, as described herein. One of the pair of fastening portions is attached to the rear fastener of the back cover. The fastening portion is attached to the rear fastener via hook and loop fasteners.

[0051] Step **909** of method **900** includes, after securing the at least one side strap to the back cover, configuring the second coupling mechanism of the side strap to the front cover so as to couple the front cover and the back cover. A second of the pair of coupling mechanisms of the side strap is attached to the front cover. In an exemplary embodiment in which the vest cover kit of method **900** is the uniform vest cover kit described with respect to FIGS. **1-4**, the side strap includes a pair of fastening portions. At step **908**, a first of the pair of fastening portions was attached to the rear fastener of the back cover. At step **909**, the second of the pair of fastening portions is attached to the front fastener of the front cover. Once the fastening portion is attached to the front fastener, the front cover is coupled to the back cover. The side strap acts as a coupling mechanism to couple the front cover and the back cover.

[0052] In some embodiments, the method **900** optionally includes coupling a second side strap to the back cover, and coupling the second side strap to the front cover. In an exemplary embodiment in which the vest cover kit of method **900** is the uniform vest cover kit described with respect to FIGS. **1-4**, the uniform vest cover kit includes two side straps. The back cover includes two rear fasteners configured to receive a first of the pair of fastening portions of each side strap. Similarly, the front cover includes two front fasteners configured to receive the second of the pair of fastening portions of each side strap. In this embodiment, the front cover is coupled to the back cover at the right shoulder and left shoulder, and via the use of a pair of side straps. In some embodiments, the front cover can be coupled to the back cover through use of only one side strap, with the other side strap being replaced by a zipper, snap buttons, or male and female connectors as discussed herein.

[0053] In some embodiments, the method **900** also includes securing a pocket liner to a surface of the front lining such that the pocket liner forms an interior pocket. In an exemplary embodiment in which the vest cover kit of method **900** is the uniform vest cover kit described with respect to FIGS. **1-4**, the uniform vest cover kit includes a pocket liner that is coupled to a surface of the front lining. The pocket liner functions as an interior pocket when the assembled uniform vest cover kit is worn by a user.

[0054] The method **900** also optionally includes inserting an insert into the vest cover kit. This optional step includes opening a first pre-installed closure mechanism of the front lining, after the opening of the first pre-installed closure mechanism, inserting a first insert into the first pre-installed closure mechanism of the front lining, after the inserting of the first insert, closing the first pre-installed closure mechanism, thereby maintaining the first insert within the front lining and the front cover, opening a second pre-installed closure mechanism of the back lining, after the opening of the second pre-installed closure mechanism, inserting a second insert into the second pre-installed closure mechanism of the back lining, and after inserting the second insert, closing the second pre-installed closure mechanism, thereby maintaining the second insert within the back lining and the back cover.

[0055] A vest cover kit for making a customizable vest cover, the vest cover kit comprising a front cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest, the front cover having at least one pre-installed internal pocket, a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the first pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a first insert when the front lining is coupled to the inner surface of the front cover, a back cover configured to cover at least a portion of the user's back, a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the second pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a second insert when the back lining is coupled to the inner surface of the back cover, a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover, and at least one side strap, wherein the at least one side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the customizable vest cover on the user.

[0056] A vest cover kit for making a customizable vest cover, the vest cover kit comprising a front cover having a left portion and a right portion, the front cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest, wherein the left portion includes a first mating feature and the right portion includes a second mating feature, and wherein the first mating feature and the second mating feature are configured to secure the left portion to the right portion, a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the first pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a first insert when the front lining is coupled to the inner surface of the front cover, a back cover configured to cover at least a portion of the user's back, a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the second pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a second insert when the back lining is coupled to the inner surface of the back cover, a pair of external pockets, wherein a first one of the external pockets is configured to be secured to the left portion of the front cover and a second one of the external pockets is configured to be secured to the right portion of the front cover, a pair of pocket flaps, wherein a first one of the pocket flaps is configured to be secured to the left portion of the front cover adjacent to the first one of the external pockets and a second one of the pocket flaps is configured to be secured to the right portion of the front cover adjacent to the second one of the external pockets, a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover; and at least one side strap, wherein the at least one side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the customizable vest cover on the user.

