



KOREA, SOUTH



Background: Korea was an independent kingdom for much of the past millennium. Following its victory in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Japan occupied Korea; five years later it formally annexed the entire peninsula. After World War II, a Republic of Korea (ROK) was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a Communist-style government was installed in the north (the DPRK). During the Korean War (1950-53), US troops and UN forces fought alongside soldiers from the ROK to defend South Korea from DPRK attacks supported by China and the Soviet Union. An armistice was signed in 1953, splitting the peninsula along a demilitarized zone at about the 38th parallel. Thereafter, South Korea achieved rapid economic growth with per capita income rising to roughly 14 times the level of North Korea. In 1993, KIM Yo'ng-sam became South Korea's first civilian president following 32 years of military rule. South Korea today is a fully functioning democracy.

Geography: *Location:* Eastern Asia, southern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea. *Area:* total: 98,480 sq km. *Area - comparative:* slightly larger than Indiana. *Border countries:* North Korea 238 km. *Coastline:* 2,413 km. *Climate:* temperate, with rainfall heavier in

summer than winter. *Terrain:* mostly hills and mountains; wide coastal plains in west and south. *Natural resources:* coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum, lead, hydropower potential. *Natural hazards:* occasional typhoons bring high winds and floods; low-level seismic activity common in southwest. *Environment - current issues:* air pollution in large cities; acid rain; water pollution from the discharge of sewage and industrial effluents; drift net fishing. (CIA Factbook 2006)

Military Notes: In 2005 Korea sent Army troops to Iraq in support of the US.

1977 Carr Pers, Armd, 4x4, Daewoo KM900 MG.

2001 Carr Wpns. Kia KM424 106mm RR Carrier.



Above: KM424 with 106mm RR. (Photo: Kia Motors)

Remarks: The KM420 Utility Vehicle series has become the standard light vehicle of the Korean Armed Forces since 1997. The vehicle has an

independent suspension at front, selectable 4x2 or 4x4 drive, and power steering. All built on a ladder frame chassis. Variants include the KM421 NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle (improvised), KM422 Tow Missile Launcher Carrier, KM423 Tow Missile Carrier, the KM424 106mm Recoilless Rifle Carrier and the KM425 K-4 40mm Automatic Grenade Launcher Carrier; all in mass production at the end of 2001. Kia Motors was founded in 1944 as Kyongseong Precision, when Korean modernization was still in its infancy. In 1952 it changed the corporate name to Kia Industry Co., Ltd. For half a century Kia has focused on manufacturing automobiles. In 1990 the company's name was changed to Kia Motors Corp. In 1998 Hyundai Motor took over Kia Motors.

Physical Data: Weight empty, 5,066 lbs (2300 kg). Loaded, 6,564 lbs (2980 kg). Length, 157.5 in (4000 mm). Width, 76 in (1940 mm). Height, 69 in (1760 mm). Ground Clearance, 8.5 in (220 mm). Wheel Base, 93 in (2360 mm). Drive, se-

lective 4x2 or 4x4. NBC Protection, individual. *Armament:* (1) 106mm RR. Elevation & traverse, manual. Fire Control, optical. Aux Wpns, individual weapons. *Capacity:* Crew/Passengers, 3 to 4. *Engine:* Kia 4-cyl, either gasoline or diesel. Location, front. Cooling, liquid. *Transmission:* Manual with 5-fwd and 1-rev gear. *Suspension System:* Independent coil. Wheels steerable, front pair (power). No of wheels, 4. *General Data:* Elec Voltage, 12 Volt. *Night Vision Devices:* Individual. *Performance:* Speed, 81 mph (130 km/h). Range, 298 mi (480 km). Fording Depth, 20 in (510 mm). Max Grade, 60%. *Usage:* In use with South Korean Army since 2001. *Manufacturer:* Kia Motors Corporation, Seoul, South Korea.

2001 Carr, Wpns. KM425 K-4 40-mm Grenade Launcher Carrier.



Above: Kia KM425 with 40mm grenade launcher. (Photo: Kia Motors)

Remarks: Kia's main field of activity is the production of vehicles for commercial applications, founded in 1944 as Kyongseong Precision, In 1990 the company's name was changed to Kia Motors Corp. Hyundai Motor took over Kia Motors in 1998. Kia Motors developed a 1/4 ton vehicle, the KM420 Utility Vehicle, which has become the standard light chassis of the Korean Armed Forces since 1997. The series has an independent suspension at front, selective 4x2 to 4x4 drive and power steering. Other variants include the KM421 NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle, M422 Tow Missile Launcher Carrier, KM423 Tow Missile Carrier, and the KM424 106mm Recoilless Rifle Carrier which went into mass production at the end of 2001.

Physical Data: Weight empty (est), 5,066 lbs (2300 kg). Length, 157.5 in (4000 mm). Width, 69 in (1745 mm). Height, 93 in (2370 mm). Ground Clearance, 8.5 in (220 mm). Wheel Base, 93 in (2360 mm). Drive, selective 4x2 or 4x4. *Armament:* (1) 40-mm K-4 automatic gre-

nade launcher. Elevation & traverse, manual. Aux wpn, individual weapons. *Capacity:* Crew, 3. *Engine:* (1) Kia water-cooled 4-cyl, either gasoline or diesel. Location, front. *Transmission:* Manual with 5-fwd and 1-rev gear. *Suspension System:* Independent coil (front), leaf spring rear. Wheels Steerable, front pair (power). No of wheels, 4. *General Data:* Elec Voltage, 12 Volt. *Night Vision Devices:* Individual. *Performance:* Speed, 81 mph (130 km/h). Range, 298 mi (480 km). Fording Depth, 20 in (510 mm). Max Grade, 60%. *Usage:* In use with South Korean Army since 2001. *Manufacturer:* Kia Motors Corporation, Seoul, South Korea.

