

## **Mahidol University and Ministry of Science and Technology to Produce Bulletproof Vest Supporting Police-Soldiers in Southern Provinces**

Mahidol University, Ministry of Science and Technology, and private sectors produce 100 bulletproof vests to support and increase safety for police officers – soldiers in southern provinces.

Recently, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, National Metal and Materials Technology Center, Thailand, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Ministry of Science and Technology and PTT Polymer Marketing Company Limited signed the agreement for a collaborative project “Expand Production of Research of bulletproof vests” to support and increase safety of the operation of the police officers and soldiers. The bulletproof vests are entirely made from local materials, which consisted of ceramic plate and polyethylene composite. The ceramic plate functions to deflect the bullet, while polyethylene composite spread the blunt trauma and reduce the impact. The design of the bulletproof vest suits the body of the Thais, and it weights 9 kilograms. It could protect personal safety from harm in the 3<sup>rd</sup> level according to NIJ (National Institute of Justice) standard, which is protection from 7.62 mm bullet head from M16 rifle. It has operational lifetime of 5 years. Preliminary production of 100 bulletproof vests should take approximately 18 months in production and delivery to the 3 southern border provinces. In the future, development should reduce the weight of bulletproof vest down to 6 kilograms.