



MOTOR POOL MESSENGER

the official monthly newsletter of the **MILITARY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION**
visit us online at www.MTAofNJ.org

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Editor: David Steinert



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ON THE COVER...



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

A U.S. Marine Cougar 4 X 4 MRAP Vehicle unit shown here in Iraq.

The Cougar is classified as a MRAP type vehicle, which is an acronym for being a mine-resistant ambush-protected infantry vehicle.

It is design and structured to be resistant to landmines and improvised munitions. One of the biggest enemies faced by the coalition troops in Iraq and Afghanistan is a hidden one: improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. The answer to this threat comes in the form of the Cougar, which looks especially monstrous in 6x6 form. There are variations of it serving in the British Army, including the Wolfhound.



Cougar HE (6 X 6)

Part of what makes the Cougar/Wolfhound so successful against IEDs is its V-shaped hull, which deflects the force of the explosion away from the vehicle. And successful it is: see the image above of the stricken US Army Cougar? All occupants survived after a 130-200kg IED went off underneath it, and in fact the soldiers in question were back out serving the next day. Very few soldiers have been killed by IEDs while riding in these things, so that sounds like a job well done.

It is a family of armored vehicles produced by Force Protection Inc., which manufactures ballistic and mine-protected vehicles. The vehicles are integrated by Spartan Motors. These vehicles are protected against small arms, land mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) using a combination of design features and materials to protect both the crew and engine compartment against a wide range of attacks.

A Monocoque type, V-shaped hull extends to the engine bay and serves to direct the blast away from under the vehicle. The dual air-conditioners help keep heavily dressed troops from overheating in temperatures over 100 °F while serving in countries like Iraq.

Force Protection, Inc. was formed in 2002 when Sonic Jet purchased Technical Solutions Group, using the name Sonic Jet until 2004. Technical Solutions Group had been a defense company in the US that was involved in a range of products, including mine-resistant vehicles based on South African designs. A few vehicles were sold to the US Army for evaluation, and a small fleet of heavily protected vehicles was sold to the British Army in 2001.

Some 4,000 of these vehicles were fielded under the US military's MRAP and other vehicle programs. The US Secretary of the Defense at the time demanded that the vehicles be ordered in larger numbers after the Marines reported in 2004 that no troops had died in more than 300 IED attacks on Cougars. Since then, Cougar vehicles have been hit by IEDs many times in Iraq with few fatalities. Official data states that the Cougar is able to withstand a blast of at least 14 kg (30.86 lb) TNT under a wheel and 7 kg (15.43 lb) TNT under a belly.



Cougar hit by 300–500 lb (140–230 kg) IED attack, all of the crew survived

The Cougar comes in two main configurations, a 4x4, (as pictured on the front cover) and 6x6. It is designed for the transport and protection of troops and equipment, especially against mines or IEDs. The two main configurations come in specific variants. We will just describe a couple in this article.

(Continued on Page 5)

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

THE NEXT MTA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd 2023... MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN LEGION IN THE MEETING ROOM IN BASEMENT

Food at 6:00PM...Meeting starts at 7:00PM



MTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 5th 2023 at the American Legion Hall in Whippany, NJ

Submitted by **Jean Swanick**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with a The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

A motion was made to accept the December meeting minutes by **Al Mellini** and seconded by Pat Dolan.

Treasurer's Report: as submitted by **Al Mellini** for the month ending December 31, 2022 is as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$48,977.33
Income	2,380.00
Expenditures	- 2,621.88
Closing balance	\$48,735.45

Al continued with the club finished the year \$2,730 ahead of last year. Fuel parade credits totaling \$740 were paid out and \$760 was donated back to the club. The 2022 audit has been completed. **DUES ARE DUE** via cash, credit card or check and can be paid at the meeting tonight.

President's Message: Happy New Year to all our members and a reminder to **PAY your 2023 dues NOW.**

Membership: At the present time, the club has 162 members, 146 are active, 22 members are Life members. Only 60% of dues have been paid to date as reported by **Dave Steinert** and January 31st is the deadline to remain in good standing and continue to receive the newsletter.

