

### Foreign Comparative Testing Project Manager 2008

A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle is using a lighter, protective armor as a result of a Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) project led by Mr. Brian Placzankis of the Army Research Laboratory.

The new MRAP vehicles needed armor that can protect warfighters from blast-threats, but still be not so heavy that it decreases fuel economy and the load these vehicles can carry. To meet this need, the FCT program evaluated a German-developed aluminum alloy, called AA 5059. Compared to other armor alternatives, this alloy was found to have better ballistic and blast protection. It also welds more cohesively and provides better corrosion resistance.

Testing of the alloy was completed three months ahead of schedule, and it is now used in the MRAP family's RG-33 vehicles, which are deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq. The alloy has also been selected for all eight variants of the Manned Ground Vehicle program. The cost of the testing was \$521,000, which will lead to a procurement of more than \$14 million. It is estimated that this project saved \$2.5 million in research and development costs.

As a result of his contributions, Mr. Placzankis was recognized as an FCT Project Manager of 2008 by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Advanced Systems & Concepts), Mr. John Kubricky.



*Lighter, better armor for RG-33 vehicle*



*Brian Placzankis, an FCT Project Manager of 2008*



Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

# Advanced Systems & Concepts

