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# Marine Corps Advanced Reconnaissance Vehicle (ARV)

## What Is the Advanced Reconnaissance Vehicle (ARV)?

According to the Marine Corps,

The Advanced Reconnaissance Vehicle (ARV) [Figure 1] is a planned effort by the Marine Corps to provide a purpose-built family of vehicles, with new capabilities to support Mobile Reconnaissance, and replace the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV). It is designed to be highly mobile, networked, transportable, protected, and lethal, providing sensors, communication systems, and lethality options to counter threats traditionally addressed with more heavily armored systems. ARVs will be smaller and lighter than the [Amphibious Combat Vehicle] ACV-30, enabling rapid deployment and stealthy operations in various terrains.

The ARV-30 will provide greater capability than the current Light Armored Vehicle 25mm variant (LAV-25) and meet the Marine Corps' requirements for Force Design. It will be equipped with advanced features such as an automatic 30mm medium-caliber cannon, anti-armor capability, modern command-and-control systems, and a full range of advanced sensors. ARV-C4/UAS [command, control, communications, and computers/unmanned aerial systems] will be equipped with a C4 suite of capabilities that will allow it to operate as a battlefield "quarterback" by utilizing integrated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems.

**Figure 1. Prototype ARV - General Dynamic Land Systems Version**



**Source:** Meredith Roaten, "US Marine Corps awards contracts for 30 mm recce vehicle prototype," *Janes*, accessed May 7, 2026, <https://www.janes.com/defence-intelligence-insights/defence-news/>

[defence/us-marine-corps-awards-contracts-for-30-mm-recce-vehicle-prototype](https://www.janes.com/defence-intelligence-insights/defence-news/defence/us-marine-corps-awards-contracts-for-30-mm-recce-vehicle-prototype).

## Program Status

According to information provided to CRS by the Marines, the Marines eventually plan to develop six ARV variants:

- The Command, Control, Communications and Computers/Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C4/UAS) variant is to provide networked communications and long-ranged UAS sensing.
- The ARV-30 variant is to have a 30 mm auto-cannon and an Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) capability.
- The ARV Logistics (ARV-LOG) variant is to provide both sustainment and casualty evacuation capabilities.
- The ARV Operational Precision Fires (ARV-OPF) variant is to provide beyond line-of-sight fire support out to 40 kilometers including electronic attack and surface attack capability and the capability to launch and control loitering munitions.
- The ARV Counter UAS (ARV-CUAS) variant is to provide kinetic and non-kinetic C-UAS capability out to about 10 kilometers.
- The ARV Recovery (ARV-R) variant is to include a crane and winch and metal welding and cutting capability.

## ARV Prototype Evaluation

In February 2023, the Marine Corps reportedly began evaluation of three ARV prototypes. In addition to Textron and General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) prototypes, BAE systems—the Amphibious Combat Vehicle's (ACV's) manufacturer—provided a third prototype (based on a modified ACV) for evaluation. The prototype evaluation reportedly was to focus on the ARV's ability to navigate "mission-representative terrain" in addition to its C4 and UAS capabilities.

## ARV Prototype Contracts Awarded

On March 6, 2024, the Marines selected GDLS and Textron to design, develop, and manufacture an ARV-30 prototype vehicle. Reportedly, the prototypes were to be delivered in FY2025, with procurement planned to begin in FY2028.

## ARV Request for Information

In July 2024, the Marines reportedly issued a request for information to industry to conduct market research for the ARV "ahead of an upcoming engineering and manufacturing development [EMD] competition." The Marines reportedly planned to "release a request for

proposals in the second quarter of FY2025 and award an EMD contract in the second quarter of FY2026.”

### ARV FY2027 Budget Request

According to FY2027 Navy budget documents, the Marine Corps is requesting \$506.5 million in Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) funding. According to the budget document

The FY 2027 request continues efforts on production of 32 prototypes. The request funds the maturation of the vehicle’s subsystems and their integration onto these prototypes, pushing the platform closer to its scheduled Initial Operational Capability (IOC).

### Marines Award a Second ARV Rapid Prototype Contract

In April 2026, as part of the prototyping effort,

the Marine Corps awarded General Dynamics Land Systems and Textron Systems Corporation a second Rapid Prototyping phase for the Advanced Reconnaissance Vehicle. Both vendors will be building and delivering their respective solutions to meet the USMC requirement for an ARV Command, Control, Communications, and Computers Unmanned Aerial System (ARV-C4UAS), 30mm Autocannon (ARV-30), Logistics (ARV-LOG) Pre-Production vehicles.

### The ARV and the Marine Corps Force Design Initiative

In March 2020, the Marines undertook a major force design initiative planned to occur over the next 10 years. The Marine Corps intended to redesign the force for naval expeditionary warfare and to better align itself with the National Defense Strategy. The March 2020 force design initiative plan raises questions that some have about the role or the potential desirability of the ARV in future force design. The then Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David Berger, stated the following:

While I have repeatedly stated that all-domain reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance will be a critical element of any future contingency, I remain unconvinced that additional wheeled, manned armored ground reconnaissance units are the best and only answer – especially in the Indo-Pacific region. We need to see more evidence during Phase III to support this conclusion before engaging in an expansion of our existing capacity, or committing billions of dollars in procurement funds towards the acquisition of an Advanced Reconnaissance Vehicle (ARV) [see p. 10].

In the Marines’ February 2021 Force Design Update, the Commandant further noted,

The 12 Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Companies identified in the initial Force Design Report must be re-evaluated in light of the emerging

concept of multi-domain mobile reconnaissance. This may affect the overall requirement for armored land mobility in the form of the Advanced Reconnaissance Vehicle (ARV) [see pp. 5-6].

In the Marines’ May 2022 Force Design Update, the Commandant directed the Marines to

[r]eview and validate all assumptions regarding programmed or potential future capabilities, such as the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV)-30 and Advanced Reconnaissance Vehicle (ARV) [see p. 9].

According to the Marines’ 2024 *Force Design: A Snapshot*, the ARV is planned to be part of Mobile Reconnaissance Battalions. In April 2026, the Marines noted,

In the future fight, the Marine Air-Ground Task Force [MAGTF C2] must out cycle the fight for information to shape the battlespace and deliver precision fires. This highly contested environment is drastically more complex, and Mobile Reconnaissance Battalions must have a purpose-built capability such as the ARV that can sense, communicate, and fight by incorporating manned and unmanned systems and sustaining effective sensor webs tied to kill chains.

### Potential Oversight Considerations for Congress

Oversight questions Congress could consider include the following:

- By variant, how many ARVs are planned to be procured for each Mobile Reconnaissance Battalion? Will ARVs also be acquired for other Marine Corps units and, if so, how many are to be acquired?
- What are the ARV’s amphibious capabilities? Original operational capabilities requirements cite “shore-to-shore water mobility.” What are the ARV’s operational shore-to-shore water mobility characteristics?
- In order to integrate with regional joint forces, is the ARV Command, Control, Communications and Computers/Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C4UAS) variant interoperable with other service’s C4 systems?
- Will ARV variants have an organic capability to defend the vehicle against threat UAS, loitering munitions, and one-way attack drones?
- Are other countries interested in the ARV as a potential Foreign Military Sales (FMS) candidate?

For more information on the Marine Corps Force Design Initiative, see CRS Report R47614, *U.S. Marine Corps Force Design Initiative: Background and Issues for Congress*, by Andrew Feickert. For more on the Marine’s ACV, see CRS In Focus IF11755, *The Marine Corps’ Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV)*, by Andrew Feickert.

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