

Delivering Life-Saving Capability

By Bernice Miller, DCMA Dayton



**The up-armored
M1114 High Mobility
Multipurpose
Wheeled Vehicle
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There is a two-foot deep and four-foot wide crater left in the sand where a 200-pound improvised explosive device detonated. However, the Marines riding in the vehicle that struck the IED still ride out on patrols serving and protecting our country. The up-armored M1114 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (or “Humvee”) they drove into the desert that day saved their lives.

In another incident, the front end of a Humvee in Iraq was reduced to a pile of twisted metal after an encounter with an IED, but the sergeant and his gunner who were riding in the vehicle were safe. The sergeant swears the Humvee was blown six feet in the air by the blast but the armor and glass held, protecting him from debris.

Armor Holding, the factory in Butler County, Ohio, that assembles up-armored HMMWVs and manufactures up-armoring kits, regularly receives letters containing stories like these. Grateful soldiers and their parents send letters of appreciation for the vehicles that protect the lives of the men and women serving overseas.

(Background) An M1114 HMMWV leads a convoy from the 732 Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron near Balad Air Base, Iraq, on Jan. 7, 2007. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung)

(Above Left) Soldiers from Troop F, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, patrol the Kinsey neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq, in their M1114 HMMWV. (U.S. Army photo by Timothy Belt)

(Above Right) From left: Army Pfc. Antwon Chapman, Army Spc. Joe Merlino and Army Pfc. Nehemiah Lewis prepare to fit armor onto the door of an M1145 up-armored Humvee in the maintenance bay of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment at Camp Taji, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rachel M. Ahner)

Armor Holding is up-armorizing 150 – 200 HMMWVs per month, which are shipped directly to warfighters in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and other locations.



Armor Holding has been armorizing HMMWVs since 1993. By the end of 2006, the company had armored a total of 19,801. Currently, Armor Holding is up-armorizing 12 M1114s/ M1145s per day or seven M1116s per day, for a total of 150 – 200 up-armored HMMWVs per month. These HMMWVs are shipped directly to warfighters in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and other locations. The up-armor kits manufactured by Armor Holding consist of up-armored doors and full up-armor kits. At present, a total of 150 doors and 100 – 150 kits are manufactured and delivered to warfighters each day. 



(Above Left) An M1114 HMMWV used by the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) during sustainment training in the U.S. Central Command's area of operation. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. T.G. Kessler)

(Above Right) Despite the damage to the exterior of this HMMWV from an improvised explosive device, the interior has been kept intact by protective armor such as the type manufactured by Armor Holding in Ohio. (Photo courtesy of David A. Miller, DCMA Dayton)

(Bottom Right) The exterior of this HMMWV's door shows significant damage from an IED; however, the door's protective armor has kept the inside of the vehicle intact. (Photo courtesy of David A. Miller, DCMA Dayton)