

## Stryker - Mortar Carrier B

### Executive Summary

- During an Army Customer Test in May 2005, mortar crews equipped with Mortar Carrier B did not demonstrate improvement in providing accurate and timely indirect fire support.
- The Customer Test was not designed to address operational suitability. DOT&E's conclusion that the Mortar Carrier B is not operationally suitable, derived from the initial operational test and evaluation, remains unchanged.
- The Army should conduct follow-on operational testing to assess corrective actions taken to improve Mortar Carrier B's operational effectiveness and operational suitability.

### System

- Mortar Carrier B's mission equipment includes:
  - 120 mm Recoil Mortar System that traverses 360 degrees
  - M240B, 7.62 mm machinegun as a secondary weapon
- The system hosts and integrates the:
  - M95 Mortar Fire Control System
  - Enhanced Position Location and Reporting System
  - Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below
  - Precision Lightweight Global Positioning Receiver
  - Advanced System Improvement Program Single-channel Ground and Airborne Radio System
  - Vehicular Intercommunications Set
- The Mortar Carrier B replaces the Mortar Carrier A variant that is equipped with dismounted 120 mm mortar and is already within fielded Stryker Brigades.

### Mission

- Stryker Infantry Battalions and Companies use Mortar Carrier B to provide immediately available, responsive indirect fires.
- In the attack, Stryker units use Mortar Carrier B to:



- Establish the conditions for maneuver
- Suppress the enemy
- Fix the enemy in place
- Provide close supporting fires for the attack
- In the defense, Stryker units use Mortar Carrier B to:
  - Force armored vehicles to button up
  - Break up enemy troop concentrations
  - Reduce the enemy's mobility
  - Protect the Stryker infantry against an enemy close dismounted assault

### Activity

- The U.S. Army Operational Test Command conducted a Customer Test at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana, in May 2005.

### Assessment

- The Customer Test was adequate to assess if mortar crews equipped with Mortar Carrier B could provide accurate and timely indirect fire support. The test was not designed to assess operational suitability. Follow-on testing to address effectiveness and suitability is scheduled for 2006.
- Crews did not demonstrate an ability to provide timely and accurate fire support to maneuver units. Test results did

not show improved system effectiveness when compared to initial operational test and evaluation results. Mortar crews who participated in the Customer Test may not have been adequately trained on the system. Mortar crews received their vehicles over a 14-day period during January and February 2005, and only fired 10 mortar rounds (two per crewman) during New Equipment Training. At the completion of New Equipment Training, vehicles were loaded and shipped to Fort Polk, Louisiana. Crews did not link up with their vehicles until April 2005. Before linking up with their vehicles, more than two months had passed since crews had an opportunity to train on the system.

# ARMY PROGRAMS

- The Customer Test confirmed that the Army has taken corrective action on 12 of 27 DOT&E beyond low-rate initial production recommendations addressing safety and human factors issues.
2. Implement critical safety and human factors corrective actions before the next operational test in FY06.

## **Recommendations**

The Army should:

1. Conduct operational testing to demonstrate the ability of mortar crews to provide timely and accurate indirect fire support.