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Wiesel – mobile, air-portable, versatile

In order to operate in difficult terrain – in the mountains, for example, or in an urban environment – today's armed forces need a flexible, quickly deployable, protected platform that can be readily integrated into network-enabled operations and which, above all, can be transported by air either on board or as underslung cargo. It was precisely with these capabilities in mind that Rheinmetall developed the Wiesel ('weasel') family of vehicles. At Eurosatory 2012 Rheinmetall is showing the Wiesel 120 mm mortar carrier.

A lightweight tracked armoured vehicle, the Wiesel is standard equipment in German airmobile and mountain units. While the Wiesel 1 was originally employed as a weapons platform, the somewhat longer Wiesel 2 is now available in numerous other configurations.

Today the Wiesel family covers practically the full range of military ground capabilities, encompassing a reconnaissance vehicle, a command post version, an anti-tank-missile launcher platform, an automatic cannon platform, an engineering scout vehicle and a field ambulance version. Other variants include joint fire support team and joint fire support coordination team vehicles and a 120mm mortar carrier; Finally, a Wiesel-based mobile air defence system consisting of an air defence command post vehicle, an air defence reconnaissance and fire control vehicle, and an air defence weapon carrier round out the portfolio.

Much like other Rheinmetall vehicles – e.g. the Fuchs/Fox armoured transport vehicle – the Wiesel has accompanied the Bundeswehr right from the start in every deployed operation. Whether in the deserts of Somalia, the mountains of Kosovo or the rugged terrain of the Hindu Kush – the Wiesel has what it takes: high mobility coupled with protection. Transportable by air in a medium transport helicopter or as underslung cargo, the various members of the Wiesel family can be quickly deployed to new flash points.

Equipped with a sophisticated recoil system, Rheinmetall's extremely accurate 120 mm mortar system is specially optimized for small vehicles like Wiesel. Sensors monitor the barrel temperature, fire position and the volumetric efficiency of the barrel brakes, indicating the functional readiness and operational status of the weapon. Systematic FE analysis, lightweight design and high-strength materials

have produced a mortar system weighing just 310kg. The increased wall strength in high-stress zones of the tube and the use of high-strength materials enable a maximum range of 8km with the mortar's specially developed rounds.

Rheinmetall Defence: totally oriented to today's military

With its Combat Systems, Electronic Solutions, and Wheeled Vehicles divisions, Rheinmetall Defence supplies the world's armed forces with systems and equipment systematically designed to assure successful outcomes in complex modern military operations.

Rheinmetall also maintains an extensive network of international partnerships for serving new markets as well as enabling technology transfer that will substantially benefit both the industry and the military of customer nations. This makes Rheinmetall the ideal industrial partner in the quest to supply today's armed forces with advanced capabilities.

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