

Declassified

DNP 26/7

7141312

Minister,

CJO/D/LM (24/06)

7 July 2006

PS/Min(DP)

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NB Note - Minister can no longer say in the House that they have had no requests from commanders for an alternative to the Snatch.

Redacted 7

PROTECTED PATROL VEHICLES (PPV)

1. In his minute of the 5th Jul 06, Min(DP)¹ sought confirmation as to whether there is a requirement for a medium weight, armoured patrol vehicle as an alternative to the use of Snatch or tracked armoured vehicles on current operations.
2. I am clear that, in light of the increasingly sophisticated and potent asymmetric threat that we now face, a medium weight PPV, in addition to the current and planned enhancements to lightweight PPV and tracked armoured vehicles, exists. EC advice suggests that we have reached the engineering and technological limits of the physical protection that can be provided by Snatch and other lightweight PPVs. Whilst heavy tracked armoured vehicles do provide us with the degree of physical protection we seek, their profile, agility and lack of operational mobility make them unsuitable for the complete range of tasks on current operations.
3. We need a medium weight PPV in order to provide a significantly enhanced physical protection against EFP IEDs and RPGs in order to prosecute our missions successfully without unnecessary casualties. Only a balanced force will give the operational commander the optimum flexibility to meet the range of tasks based on an assessment of threat and risk. The Front Line Commands share this assessment.
4. Finally, the Minister is fully aware that physical protection is only a part of a balanced systems approach to delivering a Force Protection capability. In particular the improvements to our ISTAR capability being taken forward under VCDS' action plan, are a key element in delivering the overall protection that we need.

CJO

¹ D/MST/7/4/3/2 dated 5 Jul 06.