

## ***Using Home Station HMMWVs***

Some units brought their HMMWVs to training rather than use the vehicles in the CTC prepositioned fleet. This was partly because some of the HMMWVs at the CTCs may not have the equipment necessary to meet the unit's needs. For example, some units had special HMMWV requirements for their mission. One digitized infantry unit training at NTC brought more than 300 HMMWVs from the home station instead of using those in the NTC prepositioned fleet. This was because their HMMWVs were better equipped with communications equipment, which was not installed in the HMMWVs at NTC.

Although using HMMWVs from home stations helped the units train on theater-specific equipment, it was not ideal. FORSCOM incurred costs to ship HMMWVs to the training centers and risked damaging equipment prior to deployment. The CTCs should have a prepositioned fleet of HMMWVs that resembles equipment used in theater for units to use when training for deployment. This would help reduce transportation costs for the units and help them ensure that their equipment was fully mission-capable at the time of deployment.

## ***Modification and Substitution of Wheeled Vehicles***

To create more realistic training conditions, the Army CTCs modified existing unarmored wheeled vehicles and used surrogates for up-armored wheeled vehicles. Unarmored wheeled vehicles have limited training value to deploying units because they have different handling characteristics and seating configurations than the armored and up-armored wheeled vehicles used in theater.

The CTCs maintained some up-armored HMMWVs in their prepositioned fleet. As of January 2008, NTC had 97 M1151s and JRTC had 86. The CTCs also modified existing unarmored HMMWVs to ensure that there were enough armored HMMWVs for units to train on before deployment. For example, in FY 2007, NTC modified 144 unarmored M1097s, an unarmored, soft-top, HMMWV, by adding a hard top, armor, and additional seating so it would more closely resemble the up-armored M1114 used in theater. By modifying and substituting HMMWVs for those used in theater, the CTCs were able to more closely replicate realistic conditions that units would face when deployed in support of OIF.

For training, in 2006, the CTCs used surrogate Buffalos, which are heavily armored vehicles used for point, route, and area clearance of mines and explosive devices. The Buffalo is designed with a V-shaped hull constructed to deflect the force of an explosion away from the vehicle and reduce vehicle rollover. Surrogate Buffalos are cargo trucks which are modified to simulate a Buffalo. Both NTC and JRTC used two surrogate Buffalos for actual ones because no Buffalos were available.