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MST/7/4/3/2

13 July 2006

CM(BM)

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**PROTECTED PATROL VEHICLES (PPV)**

You updated Lord Drayson this evening on the work being conducted in response to my minute (MST/7/4/3/2) of 7 July regarding medium weight Protected Patrol Vehicles (PPVs). DCD was also present.

- 2) In opening, you informed the Minister that the requirement for 166 VECTOR to be deployed to Afghanistan had been confirmed, as had the requirement for the balance of the armour packs for the FV430 to be provided for TELIC 10. Lord Drayson confirmed that the resources this required would not count against the new resources being provided by HM Treasury to meet the medium weight PPV requirement.
- 3) You explained that the requirement had been reviewed, and an outline specification developed. The PPV needed to provide protection against RPG and EFP, with appropriate cross country mobility and improved agility. It had been accepted that it would not be able to transit small urban streets, but would be used for tasks such as transiting between air heads and bases. The total requirement remained circa 768 vehicles, and those not provided as a result of the work being conducted now would be the subject of an EP07 Option. The immediate requirement was circa 70 vehicles for TELIC, circa 18 for HERRICK, and another 18 to form a small training corp in the UK.
- 4) Your team had examined 15 vehicles. The only option to borrow vehicles was 25-50 Bushmasters that Australia could release. There was no option to acquire additional vehicles beyond this as there was no manufacturing line. More importantly, the  
The two options worthy of further consideration were therefore the Protector (a new variant of the RG31) and the ILAV (derived from Cougar).
- 5) The Protector is being manufactured in South Africa by a BAES subsidiary for the UAE, who expected to deploy it by the end of the year.

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BAES could increase production and had indicated they might supply a small number of vehicles in September to allow parallel integration work to take place.

6) The Iraq Light Armoured Vehicle (ILAV), was a derivant of the Cougar – an early version of which was in-service and used by the UK as an EOD vehicle. The design was owned by Force Protection Inc, and it was manufactured under licence by United Defence (another BAES subsidiary). The US was using it in Iraq, where it had survived circa 1000 IED attacks. You were able to confirm that the US would be willing to provide a couple of ILAV vehicles to the UK early for testing. They also had an Integrated Logistic Support arrangement in place.

7) You felt that confirmation that resources would be made available, and that the Minister would be willing to engage the company at senior levels might enable you to persuade them to be even more forthcoming. Lord Drayson confirmed he would do this.

8) You confirmed that both vehicles would meet the required protection capability, and felt that another week's work would allow your team to test their comparative advantages more fully. You confirmed that for MOD's requirement the point of distinction was effectively which vehicle could be delivered more quickly. A down selection could then be made next week, after which integration work would start. You were investigating whether vehicles could be shipped straight from production lines to theatre, and integrated there. This was aimed at building up vehicles in theatre from November through December.

9) Lord Drayson suggested acquiring a number of both Protector and ILAV, thereby reducing the delivery time. He suggested the companies could be incentivised by informing them that this would in effect be a protracted demonstrator: early delivery would position them well for the larger total fleet requirement. You agreed this might reduce timescales, and undertook to investigate it further. You suggested the goal of issuing an Invitation To Tender by the end of next week.

10) Discussion turned to the required commercial arrangements, and the difficulties posed as Force Protection Inc would be a new supplier to the MOD. Following discussion with SUV IPTL, DCD identified two possible options to expedite matters: provision of the basic ILAV vehicles from the US under FMS arrangements with configuration for the UK communications and ECM fits afterwards, or by acquiring the vehicles as Iraqi vehicles under a call off contract. The latter route might then lead to a Main Gate in a month's time on a Previously Designed Vehicle basis. There was discussion on which route would be quicker.

#### Comment/Actions

11) A highly productive meeting. Lord Drayson was grateful not only for the efforts of DCD and yourself, but also for those of your team (both IPT

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and DEC) who have progressed this work so quickly. The pace of work must now be maintained, and it will be important that the team (and in particular the IPT) is resourced to enable this. The Minister subsequently spoke to CDL on these points. At the Minister's instructions I have written updating the Secretary of State on progress, including the aspiration to give him the option to announce the reviews conclusions at Top Day on 24 July.

12) Lord Drayson would be grateful for an update by 1000 on 20 July from you on the programme to buy Protector and/or ILAV delivering capability in theatre from November. This update should assume that commercial process issues will not delay signature of a contract/ delivery. In the same timescale Lord Drayson would be grateful for advice from DCD on the best route to achieve the necessary commercial arrangement. Lord Drayson will be seeing Ken Krieg (his opposite number in the US) on 17-18 July. Early advice will be needed if you or DCD believe it would expedite matters if he engaged with Krieg on PPVs.

APS/Minister(DP)

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