

The Army recognized that critical equipment at NTC and JRTC was outdated, and it has implemented a two-phased modernization plan to ensure that the prepositioned fleets of HMMWVs at NTC and JRTC better resemble the operational capabilities needed in theater. Although the Army has completed modernization of HMMWVs at NTC, it must complete the modernization at JRTC to ensure the most realistic and effective training for units deploying in support of OIF.

Recommendation, Client Comments, and Our Response

Revised Recommendation. As a result of comments from the Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, U.S. Forces Command, we revised the recommendation to appropriately reflect the responsibilities of the Army organizations and to clarify the actions needed to ensure the fleet of up-armored HMMWVs at JRTC is modernized.

We recommend that the Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, in coordination with the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, obtain and deliver the remaining up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles to the Joint Readiness Training Center to ensure that the fleet of prepositioned vehicles is modernized for units training to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Army Forces Command Comments. The Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, FORSCOM concurred with comment. He concurred with the report's conclusion and the recommended action; however, he stated that FORSCOM does not have the equipment or the authority to achieve the recommended action. Rather, the Army G-3/5/7 prioritizes new equipment allocations, and based on these priorities, Army G-8 provides equipment to FORSCOM for distribution to the Army CTCs.

Our Response. The Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff's comments were responsive to the recommendation. We added the words "in coordination with the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8," and "obtain" to the recommendation because Army G-8 provides equipment to FORSCOM for distribution to the Army CTCs; therefore, FORSCOM coordination with Army G-8 should ensure the remaining HMMWVs are obtained and delivered to JRTC.

Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 Comments. Although not required to comment, the Army G-8 concurred with the draft report. The Deputy, Directorate of Integration, Army G-8, identified the positive actions taken to field up-armored HMMWVs to NTC and JRTC. The Deputy stated that, since July 2007, the Army G-8 has provided FORSCOM a total of 1,406 M1151 and 360 M1114 up-armored HMMWVs to units to enable training on the equipment soldiers will use when deployed. Furthermore, the Deputy stated that FORSCOM increased the allocation of up-armored HMMWVs at JRTC and NTC, and that NTC currently has 300 up-armored HMMWVs and JRTC has 86. The Deputy stated that the Army G-8 Fielding/Distribution Plan identifies the planned delivery of 1,730 M1151 up-armored HMMWVs to FORSCOM in FY 2008, and that Army G-8 projects deliveries of the remaining up-armored HMMWVs as soon as quality control inspections on the wheel hub assembly are completed.