Quartermaster: There are less than 10 regular club T-shirts in inventory and 1 hat. Two anniversary logo shirts remain. There has been much interest in bringing a women's t-shirt into inventory for both members and show visitors. **Michele Heusel** is researching styles and prices for these and will send club members an email making them aware. Tentatively these may be available in time for the swap meet.

Swap Meet: The group received a detailed update on the status of our anticipated spring show. Discussion on creating some brochures for advertising our club not only for the show but also for any events we attend to get the word out about the group. More help is needed the days of the event, please see **Gary Schultz** about signing up even if it is only for a few hours.

Website: The old, defunct e-mail that caused many communication issues is being replaced with Group IO and a test e-mail has already gone out to membership.

OMS7: **Pat Dolan** and **John Sobotka** spoke of *Facebook Marketplace* if you are looking for a military vehicle. The search can be narrowed by Groups for your specific interest.

2022 Toys for Tot Update: **Tim Farrell** thanked everyone who was able to assist with the 2022 trains. Special thanks to the cadets who joined us for the first time from Picatinny Arsenal. Although the weather was wet and cold, everyone persevered to gather a total of 29,592 toys which were later transported to the bases. There are still 25 more boxes of items to be counted that came in after the collection weekends. A work date for this TBD

New Business: **A NEW PARADE COORDINATOR IS NEEDED THIS YEAR. PLEASE CONTACT AL MELLINI IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.**

Old Business: A letter of deep appreciation was received from the Lyon's Veterans Hospital for the train ride in September, that ran from Ringoes to Flemington.

A motion was made by **Gary Schultz** and seconded by **Tim Farrell** to memorialize the donation for 100 wreaths for the *Wreaths Across America Day* project. For those who are not familiar, the wreaths are placed for December 16th on veterans graves every year at 3,701 locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Gary Schultz brought up a donation request for \$500 each for *The NJ Military Technical Museum* as well as *The WWII Experience* in Gettysburg, PA. A motion was made by **Al Mellini** and seconded by **John Sobotka**.

Good of the Club: The Meadowlands Antique Militaria Show is coming up on January 14th in Union.

Kicking off the summer, the club has been invited by a Sparta historical group to bring vehicles representing the various conflicts to a weekend event in Sparta on June 10th and 11th. If interested in attending, please contact **John Sobotka**.

A tentative date of June 17th is set for the annual MTA club picnic at Firemen's Field, more details to come.

A motion to adjourn at 8:50pm was made by **Gary Schultz** and seconded by **Bill Dekker**. Next meeting is February 2nd!

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Swanick



IN MEMORIAM

Frank Nasto, Jr.



The “heart and soul” of an iconic family-owned Newark ice cream shop that grew into one of the biggest names in Garden State ice cream has died at the age of 85.

Frank Nasto Jr., of Newark’s Nasto’s Ice Cream Co., died on Christmas Day, the Nasto family said in tribute on social media. Founded in 1939, Nasto’s has produced a variety of ice cream and other frozen confections for decades.

“He was the heart and soul of Nasto’s and built it to what it is today. His hard work and dedication will forever be a part of his legacy,” the Nasto family said.

The announcement of his death comes just seven months after his older brother, Alphonse died. The brothers worked side-by side to make Nasto’s Ice Cream Co. into the successful operation it is today, according to the company’s website.

The popular ice cream shop had humble beginnings. Frank Nasto Jr.’s parents, Frank Sr. and Angelina, opened their ice cream shop on the corner of Jefferson and East Kinney streets after emigrating from Italy, according to the company’s website.

Nasto and his brother Alphonse took over the business turned it into a thriving retail and wholesale operation.

The company still makes Italian specialties, including Spumoni and Bisque Tortoni, using the original authentic recipes handed down from Frank Nasto Sr.’s native Nocera, Italy, the website says.

The operation has long outgrown its Newark storefront one block west of Independence Park. But the location is personal — Frank Nasto Jr. and his family grew up in the apartment upstairs from the parlor.

Nasto’s Ice Cream Co. remains a lasting vestige of Italian heritage remaining in the Ironbound Section of Newark. The operation is now in its third generation of family ownership and considered one of New Jersey’s best-known manufacturers of desserts, even shipping nationally.

That present-day success is thanks to the foundation built by Nasto and his brother, the family says. “He will be greatly missed by all,” the Nasto family said.