2004 Car, Armored, 4x4. Doosan Barracuda.



Above: Doosan Barracuda with .50 caliber turret. (Photo: Doosan Infracore)

Remarks: The Doosan Barracuda provides space for 12 persons including the driver and commander. A good range of vision for the driver and commander are offered by large bullet-proof windows ensuring that the vehicle can be easily driven even in normal road traffic. In addition, doors are provided for the driver and commander, as well as a swing type door on the left hand side, and a large rear door, allowing rapid access and exit for the crew. Operation of all vehicle systems of the Barracuda are uncomplicated and correspond to those of civilian vehicles such as the Unimog, while the chassis is from the Mercedes-Benz Unimog 5000 chassis. The Barracuda is also equipped with CCTV for rear vision and can be fitted with an anti-barricade dozer system. Barracudas' in Iraq with the Korea Army have been photographed with a metal slat cage similar to that seen on the Stryker APCs.

Physical Data: Weight empty, 25,798 lbs (11700 kg). Length, 247 in (6270 mm). Width, 97.5 in (2480 mm). Height, 95 in (2420 mm). Wheel Base, 152 in (3850 mm). Drive, 4x4. Armor, proof against 7.62mm ball. NBC Protection, Central. *Armament:* (1) .50 cal. (12.7mm) HMG. Elevation & traverse, manual. Fire Con-

trol, optical. *Capacity:* Fuel, diesel. Ammo/Qty (est), 500 rds .50 cal. Crew/Passengers, 2/10. *Engine:* (1) Turbo-diesel. HP at Rev/Min, 218 hp (160 k W) @ 2200 rpm. Model, COM 924LA. Mfr, DaimlerChrysler. No. of Cyls, 4. Location, front. Cooling, air. *Transmission:* Automatic. Speeds Fwd/Rev, 8/6. Model, UG 100-8. Mfr. Unimog. *Suspension System:* Coil spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. Turning Radius, 25 ft (7.6 m). No of wheels, 4. *General Data:* Elec Voltage, 12/24V. Radio, as fitted by user *Night Vision Devices:* As fitted by user. *Performance:* Speed, 62 mph (100 km/h). Range, 720 mi (1160 km). Fording Depth, 47 in (1200 mm). Max Grade, 80%. Step, 23.5 in (600 mm). *Usage:* South Korea, Indonesia (20) and Iraq (12) as of 2006. *Manufacturer:* Doosan Infracore Co. Ltd., South Korea.

2005 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Doosan Black Fox.



Above: Black Fox prototype. (Photo: Doosan Infracore)

Remarks: Under development as a replacement for tracked carriers in the internal security and rapid deployment roles. Vehicle includes stealth technology to minimize signature, modular design and simplified maintenance.

Physical Data: Weight empty, 35,280 lbs (16000 kg). Ground Clearance, 16.5 mm (420 mm). Drive, 6x6. NBC Protection, Central. *Armament:* (1) 40mm Automatic Grenade Launcher in DT 40/50 Turret. Elevation & traverse, power. Fire Control, Optical/Passive. Aux wpn – Cal, (1) .50 cal. (12.7mm) HMG. *Capacity:* Fuel, diesel. Crew/Passengers, 3/9. *Engine:* Diesel. HP at Rev/Min, 380 hp (281 kW). Location, front. *Transmission:* Automatic. Speeds Fwd/Rev, 7/1. *Suspension System:* Type, coil spring. Wheels Steerable, 1st and 2nd pair. Turning Radius 27.8 ft (8.5 m). No of wheels, 6. *Night Vision Devices:* As fitted by user. *Performance:* Speed, 62 m/ph (100 km/h). Range, 397 mi (640 km). Fording Depth, 47 in (1200 mm). Max Grade, 60%. Trench Crossing, 47 in (1200 mm). Step, 19.5 in (500 mm). *Usage:* Prototype vehicle, as of 2006 not yet in production. *Manufacturer:* Doosan Infracore Co., Ltd., South Korea.

2005 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Kanglim APC.



Above: Prototype Kanglim APC. (Photo: Kanglim)

Remarks: Prototype for a 4x4 APC with chassis and engine from KIA and armored body from Kanglim.

Physical Data: Drive, 4x4. *Armament:* (1) 7.62mm LMG. Elevation & traverse, manual. Fire Control, optical. *Capacity:* Fuel, diesel. Crew/Passengers, 1/8. *Engine:* Type, diesel in-line. Mfr, Kia Motors. Location, front. Cooling, liquid. *Suspension System:* Type, Leaf spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. No of wheels, 4. *Performance:* Speed (est), 62 mph (100 km/h). *Usage:* As of 2006, prototype only. *Manufacturer:* Kanglim and KIA Motors, South Korea.