



M1A1 Common Main Battle Tanks in the USMC



USMC



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Agenda



USMC

- Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Current Upgrades
- Transition from M1A1 to MEFFV
- MEFFV/FCS Linkage
- Role of M1A1/MEFFV in the Corps' Transformation



Operation Iraqi Freedom How Did We Fare?



USMC

- LtGen Conway (CG, I MEF) (Grunt)
 - “...The battle tank (M1A1) is the gold standard in this part of the world. I suspect it is in other major parts of the world...”
- Mobility
 - Cross Country, On Road, Close Terrain, Urban Areas
 - Half of the Marine Corps’ M1A1s were in theater
 - 1000–1200 Miles per Vehicle
 - Driver’s Thermal Viewer
 - All weather day/night



Operation Iraqi Freedom Continued



USMC

- Lethality
 - Machine Guns
 - Weapons of choice in urban areas
 - Lessons on what could/couldn't be destroyed
 - TC's cupola traverse rate of speed
 - M16A2
 - Tank commanders close in defense
 - Open hatch



Operation Iraqi Freedom Continued



USMC

- Lethality (continued)
 - Main Gun
 - MPAT used in urban areas and against bunkers
 - Requirement for expanded family of munitions
 - Anti-Personnel, Anti-Materiel
 - Mortars
 - Infantry company/platoon asset
 - Behind walls/buildings, etc.



Operation Iraqi Freedom Continued



USMC

- Survivability
 - Frontal Armor and Skirts
 - As advertised - Superior!
 - Individual vehicles took dozens of RPG hits
 - Grill Doors
 - As expected
 - Susceptible to RPGs and medium caliber weapons
 - Mobility kills



Operation Iraqi Freedom Continued



USMC

- Survivability (continued)
 - Engine Fires
 - External fuel bladders
 - Leaked into engine compartment
 - Mired/Unrecoverable Vehicles
 - Difficult to completely destroy
 - Direct fire & air



Operation Iraqi Freedom Continued



USMC

- Survivability (continued)
 - Tactics, Techniques, & Procedures
 - Tank/Infantry Teams
 - Tank/Infantry Communications
 - Tank/Infantry Training
 - Tank/Infantry MOUT Training
 - Buttoned Up, Open Protected, Open Hatch



Operation Iraqi Freedom Continued



USMC

- M88A2 HERCULES Improved Recovery Vehicle
 - Recovery Vehicle of Choice for the MAGTF
 - One Major Problem
 - Operators felt they didn't have enough!



Operation Iraqi Freedom Continued



USMC

- Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB)
 - Far surpassed its End of Service Life
 - Employed in combat
 - Diyala River Bridge
 - Mechanics worked magic
 - Kept running for 7 days straight