Due to a long term illness, Frank has not been to any MTA meetings for several years and many of our newer members missed meeting Frank.

Frank was an early stalwart of the club from the late 70’s to late 90’s, and was a huge benefactor supporting MTA charitable contributions.

Many of the MTA early members called Frank the Ice Cream Man as he often brought gallons of his own Ice Cream to MTA picnics and events, straight from his family run Nasto’s Ice Cream Company in Newark NJ

Frank restored a beautiful 1943 GPW and was one of the first in the club to acquire and restore an uncut M151A1. Frank was a long serving New Jersey National Guard Veteran. Frank said he restored the M151A1 with unit markings from an NJNG M151A1 he drove during the 1967 Newark Riots.

The MTA sends our Sincerest Condolences to Frank’s Family and Friends, Frank will be missed.

The Cougar comes in two main configurations, a 4x4, and 6x6. It is designed for the transport and protection of troops and equipment, especially against mines or IEDs. The two main configurations come in specific variants.

Variants of the Cougar HEV:

Cougar ISS

Based on the Cougar 4x4, the ISS is fitted with a new, integrated independent suspension system that gives the Cougar ISS increased cross-country mobility in even the most demanding environments. Even in the heaviest load configurations, it matches well with the most severe mission profiles. With its four-man crew compartment and scalable protection, it can be used for the same missions as the 4x4.



Cougar ISS

Cougar JERRV (Joint EOD rapid response vehicle)

4x4 and 6x6 variants for the US Army, USAF, and USMC. Approx. 200 ordered in 2005 and 2006, with another 200 ordered in late 2006 but now called MRAPs to take account of the new US military/political initiative to be seen to be responding to public concerns about casualties.



Cougar hit by a mine explosion, all crew survived, the vehicle was driven back to base on 3 wheels

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Railroad Artillery at Sandy Hook, NJ

By E.T. Francis

Visitors to Gateway National Park on Sandy Hook, NJ, can see the scars of railroad tracks in a few locations in the park. The railroad came to Sandy Hook in 1865 when the Long Branch and Seashore Railroad opened its road with a terminal at Spermacetti Cove on the Raritan Bay shores of the Hook. Passengers made the trip from the Hook to New York City by steamboat.



Placing camouflage over 14-inch Navy gun of the U.S. Naval railway battery

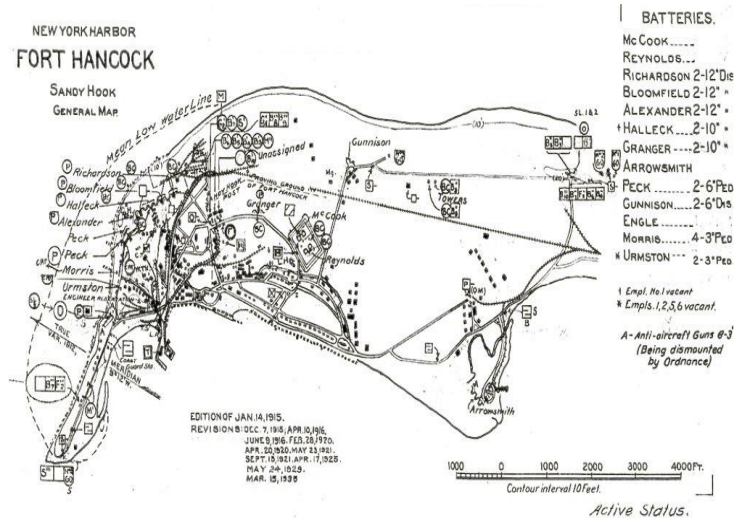
The Long Branch and Seashore Railroad became part of the Central Railroad of New Jersey along with Raritan & Delaware Bay Railroad which operated boats from its terminus

at Port Monmouth. In the 1890s, the federal government enlarged its holdings on Sandy Hook and the Central Railroad of New Jersey was forced to move its steamboat terminal to Atlantic Highlands. The military reservation on Sandy Hook included Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Grounds where the Ordnance Department test fired artillery.



TEST OF FIRST MOUNT AT SANDY HOOK PROVING GROUNDS.

