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# Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV): Background and Issues for Congress

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## Summary

The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) is being developed by the Army and the Marine Corps as a successor to the High Mobility, Multi-Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) that has been in service since 1985. On October 28, 2008, awards were made for the JLTV Technology Development (TD) Phase to three industry teams: (1) BAE Systems, (2) the team of Lockheed Martin and General Tactical Vehicle, and (3) AM General and General Dynamics Land Systems. Once testing was completed and technology requirements established, a full and open competition was expected to be conducted in the late summer of 2011 for the Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) Phase; the Department of Defense (DOD) planned to award two contracts for the EMD phase, which was scheduled to last 24 months.

In February 2011, it was announced the award of the EMD contract would be delayed until January or February 2012 because the Army changed requirements for the JLTV. DOD had planned to award two contracts for the EMD phase, which was scheduled to last 24 months, but instead proposed a 48-month-long EMD. There will be two JLTV variants—a Combat Tactical Vehicle (CTV) that can transport four passengers and carry 3,500 pounds and a Combat Support Vehicle (CSV) that can transport two passengers and carry 5,100 pounds.

On January 26, 2012, the Army issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the JLTV's EMD phase. Up to three EMD contracts could be awarded, and contract award was scheduled for June 2012. The period of performance for EMD contracts is 27 months, with the overall EMD phase scheduled to last 33 months. Vendors would be required to provide 22 JLTV prototypes for testing 12 months after contract award. The target cost for the base vehicle is \$250,000 excluding add-on armor and other kits.

On August 22, 2012, the Army announced the award of three firm-fixed price JLTV EMD contracts totaling approximately \$185 million. The three companies awarded the EMD contracts were AM General, LLC (South Bend, IN); Lockheed Martin Corporation (Grand Prairie, TX); and Oshkosh Corporation (Oshkosh, WI).

On September 3, 2013, the Army began JLTV testing, which will occur over a 14-month period at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD; Yuma, AZ; and Redstone Arsenal, AL. The Army then plans to select a single vendor by 2015, with the first Army brigade being equipped with JLTVs by 2018. FY2015 program plans anticipate a Milestone C (Production and Deployment Phase Approval) decision in the fourth quarter of FY2015, followed by low rate initial production (LRIP).

The FY2014 Budget Request for JLTVs was \$84.2 million for Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT T&E) and \$50.4 million for Marine Corps RDT&E, for a program total of \$134.6 million. The FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-66) recommended fully funding the Army and Marines. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2014 also recommended fully funding the Army and Marines. The President's FY2015 budget request calls for \$229.3 million for Army and Marine RDT&E and Procurement funding for the JLTV.

A potential issue for Congress is how decreasing Army and Marine force structure affects the JLTV program. This report will be updated.

## Contents

Background.....	1
JLTV Program.....	1
What Is the JLTV?.....	1
Program Structure.....	1
Program History.....	2
Technology Development Contracts Awarded .....	2
JLTV Contracts Protested .....	2
Change in Requirements, Program Schedule, and Variants.....	3
Army Issues RFP for EMD Phase .....	3
Revised Acquisition Quantities .....	3
Foreign Participation in JLTV Program.....	4
Program Activities .....	4
Marines Might Acquire JLTVs over a Longer Period .....	4
Army Delays Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Report .....	4
A Change to JLTV Competitors.....	5
JLTV EMD Contracts Awarded.....	5
Army Releases JLTV Market Survey .....	6
DOD Selected Acquisition Report (SAR) .....	6
JLTV Testing Begins .....	6
Projected FY2015 Program Activities.....	7
Budgetary Issues.....	7
FY2014 JLTV Budget Request.....	7
National Defense Authorization Act for FY2014 (P.L. 113-66) .....	7
Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2014 (P.L. 113-76).....	7
FY2015 President’s Budget Request .....	7
Potential Issue for Congress .....	8
Revised Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Requirements.....	8

## Tables

Table 1. FY2015 JLTV Budget Request .....	7
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## Contacts

Author Contact Information.....	8
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## Background<sup>1</sup>

