

Re: Future of Tanks

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- *From:* Andrew Swallow <am.swallow@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Airborne! wrote:

Andrew, I tend to agree with you more than not, but you have forwarded some common myths relating to armored vehicles that I feel I should respond to. Wheeled vehicles being cheaper is based upon the assumption of using commercial drivetrains. The current crop of wheeled armor using complex 6x6 and 8x8 drivetrains actually tend to be

Yes. Commercial trucks do not use 6x6 drivetrains. Made to measure is expensive.

The centre wheels on a 6 wheeled combat taxi are basically spares to handle loss of a front or back wheel. Do they need either steering or traction?

far more expensive than tracked LAV's. Look at the cost of the Stryker compared to smaller air-transportable tracked armor. The 113, 113 improved variants, Weisel etc. are all significantly cheaper than the Stryker and far easier to upgrade. The Dingo 2, that has nearly identical primary capabilities as the Stryker except that it carries a team of 8 instead of twelve (this is actually an advantage if you study the history of armor used in the scenarios that the Stryker is meant for) is about 1/6 the cost of the Stryker because it relies on mostly commercial 4x4 technology. The other myth forwarded is that armor is not beneficial for anti-insurgency work. Combined arms helps in major theatre war, limited objective war, insurgency, and stability and sustainment operations. Period. Proper force structure and doctrine

Use an elephant gun against elephants, a bear gun against bears and RPGs against US troops.

For anti-insurgency work the armour needs to be able to handle volleys of RPGs and any other man portable anti-tank weapon.

allow you to have overmatch against all kinds of opposition and considering the US's very low strategic defeat threshold, this is a must. Historical analysis will show that armor in complex terrain must be survivable against AT systems, particularly in the frontal arc. This

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There may be logistical advantages in using the same components, such as engines, in trucks and infantry support vehicles. Hopefully armoured wheeled vehicles will be a lot cheaper than tanks.

Andrew Swallow