Army Accepts First Stryker MGS

Following a 27-month development phase, the U.S. Army received the first Stryker Mobile Gun System in July 2002. The MGS is a version of General Motors' LAV-III 8x8 chassis, armed with General Dynamics Land Systems' 105mm low-profile turret. The MGS was developed as a rapidly deployable direct fire weapon system for the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (BCT).

One of 10 configurations being fielded to the Stryker BCTs, the MGS is designed primarily to provide direct fire support to dismounted infantry. It can be deployed by C-130 with minimal preparation. It moves at speeds up to 60 mph and is agile enough to work within tight quarters, such as urban warfare.

The Stryker MGS is crewed by three soldiers — a driver, a vehicle commander, and a gunner. The MGS's other characteristics include:

- M68A1E4 cannon with 18-round autoloader
- Full solution M1-like fire control
- Fires all NATO standard 105mm tank ammunition
- 7.62mm M240C coaxial machine gun, with 3,400 rounds
- Commander's M2 .50 caliber machine gun, with 400 rounds
- Independently stabilized Commander's Panoramic Viewer with target hand-off capability
- 60 mile-per-hour top speed
- 9-second 50 meter dash speed
- 78 inch gap crossing
- 23 inch vertical climb
- 330-mile cruising range
- Projected 41,300 pounds full combat weight; 38,000 pounds C-130 transport weight
- Embedded, interactive electronic TMs (IETM)
- Embedded training capability
- On-board diagnostics
- Integral 14.5mm armor and spall liner
- Scaleable RPG armor package.

The MGS is 275 inches in length; 107 inches wide; and 106 inches in height. It is equipped with a 350 hp engine; a 6-speed transmission; a 2-speed transfer case; 4 automotive differentials; an 8-wheel hydro pneumatic independent suspension with height management system; full-time 4-wheel drive, with an 8-wheel drive selection; and power brakes with ABS on rear three axles.

Eight preproduction vehicles will be provided to the Army over the next five months. These vehicles will undergo Production Qualification Tests (PQT), user evaluations, and contractor testing. This test program will produce the first durability, reliability, and maintenance information on the MGS. The MGS is expected to be fielded to the Stryker BCTs beginning in FY05.

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