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First M-ATVs deploy to Afghanistan

QUANTICO, Va. — With unprecedented speed, the first of thousands of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) All Terrain Vehicles (M-ATV) are being deployed to Afghanistan with a highly survivable and off-road-capable vehicle just three months after a delivery order was awarded to protect warfighters.

MRAP vehicles feature a V-shaped hull to deflect roadside bombs and are proven to be lifesavers on the battlefield. The procurement of the M-ATV grew from an urgent requirement to provide troops a smaller and more maneuverable vehicle that can travel off-road and navigate Afghanistan's difficult, mountainous terrain.

“So we have pulled out all the stops to collapse the schedule and get these vehicles into theater,” said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command and Joint Program Executive Officer of the MRAP Program. “We are doing everything that’s required to ensure that they are safe, that the risk assessments are complete, that they’re fully integrated and flown into Afghanistan.”

The M-ATV supports small-unit combat operations in highly restricted rural, mountainous and urban environments that include mounted patrols, reconnaissance, security, convoy protection, communications, command and control, and combat service support. It is designed to replace the up-armored Humvee in Afghanistan. The M-ATV will carry up to five personnel – four plus a gunner.

The Department of Defense has ordered more than 4,300 of the all-terrain mine resistant trucks and another 1,400 are planned. The vehicles are being produced by Oshkosh Corporation.

– USMC –

Editors Note: The United States Air Force Air Mobility Command's 437th Airlift Wing are inviting media to attend an event highlighting the first M-ATV vehicles heading to warfighters in Afghanistan. The event is planned for Sept. 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina. Interested media should call (843) 963-5608/5582.