One of the most notable guns fired at Sandy Hook was the 14-inch Navy railway rifles of 1918. Existing 13-inch guns were mounted on railway cars for use in France during WWI. The mounts were designed by the Naval Gun Factory in the Washington Navy Yard and the guns assembled on the mount at the Eddystone Plant of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. The first five mounts were ordered in February, 1918 and the first was completed in less than 10 weeks and arrived at Sandy Hook at the end of April, 1918.



In addition to the gun mounts, the government contracted for the necessary cars for the Navy gun train. The guns, cars and six Baldwin 2-8-0 locomotives were shipped to France. The guns and locomotives were assembled at the shops of the 19th Engineers at St. Nazaire, France. The first gun and train left for the front in August, 1918. Each train consisted of locomotive, gun, 13 ammunition and auxiliary cars. Two of the guns operated with the French army and three with the American forces in the Verdun area.

The Navy guns were capable of firing a shell 30 miles when the guns were elevated to 45 degrees. When fired at low angles, the entire weight of the gun was carried by the trucks. At an angle of elevation of 15 to 45 degrees, a structural steel foundation, surrounding a recoil pit, was necessary for the purpose of absorbing a part of the shock and to provide room for recoil of the gun. The construction of a semicircular track was necessary to permit aiming the gun.



Assembling a Battery 2-8-0 Locomotive

U.S. Navy Locomotives Nos. 1-6 were part of an order for 1900 2-8-0 built for the U.S. Army in France by Baldwin in 1917-1919. Later they were sold in France for use on French railroads.

Locomotives at Sandy Hook Proving Grounds included an ex-Manhattan Railway tank locomotive which arrived from the New York "e1" in the fall of 1899. Baldwin built the "General Rodman", a 2-4-4T, and No.5, a 2-4-0 tender locomotive.

One of the last military locomotives at Sandy Hook was USA/Transportation Corps No. 7511 built by Vulcan in 1944. Sold to the Jay Street Connecting Railroad in Brooklyn, it retained its army number. Later it saw service at the Houdaille Materials quarry at Martinsville. New Jersey.



Jay Street Connecting Railroad No. 7511

After the end of the war, railway guns were stored at Sandy Hook and were the artillery of a Coast Artillery Regiment. With the entry of the United States into WWII in December, 1941, the railway units were reactivated. One regiment went to Bermuda to defend the islands. It is rumored that one gun was lost overboard when unloading. With the end of WWII, the railway artillery was scrapped. Missiles replaced artillery and the seacoast guns as well as Fort Hancock.



21st Annual

MILITARY VEHICLE SHOW & SWAP MEET

APRIL 29-30, 2023

FOR VENDORS:

Heated indoor tables & covered outdoor spaces available!

VENDOR CHECK-IN:

Friday, April 28th
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday, April 29th
Starting at 7:00 AM

AMENITIES:

Onsite camping
Heated bathrooms
Free hot showers

CONTACT:

Tim Swanick
170 Church Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866
973-647-0148
MTAVENDORSACES@gmail.com



SUSSEX COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ 07822

SATURDAY

April 29, 2023
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY

April 30, 2023
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ADMISSION

adults - \$7.00
veterans & active duty military with ID - \$5.00
children 12 & under - free!
anyone in active military uniform - free!
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts in uniform - free!

- VEHICLE DISPLAYS - REENACTORS
- FOOD - CAMPING - MILITARY SURPLUS
- SPECIAL EVENTS & DISPLAYS
- VEHICLES, PARTS, UNIFORMS, & MORE!

Visit our website for more information:

WWW.MTASWAPMEET.COM

The MTA is an MVPA affiliated club.

NO LIVE FIREARMS OR AMMO!



REDBALL MILITARY TRANSPORT CLUB

WINTER SHOW - MARCH 4TH
MT. BETHEL
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
MT. BETHEL PA

2341 N Delaware Dr.
Mt Bethel, PA 18343

CLASSIFIEDS

To add or remove listings from the Classifieds, please email Dave Steinert at dsteinert@mtaofnj.org or call 201-407-4035.

REAL MAGAZINES, not digital copies. Military Vehicles #1 to #176. \$500. Army Motors #2 to #156 + Supply Line (55 issues with articles) + TM (6 issues 1975-76), 216 in all, \$600. PS (preventive Maintenance Monthly) #12 to #658, a few missing, \$1,500. Offers accepted. Don't call, telephone is hard for me to use. Dave Ahl, swapmeetdave@aol.com. Can arrange pick-up or delivery.

