

US Army Marauder Companies

In early 1997 with the battlefield in Europe being more fluid than expected, SACEUR authorised the creation of divisional level long range raiding companies to supplement the foot based Long Range Scout Detachments (LRSDs) already in existence. They were intended to act as fast moving strike companies operating in the enemy rear areas although in less depth than the special forces such as the 10th Special Forces Group's patrols then operating so successfully (and later the basis of the TV series "Hunters"). Officially called LRRCs they were usually referred to as Marauder Companies which had been suggested as their original name.



Illustration 2: Despite having an authorised strength of 28, this photo shows a typical understrength Marauder platoon from the 1st Infantry Division returning from an operation in September 1997. Already OG uniforms and M1 helmets are appearing in front line units. (Big Red One Museum)

"It's a good job nobody ever checked our vehicles over, four of the HMMWVs had the same bumper numbers so nobody would notice we had more than we should have! When we had a visit from a senior officer we always drove him around in a HMMWV with false plates, ideally 'borrowed' from his unit. One even remarked that our morale was so high – he had never seen so many soldiers smile at him while saluting as he drove round."

Captain Sean "Hulk" Banner

4th Infantry Division

Strength was initially authorised as 5 officers and 128 men broken down into three platoons of 1 officer plus 39 men, leaving the commander, the executive officer, the senior NCO, 3 radio operators, 3 drivers and 2 medics. The platoons further broke down into 3 sections of 8 plus three mg teams of 3 plus an NCO forming a weapons section¹, leaving the officer, the platoon sergeant a driver and a radio operator. Some units pooled the MG teams into a fourth platoon, distributing the heavy weapons across the four platoons. Other units disbanded the weapon teams to keep the remaining sections closer to authorised strength and used the weapons as extra vehicle weapons.

In July 1997 the organisation changed slightly to 5 officers and 89 men broken down into three platoons of 1 officer plus 27 men, leaving the commander, the executive

officer, the senior NCO, 2 radio operators, 3 drivers and 3 medics². The platoons further broke down into 3 sections of 8 leaving the officer, the platoon sergeant, a driver and a radio operator. The removal of the weapons section was justified as being due to a lack of need (some units had previously unofficially traded the MGs for mortars and these units frequently retained them with extra troops above authorised strength if enough troops could be found³).



Illustration 1: Captain Tom Heston commanding P (Marauder Company) of the 5th Infantry Division, June 2000. Captain Christos was killed in action shortly on 21st July in the breakout from Kalisz. (Photo courtesy of his widow Sarah)

¹ These could be either M60s or M240s. They were often mixed in the same unit depending on what was available.

² In many cases these were attached to platoons.

³ These mortars were usually either 60 or 81mm. Some units fixed the 60mm mortars to the cargo beds of open

A further change in March 1998 saw the addition of a maintenance section at company level with an NCO and six mechanics carried in a maintenance truck. This was due to the changing and more specialist nature of the training course syllabus (see below). Most units however soon abandoned the maintenance truck due to its lack of off road performance and used the mechanics to fill other gaps in the TOE in addition to their maintenance role.

Few units however ever reached their authorised level of personnel, most being at perhaps half strength once operations were started. All supporting elements other than medics were provided from divisional staff although some units did allocate a few clerks who remained at base while operations were conducted⁴. In addition to these a number of units often carried a guide or translator with them on operations (either provided by the Free Polish Congress or recruited locally).

The companies were technically part of the Military Intelligence battalion at divisional level for administrative purposes but were effectively almost independent other than the support elements.

Initially units were set up by the divisions using whatever personnel were available. This was found to

*"Don't believe it when they tell you we were volunteers, I got volunteered as I didn't get on with my platoon sergeant and he wanted rid of me. I hated that course. The Green Berets at Bad Tolz took a perverse joy in getting us up at 05:00 for a little run with a load designed to be as hard to carry as possible. I think some of them resented training us while their colleagues were out being sneaky ****s and having fun so they took it out on us."*

PFC Oscar Jiminez

Graduate of course 97/2, 8th Infantry Division

be unsatisfactory however and plans were created to improve the training of the Marauders providing the specialist skills required for behind the lines operations. Initially the plan was to trial the training before expanding the school and making them Army not Theatre level assets⁵.



