



MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



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Marine Corps Systems Command's Testing Underway for MRAP Test Vehicles

QUANTICO, Va. – Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) has commenced testing of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles delivered under the initial Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract awarded on Jan 26. MCSC challenged industry by awarding nine separate IDIQ contracts for 36 initial MRAP test vehicles.

MRAP is, in fact, a family of vehicles. There is no one common design. Each vendor proposed its own design, and the procurement of MRAP vehicles remains a competition. The MRAP vehicles purchased through the Jan. 26 contract are at Aberdeen Proving Grounds for performance test and evaluation. Pending the successful verification of survivability and automotive performance, decisions on additional production orders and fielding will be evaluated.

The contracts and orders cover two categories of MRAP vehicles. Category I is the smaller, lighter Mine Resistant Utility Vehicle (MRUV) for urban combat operations. Category II is the larger, medium-sized Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Rapid Response Vehicle (JERRV) for multi-mission operations such as convoy lead, troop transport, ambulance, explosive ordnance disposal and combat engineering.

The current quantity requirement for MRAP vehicles is under review by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) and will be based on theater operational needs. The JROC is evaluating the cumulative service and Special Operations Command requirements for potentially more than 7,700 vehicles. The total cost is now estimated at \$8.4 billion.

More than 60 MRAP vehicles are currently being used by Marine forces in Iraq. These armored vehicles have a proven record of saving lives by augmenting the current level of mine, rocket propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices (IED) protection with a V-shaped hull and raised chassis.

"MRAP vehicles have saved lives," said Capt. Taylor Biggs, Marine Forces Pacific and MRAP vehicle survivor. "The Marines who work in these vehicles have the greatest confidence in its abilities to defeat the bad guys. IEDs are our greatest threat. They frustrate Marines who want to engage targets, not be targets themselves."

"MCSC's acquisition strategy is outcome-oriented. We want the maximum number of survivable vehicles, with proven performance, in the shortest time to deliver," said Paul Mann, MCSC's program manager for MRAP. "In response to our request for proposals, industry responded with quality products and production capacity. Theater Commanders have an urgent and compelling need for these vehicles. It is up to all of us to act fast."

With the active evaluation participation by the Army, the Marine Corps serves as the lead agency for procurement of the current requirement of MRAP vehicles under designated Rapid Deployment Capability authority. The Marine Corps, in concert with the Army and Navy's program managers, will work through acquisition, fielding and sustainment. MRAP vehicle requirements include the increased survivability and mobility of Marines, Sailors and Soldiers responding to a variety of missions including operating in a hazardous fire area against known threats such as small arms fire and IEDs.

"These mine-resistant vehicles gave us a capability to safely approach, confirm and in some instances neutralize IEDs," said Biggs, who served in Iraq from August 2005 to April 2006.

"These vehicles provide the best available protection for our warfighters," added Brig. Gen. Michael Brogan, MCSC commander. "Awarding multiple contracts simultaneously creates full and open competition so we can expand the production base and more rapidly put these life-saving vehicles into the hands of our warfighters."

"Success is in the hands of industry," said Barry Dillon, MCSC's executive director. "The vehicles need to have adequate survivability, need to be produced at a high rate and need to be fielded as soon as possible. We are depending on industry to fulfill their contracts on time. We are encouraging them to produce vehicles faster. The faster we can field quality, safe MRAP vehicles, the more lives we can save."



A 6x6 EOD variant of the MRAP JERRV undergoes the first shot of a four shot series of test explosions at the Aberdeen Test Center (ATC) in Maryland. All MRAP vehicles are tested at the ATC and this vehicle met the threshold. *(ATC photo)*



CEOs and company representatives join Brig. Gen. Michael Brogan, MCSC commander (center); Barry Dillon, MCSC executive director (left of the commander); Paul Mann, MCSC's MRAP program manager for MRAP (far left); and Col. Dion King, the Army's MRAP project manager, for a cake cutting ceremony in January. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Sgt. David Moran uses an MRAP vehicle dubbed the "Cougar" to sweep for improvised explosive devices in Iraq. Moran serves as an EOD technician with the 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. *(Photo by Cpl. Joseph DiGirolamo)*



Capt. Taylor Biggs (right) was a first lieutenant with an engineer company in Fallujah, Iraq, when this photo was taken in December 2005. He along with his vehicle commander (left, name not provided) and eight other Marines survived an explosion from an IED built from a triple 155mm artillery round. The IED went off one meter from the MRAP Cougar they were riding in and the Marines only sustained minor injuries including a blown ear drum and one broken bone. *(Photo provided by Capt. Taylor Biggs)*

The following graphics provided by the individual companies are prototypes of the MRAP vehicle proposed by that company. Graphics may be artist renderings or doctored photos.



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by Armor Holdings Aerospace and Defense Group.



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by BAE Systems.

Force Protection International Incorporated



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by Force Protection Industries, Inc.

General Dynamics Land Systems



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by General Dynamics Land Systems.

General Purpose Vehicles



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by General Purpose Vehicles.

International Military & Government LLC



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by International Military and Government LLC.

Oshkosh Truck Company



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by Oshkosh Truck Corporation.

Protected Vehicles Inc.



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by Protected Vehicles, Inc.

Textron Land & Marine Systems



Prototype of MRAP vehicle proposed by Textron Marine and Land Systems.