

Status of Training Vehicles for Operation Iraqi Freedom Deployments

Competing requirements for equipment in theater as well as units being reset² for redeployment have created challenges for CTCs in obtaining critical theater-specific equipment for training, specifically HMMWVs. The CTCs overcame some challenges by modifying and substituting HMMWVs to ensure enough vehicles for training. In addition, the Army recognized issues with outdated HMMWVs, and it has taken steps to modernize the prepositioned fleets at NTC and JRTC. Although the Army completed modernization of the prepositioned fleet at NTC in April 2008, it still must complete the modernization at JRTC to ensure the most realistic and effective training for units deploying in support of OIF.

Competing Requirements for Theater-Specific Equipment

In June 2007, the Deputy Commanding General, FORSCOM identified in a memorandum to the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, challenges with training at the CTCs. The greatest challenge has been their ability to replicate operational capabilities of the specific equipment that soldiers would use in theater. This was because of competing requirements for the same equipment needed in theater and by units being reset for redeployment. The units training at the CTCs did not have the critical equipment, specifically armored HMMWVs, necessary to support a full mission rehearsal exercise because either it was not available in the prepositioned fleets at the CTCs or the units did not have it at home stations to bring with them.

While FORSCOM provides the required materiel to support NTC and JRTC operations, Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3 (Army G-3) establishes resources requirements and priorities for the distribution of equipment to meet mission requirements for the CTCs. Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 (Army G-8), as the primary distributor of Army equipment, is responsible for ensuring the right equipment is fielded to enable units to train before deployment to Iraq. Army G-8 provides equipment to FORSCOM based on Army G-3 priorities.

Ensuring Availability of HMMWVs for Ground Forces Training at Army CTCs

While units brought some HMMWVs for training from their home stations, the CTCs modified and substituted different models of HMMWVs to resemble those used in theater. This helped ensure that training for ground forces was as realistic as possible.

²Reset is a set of actions that restores equipment to a desired level of combat capability commensurate with a unit's future mission. It restores readiness of equipment that has been damaged or worn out and replaces equipment that has been destroyed.