



Safety Alert



MRAP Rollover's OIF SA-017

In the last 10 days there have been two MRAP rollovers in Iraq. These two accidents were the result of drivers operating beyond the vehicles handling characteristics. No matter the reason for doing this; the results of both these accidents is two damaged MRAP's, one dead Soldier, 6 Soldier's hospitalized, and three Soldiers with minor injuries. All personnel must remember that no Army vehicle is or handles like the automobiles we drive back home. They do share one similarity; if mishandled or operated in an unsafe manner, the results will be damage to both personnel and equipment. It takes both Soldiers and the Leaders to prevent accidents and the damage as a result from those accidents. Anything less is not only unacceptable it is unprofessional.

Rollovers occur due to the following:

- Speed too fast for conditions
- Road conditions unknown or disregarded, such as muddy, wet, or weak road edges
- Driver and/or TC inexperience
- Overcorrecting or over-steering
- Failure to follow and/or enforce standards (Leaders & Soldiers)



Mitigation measures:

- Speeds adjusted for conditions, i.e. weather, traffic, etc.
- Remain clear of road edges and drop-offs. Utilize ISR assets to recon dangerous areas
- Be cognizant of canal bank weaknesses. These areas get weaker over time and after rains
- Know vehicle characteristics such as higher centers of gravity, heavier vehicles, and wider turning radii. The HMMWV is in excess of 15,000 pounds and the MRAP can be in excess of 49,000 pounds. Additionally, the newer vehicles have a different visual perspective
- Crew Coordination. Crew members must assist with and call out hazards, bottom line these vehicles require all team members to work together
- Personnel must enforce standards and follow good TTPs. These are not the drive it like you stole it ones
- Use Composite Risk Management – All 5-steps ~ All the time!



Crews:

- Brief and practice rollover drills prior to every mission-this has saved lives. These must include bracing and maintaining situational awareness (all personnel)
- Conduct good crew coordination; talk with each other and call out all hazards
- Wear seatbelts and gunners harnesses (this is not an option)
- Using combat locks will help maintain crew compartment integrity thus increase survivability
- Utilize the HEAT trainer to increase rote & muscle memory. This trainer will help all vehicle crew member's not just HMMWV crews
- Practice escape and rescue procedures through primary and alternate exits
- Secure all cargo to prevent flying objects. Everything can become a projectile or impede exiting the vehicle
- Avoid panic maneuvers and know the handling characteristics of your vehicle
- OIF Leaders Guide, MND-B Safety Bulletins & Alerts, Crew Coordination Class and other sources on the portal and web