The JLTV is an Army-led, multi-service initiative to develop a family of future light tactical vehicles to replace many of the HMMWVs used by the armed services today. HMMWVs, which first entered service in 1985, were developed during the Cold War when improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other anti-vehicle explosive devices were not a major factor in military planning. The HMMWV's demonstrated vulnerability to IEDs and the difficulties and costs experienced in "up-arming" HMMWVs already in the inventory have led to renewed emphasis on vehicle survivability. DOD officials have emphasized that JLTVs are not intended to replace HMMWVs "one for one."<sup>2</sup>

## JLTV Program

### What Is the JLTV?<sup>3</sup>

The JLTV program is a joint Army/Marine Corps effort to develop and produce both vehicles and associated trailers. Originally, there were three variants, but now there are two planned JLTV variants: a four-passenger Combat Tactical Vehicle (CTV) and a two-passenger Combat Support Vehicle (CSV). As planned, JLTVs would be more mechanically reliable, maintainable (with on-board diagnostics), all-terrain mobile, and equipped to link into current and future tactical data nets. Survivability and strategic and operational transportability by ship and aircraft are also key JLTV design requirements.

### Program Structure<sup>4</sup>

The JLTV is an Acquisition Category (ACAT) 1D program.<sup>5</sup> The Army bears the overall responsibility for developing the JLTV through its Joint Program Office, which reports to the Program Executive Office (PEO) for Combat Support & Combat Service Support (PEO CS&CSS) in Warren, MI, which reports to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition,

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<sup>1</sup> Alan L. Gropman, "Combat Vehicle Sector Could be Headed for Turbulent Times," *National Defense*, April 25, 2008, and James P. Miller, "Race is On to Replace Humvee," *Chicago Tribune*, June 21, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Kris Osborn, "DOD's JLTV Becoming an International Effort," *Defense News*, August 4, 2008. Headquarters, Department of the Army, "Army Truck Program (Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Acquisition Strategy) Report to the Congress," June 2010, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> Information in this section is taken from the Army Product Manager, Joint Light Tactical Vehicle website, <http://peocess.tacom.army.mil/pmJLTV.html>, last visited March 2, 2011, and Marine Corps PEO Land Systems Joint Light Tactical Vehicle website, <http://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/peolandssystems/jltv.aspx>, last visited March 2, 2011, and Tony Bertuca, "PMs: JLTV Still Too Heavy, Changing Schedule and Losing Six-Man Variant," *InsideDefense.com*, February 11, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> CRS Report RL34026, *Defense Acquisitions: How DOD Acquires Weapon Systems and Recent Efforts to Reform the Process*, by Moshe Schwartz, provides an extensive discussion of the defense acquisition process.

<sup>5</sup> The 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Defense Acquisition University Glossary*, July 2005, defines an ACAT 1D program as "a Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP) which is estimated by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) (USD (AT&L)) to require the eventual expenditure for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) of more than \$365 million (FY2000 constant dollars) or the procurement of more than \$2.19 billion (FY2000 constant dollars)."

Logistics, and Technology (ASA[AL&T]). Marine participation is centered on a program office under the supervision of the Program Executive Officer Land Systems (PEO LS) Marine Corps at Quantico, VA.

## **Program History**

In November 2006, the Joint Chief of Staff's Joint Requirement Oversight Council (JROC) approved the JLTV program. On December 22, 2007, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics USD (AT&L) signed an Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) directing the JLTV Program to move from the Concept Refinement Phase into the Technology Development (TD) Phase of the DOD System Acquisition Process. The Army and Marines had intended to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Technology Development Phase as early as October 2007. Concerned with funding adequacy, technical maturity, and shifting requirements, the Pentagon's acquisition executive, John Young, disapproved the issuance of the RFP and directed the Army and Marines to "go back to the drawing board and develop a robust technology development phase."<sup>6</sup> On February 5, 2008, an RFP for Technology Development Phase was issued to industry.<sup>7</sup> The RFP stated the government desired to award three contracts for the JLTV Technology Development Phase. The RFP stipulated that proposals would be due April 7, 2008, and the TD Phase would last 27 months. Contractors would build four test sub-configurations during the first 15 months, followed by 12 months of testing.

