



All Terrain Vehicle Corp's
candidate for
USSOCOM/USMC's MV/CV-22
Internally Transportable Vehicle
the PROWLER ITV

Small Wheels— Big Mission

SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES NEED SMALL VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORT, EVACUATION, RECONNAISSANCE AND AS WEAPON PLATFORMS—AND THEY NEED TO BE INTERNALLY TRANSPORTABLE IN A HELICOPTER AND THE NEW CV-22.

BY JEFF MCKAUGHAN, SOTECH EDITOR

The Internally Transportable Vehicle (ITV) is a joint program between USSOCOM and the Marine Corps, with the Marines having the program management responsibility. The joint operational requirement document (JORD) was approved in April 2000, with USSOCOM requirement for 50 ITVs. The fundamental need is for a highly mobile vehicle that can be carried inside the MV-22 and the CV-22.

There are three primary missions the ITV is expected to perform—expeditionary assault, utility and casualty evacuation. In July of this year there will be a further detailed requirements assessment.

At the recent ITV briefing that *SOTECH* attended, more than 30 companies were represented. Some companies brought their vehicles to demonstrate and test how they would actually fit in the envelope while others used the opportunity to talk over their concepts and actually measure the box themselves. Here is a small sampling of what industry has to offer.

All Terrain Vehicle Corp.'s Prowler four-wheeler is a robust tubular frame design that has been noted for its durability and reliability. In May, a report from the 7th Special Forces Group headquarters noted the Prowler's dependability, stating the "vehicle was driven very hard in an extremely harsh environment with over 140 hours placed on the each vehicle. These vehicles received no preventative maintenance and suffered no down time."

The vehicles were tested in Colombia between February and March.

A low center of gravity, powerful engine, automotive-style driving controls, steep climbing ability and a tight turning radius are characteristics that have shown themselves while being evaluated by various units. Reports have noted that some vehicles that even after breaking drive shafts, the vehicles continued to run. Set up like a four-wheel drive all terrain vehicle, the Prowler is designed with a car-like steering wheel which is easier to operate than a handle bar and the driver does not have to straddle the engine hump. There is complete crossover capability without lifting a leg. The powerful 700 cc engine easily carries up to about 900 pounds and operates without difficulty at altitudes between 3,000 and 8,000 feet.