Illustration 3: Physical fitness training at Bad Tolz. Note the capped instructor to the right. This would imply the photo is post July 1997 as instructors from the 10th SFG almost always wore their green berets. (US Army)



Illustration 4: A good example of a "Marauder Beret" belonging to PFC Kelly Irving of the 5th Infantry Division. (Courtesy of her daughter Elaine)

topped HMMWVs but the 81mm mortars were too powerful for repeated firing without ground mounting them.

⁴ Generally divisions were reluctant to allocate support personnel on a permanent basis as they felt that with the troops often on long range operations they would have long periods with little to do. By 2000 however with the large numbers of locally hired personnel, many Marauder units had acquired cooks, etc.

⁵ It was proposed that eventually they would become Corps level schools using the lessons learned in the Theatre and Army level school creation.

From May 1997, training was conducted at Bad Tolz by members of the 10th Special Forces Group, often veterans of the group's own raiding forces⁶. Divisions sent up to 150 troops (allowing for wastage during training) when allocated their slot. Training lasted ten weeks and covered physical fitness, weapon handling of foreign and support weapons, land navigation, forward observation, signals, vehicle handling, escape and evasion techniques and vehicle maintenance⁷. In September 1997, the course was reduced to four weeks with the personnel being assigned a speciality instead of covering the broad spectrum⁸.



Illustration 5: Graduation for members of the 1st Infantry Division forming part of class 97/3. These early graduates deployed as formed units, later classes were deployed to already created units. They have all purchased the crested beer steins that were associated with the school. (US Army)

Graduates of the course often wore an unofficial distinction of a light green beret⁹. Berets were rarely worn in action but were frequently seen around base areas, much to the annoyance of staff officers¹⁰. In mid 1998, a scroll with the title "LRRC" was authorised to be worn from 1st July 1998. This tended to replace the unofficial titles and badges that had been worn previously although a number of original members retained their earlier ones as a mark of distinction.

On November 29th 1997, Bad Tolz was hit by a Soviet nuclear strike using an SS21 and the facilities and course there were destroyed. In February 1998 a new school was opened at Hof, now run entirely by former graduates of the previous school¹¹.

On 1st March 1999 the school was closed down with units again left to their own to train up replacement personnel.

It was proposed to equip the Marauders with HMMWVs but there were never enough to go round (although many units "liberated" them) and M151s were often issued in lieu¹². The HMMWVs should have been hard top versions or ideally armoured but these were often substituted with soft top troop and cargo carry



Illustration 6: FAV belonging to the 40th Infantry Division (1st Brigade) in Poland September 1999. Note the M136 strapped to the cab roof and stores on the vehicle side. (DoD)

6 From August 1997 the instructors from OD1012 and OD1014 were supplemented by students who were regarded by their instructors as suitable staff. A number of divisions objected to this practice as they felt it creamed off their best personnel. In August SACEUR mandated that such instructors were to serve six months only with the training school.

7 The first trial course included a brief section on resistance to interrogation but this was dropped from later courses.

8 The specialities covered on the course occasionally varied but remained roughly the same. The MOS code was 212. In October 1998 the following specialities were covered: Marauder Commander (open to officers and senior NCOS, it included elements of navigation and forward observer training and lasted six weeks) – 212A, Marauder Weapons Specialist (this included substantial foreign weapon training) – 212B, Marauder Navigator/Signaller – 212C, Marauder Driver – 212D, Marauder Mechanic – 212F, Marauder Demolitions – 212G and Marauder (non-specific) 212Z. Marauder instructors were 213 and the suffix. 212E was formerly Marauder Fire Support covering both artillery and basic air to ground targeting, it was discontinued in August 1998).

