

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
USING THE M1117 ARMORED  
SECURITY VEHICLE (ASV) AT ARMY INSTALLATIONS  
IN THE UNITED STATES

**1.0 TITLE OF ACTION**

Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for using the M1117 Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) at Army Installations in the United States.

**2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) has been the workhorse of the Military Police (MP) since it was fielded in 1986. Experiences during combat operations in the past two decades forced the Army to explore options that will increase Soldier survivability while effectively supporting the Military Police mission.

The U.S. Army identified the M1117 Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) as a vehicle with the characteristics of mobility, firepower and crew protection that could effectively support the Army's MP mission. The ASV is a four-wheeled armored vehicle that provides ballistic and nuclear, biological and chemical protection to three-man crew, while providing the on- and off-road mobility to support the mission.

A total of 3,118 ASVs are scheduled to be distributed to MP Army-wide. Each MP Company is authorized 12 ASVs; each MP platoon organic to a Brigade Combat Team will be authorized six ASVs. For every ASV assigned, a unit must exchange a HMMWV. There is no net increase in the number of vehicles or of personnel associated with this action.

**2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

2.1. Alternative 1, Preferred Alternative. The ASV operates on all roads, ranges and maneuver areas.

The proposed action is to use the ASV on Army installations on all roads (paved and unpaved), all weapons ranges and all established tactical maneuver training areas. This is the preferred course of action.

2.1. Alternative 2. The ASV operates only on the installation's paved roadways.

This alternative course of action is to use the ASV only on paved roads on Army installations. Operations of the vehicle on unpaved roads and off-road conditions would be prohibited.

2.2. Alternative 3. The ASV operates only on the installations roadways.

This alternative would be to use the M1117 Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) with Military Police companies and MP platoons in Brigade Combat Teams at Army installations in the United States. The vehicle would operate only on the installation's established paved and unpaved roadways.

### 2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is to not field the ASV at an installation in the United States. This would lead to a degradation of the training and readiness of Military Police units in the U.S. Army. The vehicle has been developed in order to fulfill an identified gap in the operational capabilities of Military Police battlefield missions, and not having the vehicle available for training would create a gap in training requirements for Military Police units. This alternative provides a baseline for comparison to the Proposed Action and other alternatives listed in this section.

## 3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

As a result of examination for applicability to using the M1117 ASV, several resource areas were eliminated from further analysis in this PEA, including: infrastructure (potable water supply, electricity, wastewater treatment, steam and process heat, telecommunications); land use; groundwater; socioeconomic; environmental justice; solid waste; traffic and transportation, and airspace management.

The operational profile of the ASV is 50% on paved roads, 30% on unpaved roads, and 20% off-road. During off-road operations, it is fully expected the ASV will operate within established limits on existing maneuver training areas that have previously been used by other tactical vehicles. Normal operations of the ASV will have minor effect on noise and on threatened and endangered species, their habitat, or cultural or historical resources.

The ASV will consume diesel fuel at a rate 63% higher than the HMMWV it replaces. On a unit basis, an MP company equipped with ASVs will consume approximately 19% more fuel than an MP company equipped only with HMMWVs. The ASV's additional fuel consumption could potentially require an installation to have more frequent fuel deliveries, deliver more bulk fuel with the current number of deliveries, or potentially build additional fuel storage capacity. Either option would have a minor effect on the environment.

Using the ASV on an Army installation would have a minor to moderate effect on surface water quality. Because of its additional size and weight than the HMMWV, the ASV has a greater potential of degrading stream channels and

banks during fording operations. Fielding the ASV with MP units is likely to have a minor effect on facilities that may have to be modified due to its slightly larger size than the HMMWV it replaces. Given the wide spatial distribution of mobile emission sources, fielding the ASV should have a minor to moderate effect on air quality

The HMMWV and ASV use several of the same petroleum products, however ASV uses a higher number of products, and in several cases a higher quantity. All of the petroleum products used in the ASV are standard petroleum and lubricants used in other military vehicles. Normal maintenance operations for the ASV will generate increased volume of used oil. This will have a minor effect as installations have material management processes and education programs for managing these materials already in place.

Using the ASV, primarily as a result of off-road operations, will have minor to moderate cumulative effects on the environment. These effects include increased soil compaction, resulting in increased damage/mortality to vegetation. These conditions, in turn create the potential for increased soil erosion. An increase of ASVs conducting fording operations at non-hardened fording sites will likely have a moderate cumulative effect on surface water quality. Operations of multiple ASV-equipped MP companies within established limits on existing training and maneuver areas will have minor cumulative effects on facilities, hazardous materials and waste oil, noise and threatened and endangered species. The ASV is not expected to have any effect on cultural resources.

Using the ASV under the conditions of Alternative 1 (The ASV operates on all roads, ranges and maneuver areas) would have a significant and positive effect on the MP Soldier and unit training mission and the survivability of MP soldiers. Soldier and unit training under Alternative 1 would be enhanced and would permit soldiers to train as they fight, which is current Army training doctrine. Using the ASV only on established paved roads (Alternative 2) or on paved and unpaved roads (Alternative 3) would not allow MP Soldiers or units to conduct the full spectrum of training that is inherent with their mission.

This PEA demonstrates that using the Armored Security Vehicle at Army installations in the United States will not have significant effects on humans or the natural environment.

#### **4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was published in the USA Today on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. The FNSI and the supporting Programmatic Environmental Assessment were made available, nation-wide, to the general public through the US Army Environmental Command (USAEC) Public Affairs Office and through the USAEC website

(<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/nepa/topics00.html>) for 30 days following publication of the NOA. During the 30-day period no comments were received.

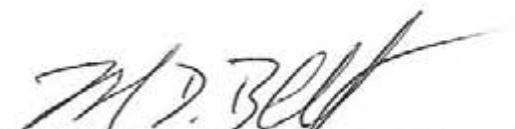
## 5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on a review of the guidelines set forth in this Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), installation staff will be able to use the screening criteria described in the PEA to evaluate the potential effects of fielding the ASV. The use of this PEA as a screening tool should not pose a significant impact to the human or natural environment as defined in Title 32, CFR Part 651, *Environmental Effects of Army Actions*. Therefore a Finding of No Significant Impact is recommended for the Proposed Action and a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

I concur with the findings and analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment and recommend approval of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony R. Francis,  
Colonel, US Army  
HQ, Department of the Army  
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff  
for Programs

DATE: 4/25/08

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Bolluyt  
Colonel, US Army  
Chief Requirements Determination Div.  
Capabilities, Development and  
Integration Office

DATE: 25 APR 08