

Marine Infantry Battalion Becomes First Operational Unit to Receive JLTVs



James Geurts, assistant secretary of the U.S. Navy for research, development and acquisition, speaks to Marines while touring the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle fielding facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. U.S. Marine Corps/Ashley Calingo CAMP

LEJEUNE, N.C. – Program Executive Officer Land Systems is equipping the Marine Corps'

first infantry battalion – 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division – with

the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, and U.S. Navy and Marine leadership visited to witness the event.

"I am very proud of the Joint Marine Corps and Army team whose mission-first approach and close interaction with the end user has delivered our Marine operators the

JLTV," said James Geurts, assistant Navy secretary for research, development and

Acquisition. "The fielding of these JLTVs provides our Marines the light

tactical vehicle capability needed to compete and win on the modern

battlefield."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8p00jWS3QI>

Joining Geurts

for the July 18 tour at Camp Lejeune of the II Marine Expeditionary Force JLTV

fielding site were: Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

Gen. Gary Thomas; Lt.

Gen. Charles Chiarotti, deputy commandant for installations and logistics; II

Marine Expeditionary Force Commander Lt. Gen. Brian Beaudreault; Michael

Stewart, deputy director for integrated warfare; John Garner, program executive

officer, Land Systems; and Marine Corps Systems Command Brig.

Gen. Arthur

Pasagian.

The JLTV

family of vehicles is made up of four different variants: the utility variant;

general purpose vehicle; heavy guns carrier; and close combat weapons carrier.

All variants include multiple mission package configurations and provide

protected, sustained and networked mobility that balances payload, performance

and protection across the full range of military operations.



Geurts was joined at Camp Lejeune by Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Gary Thomas; Lt. Gen. Charles Chiarotti, deputy commandant for installations and logistics; II Marine Expeditionary Force Commander Lt. Gen. Brian Beaudreault; Michael Stewart, deputy director for integrated warfare; John Garner, program executive officer, Land Systems; and Marine Corps Systems Command Brig. Gen. Arthur Pasagian. U.S. Marine Corps/Ashley Calingo

Col.

Farrell Sullivan, chief of staff, 2nd Marine Division, spoke to Geurts on

behalf of the operating forces.

"I think

the battalion, like most battalions, are eager to get these out into the

field,” Sullivan said. “We’re excited about the additional capability [the JLTV] brings and also for its ability to get Marines to where they need to be.”

Geurts,

Thomas, Chiarotti and Beaudreault then had the opportunity to speak to the Marines of 3/8 operating forces while taking a closer look at the vehicle.

“We’re excited about the additional capability [the JLTV] brings and also for its ability to get Marines to where they need to be.”

Col. Farrell Sullivan, chief of staff, 2nd Marine Division

Of the

event, Geurts said, “It was an honor to hear directly from the Marines operating these vehicles about how much of a capability leap it presents over their aging legacy vehicles and the many ideas they have on how to leverage them to enable new methods of mobility and expeditionary operations for the future fight.”

The Marine

Corps is planning to field 15,390 JLTVs, replacing all High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles in the Corps’ legacy fleet in a one-for-one swap.

PEO Land Systems began

delivery of the JLTV in February to the Corps’ schools of infantry and other supporting units. The Light Tactical Vehicle program office at

PEO Land Systems

will begin fielding the JLTV to First and Third Marine Division units by the end of September.