9 It has been suggested that this was intended to be a reflection that it was a milder version of Special Forces training and thus was a lighter shaded version of the infamous green beret.

10 Some units issued direct orders that these were not to be worn. This was almost always ignored by troops on the ground.

11 These were usually personnel who had been wounded and were not yet fit enough to serve in line units.

12 Some units preferred the small size and less distinctive outline of the M151. One unit even modified the headlight arrangement to mimic that of the UAZ469.

versions¹³.

Also occasionally seen were FAVs although these were not common as they were rarely seen in Europe, most being deployed to CENTCOM. Local vehicles or the M880 series could also be found in Marauder companies. Very occasionally light armour could be encountered. The best known example was the 8th Division's Marauder company with two Wiesels that were traded from the German Army. These were both lost in action during the 8th's drive through Poland in the summer of 2000.

Some units experimented with motor bikes to be used as outriders or scouts. These were never officially part of the TOE but were a fairly widespread phenomenon. A popular approach was to use a nondescript bike with a rider wearing a plain green poncho and a helmet covered in foliage to disguise the origin of the soldier (OG trousers were also popular to add to the disguise). Some soldiers tell stories that they coolly directed Pact units the wrong way acting as convoy directors but no proof of any such event has ever come to life.

Many of the vehicles fitted electrically operated smoke grenade dischargers to the front bumpers of the vehicles to help evade of ambushes. Some units were known to use a UAZ-469 as the lead vehicle to help avoid contacts behind enemy lines. These would be replaced by an obviously US HMMWV or M151 when nearing US lines.



Illustration 8: PFC Charles Roberts of Musket Company, M&I Battalion, 38th Infantry Division in a posed shot taken in March 1998. Notable is the M14 and lack of webbing, magazines being carried in the jacket pockets. Webbing was often kept handy to be grabbed if deploying from the vehicle. (NBC)

Some commentators have expressed surprise that horses were not more heavily used by Marauder companies in Europe. The logic for this is actually obvious, horses do indeed increase tactical mobility, although the operational mobility is barely increased from infantry due to the logistic base a horse requires

(vehicles can carry enough supplies for a short operation without the need for excessive logistic

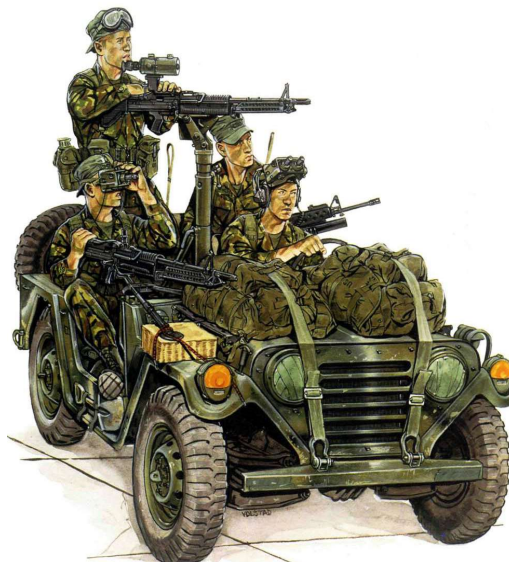


Illustration 7: 5th Division P (Marauder Coy) M151 "Mike's Marvel" armed with 2 M60 MGs (one with night sight). Note the windscreen has been lowered and the grab bags were ready in case of the vehicle being knocked out.

Small arms were the standard issue infantry weapons, with no special weapons being authorised. Popular with many of the drivers and gunners in the vehicles were short weapons, in particular the

¹³ Many of these were given improvised mounts for weapons. A common mount was a TOW launcher on its normal tripod carried in the rear cargo deck "portee" style lowering the profile of the vehicle but firing to the rear arc only. As the TOW was designed to only be fired stationary this was not a major problem and was fairly widely seen (a good example can be seen in the American Army Vehicle Guide although this is not a Marauder vehicle by from the 9th Infantry Division (Motorised) in Iran).

M177 and Minimi Para (the M249E2)¹⁴. Sniper rifles were also fairly widespread as the longer range was appreciated. Some units preferring the 7.62mm cartridge went as far as trading to obtain battle rifles (the 38th Infantry Division in particular liked the 7.62mmN cartridge and so used ex-drill M14s throughout the company). Other units preferred to carry Warsaw Pact weapons to reduce identification in fire-fights behind the lines. Grenade launchers were very popular and the scale of one M203 per vehicle was often added to unofficially with further M203s, M79s (often sawn off and placed handy to lay down smoke) and Soviet versions. Often smoke grenades are visible in photos, placed handy to grab and throw to give cover - often the pins are taped to roll bars).

In addition to these a number of anti-armour weapons were carried by crews. Disposable weapons such as the M72 or the preferred M136 (this was preferred as the extra bulk and weight were less of a concern for vehicle crews compared to infantry) were liberally carried where available. These would be strapped onto the vehicle for easy access as required. Some crews carried Tank Breaker or Dragon ATGMs. These were used more in vehicle ambushes so are less obvious in photos as they are not as stored so predominantly. Where they could be obtained the reloadable Carl Gustavs were popular (from German or British sources). A number of Pzf44s and Pzf3s were also obtained, presumably from German units.



Figure 1: 9th (Motorised) Division soldier in Iran, mid 1999. RPG7s were commonly used by Marauder Companies due to their ease of use and availability. (BBC)

Vehicle weapons were mixed, the M151 usually mounted M60s (often multiple) but occasionally M2s or TOW launchers were fitted. At least one M151 of the 40th Infantry Division (1st Brigade) was

William Branch gives an excellent fictionalised account of a raid from the fictional 127th Infantry Division Marauder company (here called a Dragon company) during the period just after the Thanksgiving Day Massacre. It portrays the difficulties and strain of operating behind enemy lines well (including the breakdown of one of the characters). Branch has been heavily involved in charities supporting veterans and their families since his research for the book. He was a guest at the 2025 LRRC reunion in Boston where he was made an honorary life member of the Association of LRRC Members. He started research on a history of the Marauder Companies but died of a heart attack before it could be written. His son Jon has now continued the research with an aim of completing his father's work.

were usually a little exaggerated and casualties were low compared to real life but it forms a good basis for those new to marauder companies.

No major history exists but the 8th Infantry Division's Marauder Company is given extensive coverage in the book "Left Turn at Bialystok." This history of the division's drive through Poland is mainly accurate but unfairly places the blame for the over-penetration on the Marauder's commander Major Gerry Kilmarsh. Fortunately most of the errors in the account occur after the company was disbanded on reaching the Baltic so despite its many flaws it is a good source for Marauder information.

In film the hero John Roland of the "Lost Knight" series of films is seen to feature a "LRRC" scroll on his uniform under the "Ranger" and "Airborne" tabs. No reference to this has featured in the first three films although rumours circulate that it will be a major plot element in the fourth provisionally entitled "Ghostly Voices."

The book "Dragon Raid" by

¹⁴ As these usually stayed with the vehicles the shorter weapons were preferred. Those who tended to dismount for ambushes often preferred the longer barrellled weapons.

observed with a 60mm mortar set up in the rear. The HMMWV more usually carried an M2HB although M60s, M240s, Mark 19s, TOW launchers or (rarely) an M249 could be fitted. TOW launcher versions were popular even when missiles were not available for the capabilities of the night sight. The HMMWV FSV version with its 25mm Bushmaster cannon was popular when it could be obtained and some units actually created surrogate FSVs using cannon recovered from



Illustration 9: HMMWV FSVs with their M242 Bushmaster 25mm cannon were very popular with Marauder Companies, being capable of taking on light armour. They were however very vulnerable to return fire. This picture taken in September 1998 unfortunately, like many pictures of marauder company vehicles is unidentifiable due to a lack of markings (often done to hide who the vehicle had been stolen from as much as for operational reasons). (US Army)

adopted in the US, particularly in the wide open spaces fighting the Mexicans where the front was relatively porous. Here the names were different, (Rapid Deployment Groups – MILGOV and Mobile Strike Companies – CIVGOV) but the roles were very similar. In both these cases the organisations were far more ad hoc than in Europe and showed little consistency even between divisions in the same corps, being formed by the division from whatever resources were available. In many cases the units lowered the level of the units to brigade level, especially in the southern USA.

CENTCOM generally did not create dedicated Marauder units as the higher proportion of light units meant that they were not needed to the same level (although the Joint Allied Forces Raiding Group [JAFRG] fulfilled a very similar role and may well be the subject of a future article).

Korea also was regarded as unsuitable for Marauder units as the more dense troop concentrations across the peninsula would have not given the freedom of action required. While there was special forces activity behind the lines no divisional level raids were conducted.

damaged Bradleys and LAV25s in a non remote mount (sometimes the night vision equipment was also added to the vehicle). In the United States a number of units used 106mm recoilless rifles from storage on both HMMWVs and M151s. It is believed that some units in Europe MAY have used this but no evidence has ever come to light. Other weapons could also be found based on whatever could be scrounged, known to have been used are M134s, XM214s and captured Pact machine guns¹⁵.

Almost all divisions in Europe used Marauder Companies at some point during the fighting. The name however gradually led to problems as the term marauder had by early 1999 become synonymous with bandits (it has been suggested that this was due to the first bandits being mistaken for Marauder Companies). From 1st January 2000 the official line was that they were to be only called LRRCs although some members unofficially continued using the name.

The idea was also been



Illustration 10: 91st Infantry Division RDG Company HMMWV TOW missile carrier moves up to protect the two lighter armed HMMWVs by engaging a Mexican tank in the fighting south of Los Angeles, October 1998.

¹⁵ These were less popular as a front mounted commander's weapon as Pact machineguns eject empty cases to the left not right, throwing the hot cases into the driver's face and lap...

It is worth noting that the casualty rate on Marauder companies was among the highest in any unit with a casualty rate running at 387% according to official US Army figures¹⁶. There is still a strong association of ex-members of the units that hold annual gatherings where light green berets are proudly worn by the few remaining Bad Tolz veterans.

16 This figure is much disputed by veterans groups as it ignores the casualties caused by radiation.

Appendix 1: Divisional Training schedule

Course	From	To	Unit	Strength at start	Strength at finish	Remarks
M/1/Exp	May 1997	July 1997	3 rd Infantry Division	150	127	
97/1	July 1997	September 1997	8 th Infantry Division	148	126	One soldier killed in a live fire accident
97/2	August 1997	October 1997	5 th Infantry Division	150	130	First use of graduate instructors.
97/3	August 1997	October 1997	1 st Infantry Division	134	114	4 soldiers killed and two seriously injured in a training accident when a HMMWV overturned.
97/4	September 1997	November 1997	36 th Infantry Division	145	118	
97/5	September 1997	September 1997	6 th Infantry Division	144	121	
97/6	October 1997	October 1997	4 th Infantry Division	140	119	
97/7	November 1997	November 1997	43 rd Infantry Division	145	0	Bad Tolz destroyed in nuclear strike
97/8	November 1997	December 1997	28 th Infantry Division			Cancelled course
97/9	December 1997	January 1998	35 th Infantry Division			Cancelled course
98/1	January 1998	February 1998	40 th Infantry Division			Cancelled course
98/2	February 1998	March 1998	38 th Infantry Division			Cancelled course
98/3	March 1998	March 1998	1 st Cavalry Division			Cancelled course
98/4	March 1998	April 1998	1 st Armoured Division			Cancelled course
98/1	February 1998	March 1998	28 th Infantry Division plus a small number of 2 nd Marine Division	130 + 18	111 + 16	
98/2	March 1998	April 1998	38 th Infantry Division ¹⁷	122	99	

¹⁷ UK records show that four officers from the I (UK) Corps attended this course with a view to taking back lessons learned. No US confirmation of this is available however and they do not show on the surviving class nominal rolls. Perhaps further information may come to light in the future.

