

# **12 FAM 380**

## **ARMORED VEHICLE PROGRAM**

*(TL:DS-096; 02-14-2004)*  
*(Office of Origin: DS/T/TPS)*

### **12 FAM 381 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY**

#### **12 FAM 381.1 Policy**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

It is the policy of the Department of State to protect chiefs of mission, principal officers, and others as specified from the threat of terrorism, war, and civil disturbance. This protection *may* include the use of armored vehicles abroad.

#### **12 FAM 381.2 Authority**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

The Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (*Public Law 99-399*) as codified at 22 U.S.C. 4804.

### **12 FAM 382 ARMORED VEHICLE STANDARDS**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

a. Standards have been developed to provide post a reasonable number of armored vehicle assets with an enhanced level of protection during periods of threat, instability, evacuation, or when needed. (See 12 FAH-6 H-522.)

b. The Department's responsibilities and performance standards for the safety of armored vehicles deployed abroad is defined as ensuring that each armored vehicle meets Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Motor Vehicle Safety (FMVS), and Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) standards. Where armoring may adversely impact these standards, the Department, through its relationships with the armoring vendors, makes the necessary adjustments to brake, suspension, and safety systems to align these modified vehicles to the standards set forth by the entities identified above.

## **12 FAM 383 RESPONSIBILITIES**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

a. DS is responsible for coordinating the armored vehicle program and developing standards. All questions pertaining to this program shall be directed to the Office of Physical Security Programs, Defensive Equipment and Armored Vehicles Division (DS/PSP/DEAV). DS/PSP/DEAV shall serve as the overall coordination point and program manager for armoring of vehicles, and as a conduit for armoring issues to the various Federal agencies, the Overseas Security Policy Board (OSPB), and posts. DS/PSP/DEAV will provide annual budget estimates to DS for those platforms and armoring systems that are fully provided for by DS, along with estimates of funding required by ICASS.

b. The post Emergency Action Committee (EAC) shall meet at least annually to discuss its armored vehicle program and requirements. It is important that EACs provide information on these requirements so that ICASS councils have sufficient time to budget for appropriate base vehicle requirements, and DS/PSP/DEAV can budget appropriate funding levels to provide the extra costs associated with armoring the vehicles.

## **12 FAM 384 ASSIGNMENT**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

The vehicle make, type, and model assigned to any post must be consistent with the vehicle assignment policy of the Federal agency using the vehicle. All assignments of armored vehicles to post, other than for the chief of mission (COM) or principal officer (PO), must be as a result of consultation with and coordination by the post Emergency Action Committee (EAC). In the event of a disagreement between the EAC and an individual agency, the dispute may be forwarded to the COM. The COM can seek additional guidance or clarification from the chair of the OSPB.

## **12 FAM 385 Procurement**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

Post shall coordinate requests for all Department of State (A/LM, MSG, COM, PO) and ICASS armored vehicles through DS/PSP/DEAV. All other agencies shall coordinate requests for armored vehicles through headquarters element of the agency with oversight for the armoring process.

## **12 FAM 386 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

As a post responsibility, all armored vehicles must undergo top quality preventive and mechanical maintenance on a regular basis by post-designated local mechanics. Armored vehicles require regular maintenance to overcome the stress of the heavy armor on the vehicle's drive train, suspension, and braking systems. Any certified mechanic, while being observed by an embassy employee, may perform mechanical work or preventive maintenance on armored vehicles.

## **12 FAM 387 ARMOR MAINTENANCE**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

DS repairs and replaces armor materials on armored vehicles furnished by the Department of State, and will provide the same services to other agencies, if requested and on a reimbursable basis. No armoring shall be removed from or repaired on an official Department of State or ICASS vehicle without the authorization of the regional security officer (RSO) in consultation with DS/PSP/DEAV. The same applies to a vehicle owned by another agency, however, consultation with the headquarters element responsible for the agency's armored vehicle program is required. No armored vehicle shall be altered to reduce the effectiveness of either the armor materials or the performance of the vehicle. All defective armor materials must be replaced with approved parts by authorized armoring technicians.

## **12 FAM 388 DISPOSAL**

*(TL:DS-92; 08-26-2003)*

a. Disposal of all armored vehicles shall be coordinated with DS/PSP/DEAV, through the RSO and A/LM/OPS/WLC/MV, through the GSO for Department assets. Other agencies shall coordinate disposal of armored vehicles with the RSO and the responsible headquarters element of the agency involved. Posts will recommend disposal of armored vehicles based upon local conditions and restrictions.

b. Salvageable radios and security equipment must be removed before disposal.

c. For security reasons, all armored vehicles must be destroyed. Approved disposal methods include:

- (1) Burial at sea;
- (2) Explosive demolition;
- (3) Burning;
- (4) Crushing; or

## **12 FAM 389 FSN Armored Vehicle Driver Training**

*(TL: DS-096; 02-14-2004)*

*a. The Regional Security Officer (RSO) must ensure that drivers assigned to drive Chief of Mission and/or Principal Officer armored vehicles have attended a Counter-Terrorism driving course approved by the Diplomatic Security Training Center (DSTC) or attended the DSTC armored vehicle driver training program. When the assigned, trained driver is temporarily unavailable, RSOs may designate experienced drivers who have not had this training to drive until the trained driver returns to duty. DSTC will maintain training records by post.*

*b. RSO must ensure refresher training every five years of all drivers who drive Chief of Mission and/or Principal Officer armored vehicles once the initial training has occurred.*

*c. Training will consist of classes to ensure proper operation and enhanced effectiveness of drivers of armored vehicles, including:*

- (1) Terrorist Operations,*
- (2) Surveillance Detection/Countermeasures,*
- (3) Car-jacking, Route Analysis,*
- (4) Vehicle Dynamics 1,2 and 3,*
- (5) Emergency Driving,*
- (6) Driving at Night,*
- (7) Street Line Driving,*
- (8) Barricade Breaching, Backing Drills,*
- (9) Evasive Maneuvers,*
- (10) Attack Recognition,*
- (11) Armored Car Enhanced Skills,*
- (12) Improvised Explosive Devices, and*
- (13) Vehicle Search Procedures).*

*d. Posts must include most recent dates of refresher driver training with all requests to DEAV for armored vehicle replacement.*