

# WORD FROM WASHINGTON



## A New Combat Vehicle For The New Army

(NAPSA)—The information age is changing the face of battle. Data can now be collected—from both human and electronic assets—and become the basis for a tactical decision faster than ever before.

As a result, the U.S. Army is changing its culture, tradition and doctrine to adapt. It's also changing the way it uses its ground forces. The kinds of conflict the Army will be called upon to tackle in the future will likely call for smaller units that can be deployed quickly without sacrificing firepower.

That's why the Army has called for a transformational combat vehicle to support a new kind of unit. The unit is referred to as the Brigade Combat Team. The new vehicle is called the Stryker.

Traveling at speeds of 62 mph, the Stryker has a range of 312 miles. It is easily deployed from C-130 or C-17 aircraft.

The Stryker's Mobile Gun System configuration features a General Dynamics 105 mm tank cannon in a low-profile, fully stabilized, "shoot on the move" turret. It can fire 18 rounds of 105 mm main gun ammunition, 400 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition, and 3,400 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition.

Its armor protects the crew from machine gun bullets, mortar and artillery fragments on the battlefield.

Other Stryker configurations include a nuclear, chemical and biological reconnaissance vehicle; antitank guided missile and medical evacuation vehicles; as well as vehicles for engineer squads, fire support, mortars, reconnaissance, and command.

In a recent exercise demon-



**Traveling at speeds of 62 mph a new combat vehicle called the Stryker is changing the way the Army will fight.**

strating the mobility of the new Stryker, soldiers had some very positive things to say about these lethal and survivable military vehicles: "It's fast. You can take 11 people and all their gear off a C-130 and put it in combat configuration in less than 12 minutes," said a soldier participating in the exercise.

"We went across some terrain that would have destroyed a lot of vehicles at the speed we were going. It was just awesome."

Another soldier said, "The Stryker protects soldiers inside from fire, chemicals and enemy weapons. With this machine, soldiers will be able to get to the fight more quickly—it lets us reach out and touch the enemy a lot faster. It's ready. I'm ready. Stryker is good to go."

General Dynamics and General Motors share fabrication and final assembly of the vehicles. The Army wants six Brigade Combat Teams of Strykers so that soldiers will be able to fight, win, and come home.