

Improved Ribbon Bridge (IRB)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



MISSION

To improve mobility by providing continuous roadway or raft capable of crossing military load classification 96 (wheeled)/80 (tracked) vehicles over non-fordable wet gaps.

DESCRIPTION

The Improved Ribbon Bridge (IRB) Float Ribbon Bridge System is issued to the Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC). US Army Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) authorizes MRBCs consist of the 42ea IRB bays (30ea.M17 Interior and 12ea.M16 Ramps), 42ea Bridge Adapter Pallets (BAPs), 14ea Bridge Erection Boats (BEBs), 14ea Improved Boat Cradles (IBCs) and 56ea Common Bridge Transporters (CBTs). These assets collectively address Tactical Float Ribbon Bridge “Wet Gap” Bridging. These components are required to transport, launch, erect, and retrieve up to 210 meters of floating bridge. The IRB can be configured as either a continuous “full closure” bridge or assembled and used for rafting operations. The IRB has a Military Load Capacity (MLC)

of 105 wheeled / 85 tracked (normal) and MLC 110 wheeled / 90 tracked (caution) vehicles. This MLC will support the joint force commander’s ability to employ and sustain forces throughout the world. The IRB is used to transport weapon systems, troops, and supplies over water when permanent bridges are not available. The M14 Improved Boat Cradle (IBC) and the M15 Bridge Adapter Pallet (BAP) are used to carry BEBs and IRB bays on the CBT.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

IRB operations rely and are interdependent upon fully mission-capable CBTs, BAPs, IBCs, and BEB assets within a fully MTOE-equipped MRBC.

PROGRAM STATUS

- **Current:** This system has been fielded since 2002

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- Fieldings are ongoing based on the Army Requirements Prioritization List

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development

Engineering & Manufacturing Development

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support

Improved Ribbon Bridge (IRB)

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

CONTRACTORS

General Dynamics European Land Systems–Germany (GDELS-G)
(Kaiserslautern, Germany)

Logistic support:

AM General (AMG) (Livonia, MI)

CBT manufacturer:

Oshkosh Truck Corp. (Oshkosh, WI)

BEB manufacturer:

FBM Babcock Marine (Isle of Wight, United Kingdom)