[0057] In some embodiments, an apparatus and a corresponding method performed by the apparatus, comprises obtaining the kit, kit comprising a front cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest, a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the first pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a first insert when the front lining is coupled to the inner surface of the front cover, a back cover configured to cover at least a portion of the user's back, a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the second pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a second insert when the back lining is coupled to the inner surface of the back cover, a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover, at least one side strap, wherein the at least one side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the vest on the user, altering, based on dimensions of a user's chest, the front cover and the front lining, after the altering of the front cover and the front lining, coupling the front lining to the inner surface of the front cover, altering, based on dimensions of the user's back, the back cover and the back lining, after the altering of the back cover and the back lining, coupling the back lining to the inner surface of the back cover, coupling a pair of front shoulder portions of the front cover to a pair of back shoulder portions of the back cover, after the coupling of the pair of front shoulder portions to the pair of back shoulder

portions, attaching the pair of epaulets to one or more of the front cover and the back cover, securing a first of a pair of coupling mechanisms of the at least one side strap to the back cover, and after the securing, configuring a second of the pair of coupling mechanisms of the at least one side strap to couple the front cover and the back cover by securing the second of the pair of coupling mechanisms to the front cover.

[0058] Those skilled in the art will recognize that a wide variety of other modifications, alterations, and combinations can also be made with respect to the above described embodiments without departing from the scope of the disclosure, and that such modifications, alterations, and combinations are to be viewed as being within the ambit of the inventive concept.

What is claimed is:

1. A vest cover kit for making a customizable vest cover, the vest cover kit comprising:

a front cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest, the front cover having at least one pre-installed internal pocket;

a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the first pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a first insert when the front lining is coupled to the inner surface of the front cover;

a back cover configured to cover at least a portion of the user's back;

a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the second pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a second insert when the back lining is coupled to the inner surface of the back cover;

a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover; and

at least one side strap, wherein the at least one side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the customizable vest cover on the user.

2. The vest cover kit of claim **1**, wherein the first insert and the second insert are bulletproof plates.

3. The vest cover kit of claim **1**, further including a pocket liner configured to be coupled to a surface of the front lining to form an interior pocket.

4. The vest cover kit of claim **1**, wherein the at least one side strap includes a pair of coupling mechanisms, wherein the pair of coupling mechanisms are configured to couple the at least one side strap to the front cover and the back cover.

5. The vest cover kit of claim **4**, wherein the front cover includes a pair of front shoulder portions and the back cover includes a pair of back shoulder portions, and wherein the pair of front shoulder portions are configured to be coupled to the pair of back shoulder portions.

6. The vest cover kit of claim **1**, wherein a size of the front cover, a size of the front lining, a size of the back cover, and a size of the back lining are selected based on a size of the user.

7. The vest cover kit of claim **1**, wherein at least one of the front cover, the front lining, the back cover, and the back lining are configured to be altered before the customizable vest cover is assembled.

8. A vest cover kit for making a customizable vest cover, the vest cover kit comprising:

a front cover having a left portion and a right portion, the front cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest, wherein the left portion includes a first mating feature and the right portion includes a second mating feature, and wherein the first mating feature and the second mating feature are configured to secure the left portion to the right portion;

a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the first pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a first insert when the front lining is coupled to the inner surface of the front cover;

a back cover configured to cover at least a portion of the user's back;

a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the second pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a second insert when the back lining is coupled to the inner surface of the back cover;

a pair of external pockets, wherein a first one of the external pockets is configured to be secured to the left portion of the front cover and a second one of the external pockets is configured to be secured to the right portion of the front cover;

a pair of pocket flaps, wherein a first one of the pocket flaps is configured to be secured to the left portion of the front cover adjacent to the first one of the external pockets and a second one of the pocket flaps is configured to be secured to the right portion of the front cover adjacent to the second one of the external pockets;

a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover; and

at least one side strap, wherein the at least one side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the customizable vest cover on the user.

9. The vest cover kit of claim **8**, wherein the first insert and the second insert are bulletproof plates.

10. The vest cover kit of claim **8**, further including a pocket liner configured to be coupled to a surface of the front lining to form an interior pocket.

