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Rheinmetall's armoured Fuchs/Fox family: Leading CBRN reconnaissance systems

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents and hazards are among the deadliest threats to personnel deployed either in conventional military operations or asymmetric warfare and homeland security scenarios. Because it is nearly impossible to predict the time and place of CBRN attacks, a pressing need exists worldwide for fast and reliable CBRN reconnaissance systems.

Rheinmetall's Fuchs/Fox 2 BIO and NBC armoured reconnaissance systems are the world's most advanced means of countering CBRN attacks. At this year's IDEX, the armed forces of the UAE will present their CBRN reconnaissance capabilities based on Rheinmetall's acclaimed Fuchs/Fox armoured transport vehicle.

The Fuchs/Fox 2 BIO armoured reconnaissance system (Fuchs/Fox 2 BIO-RS) is the world's most advanced system for identifying weaponized biological agents and other biological hazards. Teamed with Rheinmetall's tried-and-tested Fuchs/Fox 2 NBC-RS and the associated command post system Fuchs/Fox 2 NBC-CPS, it represents the global cutting edge in detecting nuclear, biological and chemical threats.

For several years now, the Chemical Corps of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces has had all three versions in its inventory. This initial package encompassed 32 vehicles. The new Fuchs/Fox NBC-RS, FUCHS/Fox BIO-RS and Fuchs/Fox NBC-CPS systems give the UAE the most advanced NBC reconnaissance capability on the planet.

As far as NBC defence experts are concerned, Rheinmetall Defence's Fuchs/Fox NBC reconnaissance system (Fuchs/Fox NBC-RS) sets the standard worldwide, offering state-of-the-art, proven detection technology coupled with unsurpassed operational reliability.

Today nearly 300 of these systems form a key element in the NBC defence capabilities of seven nations (United Arab Emirates, USA, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia and Germany). These countries have successfully deployed the systems during various missions worldwide, including in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The three variants introduced by the UAE include 16 Fuchs/Fox 2 NBC reconnaissance systems for detecting and identifying nuclear and chemical contamination as well as eight Fuchs/Fox 2 command post systems and eight highly specialized Fuchs/Fox 2 BIO reconnaissance systems (Fuchs/Fox BIO-RS) for detecting and identifying biological warfare agents. Their primary mission is to detect, identify, mark, sample and report all chemical, biological and radiological contamination and provide forecast information to units deployed in the area of operations.

These systems' comprehensive NBC detection capabilities are integrated into the high-speed, high-mobility Fuchs/Fox 2 wheeled armoured vehicle, enabling all three versions to carry out NBC reconnaissance missions both on and off road, even in extremely tough terrain.

Fully qualified, the new Fuchs/Fox 2 basic vehicle performed superbly at extremely high temperatures and in all kinds of terrain during the UAE Army's "Summer Trials" and since then during various joint army trials and manoeuvres in the UAE.

The vehicle's collective protective ventilation system minimizes the risk to the crew, while the air conditioning system facilitates operation in a hot desert climate. This capability was successfully proven during summer trials in the UAE desert. The Fuchs/Fox NBC and BIO RS are able to take samples from the air, water and ground, immediately analyzing them for the presence of NBC agents.

The Fuchs/Fox BIO reconnaissance system enables rapid and reliable identification of biological warfare agents and other infectious substances using genetic and immunological methods. It includes a hermetically sealed analysis chamber – a microbiological isolator equipped with glove ports that enable operators to work completely separated from any infectious material.

All Fuchs/Fox NBC reconnaissance systems are equipped with fully automated detectors for nuclear radiation as well as sensors for identifying chemical warfare agents and other hazardous materials. These include a remote standoff sensor for detecting distant clouds of chemical agents, providing immediate analysis and warning. Moreover, all Fuchs/Fox NBC reconnaissance systems can operate on the move.

In addition to their inherent identification capabilities both systems can collect samples from soil, water, and vegetation for later reference analysis. They allow real-time transmission of all relevant CBRN information up the chain of command via the Fuchs/Fox command post system as well as immediate marking of contaminated areas to keep out friendly units and civilians.

By providing increased situational awareness and intelligence information to unit commanders in the area of operations and higher-echelon headquarters, the Fuchs/Fox command post system enhances the survivability and mobility of ground forces.

Rugged, versatile and reliable, these new CBRN reconnaissance systems will enable the UAE to protect its troops and civilian population from CBRN contamination: the Chemical Corps of the UAE Armed Forces has now taken its place on the cutting edge of CBRN defence.

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