## **Technology Development Contracts Awarded<sup>8</sup>**

On October 28, 2008, three awards were made for the JLTV TD Phase for a total of \$166 million. The three industry teams were (1) BAE Systems Land and Armaments, Ground Systems Division, Santa Clara, CA, and NAVISTAR Defense, Warrenville, IL; (2) General Tactical Vehicles, Sterling Heights, MI—a joint venture between General Dynamics Land Systems and AM General; and (3) Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, Oswego, NY, BAE Systems, Alcoa Defense, Pittsburgh, PA, and JWF Defense Systems, Johnstown, PA.

## **JLTV Contracts Protested**

On November 7 and November 12, 2008, protests were filed with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) against the TD contract awards by the Northrop Grumman-Oshkosh team and the Textron-Boeing-SAIC team alleging there were "unintended discrepancies" in how the government rated bids in terms of the criteria of systems maturity, logistics, and costs.<sup>9</sup> As a result

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<sup>6</sup> Jason Sherman, "Pentagon Halts JLTV Competition, Directs Revised Strategy," *InsideDefense.com*, September 24, 2007.

<sup>7</sup> JLTV Request for Proposal, W56HZV-08-R-0210, February 5, 2008, and Marjorie Censer, "JLTV Solicitation Calls for Three Contractors: Officials Say More are Possible," *InsideDefense.com*, February 5, 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Unless otherwise noted, information in this section is taken from TACOM's JLTV Program website, <http://contracting.tacom.army.mil/MAJORSYS/JLTV/jltv.htm>, accessed March 2, 2011, and the Marine Corps PEO Land Systems JLTV website, <https://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/peolandsystems/jltv.aspx>, accessed March 2, 2011.

<sup>9</sup> Marjorie Censer, "Following Northrop's Lead, Boeing-Textron Team Files JLTV Protest," *InsideDefense.com*, November 12, 2008 and Ann Roosevelt, "Textron-Team Protests Army JLTV Awards," *Defense Daily*, November 13, (continued...)

of the protest, work on the JLTV program by the three winning teams was suspended. On February 17, 2009, GAO rejected the JLTV protests and the stop work orders were lifted.

## **Change in Requirements, Program Schedule, and Variants<sup>10</sup>**

In February 2011, the JLTV Program Office announced the award of the EMD contract would be delayed until January or February 2012 because the Army changed requirements for the JLTV to have the same level of under body protection as the Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV). DOD had planned to award two contracts for the EMD phase, which was scheduled to last 24 months,<sup>11</sup> but instead opted for a 48-month-long EMD phase before awarding Production and Deployment contracts in the second quarter of FY2016. In addition, the Category B variant was eliminated because it proved to be too heavy to meet the required weight of approximately 15,639 pounds to make it transportable by Army CH-47F and Marine Corps CH-53K helicopters. Now there will be two variants—a Combat Tactical Vehicle (CTV), which can transport four passengers and carry 3,500 pounds, and a Combat Support Vehicle (CSV), which can transport two passengers and carry 5,100 pounds.

## **Army Issues RFP for EMD Phase<sup>12</sup>**

On January 26, 2012, the Army issued the RFP for the JLTV's EMD Phase. Industry proposals for the EMD contract were to have been filed with the Army by March 13, 2012. The RFP stipulated that up to three EMD contracts could be awarded, and contract award occurred in June 2012. These contracts will be capped at \$65 million per contract. The duration of the EMD performance period would be 27 months starting with contract award. Vendors would be required to provide 22 prototypes for testing 12 months after contract award, and the target cost for the base vehicle configuration was \$250,000 (FY2011 constant dollars), excluding add-on armor kits and other kits identified in the RFP.