For Sale: 1963 Dodge M43 B1 w/o winch in very good condition. Comes with a large amount of spare parts and accessories. If there is an interest, contact Michael Maglio at 973-697 9419.

For Sale- Military 500 Gallon Water Buffalo for sale; \$300 or BO. Call John Sobotka at (862)-266-6284.

Parts for Sale- 230 CI M725 motor, ran when pulled, burns oil \$200, M725 litter racks-best offer, M725 Rear doors, some dents, no rust \$200 for the pair, M715 windshield frame, minor surface rust \$150, NOS in packing Southwind heater for M725 possible M-43 best offer, M37 windshield frame outer only \$75, M725-M715 rims with lock rings -make offer. Many more items available, too many to list. Call for more information. Call Matt Ziegler, cell 973-445-3890, email : Matrziegler@gmail.com



FORKS OF THE DELAWARE
HISTORICAL ARMS
SOCIETY, INC.

Gun Show



Next Date Feb 10 to Feb 12, 2023!

Agricultural Hall
Allentown Fairgrounds
302 N 17th Street
Allentown, PA 18104



MEADOWLANDS ANTIQUA MILITARIA SHOW

All Wars All Conflicts

March 4, 2023

Boys & Girls Club of Union County
1050 Jeanette Avenue
Union, NJ

8:00am to 1:00pm

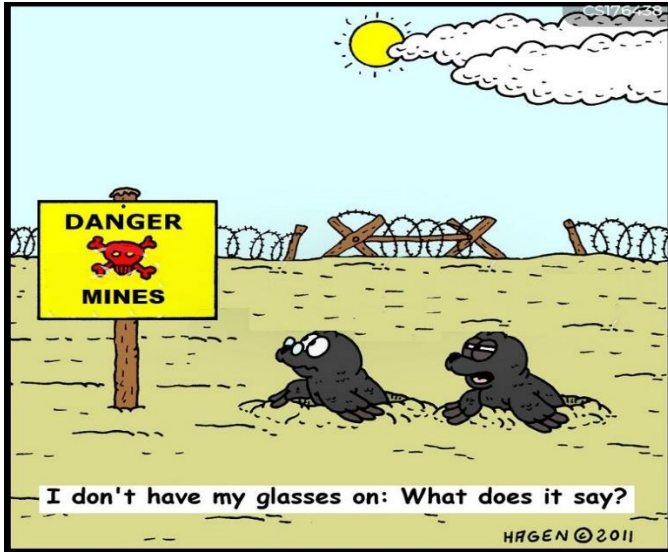
www.meadowlandsmilitaria.com

Military Transport Association

P.O. Box 391

Budd Lake, NJ 07828

**THE NEXT MTA MEETING WILL
BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 2nd
AT THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN
LEGION POST AT 7PM**



a chapter of the MVPA



The Military Transport Association is dedicated to the education and preservation of historic to present military vehicles. Members enjoy restoring, displaying, and operating military vehicles of all types, from bicycles to tanks.

But trucks and Jeeps aren't all we do! Join today and participate with us at our annual Toys for Tots train ride and toy drive, help at our annual Swap Meet at the Sussex County Fairgrounds, or attend our special events for veterans. Our lively, informative monthly meetings are held in Whippany, NJ.

You do not have to own a military vehicle to be part of this exciting and active hobby - you just need a desire to do your part in keeping our military history alive. All you need to join the MTA is to fill out the the form below, include your dues payment, and mail it to the address below. Alternately, you can give your form and dues to any MTA member you meet at any of our events.

Or, join online today at www.MTAofNJ.org!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ (cell preferred)

Email: _____

MTA Membership Level: Single (\$30) Family (\$35)

Are you a member of MVPA? Yes No

Military vehicles owned: _____

Return form with \$ ____ annual dues and \$ ____ donation to:

Military Transport Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 391
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

Contributions, gifts, or membership dues made or paid to the Military Transport Association, a 501(c)(4) organization, are non-refundable or transferable, and are NOT deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes.