



New Armored Security Vehicles

By Private First Class Fabian Ortega

“Allen wrench, Vise-Grips®, slip joint,” Mr. Al Marshall called out to the Soldiers of the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 64th Corps Support Group, who were attending an armored security vehicle (ASV) operator’s new equipment training course.

Mr. Marshall, a civilian ASV instructor, called out tool names and equipment parts, allowing the Soldiers to familiarize themselves with the new basic-issue equipment for the vehicle during the supply transaction and property inventory portion of the course.

Soldiers appreciated the hands-on training and the experience they gained from assembling and disassembling the vehicles’ complex apparatus. “I have never worked with a weapon system like the one on the ASV,” said one student. “Getting a feel for the MK19 [40-millimeter grenade machine gun], .50-caliber [machine gun], and the vehicle is a new experience for me. You learn a lot from the instructors because they give you a lot of hands-on training.”

Another Soldier, a truck driver with the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 64th Corps Support Group, also praised the training and the staff. “I know when I go back to my unit and I am asked to train other Soldiers on how to operate the ASV, I can do so with confidence. I can impart whatever knowledge I gained from the teachers here, and share all of that with our Soldiers.” She said she thought it was the best training she’d had in her six-year Army career.

Students learn through classroom instruction and hands-on training. Instruction includes—

- Procedures for ASV rollovers.
- Fire commands for the weapon systems.
- Range fire for the .50-caliber machine gun and MK19.
- Operations drills for the .50-caliber machine gun.
- Hasty evacuation of the ASV.
- Casualty evacuation from the ASV.
- Leader training.



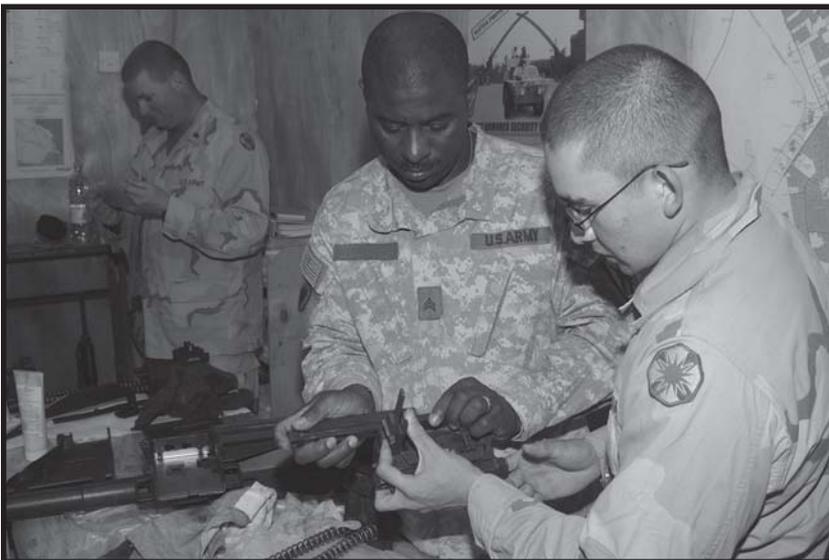
A Soldier inspects the communications system during a routine maintenance check.

“We teach the students everything we know,” said the ASV mobile equipment supervisor. “Everything we teach them is going to help them on the battlefield. The more knowledge we give them, the more lives we may be able to save. When they come to class, we just ask them to pay attention to every detail. When [Soldiers] leave here, they will

have a basic understanding of the vehicle’s weapon systems capabilities, how to perform basic maintenance, and how to drive the ASV during day-and nighttime conditions.”

As the war in Iraq evolves at a rapid pace, maintaining the integrity of convoys and providing security for them has been at the Army’s center of

interest. The ASV is one of the Army’s solutions to convoy security. “As more convoys were being hit with [improvised explosive devices], the Army looked in its arsenal and decided that the ASV could save lives on the road by providing convoy security. Its armor, speed, maneuverability, communications systems, firepower, and operator-friendly drivability make the [ASV] a great choice,” said Brooks O. Hubbard IV, a Department of the Army civilian working at the US Army Military Police School.



Soldiers assemble the MK19 during ASV familiarization training.