

# How an armored column is arrayed

Mechanized infantry divisions consisting of a mix of heavily armored tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles move in distinct formation in a gigantic wave to battle sites. The convoy is flanked by security vehicles for protection against the enemy and trailed by support vehicles. How the armored column is arrayed depends on the mission. What makes up a typical formation:

**Main combat formation** moves along at 35-40 mph spread out in a wedge shape about 9-12 miles wide and almost a mile long.

## Scouts

Humvees or helicopters travel ahead of the convoy to detect enemies, radio back to personnel in convoy.

## Tanks

In the lead because they have the longest range, greatest firepower and most armor to deflect enemy hits. Able to fire reliably when speeding over rough terrain. Thermal sights improve visibility at night and through dust and smoke.

## Bradley fighting vehicles

Have wide tracks and 600-horsepower engines to allow them to keep up with tanks. Are adequately armored to protect soldiers. Troops riding in Bradleys can dismount to fire at enemy.

## Humvees

High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) are versatile four-wheel drive tactical vehicles that transport officers and scouts for command and control.

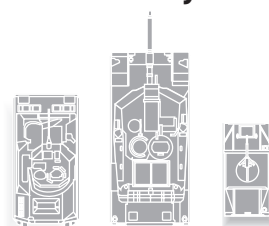
## Howitzers

Accurate, mobile weapon system that can fire up to four rounds per minute more than 18 miles. If convoy is attacked, they will stay in place or move out of formation into shooting position.

## Support vehicles

Heavy-equipment trailers provide refueling, food and other supplies, shuttling between convoy and supply points.

## Extra security



## Flank security

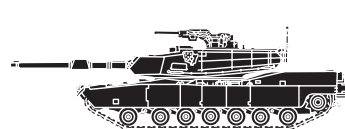
Because the side, or flank, of the formation is particularly vulnerable, Humvees or Bradleys ride 3-4 miles away from each side of main formation for protection.

## Communication

Information fed to convoy from JSTARS air-to-ground surveillance system, satellites or drones. Convoy members communicate by radio and all are equipped with GPS.

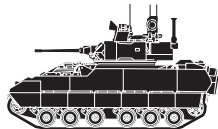
## Ground force inventory

### M1A1 Abrams Tank



**Length:** 32.25 feet  
**Width:** 12 feet  
**Top speed:** 41.5 mph  
**Armament:** 120-millimeter main gun, two 7.62-mm machine guns, .50-caliber machine gun.  
**Weight:** 67 tons  
**Crew:** 4  
**Range:** 275 miles

### M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle



**Length:** 21 feet  
**Width:** 10 feet, 6 inches  
**Speed:** 45 mph  
**Armament:** Infantry configuration armed with a 25-mm cannon, TOW missile launcher, 7.62-mm machine gun.  
**Weight:** 33 tons  
**Crew:** 5  
**Range:** 300 miles

### M998 HMMWV (Humvee)



**Length:** 15 feet  
**Width:** 7 feet  
**Top speed:** 65 mph  
**Weight:** 5,900 lbs. for troop/cargo version (without payload)  
**Crew:** 1 driver, 8 passengers  
**Range:** 350 miles (highway)

### M109A6 Howitzer



**Length:** 22 feet, 4 inches  
**Width:** 10 feet, 7 inches  
**Top speed:** 19 mph off-road, 38 mph highway  
**Armament:** 155-mm cannon, 39-caliber rifled howitzer  
**Weight:** 32 tons (combat-loaded)  
**Crew:** 4  
**Range:** 214 miles