## **Revised Acquisition Quantities<sup>13</sup>**

According to DOD's May 2013 JLTV Selective Acquisition Report (SAR), the Army plans to procure 49,909 JLTVs from FY2015 to FY2040 and the Marines 5,500 JLTVs from FY2015 to FY2021. The SAR also notes no JLTVs are planned for under Foreign Military Sales (FMS).

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2008; and Daniel Wasserbly, "U.S. GAO Rejects JLTV Protests," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, February 25, 2009, p. 12.

<sup>10</sup> Information in this section, unless otherwise noted is taken from a briefing from the Project Manager Joint Combat Support Systems on the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle given on February 7 and 8, 2011 and Tony Bertuca, "PMs: JLTV Still Too Heavy, Changing Schedule and Losing Six-Man Variant," *InsideDefense.com*, February 11, 2011.

<sup>11</sup> DOD Briefing: "JLTV EMD Industry Day," April 26, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Solicitation, Offer, and Award, Number W56HZV-11-R-0329, U.S. Army Contracting Command, January 26, 2012.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Defense Selected Acquisition Report (SAR) Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), May 21, 2013.

## **Foreign Participation in JLTV Program**

As previously noted, the JLTV SAR indicates that no Foreign Military Sales are currently planned for JLTV, despite previous program participation from Australia and interest from Canada, Great Britain, and Israel. When the JLTV Joint Program Office (JPO) was asked to clarify foreign participation in the JLTV program, the following response was provided:

International cooperation in acquisition programs can substantially improve U.S. operations, and the JLTV program is no different. This important work increases military effectiveness by improving interoperability and partnership with our allies, reducing overall acquisition costs, and strengthening key relationships. Australia did participate in the Technology Demonstration phase of the JLTV program, but no international partners are currently and actively participating in the Engineering and Manufacturing Development phase. International participation or purchase remains possible and an area JPO JLTV would pursue as appropriate with interested allies and partners.<sup>14</sup>

This suggests there is no longer any foreign participation in the JLTV program. Congress might wish to examine why these countries are no longer interested in the JLTV program, as foreign participation in these types of programs not only increases interoperability but can also benefit these programs from a cost perspective.

## **Program Activities**

### **Marines Might Acquire JLTVs over a Longer Period<sup>15</sup>**

Reports suggest that the Marines remain committed to acquiring 5,500 JLTVs, particularly in light of the fact that procurement of the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV)<sup>16</sup> will not begin until FY2020, thereby providing a degree of funding flexibility. The Marines had originally intended to procure their JLTVs up front and are now supposedly working with the Army to determine how many JLTVs each service can buy per year.

### **Army Delays Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Report<sup>17</sup>**

The Army will reportedly delay its Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Strategy Report to Congress by almost a year, citing DOD's ongoing Strategic Choices and Management Review possibly creating uncertainty about the future of ground forces. Army leadership anticipates providing the Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Strategy to Congress by March 31, 2014. Congress is reportedly

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<sup>14</sup> E-mail to CRS from JLTV JPO, June 11, 2013.

<sup>15</sup> Lee Hudson, "Marines Committed to Buying 5,500 JLTVs, May Purchase Over a Longer Period," *InsideDefense.com*, October 25, 2013.

<sup>16</sup> For additional information on the Amphibious Combat Vehicle see CRS Report R42723, *Marine Corps Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) and Marine Personnel Carrier (MPC): Background and Issues for Congress*, by Andrew Feickert.

<sup>17</sup> Information in this section is taken from Christopher J. Castelli, "Citing Strategic Choices Review, Army Delays Tactical Vehicle Report," *InsideDefense.com*, May 24, 2013.

concerned that Army reductions in tactical wheeled vehicles requirements could have an adverse impact on readiness as well as the U.S. defense industrial base.

## **A Change to JLTV Competitors<sup>18</sup>**

Based on what is viewed as increased support by Congress and DOD, as well as changes to the JLTV program schedule, requirements, and cost, additional teams submitted bids on March 27, 2012, for the EMD phase contract. The six teams that submitted bids were

- AM General;
- a Lockheed Martin-led team including BAE Systems;
- Oshkosh;
- Navistar;
- General Tactical Vehicles (a joint venture between AM General and General Dynamics Land Systems); and
- a BAE Systems-led team including Northrop Grumman.

