

➤ Small Unit Riverine Craft (SURC)

DESCRIPTION

The Small Unit Riverine Craft program will provide boats that offer tactical mobility and a limited weapons platform for the Ground Combat Element of a MAGTF in the riverine environment. Each craft will move an infantry squad of 13 Marines. In performing its primary mission, the SURC will provide the mobility, speed, endurance, firepower, payload, survivability, and command-and-control capabilities to support sustained operations in riparian environments. The secondary missions of the SURC include company/battalion level command and control, reconnaissance, logistics/resupply, medevac, counter-drug operations, humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, and non-combatant evacuation operations. SURC will replace the outdated fleet of Rigid Raiding Craft, which were not originally designed to operate in the riverine environment. SURC will have an inboard engine with a water-jet propulsion system to meet Marine Corps safety requirements. The SURC-E will be the armed escort for the SURC and will replace

the aging Riverine Assault Craft (RAC). The SURC-E will have the same hull and propulsion system as the SURC to reduce maintenance and training requirements.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Areas dominated by river networks coincide with population centers around the world. Being able to exploit the river networks, as an avenue of approach is important, and the common characteristics of rivers dictate the use of a shallow draft watercraft. The Small Unit Riverine Craft, escorted by the Riverine Assault Craft, will allow the Marine Corps to conduct operations in this environment. Additionally, the SURC will assist in denying the enemy's use of these river areas.

PROGRAM STATUS

The SURC entered system development and demonstration in FY 2002 and a contract for an initial order of test craft was awarded. A contract option for production craft is anticipated in FY 2003.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE: FY03 FY04

Quantity:

16

17

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Prime contractor, communications integration and contractor logistics support: Raytheon, Poulosbo, WA

Boat Manufacturer: Safe Boats International, Port Orchard, WA

Boat Trailer Manufacturer: Boat Master, Fort Myers, FL