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## **CV90 AND THE DUTCH APPROACH**

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### **CV90 COMBAT VEHICLE**

The CV90. It concerns a highly developed fast-and-easy-to-handle type of infantry vehicle which differs itself by being equipped with ultra hightech hard- and software adjusted to the demands of modern warfare. Warfare on different scales and intensity variant between 'showing flag', setting out FAQ's (Forward Air Controllers), small urban actions or widely spread conflict situations that demand either observation, or more or less protected small intervention by troops or special forces. It can also concern fast progress actions in combination with for instance the cooperation with the Leopard II tank, where terrain must be cleared and held by applying the maximum fire power. As for impact, impressing battlefield-machine and firepower in mm-granades it cannot be compared to the Leopard II tank ofcourse, which is also a highly efficient tool in a more drastically way. The CV90 is explicitly not a tank. Comparison could be made by saying that the CV90 is the 'Terence Hill' and the Leopard II is the 'Bud Spencer' of the battlefield. The CV90 is the smart guy, it for instance leaves the 'YPR-765' vehicle miles behind, which can be best explained by a few examples.

The CV90 is much more economical looking at the fuel-aspect, though it can reach a speed of over 70 Km/Hour. While driving this speed, the CV90 can aim on- and lock a target, riding over trenches, hills, and rough terrain while the barrel keeps 'friendly looking' at it's target no matter what happens and fire instantly to eliminate it's enemy. The CV90 is also equipped with a high-grade self protection system. In (combat) situations the CV90 can be beamed and locked by hostal weaponry, and soon as this situation comes up the CV90 immediately reacts automatically. It turns it's dome, faces to the hostal 'beam' instantly and fires a shot exactly in the direction where the threat comes from. This without any interfearence of the gunner. Ofcourse such an action requires a faultless 'friend-or-foe' awareness, which is present in the CV90 and can be achieved with communication between other vehicles and/or information gathered by datalink systems via for instance a plane.

### **SMALL CV90 HISTORY**

The CV90120-T infantry fighting vehicle has been developed to provide a lighter, highly mobile main battle infantry vehicle with a very capable high pressure smoothbore 120mm gun, battlefield management system and extensive defensive aids suite. The history of the need for the CV90 goes far back in times to the Cold-War period. Norway was military strengthened by NATO against any possible Russian intervention, which made Sweden extra vulnerable as it came to loosing it's neutrality. It became clear around 1977 that Sweden therefor had the need to possess an own arms industry, to maintain an 'armed neutrality'. For a large area in the North of Sweden there had to be a fast vehicle which could move itself very well in this exeptional territory. About half a year there is deep snow in this Northern sub-arctic terrain, and in the other half of the year it's a swamp region. The need was born to have a vehicle for the infantry (Norrland Brigades) which would overclass the Russian BMD tank. The name given to this new developed vehicle was SA-90, which

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was built in seven variants by that time, equipped with also variable types of cannons like a 40mm Bofors. To have an anti-tank capacity of their own, the SA-90 was equipped with a double 120 mm mortar in another setting. Plans have been worked out, extended necessarily because of the Soviet threat in many ways and in 1983 the first prototypes of the vehicle that later on was going to be given the name CV90 were tested. Finally around 1994 the first CV90 was delivered. The export succes was mainly feed by the fact that the vehicle outclassed opponents such as the American Bradley IVF, the French AMX and the English Warrior, as well as the combination of fire-power, mobility and speed, self protection, and a range of electronics for connections, observation and fire control. It has a BMS system (Battlefield Management System) fed by highly advanced sensors which provides the crew of continued updates of the battle 'awareness' in the vicinity of the vehicle.

Over 1170 examples have been ordered, main number has been produced already. The countries that have the CV90 in use are Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Switzerland. The Dutch ordered a special version with a 35mm cannon, necessary to be able to destroy the Russian BMP-3. They ordered a number of 192 examples in two variants, a standard model PRI ('Panzer Rups Infantry) capable of transporting seven infanterists, (next to the board-crew of three persons) and a Command version PRCO ('Panzer Rups Command'), adjusted for four staff-members in the back. The Mark III is equipped with a Bushmaster III 35/50 fast firing gun, connected to a Saab UTAAS (Universal Tank and Anti-Aircraft System). The delivery program for the Dutch will end this year 2012, this specific version is called the CV9035NL.

## **DEMO STORY: CV90 AND THE DUTCH APPROACH**

During a demonstration in the Oirschot barracks in The Netherlands at the 'Generaal-majoor de Ruyter van Steveninckkazerne' the new CV9035NL was showing a situation similar as it can occur in for instance any small village in Afghanistan. Let's have a look at the story of such a happening where was acted with the so called 'Dutch Approach'. It's an average morning in Afghanistan where a patrol visits a small settlement called Chakala (fictitious) to check on unusual activities or even presence of terrorists. The Dutch Approach is a way of making contact with the local inhabitants by creating a non-violent entry and atmosphere for these people based on the assumption that in principle nothing is the matter. This approach is more and more copied by other nations in contradiction to the Americans, who prefer an image of showing force first. This does not always give goodwill by the local people and neither a feeling of safety, in the contrary it creates more likely an atmosphere of hostility. A CV9035NL vehicle arrives near the village-square where some men sit in front of their houses. After a first rough observation the soldiers come out of their vehicle and walk and wander apparently relaxed (but vigilant ofcourse) in the neighbourhood of their CV90. A little conversation is started with greeting and respect with the leader of this hamlet Chakala.

## **ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION**

While talking a little, suddenly an unwanted situation comes up ! There are gunshots, enemy fire comes out of one of the houses and the 'Dutch Approach' has to change

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