While increased competition for the EMD contracts could result lower per unit costs for the JLTV, one defense analyst suggests it is also indicative of fewer opportunities for defense industry to design and manufacture new Army ground vehicles in the future.

## **JLTV EMD Contracts Awarded**

On August 22, 2012, the Army announced the award of three firm-fixed price JLTV EMD contracts totaling approximately \$185 million.<sup>19</sup> The three companies awarded the EMD contracts were AM General, LLC (South Bend, IN); Lockheed Martin Corporation (Grand Prairie, TX); and Oshkosh Corporation (Oshkosh, WI). The period of performance is for 27 months, with each contractor receiving initial funding between \$28 million to \$36 million per contractor, with the balance of funding up to the full contract amount being provided in FY2013 and FY2014. In 12 months, each team will be required to deliver 22 full-up prototypes and contractor support for a 14-month comprehensive government testing program, which will include blast, automotive, and user evaluation testing. The overall EMD Phase is scheduled to last 33 months. According to the Army, “the EMD Phase is designed to test and prepare the next-generation vehicles for a Limited User Test, Capabilities Production Document and Milestone C procurement decision in FY 2015.”<sup>20</sup>

Unsuccessful bidders, Navistar Defense, BAE Systems, and General Tactical Vehicles (a team of General Dynamics and AM General), are permitted to continue developing JLTV candidate vehicles at their own risk and expense, if they notify the government within 30 days of the EMD

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<sup>18</sup> Information in this section is taken from Kate Brannen, “Competition Upended in U.S. JLTV Program,” *Army Times*, March 31, 2012.

<sup>19</sup> Information in this section is from U.S. Army Message, “Army Awards Three Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Engineering & Manufacturing Development Phase Contracts,” Warren, Michigan, August 22, 2012.

<sup>20</sup> Kris Osborn, Office of the Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, “JLTV Program Moves into EMD Phase,” *Army News Service*, October 18, 2012.

contract award.<sup>21</sup> Reports suggest some bidders might consider continuing development of JLTV candidates for submission for production source selection.<sup>22</sup>

## **Army Releases JLTV Market Survey<sup>23</sup>**

On March 26, 2013, the Army released a market survey intended to gauge the level of industry interest and ability to compete for a potential JLTV contract. The intent is to see what non-EMD vendors might be interested in competing for the final contract award, thereby possibly increasing competition and perhaps driving down costs. It is not known if there will be any non-EMD bidders, and Federal Acquisition Regulations prohibit the Army from disclosing the name of interested parties.

## **DOD Selected Acquisition Report (SAR)<sup>24</sup>**

DOD's May 2013 JLTV SAR has established the JLTV per-unit cost at about \$400,000 per vehicle, which contrasts with service leaders' claims that JLTV per-unit cost would be around \$250,000 per vehicle. The SAR further notes that the JLTV's total development and acquisition cost is expected to be almost \$23 billion in 2012 dollars. With a planned JLTV procurement of 55,000 vehicles, DOD estimates an average per unit cost of \$399,000 per vehicle and a program acquisition cost of \$415,000 per vehicle. In terms of future year dollars, the unit cost is projected to reach \$550,000 with a total development and acquisition cost in excess of \$31 billion. The Army, in defense of its \$250,000 per-unit cost estimate, noted the SAR's cost estimates include associated vehicle hardware and other costs, such as add-on armor, fielding, new equipment training, spare parts, and managerial and technical personnel associated with the vehicle program.

## **JLTV Testing Begins<sup>25</sup>**

On September 4, 2013, Army officials announced that full-pace, full-scope testing of the JLTV began on September 3 and would last for 14 months. Each of the three vendors delivered 22 vehicles and 6 trailers for testing to three sites: Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; Yuma, AZ; and Redstone Arsenal, AL. The Army plans to start a source-selection evaluation in early 2015 and select a single vendor by July 2015. Once the single vendor is selected, 2,000 vehicles will be produced and tested for three years. The first Army brigade will be equipped with JLTVs by 2018 and a total of 49,000 JLTVs will be produced for the Army and 5,500 for the Marines with production ending sometime in the 2030s.