98/3	April 98	May 98	35 th Infantry Division	138	107	
98/4	May 98	May 98	40 th Infantry Division (1 st Brigade) and 50 th Armoured Division	52 + 70	43 + 56	
98/5	June 98	June 98	43 rd Infantry Division	120	101	
98/6	July 98	July 98	Mixed II US Corps	128	112	
98/7	August 98	August 98	Mixed XV US Corps	128	114	
98/8	September 98	September 98	Mixed US I Corps	125	109	
98/9	October 98	October 98	Mixed US V Corps	128	104	
98/10	October 98	November 98	Mixed US XI Corps and US VII Corps	127	111	
98/11	November 98	December 98	Mixed 7 th US Army	254	201	Double course experiment
98/12	December 98	December 98	Mixed	123	102	
99/1	January 99	January 99	Mixed	127	107	
99/2	February 99	February 99	Mixed	126	120	



Illustration 11: Course 98/5 during training. (43rd Infantry Division Museum)

Appendix 2: A Typical Marauder Company (P Company, M&I Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, May 2000)

Headquarters

M151 "Ben Hur" - M60
Captain Tom Heston (commanding officer)
Sgt Tom Scott
PFC Grant Turlow
PFC Harriet Rawlings

HMMWV "Rolling Thunder" - Mk19 – plus trailer
Master Sgt James Robinson (senior NCO)
Spec 4 Irving Hampson
Petty Officer 3 Terri Johnson (US Navy medic)
PFC Alan Swinton

1 Platoon

M151 "Mike's Marvel" – 2 x M60
Lt Mike Rostov (commanding officer)
Plt Sgt John Robinson
PFC Keri Knight
PFC George Strong

1 Section

HMMWV FSV "Lightning" - 25mm M242 Bushmaster
Sgt Julia Stevenson
PFC Marc George

"While acting as part of a rearguard near Lask, Spec4 Frasier was acting as the gunner on a HMMWV. With the vehicle disabled by mortar fire, he stayed at his gun position continuing to fire the M2 at the infiltrating Soviet infantry. Drawing their fire he told his crew to evacuate their wounded driver. With large amounts of fire being stopped by the gun shield, Spec4 Frasier was wounded in both legs. No longer able to stand and man the M2 he dragged himself to the M60 mounted at the front of the vehicle. He then re-engaged the Soviet infantry who with the fire stopping had started to cross the open ground. With the fire being renewed, the survivors took cover and returned fire. Wounded again Spec 4 Frasier continued to engage the enemy before an RPG7 hit and destroyed the vehicle killing him."

Medal of Honour citation for Spec 4 Ronald Frasier – it is worth noting the citation states this took place on 15th July but the action was clearly on the 16th from divisional records.

PFC Sadio Ross

UAZ469 "Ivan" - 2 x PKM
Jnr Sgt now Sgt Peytor Drackovich (ex-Soviet Army)
Pte Gregori Tirov (ex-Soviet Army)
Pte Peytor Denisovych (ex-Soviet Army)
Pte Alexi Bagration (ex-Soviet Army)

2 Section

HMMWV "Toaster" - TOW
Sgt Sean Oliviera
PFC Hamid Faras
PFC Elijah Cohen

Armoured HMMWV "The Boys From NJ" - M2HB and 2 x

Spec 4 Dave Castle
PFC Jim Lewis
PFC Ed Johnson
PFC Arthur Young

2 Platoon

HMMWV "Mary Lou" - 2 x M240
2Lt Justin Barlow (commanding officer)
Plt Sgt Anya Scarrow
PFC Geri Hunter

"Lightning was one of the best vehicles I ever drove. Despite all the things we put her through she never bogged down, never stopped running and seemed to bear a charmed life up until Kalisz. She even took out two BMPs there with her Bushmaster. It all went wrong when we headed the 4-12th around the back of the Soviets through Lask. She took an RPG round in the engine and caught fire. We hauled ass and became infantry. I hated that as we had to carry our own kit. Mind you before long we were dumping all we had as we tried to get away from the cossacks."

