



*These Defense Contract Management Agency – Northern Iraq team members pose after conducting final inspections and acceptance for a series of upgrades to the current Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle configuration used in Iraq. The team recently accepted the 100th MRAP. Their efforts dramatically decreased the number of MRAP upgrade defects and increased the number of MRAP acceptances. (Photos by DCMA-NI)*

# MRAP theater upgrade provides key to soldier survivability

Courtesy of DCMA – Northern Iraq

**Defense Secretary Robert Gates made production and fielding of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected** vehicles the Department of Defense's top acquisition priority and the third largest acquisition program in the department in 2007. The Defense Contract Management Agency has been involved with the MRAP program since its inception, making the program a top priority in DCMA's continuing efforts to support the warfighter.

In July 2010, DCMA – Northern Iraq began work with a delegation from the MRAP Joint Program Office to conduct

final inspection and acceptance for a series of upgrades to the current RG-33 MRAP configuration used in Iraq. These upgrades help support improved operational readiness while incorporating solutions to make vehicles more survivable and effective.

Bob Sadler, a DCMA-NI quality assurance veteran with 30 years of experience and eight deployments to his credit, quickly identified a number of challenges, including inconsistencies in drawings, plans and other key vehicle documentation. These challenges, coupled

with the lack of a quality control plan and the austere Iraqi environment, led to a hectic initial start.

Sadler, who has an extensive quality assurance background in automotive programs, worked diligently with the contractor to implement sound processes and a highly effective quality program. The DCMA-NI quality team's extensive process-proofing effort resulted in the issuance of numerous continuous improvement opportunities. This process caused more than 260 assembly book changes, 46 weld book changes and



*Defense Contract Management Agency – Northern Iraq personnel provide quality oversight on a series of upgrades to the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle’s current configuration for use in Iraq. DCMA-NI will continue providing quality oversight for the upgrade program’s duration, which is expected to run through June 2011.*



*A welder works on upgrading a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle to the current MRAP configuration used in Iraq. The Defense Contract Management Agency – Northern Iraq quality team’s process-proofing effort resulted in the issuance of numerous continuous improvement opportunities. This process has resulted in more than 260 assembly book changes, 46 weld book changes and 40 build book changes, all contributing to a steady growth in production and a substantial decrease in defects.*

**“This continues to be a great team effort by the Joint Program Office (Forward) requiring activity and Defense Contract Management Agency.”**

— Army Lt. Col. Don Hurst, DCMA – Northern Iraq commander

40 build book changes, all of which contributed to steady production growth and fewer defects.

This effort provides another example where DCMA identified a shortfall, partnered with the stakeholders and developed executable processes resulting in a fully functional, game-changing combat platform with a focus on soldier survivability — a key design feature. The collaborative effort and hard work has paid off, and the statistics tell the story. To date, DCMA has accepted 100 vehicles. When the program started, 145 defects were identified against five vehicles for a 29 percent defect rate. Since that time, the number of defects has dramatically decreased to a 1 percent defect rate while the number of accepted vehicles has steadily increased.

“This continues to be a great team effort by the JPO (Forward) requiring activity and DCMA,” said Army Lt. Col. Don Hurst, DCMA-NI commander. “These efforts have ensured everything possible has been done to provide a conforming product to the warfighter. Its chief design feature is to ensure our servicemen and women can do their jobs and return home safely.”

JPO MRAP and the requiring activity continue to praise DCMA for its efforts. DCMA-NI will provide quality oversight for the duration of the upgrade program, which is expected to run through June 2011. 