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<sup>21</sup> Tony Bertuca, "Three JLTV Winners Announced; Losing Companies Still May Have a Shot," *InsideDefense.com*, August 23, 2012.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Information in this section is taken from Tony Bertuca, "Army Prepares for Final Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Program Phase," *InsideDefense.com*, March 29, 2013.

<sup>24</sup> Information in this section is taken from Department of Defense Selected Acquisition Report (SAR) Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), May 21, 2013, and Sebastian Sprenger, "JLTV Cost Pegged at \$400,000 in Program's First Acquisition Report," *InsideDefense.com*, May 30, 2013.

<sup>25</sup> Information in this section is from David Vergun, "JLTV Testing Begins, Program on Schedule, Budget," *Army News Service*, September 5, 2013.

## Projected FY2015 Program Activities

Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) efforts and related testing are planned to be completed in preparation for a Milestone C (Production and Deployment Phase Approval) decision in the fourth quarter of FY2015. If Milestone C is approved, low rate initial production (LRIP) is planned to begin.

## Budgetary Issues

### FY2014 JLTV Budget Request<sup>26</sup>

The FY2014 Budget Request for JLTV was \$84.2 million for Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) and \$50.4 million for Marine Corps RDT&E, for a program total of \$134.6 million.

### National Defense Authorization Act for FY2014 (P.L. 113-66)<sup>27</sup>

The FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-66) recommends fully funding the Army and Marines FY2014 JLTV Budget Request.

### Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2014 (P.L. 113-76)<sup>28</sup>

The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2014 recommends fully funding the Army and Marines FY2014 JLTV Budget Request.

### FY2015 President's Budget Request<sup>29</sup>

The President's FY2015 budget request for the JLTV is as follows:

**Table I. FY2015 JLTV Budget Request**

FY2015	\$ Millions	Quantity
RDT&E—Army	45.7	—
RDT&E—Marines	11.5	—
Procurement—Army	164.6	176
Procurement—Marines	7.5	7

<sup>26</sup> Information in this section is taken from the Department of Defense FY2014 Program Acquisition Costs by Weapon System, February 2013.

<sup>27</sup> P.L. 113-66, National Defense Authorization Act of FY2014, December 26, 2013.

<sup>28</sup> H.R. 3547, Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2014, (P.L. 113-76), January 17, 2014, Division C – Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014.

<sup>29</sup> Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request, Program Acquisition Cost by Weapon System, March 2014, p. 3-2.

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<b>FY2015</b>	<b>\$ Millions</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Total	229.3	183

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**Source:** Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request, Program Acquisition Cost by Weapon System, March 2014, p. 3-2.

## Potential Issue for Congress

### Revised Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Requirements

While it is not expected that the Army's JLTV requirements will vary greatly under the Army's forthcoming study of tactical wheeled vehicle requirements, Congress might opt to review revised JLTV requirements. In June 2013, the Army announced it would eliminate 12 BCTs and an unspecified number of headquarters and support units,<sup>30</sup> and these cuts should be reflected in the Army's soon-to-be-released study. It has also been reported that based on downsizing, the Army plans to reduce its overall tactical wheeled vehicle fleet by 60,000 vehicles. Since these announcements, the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review and FY2015 President's budget request suggest additional Army and Marine force structure could be cut, thereby likely further decreasing JLTV requirements. In this regard, Congress could review proposed Army and Marine force structure cuts to determine if overall service JLTV requirements also decrease or if the services maintain their current JLTV requirements and instead opt to field JLTVs to other units that were not originally designated to receive JLTVs. These potential force structure cuts could have an appreciable impact on overall JLTV requirements and the overall program price tag as well.

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<sup>30</sup> For additional information on Army downsizing see CRS Report R42493, *Army Drawdown and Restructuring: Background and Issues for Congress*, by Andrew Feickert.