PFC John Young

Senior Airman Ian Forbes

1 Section

Armoured HMMWV “Animaniac” - M2HB
Sgt Tracy Warner
PFC Edward Blair
Airman Naomi French

Armoured HMMWV “The Unnamed” - M2HB and M60
Spec 4 Ronald Frasier
PFC Wendy Robertts
PFC Lori Tranter
Private Tom Jenkins (ex British Army)

2 Section

HMMWV “Tanya's Tank” - TOW
Sgt Tanya Jones
Spec 4 Howard Blant
PFC Danny Durrow

M880 5/4 Ton truck “Pilgrim” - M249
Spec 4 Karl “Duke” Wayne
PFC Richard Villiers
PFC Jo Prior
PFC Nicki Glass
PFC Oscar Scott
Private Andre Kozynski (ex-Polish Navy)



Illustration 12: “Tanya's Tank” - normally stated to having been taken on 4th July 2000 just east of Kalisz. Unusually the vehicle outline is clearly visible with no external stores suggesting this may actually be a posed photograph taken earlier. The vehicle was destroyed and all crew lost just west of Sieradz on July 16th. (5th Division Memorial Archive)

3 Section

FAV “Six Shooter” - M60
Spec 4 Irving Brown
PFC Sheri Kong

FAV “Racer” - M60
PFC Johnny Edwin
PFC Arthur Dryzniak

Motorcycle
PFC Gerry “Johnny” Carson

Motorcycle
Private Oscar Schwartzjager (ex-German Army)

3 Platoon

HMMWV “Buster” - M2HB
Lt Karen Hope (commanding officer)
Plt Sgt James Earl
Unteroffizier Karl Leipzig (ex German Army)
PFC Wilma Scultz

1 Section

HMMWV “Wolverine” - M2HB (81mm mortar carried)
Sgt Maria Sanchez
Spec 4 Sam Buntridge
PFC Kim Terrison

HMMWV “The Rapper” - M2HB (81mm mortar carried)

“Our mortars have saved us on more than one occasion, pouring down HE (that's high explosive) in an ambush and smoke when we bug out (before the Soviets can get their act together and shoot back accurately). If we didn't have them I don't know how many more people I would have lost. I've already lost track of the number of drinks I've had to buy Lt Hope for saving us.”

2lt Justin Barlow in a letter to his wife dated 12th May 2000. Courtesy of his widow.

Spec 4 Herb Smith
PFC Jack Ford
Soldat Willir Muller (ex German Army)
Soldat Jurgen Jung (ex German Army)

HMMWV “Doom Trooper” - M2HB (81mm mortar carried)
Spec 4 Harry Plant
PFC Joe Sherman
PFC Barry Johnson
PFC Arthur Mulder

2 Section

HMMWV FSV “Rhino” - M242 bushmaster cannon
Spec 4 Jake “King” Presley
PFC Gideon Hercules
PFC Robbie Jan

HMMWV Avenger “Razor” - M2HB and quad Stinger pod
Spec 4 Charlie Lee
PFC Hugh Gulby
Senior Airman Ronald Poulson (ex USAF)

“I know that the 25mil is popular with the rest of the unit as it can take on light armour quite well. It's got me quite a few drinks bought for saving their necks. The thing is they don't have to sit inside when we fire it, the noise is horrific even with the soundproofing they fitted. And as for the vibration, the first time I fired it I thought the roof was coming off, It can get that bad that I can't see the monitor properly as it and the camera on the gun is shaking that bad. The FM even says don't try to fire it on the move or for long bursts. There is a story going round that one long burst actually cracked the monitor on one FSV in the 8th. Don't know if that's true or not but it COULD happen.”

PFC Moses Martin Jr gunner on “Rhino” letter to his father dated 6th March 2000 – he died of disease before the ORBAT published here.