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LEGO Holiday Display: Back by popular demand the Lego Holiday Display opens Dec 11, at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

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Bison armoured vehicle three times better Volume 41, Issue 25

by **WO Jerry Kean**
JTFA Public Affairs

When a worn and tired looking Bison armoured vehicle rolls into the DEW Engineering and Development Limited facility at Miramichi, New Brunswick, it's in for quite a face lift. The latest in the Bison Re-Role is called the C3I, which stands for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence. It is a completely self-contained mobile communications vehicle that will be in direct support of battlefield operations.

Equipped with the latest in communications equipment and enhanced armour protection, the C3I provides the troops with cutting edge technology to conduct their mission.

Previously re-roled as the Bison Ambulance and the Maintenance and Recovery variants, the C3I will add more capability to the traditional command post. "It's going to crewed by Signal Operators," said Capt Barry Maddin, Bison Re-Role Project Engineer. "They will provide the communication and data link between the field units and the Brigade Headquarters." It comes with an improved two-speed transfer case, an on-board, externally mounted eight KW generator to provide power without running the vehicle engine, ventilated respiratory system (VRS), and internal workstations equipped with fluorescent lighting including NATO standard blue lights for blackout operations. There is also a new electrical power management system with a Prosine inverter utilizing shore power,



photo: **WO Jerry Kean, JTFA Public Affairs**

Gerry Whyte, a retired military vehicle mechanic and a worker at the DEW Engineering and Development Limited facility, gives Col Robert Mazzolin, Director Land Command Systems Program Management, a tour of a Bison C3I.



photo: **WO Jerry Kean, JTFA Public Affairs**

A worker at the DEW Engineering and Development Limited facility welds tap-ons for armour ballistic plating onto a Bison C3I.

generator power and/or vehicle battery power, including 110 v convenience outlets. But among the key improvements is the adoption of an improved communications suite with new operator ballistic/protection seats, increased armour protection including improved IED protection, with easily installed add-on armour (AOA). This is possible due to the permanent installation of tapping pads over the exterior surface of the vehicle making the use of AOA a fairly simple process.

Having been extensively tested in the field, the operators can continue their roles on the move while being strapped into their seats with a five point harness. With the added safety of AOA, the seat also provides rollover, impact and ballistic protection to the occupant. Further, the CP incorporates an Automatic Fire and Explosion Suppression System the replaces the old Halon system.

The first 21 of the 42 production C3I platforms are deploying to Afghanistan soon to allow our soldiers the benefit from the improved command and control capability.



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