

House Armed Services Committee

Armor & Countermeasure Timeline Key Points

April-October 2003	IED attacks grow steadily. Reach more than 100 per month.
September 2003	In response to operational needs statement (ONS) for the year, vehicle armor requirements set at 8,400 Humvee (HMMWV) add-on armor kits.
October 2003	Army Research Laboratory designs and produces 40 kits of HMMWV add-on armor.
December 2003	House Armed Services Committee (HASC) begins oversight of Army armor programs to include vehicle and personnel armor initiatives Army approves \$129 million for add-on armor kits. \$300 million remains unfunded. HASC oversight team visits Aberdeen Proving Grounds to review testing of potential vehicle add-on armor solutions. HASC engages Lawrence Livermore National Lab to find and develop vehicle add-on armor solutions.
January 2004	Additional unvalidated requirement for 3,670 add-on armor kits is submitted via operational needs statement from Iraqi theater. HASC reviews Army production plan originally scheduled to complete 7,000 add-on armor kits by December 2004. HASC determines best production effort could finish 7,000 kits no later than April 30, 2004. HASC submits memo to the Army noting that arsenals, industry, and steel mills are not operating at maximum capacity.
February 2004	HASC oversight team and Army team visit steel mills. Reach agreement with steel mill management and union officials to voluntarily set aside commercial work and dedicate 100% capacity to vehicle add-on armor plate production. Delivery schedule for steel is compressed by four months. HASC finds available Stryker steel armor plate at mill. <u>Feb 4, 2004 HASC Member classified force protection status briefing.</u> HASC determines that additional manufacturing capacity is required for add-on armor kit production. Army commits nine depots and arsenals to armor kit production. Original Army installation plan requires the cycling of vehicles from Iraq into Kuwait for armor kit installation. HASC determines that U.S. production will outpace installation capability in Kuwait.
March 2004	HASC issues memo to TACOM suggesting that 11 sites be opened in Iraq to install Humvee (HMMWV) armor.

Mar. 2, 2004 HASC Member classified force protection status briefing.

Sec. Army directs compression of schedule to HASC recommended production rates.

CENTCOM issues ONS for additional 4,760 add-on armor kits.

Army notifies HASC of delinquent deliveries of steel from Canadian steel mill and requests HASC assistance to resolve issues. HASC team on-site visit to Canada steel mill resolves delivery issues.

April 2004

HASC expands focus to the tactical truck fleet.

Apr. 1, 2004 HASC Air Land Subcommittee hearing, panel dedicated to force protection and armor requirements.

Apr. 21, 2004 HASC Hearing on Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Armoring and Acquisition System Responsiveness to Operational Needs Statements.

Stryker steel arrives at Letterkenny Army Arsenal.

CENTCOM reports 100% filled on body armor for entire theater of operations to include DOD civilians.

May 2004

Army completes 6,670 HMMWV armor kits one week late to the HASC schedule but six months ahead of the original Army schedule.

May 20, 2004 HASC marked version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 passes the House. Bill authorizes emergency bridge supplemental that contains over \$1 billion for vehicle armoring initiatives.

June 2004

Stryker steel gun boxes delivered to Iraq

Jun. 10, 2004 HASC Member classified force protection status briefing.

CODEL Hunter to Iraq

July 2004

Army releases first funding for five ton truck armor kits.

August 2004

Army finally validates CENTCOM ONS for additional 4,760 HMMWV add-on armor kits four months after HASC received the ONS from theater and highlighted the need at hearing in April 2004.

CENTCOM requirement jumps to 13,876 add-on armor kits for HMMWVs.

Marine Corps indicates all Marine tactical wheeled vehicles now have at the minimum, "level 2" zonal kitted armor.

October 2004

HASC team oversight trip to oversee force protection systems production.

November 2004 Aluminum mill shipments threaten to break production of armor kits for tactical trucks. HASC team meets with aluminum company executives and arranges for shift in priorities back to military armor programs.

December 2004 HASC team oversight trip discovers that Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) countermeasure supplier running out of Army funding and laying off critical production personnel.

HASC Chairman holds Army \$2 billion reprogramming action pending full funding of IED countermeasure production.

Army announces new armoring strategy denoting levels of armor protection: level three, level two, and level one. Level three being the minimal standard of armor protection.

January 2005 Army ships first five ton truck kit, three months later than the original commitment.

HASC oversight team reports on low cost jammer oversight studies.

CENTCOM reports official policy of no unarmored vehicles outside of secured forward operating bases after Feb. 15, 2005.

HASC Chairman and Ranking Member receive senior level status update on body armor.

February 2005 Army reports deliveries of IED countermeasures will not be complete until November 2005.

Feb. 2, 2005 HASC Member classified force protection status briefing.

HASC team oversight trip to IED countermeasure manufacturer.

HASC team oversight trip to IED 2nd countermeasure 2nd tier manufacturer.

HASC team oversight trips to tactical truck armor kit manufacturers and Army depot facilities to assess progress on armor kit production.

March 2005 HASC team oversight trip walks 3rd tier IED countermeasure production lines to eliminate production delays.

HASC Tactical Air Land Subcommittee hearing, force protection issue panel.

April 2005 Low cost jammer tested at Yuma.

HASC Chairman meets with General William Nyland, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, to discuss solutions that address underbody armor protection requirements for Marine Corps HMMWVs.

HASC Chairman suggests using readily available excess armor panels located at Army Materiel Command depot in Kuwait to address HMMWV underbody protection kit requirement.

General Nyland agrees and commits to HASC Chairman to expedite contract order for HMMWV underbody protection kits.

May 2005

HASC Chairman requests DepSecDef use Rapid Acquisition Authority to mass produce low cost jammer.

SecDef issues determination and the first use of Rapid Acquisition Authority.

May 5, 2005 HASC Hearing on Army and Marine Corps Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Armoring and IED Countermeasure initiatives in Iraq.

HASC oversight team receives briefing on the status of Marine Corps body armor outer tactical vests.

HASC Chairman meets with Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Duncan McNabb, Director for Logistics (DJ-4), Joint Staff to receive personal protection update to include vehicle armor, gun trucks, Marine Corps underbody protection kits, and cross leveling of equipment in theater

HASC Chairman learns Marine Corps underbody armor kit contract has yet to be awarded.

June 2005

June 21, 2005 HASC Hearing on Marine Corps Underbody Kit Armor Kits

HASC team oversight trip to IED countermeasure manufacturers

Army to brief industry on long term armor strategy