

CVR(T) HISTORY

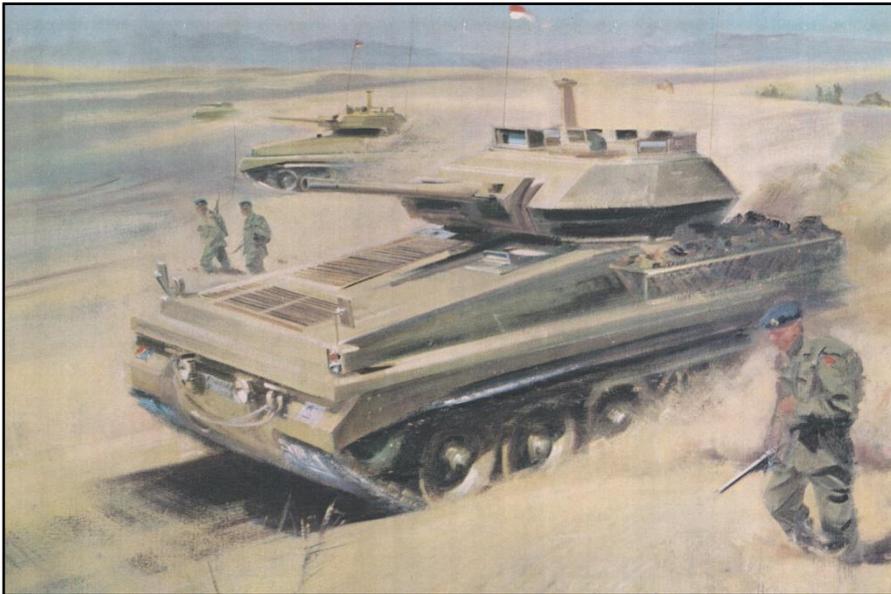
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CVR(T) SUPPLY, SUPPORT, REPAIR, REFURBISH AND UPGRADE

CVR(T) HISTORY

Extract from 1967 UK MoD CVR(T) Project Briefing:



Artist's impression of a proposed Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance - Tracked CVR (T) Scorpion

Background

- 1 For many years, since the inception of the tank, Great Britain has devoted a great deal of effort to developing light armoured vehicles. The present family of Saladin, Saracen and Ferret are serving in the Forces of many nations and in varied types of terrain and climate.
- 2 The time has now been reached where it is no longer practicable to increase the mobility, fire-power and protection of the current vehicles any further. This comes at a time when a world wide requirement arises for a new family of armoured vehicles of low weight, high performance and maximum fire-power to meet the tactical and strategic needs of the Seventies and the future.
- 3 Britain has now developed such a range of light armoured vehicles into which all the operational experience and technical advances of recent years have been combined.
- 4 Work on the new family began in the late 1950's with the object of producing a single vehicle - the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (CVR) - which would embody the characteristics to enable it to carry out three major roles, Fire Support, Anti-tank and Reconnaissance.
- 5 It was decided, for reasons of strategic mobility, that the vehicle must be airportable. The battle weight was limited to around 18,000 lbs (8600 kg), as opposed to the 12 -14 tons of other existing vehicles. This would enable two of the new vehicles to be carried in a C130 transport. However, this weight limitation made it impracticable to design one vehicle to carry out all three major roles since there would not be enough space under armour to carry all the necessary weapons and equipment, and for the crew to operate them.
- 6 **It was decided to depart from the current British practice of using only wheeled reconnaissance vehicles. The greatly increased mobility afforded by tracks, combined with advanced techniques, permitted the design of a light, powerful, tracked, reconnaissance weapon system with a fire power hitherto unattainable at the weight**

desired. However, there will always be operations in which high road mileages and speeds are necessary and therefore a wheeled element has been included in the family, permitting great tactical flexibility.

The Vehicle Range

- 1 The basic vehicle of the family is the SCORPION, equipped to fulfil the fire support role with a 76 mm gun, but also capable of fulfilling to a large degree the anti-tank and reconnaissance roles. The gun is a lightened version of the well-tried 76 mm gun mounted in SALADIN, using easily handled ammunition. Besides having a good anti-personnel HE round, the HESH anti-armour round has an excellent performance against light and medium armoured vehicles and against the sides, rear, tracks and suspension of main battle tanks. The crew of three consists of the commander (who also loads the gun), the driver and the gunner / operator. SCORPION weighs 17,500 lbs (under 8,000 kg).
- 2 SCIMITAR is an almost identical vehicle, but it mounts the RARDEN 30 mm cannon which meets the British requirement of defeating existing and future enemy reconnaissance vehicles and APC's.
- 3 To meet the long range anti-armour requirement it became apparent that a guided missile would be needed. A dual-purpose weapon of the Shillelagh type, firing shell or missile, would be too large, and the trunnion pull of a heavy conventional round too high, for a vehicle of this weight. It was therefore decided that a specialist anti-tank vehicle should be adopted armed with SWINGFIRE guided missiles. Other comparable missiles could, of course, be launched. This vehicle is STRIKER. A slight rearrangement of the upper hull and the removal of the turret gives a sufficiently large hull to accommodate crew, missiles and launching gear and a complete re-load of missiles under armour.
- 4 The same hull shape provides enough space to carry a British Assault Section with all their equipment. The APC of the family, named SPARTAN, is capable of carrying 7 or 8 men.
- 5 By using a similar shaped hull three other variants are being developed. These are:
 - Sultan An Armoured Command Vehicle
 - Samaritan An Armoured Ambulance
 - Samson An Armoured Recovery Vehicle

Summary

- 1 The capability exists within this new family of light armoured vehicles, some tracked and some wheeled, of fulfilling almost any future requirements; some vehicles meet several needs.
- 2 Costs throughout have been kept down to the minimum, consistent with attaining the objects of mobility, fire power and protection. This has been done by using common components and layout and by using only assemblies and techniques known to be proven. At the same time the most modern materials and methods have been employed.
- 3 The emphasis throughout has been on simplicity - simplicity in ease of maintenance and in crewman training. Similarly inherent reliability has been built in. However, the basic vehicles are capable of sophistications according to the user's requirements by adding optional equipment such as night-fighting aids, radar, radiac and gas detector systems."