

Committee on Appropriations

Defense Member Day

February 25, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum for holding this hearing. I'm grateful for the opportunity to come before the Committee and share my defense priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, my top appropriations priority has always been ensuring that Humvees maintain strong funding that continues to support military readiness and the U.S. industrial base. This remains my top priority this year.

Mr. Chairman, you and I have spoken several times about the importance of the light tactical vehicle programs – especially Humvees – to my constituents, our warfighters, and the broader industrial base. It is essential that we continue to strong funding support for this vital program, as well as the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Program.

AM General has been proudly manufacturing Humvees in Mishawaka, Indiana for the past 40 years. AM General's innovation, resourcefulness, and constant modernization has made the Humvee the cornerstone of the LTV fleet over the past four decades. The Humvee has served on countless missions at home and abroad. Currently, the National Guard is deploying with Humvees in their mission to secure the southern border.

AM General's long history of manufacturing Humvees has positioned the company to be the new manufacturer for the Army's Joint Light Tactical Vehicle A2 variant or JLTVs. The JLTV A2 has a greater payload, blast protection, and armoring capability due to its weight and size relative to the lighter, more mobile HMMWV. The JLTV A2 is now in production in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and features more than 250 enhancements to the original JLTV which provides greater mobility, reliability, and technological capabilities.

As you know, Humvee and JLTV are essential to ensuring Army and Marine Corps readiness for today's missions and potential future threats. The Army has publicly stated that there will be over 49,000 JLTVs and 55,000 HMMWVs in the fleet until 2050. However, the Humvee fleet continues to suffer from inadequate budgets from the Department of Defense, requiring Congress year after year to step in and fund these critical vehicles.

By 2030, the average age of our Humvee fleet will be 20 years old, and the oldest vehicles will be 40 years old. This shows the pressing need to start replacing these aging vehicles with new modernized variants. The new Humvee model has increased safety measures, power, reliability, and crew protection which is crucial to the success of our warfighters.

Your leadership is critical to ensure the Army and Marine Corps LTV strategy is properly resourced in order to combat the constantly changing threats posed to the U.S. Vehicles are often deprioritized in the budget process – they aren't as exciting or high tech -- but the fact remains they

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are a critical part of military operations from mobilizing to meet global threats to securing our border here at home. These investments must continue to be made to maintain readiness levels of our armed forces.

AM General alone proudly employs more than 1,100 hardworking Americans across their Midwest facilities. The broader LTV industrial base stretches across 43 states and over 1,100 supplier businesses.

Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum, I specifically ask that you include \$200 million dollars for the National Guard HMMWV Modernization Program as well as the highest possible funding for JLTVs in the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations bill. The National Guard Association of the US proudly supports this funding year after year, with over 25 adjutants general (including mine in my home state of Indiana) all voicing support.

These funds are essential to maintaining a robust domestic industrial base and the strongest military readiness. Additionally, Humvees are playing a critical part in executing President Trump's directives to secure the southern border and strengthen national security.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to continuing to work with you during this year's appropriation's process.

(4 minutes)