

Marine JLTV Achieves Initial Operational Capability



A JLTV is displayed at School of Infantry West (SOI-W) on Feb. 28. U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl. Juan Bustos

MARINE

CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – The Marine Corps’ Joint Light Tactical Vehicle is officially ready to deploy and support missions of the naval expeditionary force-in-readiness worldwide, the Marine Corps announced.

Marine

Corps Combat Development Command, Combat Development and Integration declared that the JLTV program – part of the Light Tactical Vehicle portfolio at Program Executive Officer Land Systems – reached initial operational capability (IOC) on Aug. 2, nearly a year ahead of schedule.

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

“Congratulations

to the combined JLTV team for acting with a sense of urgency and reaching IOC early,” said James Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition.

“Changing

the speed in which we deliver, combined with coming in under cost and meeting all performance requirements, is a fine example of increasing Marine Corps capabilities at the speed of relevance, which enables our Marines to compete

and win on the modern battlefield.”

The JLTV,
a program led by the U.S. Army, will replace the Corps’ aging
high mobility multipurpose
wheeled vehicle fleet. The JLTV family of vehicles comes in
different variants
with multiple mission package configurations, all providing
protected,
sustained, networked mobility that balances payload,
performance and protection
across the full range of military operations.

“The
warfighting capabilities the JLTV provides our Marines far
exceed the
capabilities offered by its predecessor,” said PEO Land
Systems’ John Garner.

“I’m proud of what our team, in collaboration with the Army,
has accomplished.
Their commitment to supporting the warfighter delivered an
exceptional vehicle,
ahead of schedule, that Marines will use to dominate on the
battlefield now and
well into the future.”

Several
elements need to be met before a program can declare IOC of a
system, which
encompasses more than delivery of the system itself. The
program office also
had to ensure all the operators were fully trained and
maintenance tools and
spare parts packages were ready.

“IOC is
more than just saying that the schoolhouses and an infantry
battalion all have

their trucks,” said Eugene Morin, product manager for JLTV at PEO Land Systems.

“All of the tools and parts required to support the system need to be in place, the units must have had received sufficient training and each unit commander needs to declare that he is combat-ready.”

For the JLTV, this means the program office had to fully field battle-ready vehicles to the Marine Corps schoolhouses – School of Infantry East at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; School of Infantry West at Camp Pendleton, California; The Basic School at Quantico, Virginia; and the Motor Transport Maintenance Instruction Course at Camp Johnson, North Carolina – and to an infantry battalion at II Marine Expeditionary Force. The program office started delivering vehicles to the schoolhouses earlier this year and started delivering vehicles to the infantry battalion last month.

On Aug. 2, Lt. Col. Neil Berry, the commanding officer for 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, notified Morin and his team of the unit’s combat readiness with the JLTV. On Aug. 5, The Director, Ground Combat Element Division at CD&I notified PM LTV of its IOC achievement. The JLTV is scheduled to start fielding to I MEF and III MEF before the end of September.

According to LTV Program Manager Andrew Rodgers, during the post-

acquisition Milestone C
rebaseline of the JLTV schedule in January 2016, IOC was
projected to occur by
June 2020.

Rodgers
says that detailed program scheduling, planning and, most
importantly, teamwork
with stakeholders across the enterprise enabled the program
office to deliver
the vehicles and reach IOC ahead of schedule.

“It was
definitely a team effort, and we built up a really great
team,” Rodgers said.
“In terms of leadership, our product managers’ – both Gene
Morin and his
predecessor, Dave Bias – detailed focus and ability to track
cost, schedule and
performance was key. Neal Justis, our deputy program manager,
has significant
prior military experience working for the assistant secretary
of the Army for acquisition,
logistics and technology, so having him on board knowing how
to work the
Pentagon network was a huge force multiplier.”

Rodgers is
quick to note that, although the team has reached IOC, this is
only the
beginning of the JLTV’s future legacy.

“We are really at the
starting line right now. Our grandchildren and great-
grandchildren will see
JLTVs in the DoD,” Rodgers said. “We’ll easily still have
these assets
somewhere in the DOD in the year 2100. Welcome to the start of

many generations
of JLTVs.”