



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-8
700 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0700

12 JAN 2005

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0702

Dear Senator Dodd:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld regarding support for U.S. troops deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. On behalf of Secretary Rumsfeld, I would like to address your concerns for up-arming Tactical Wheeled Vehicles (TWV), critical equipment requirements, funding, and reimbursement to soldiers. Please be assured that we understand and appreciate your concern for the protection of our troops in the Global War on Terrorism. We are committed to providing every Soldier with the most effective protective equipment possible.

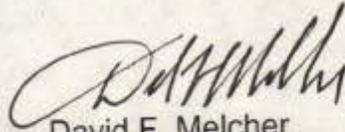
The Army completed significant work in a relatively short time to design, contract for, receive from manufacturers, deliver to theater, and install Add-on Armor (AoA) kits on TWVs. The requirement for Up-Armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) (UAH) as specified by the theater commander in November 2003 was 3279 vehicles and 8,400 HMMWV AoA kits. The Army was able to achieve the initial combatant commander requirements by July, 2004. However, during May to August 2004, UAH requirements grew to 8,105, a 147% increase, and HMMWV AoA kit requirements grew to 13,872, a 65% increase over the same period. Similarly, for Medium and Heavy TWV AoA kits the increase was 338%. The Army anticipates continued growth in the theater force protection requirements. As such, the Army's FY05 Supplemental request will address these anticipated needs. Thanks to the great support from Congress, we project to meet all currently identified armor protection requirements for approximately 40,000 tactical wheeled vehicles.

Each Military Service/ Defense Agency has processes to fill operational needs of Combatant Commanders. In order to more effectively address combat-critical needs associated with the Global War on Terrorism, the Department has implemented initiatives such as the Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell, the Technical Support working Group, the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Task Force, and the Rapid Fielding Initiative. These initiatives focus on urgent Warfighter needs, facilitate cooperation and rapid responses within the Department, and enhance coordination with other agencies.

Concerning reimbursement to Soldiers for purchasing essential safety gear, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 dated October 8, 2004, states that, "Rules will be issued to expedite the provision of reimbursement not later than 120 days after date of enactment of this Act." The Department of Defense is currently formulating policy to implement provisions of this Act.

Force Protection for our Soldiers remains a top priority. We hope that this information addresses your concerns. Thank you for your support and interest in the welfare of our Soldiers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. F. Melcher", written in a cursive style.

David F. Melcher
Lieutenant General, United States Army
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8