

British troops to get mine-proof vehicles

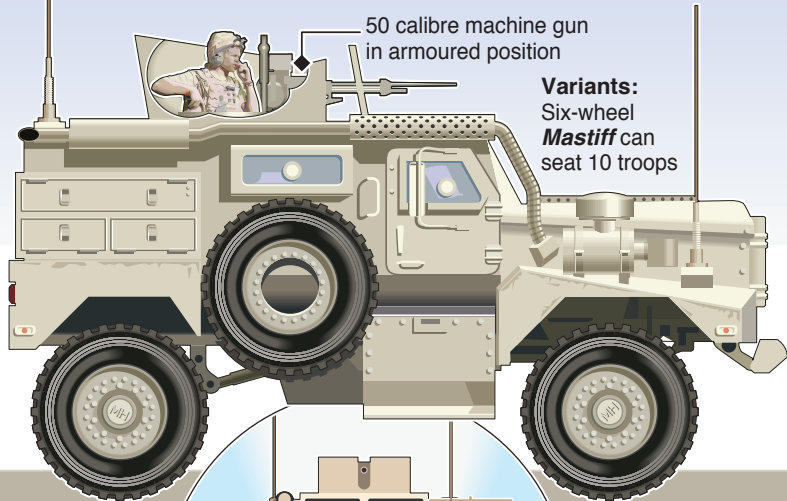
The first mine-resistant vehicles to protect British troops from deadly improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are being deployed in Afghanistan. Twenty British soldiers were killed by IEDs in Helmand province in July

Ridgback: Agile 4x4 patrol vehicle, based on U.S. Marines' **Cougar**. Can carry six troops plus equipment

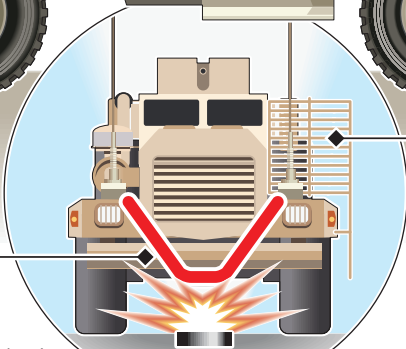
Engine: 330hp (246kW)
Sprint speed: 100 km/h
Range: 676km

50 calibre machine gun in armoured position

Variants:
Six-wheel
Mastiff can seat 10 troops



V-shaped hull: Heavily armoured monocoque deflects blast away from crew capsule



Cage: Protects against RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades)

Cost: \$1.63 million. U.S. Cougars have withstood over 1,000 IED attacks without fatalities since 2003