

Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle

Discussion

In the 1980s, the Navy and Marine Corps developed the concept of over-the-horizon (OTH) assaults to avoid enemy strengths, exploit enemy weaknesses, and protect Navy ships from increased land-based missile threats and sea-based mine threats. This littoral warfare concept has matured into the Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare (EMW) capstone concept. The AAV Program, together with the MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and the Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC), will provide the tactical mobility assets required to spearhead EMW. Furthermore, the AAV is critically important to maneuvering a mobile and survivable surface assault force that can quickly secure inland objectives. Its swift and independent transit from OTH is the tactical assault capability currently lacking to enable LCACs to perform the follow-on assault and logistics functions for which they were originally designed. In addition to its greatly increased speed on the water, the AAV will provide superior land mobility, tremendously increased firepower, and advanced survivability features that compare to the best land fighting vehicles in the world.

The AAV's unique capabilities include: (1) over three times the water speed of the current AAV7A1; (2) equal armor protection with the current AAV7A1 (already enhanced by applique armor); (3) the ability to defeat future threat light armored vehicles; (4) land mobility equal to or greater than the M1A1 tank; (5) lift and carrying capacity for a reinforced rifle squad; and (6) Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) protection for both the crew and embarked personnel (the only combat vehicle system for infantry in the U.S. inventory that does so). All of these capabilities will increase the survivability of the amphibious surface assault forces and the flexibility of future MAGTFs.

Marine Corps Position

The AAV Program will allow the Navy and Marine Corps to seamlessly link operational maneuver at sea with maneuver ashore. It provides a critical capability for OTH forcible entry — a key component of EMW.

