

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TARIAN

TARIAN, an innovative and unbelievably robust textile-based vehicle armour which combines a range of complex interlaced fabrics and materials inside a protective outer coating, has been developed by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) together with AmSafe Bridport.



TARIAN textile-based vehicle armour with 'dazzle' camouflage during testing on a Spartan armoured reconnaissance vehicle.

- **Lightweight** – TARIAN is very lightweight, and provides protection against rocket propelled grenades (RPG), and because TARIAN is typically less than half the weight of aluminium, yet just as effective, additional heavier mine protection can be added elsewhere to a vehicle, and more ammunition and supplies can be carried.
- **Testing** – TARIAN has been extensively tested by Dstl's armour research team with hundreds of trials using a highly accurate tube mounted launch system which fires RPGs. This means TARIAN has been tested to the highest standards using a variety of grenades, rockets and small arms fired at different angles to ensure the vehicle armour can function correctly and withstand battlefield wear and tear.

The scientists at Dstl and AmSafe Bridport have also carried out flame retardant tests including checking TARIAN's resistance to petrol bombs, as well as abrasion and cutting experiments making it resistant to the same threats as existing bar armour.

As well as putting the new vehicle armour through its paces, the Dstl scientists have also considered the personnel driving vehicles fitted with TARIAN and carried out research in to visibility benefits. Other research and experiments carried out on TARIAN included water proofing testing and fitting it to different vehicles operating in a range of different terrains.

- Camouflage – The 'dazzle' camouflage has been specifically designed for use when on operations in arid urban environments and the Afghan dessert as well as working in areas of dense foliage. TARIAN is a modular design which means sections can easily be changed if damaged or to alter camouflage.

TARIAN was developed as part of a project which aims to produce armour solutions for urgent operational requirement (UOR) requests by Capability (Ground Manoeuvre) (CAP(GM)). This means the £500,000 development and testing of TARIAN was speeded up so that it could quickly enter service. TARIAN is currently on operations with UK forces fitted to heavy equipment transporters (HET).

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

Dstl

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is a centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its 3,500 strong workforce includes some of the nation's most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in-house by the very best impartial scientific and technological advice. Dstl's position at the heart of the MOD means that its advice is trusted by governments, academia, industry and international partners. It offers timely and accurate advice at all levels of military planning and operations, both overseas and on the home front. For more information please visit www.dstl.gov.uk