

House authorizers recommend \$10 million

**MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAQ REQUESTS 14 'PROJECT SHERIFF'
VEHICLES**

Date: May 30, 2005

The chief of staff for Multi-National Corps-Iraq has requested funding for 14 "Project Sheriff" vehicles to provide warfighters with a package of lethal and nonlethal capabilities.

In an April 7 memo obtained by *Inside the Army*, Brig. Gen. James Huggins asks the Joint Chiefs of Staff to approve funding for the "time critical" materiel release, fielding and sustainment of the "Full-Spectrum Effects Weapon Systems," the technical name for Project Sheriff vehicles.

Huggins proposes the Army receive eight vehicles -- four for the 18th Military Police Brigade and four for the 42nd Military Police Brigade -- and six vehicles for the Marines.

"This will allow operating forces to exploit the psychological dilemma of adversaries who are faced with advanced precision capabilities having multiple effects mechanism that are collectively more challenging to protect against," Huggins wrote. "This will serve to transfer the difficulties of operational complexity to the enemy, helping to allow MNC- I forces to regain the initiative in fourth generation warfare."

In an April 19 response to Huggins, Maj. Gen. John Castellaw, chief of staff for U.S. Central Command, said the request for 14 Project Sheriff vehicles was fully supported by CENTCOM.

The Joint Staff did not respond to questions about the status of Huggins request by press time (May 27).

The House last week passed a fiscal year 2006 defense authorization bill that includes \$10 million for Project Sheriff. In a report accompanying the bill, the House Armed Services Committee said the Pentagon's FY-06 request contained \$19.9 million for force transformation but did not request money for Project Sheriff.

"The committee believes Project Sheriff will significantly expand a tactical commander's options and should be rapidly developed for fielding," the committee said.

Project Sheriff, developed by the Pentagon's Office of Force Transformation, is an effort to equip warfighters in urban battlefields with a variety of capabilities. In places like Iraq and Afghanistan, the need to preserve buildings and prevent collateral damage, as well as a requirement to be prepared for the use of non-combatants as shields, has increased the need for nonlethal and precision munitions.

Nonlethal capabilities incorporated into the Project Sheriff package include multispectral sensors, a high-power white light, acoustics and active denial technology.

The ADS technology to be used evolved from an Energy Department program that places ADS on a tripod to secure energy facilities. The Project Sheriff system is designed to function as a counter-personnel weapon system.

Similar technology is being developed as part of the Defense Department's Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate's Active Denial System.

ADS works through a transmitter that produces an energy frequency of 95 GHz and an antenna to direct an invisible beam at a human target. Once the energy reaches the subject, the light beam penetrates the skin by less than 1/64th of an inch. Within seconds, the target experiences an intolerable heating sensation (*Inside the Army*, Sept. 20, 2004, p1).

Though ADS and the technology in Project Sheriff are similar in functionality there are notable differences, Col. Wade Hall, an OFT transformation strategist, told *ITA* last year (*ITA*, Sept. 27, 2004, p1). Project Sheriff's active denial technology will weigh significantly less than ADS, and it will also have fewer components, reduced signature size and a shorter range.

Complementing Project Sheriff's nonlethal capabilities will be a rapid-fire gun and an active protection system.

The active protection system will incorporate acoustic and infrared sensors to locate signatures. The system reacts to a potential threat by destroying it before it hits a vehicle. -- *Ashley Roque*

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