11. The vest cover kit of claim **8**, wherein the at least one side strap includes a pair of coupling mechanisms, wherein the pair of coupling mechanisms are configured to couple the at least one side strap to the front cover and the back cover.

12. The vest cover kit of claim **11**, wherein the front cover includes a pair of front shoulder portions and the back cover includes a pair of back shoulder portions, and wherein the pair of front shoulder portions are configured to be coupled to the pair of back shoulder portions.

13. The vest cover kit of claim **8**, wherein a size of the front cover, a size of the front lining, a size of the back cover, and a size of the back lining are selected based on a size of the user.

14. The vest cover kit of claim **8**, wherein the at least one half of the front cover includes a right half and a left half, the right half includes a first portion of a third pre-installed closure mechanism, the left half includes a plurality of

decorative buttons and a second portion of the third pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the right half is coupled to the left half via the first portion and the second portion of the third pre-installed closure mechanism.

15. The vest cover kit of claim **8**, wherein at least one of the front cover, the front lining, the back cover, and the back lining are configured to be altered before the customizable vest cover is assembled.

16. A method of assembling a vest cover using a vest cover kit, the method comprising:

obtaining the vest cover kit, the vest cover kit comprising:

a front cover configured to cover at least a portion of a user's chest;

a front lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the front cover, the front lining including a first pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the first pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a first insert when the front lining is coupled to the inner surface of the front cover;

a back cover configured to cover at least a portion of the user's back;

a back lining configured to be coupled to an inner surface of the back cover, the back lining including a second pre-installed closure mechanism, wherein the second pre-installed closure mechanism allows for insertion of a second insert when the back lining is coupled to the inner surface of the back cover;

a pair of epaulets configured to be secured to one or more of the front cover and the back cover;

at least one side strap, wherein the at least one side strap is configured to be removably secured to the front cover and the back cover to secure the vest on the user;

altering, based on dimensions of a user's chest, the front cover and the front lining;

after the altering of the front cover and the front lining, coupling the front lining to the inner surface of the front cover;

altering, based on dimensions of the user's back, the back cover and the back lining;

after the altering of the back cover and the back lining, coupling the back lining to the inner surface of the back cover;

coupling a pair of front shoulder portions of the front cover to a pair of back shoulder portions of the back cover;

after the coupling of the pair of front shoulder portions to the pair of back shoulder portions, attaching the pair of epaulets to one or more of the front cover and the back cover;

securing a first of a pair of coupling mechanisms of the at least one side strap to the back cover; and

after the securing, configuring a second of the pair of coupling mechanisms of the at least one side strap to couple the front cover and the back cover by securing the second of the pair of coupling mechanisms to the front cover.

17. The method of claim **16**, further comprising:

opening a first pre-installed closure mechanism of the front lining;

after the opening of the first pre-installed closure mechanism, inserting a first insert into the first pre-installed closure mechanism of the front lining;

after the inserting of the first insert, closing the first pre-installed closure mechanism, thereby maintaining the first insert within the front lining and the front cover;

opening a second pre-installed closure mechanism of the back lining;

after the opening of the second pre-installed closure mechanism, inserting a second insert into the second pre-installed closure mechanism of the back lining; and

after inserting the second insert, closing the second pre-installed closure mechanism, thereby maintaining the second insert within the back lining and the back cover.

18. The method of claim **16**, wherein the at least one side strap includes a first side strap and a second side strap.

19. The method of claim **18**, further comprising:

after the configuring of the second of the pair of coupling mechanisms of the at least one side strap, securing the first of the pair of coupling mechanisms of the second side strap to the back cover;

after the securing of the first of the pair of coupling mechanisms of the second side strap, configuring the second of the pair of coupling mechanisms of the second side strap to couple the front cover and the back cover by securing the second of the pair of couple mechanisms to the front cover, wherein the second side strap is positioned opposite the first side strap.

20. The method of claim **15**, further comprising:

after coupling the front lining to the inner surface of the front cover, coupling a pocket liner to a surface of the front lining such that the pocket liner forms an interior pocket.

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