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(71) Applicant: **SAFARILAND, LLC** [US/US]; 13386 International Parkway, Jacksonville, FL 32218 (US).

(72) Inventors: **PITTMAN, David, Lynn**; 677 E. Alvarado St., Pomona, CA 91767 (US). **O'BRIEN, Scott, Timothy**;

15927 Berkley Dr., Chino Hills, CA 91709 (US). **MACKLER, Todd, Lavik, Wilson**; 31292 Pasco Sereno, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (US). **DUNCAN, James, A.**; 20355 Via Manresa, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 (US). **O'BRIEN, Tim**; 16625 Carob Ave., Chino Hills, CA 91709 (US).

(74) Agent: **SZABO, Paul, E.** et al.; Kane Kessler, P.C., 600 Third Avenue, 35th Floor, New York, NY 10016-1901 (US).

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(54) Title: BALLISTIC VEST

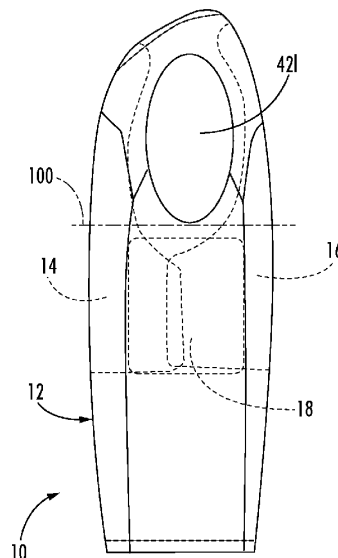


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: A ballistic vest includes a carrier and at least two ballistic panels supported in the carrier, including a front ballistic panel and a back ballistic panel. The carrier is made from at least two layers of material including an outer layer and an inner layer that are joined to each other at the top and bottom of the vest and that are substantially open at the sides. The carrier has portions defining a left armhole and a right armhole. The two carrier layers define between them a panel space in the carrier. An upper part of the panel space is located above the bottom of the left and right arm holes and a lower part of the panel space is located below the bottom of the left and right arm holes. The front panel has an upper section that is positioned in the upper part of the panel space, the carrier substantially constraining lateral movement of the front panel upper section within the panel space. The front panel has a lower section that is positioned in the lower part of the panel space, the front panel lower section being substantially free to move laterally in the panel

[Continued on next page]

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space. The back panel has an upper section that is positioned in the upper part of the panel space, the carrier substantially constraining lateral movement of the back panel upper section within the panel space. The back panel has a lower section that is positioned in the lower part of the panel space, the back panel lower section being substantially free to move laterally in the panel space.