

From the Army Acquisition Executive Future Combat Systems: A Single Entity

It has been said that success comes from having the proper aim as well as the right ammunition. I would add that it is important to have the proper amount of ammunition as well. In fighting and winning the global war on terrorism, ammunition once again has taken on increased importance. The so-called "iron mountain" of ammo that accumulated during the Cold War years has been reduced substantially as we continue to balance our training requirements with today's operational needs. In fact, at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, DOD's only small caliber production facility, we produced roughly 300 million rounds in 1999. Today, we are headed to nearly 1.2 billion rounds in 2004 with an aim toward 1.75 billion to 2 billion rounds annually in the coming years. Our challenge is to find the right models to allow us to predict our future ammo requirements, and we are working on that.

While this edition is devoted primarily to ammunition, there is also a spotlight on Stryker, one of Army acquisition, logistics and technology's great success stories. LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr., my Military Deputy, just presented the Secretary of the Army Environmental Excellence Award — an award normally given to Army installations — to Program Manager Stryker, COL David Ogg, for establishing an interagency environmental management team that greatly reduced the hazardous materials used in building Stryker as well as designing environment-friendly features into the family of vehicles. Examples include a design that catches spent shell casings and another that traps fluids that are normally released to the environment. In addition, the team created processes that eliminate many uses of chromium and cadmium in the production, fielding and repair in the first halon-free crew explosion protection system. Yakovac stated, "We are not only responsible for being good stewards of taxpayers' money, but good stewards of the environment."

When then Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki announced transformation plans in October 1999, he talked of an Interim Force that would fill the gap between our heavy forces and our light forces. He spoke of Interim Brigade Combat Teams equipped with a family of Interim Armored Vehicles (IAVs) with two primary goals. One: to increase the Army's ability to deploy forces rapidly worldwide. IAVs would be transportable in C-130 type aircraft, enabling our troops to get to the fight fast and operate with a much smaller logistics footprint. Two: the IAV's speed, mobility and armor protection would increase lethality and enhance Soldier survivability.

In early 2002, the system was unveiled thanks to hard work by the brigade combat team — military and civilian — in Fort Lewis, WA; Anniston, AL; Warren, MI; London, Ontario; and other locations throughout the world. Their dedicated efforts gave us the Stryker — named in honor of two Medal of Honor



recipients who gave their lives on the battlefield in defense of America and freedom: PFC Stuart S. Stryker who served in World War II and SPC Robert F. Stryker who served in Vietnam. As then Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley said, "These two great Soldiers were separated by a generation and fought on battlefields on opposite sides of the globe, but both made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and their fellow Soldiers. Now, it's up to all Soldiers to honor the Stryker name by making full use of the enormous capabilities of the Stryker combat vehicle."

Our Soldiers are honoring the Stryker name. On Dec. 3, 2003, the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) crossed the Iraqi border from Kuwait. The 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, known as the "Arrowhead Brigade," deployed from Fort Lewis to *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, delivering its enhanced capability to the Joint Force in record time: 4 years from broad concept to deployment. Exceptional support from Congress and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), along with close collaboration between the Army and industry, made this achievement possible. The SBCT comprised more than 1,000 vehicles, including more than 300 Strykers and more than 3,500 Soldiers.

The Stryker family has two variants — the Mobile Gun System and the Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV). The SBCT in Iraq operates eight ICV configurations including the commander's vehicle, reconnaissance vehicle, mortar carrier, medical evacuation vehicle, fire support vehicle, engineer squad vehicle and antitank guided missile vehicle. The nuclear, biological and chemical Stryker vehicle is not yet available nor is the Mobile Gun System.

Stryker brigades are our Army's first truly network-centric force, filling the capability gap between light- and heavy-force units with an infantry-rich, mobile force that is strategically responsive, tactically agile and lethal. Improved battlespace awareness and battle-command technologies embedded in our SBCTs enhance combat effectiveness and survivability by integrating data from manned and unmanned air and ground-based sensors and providing real-time, continuous situational understanding.

This spring, our second SBCT at Fort Lewis became operational. Our third SBCT, in Alaska, will be available in 2005. Continued support from Congress and OSD will ensure that subsequent brigades in Hawaii, Louisiana and Pennsylvania are fielded between 2004 and 2008.

Stryker has proven that we are on the right path to the future.

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