

<http://www.milspray.com/products-services/touch-up-paint-coatings/usar/general-info>

Why CARC?

CARC stands for Chemical Agent Resistant Coating and it is better known as the camouflage paint used on United States Army and Marine Corps tactical vehicles and equipment. It is also used on rotary-wing aircraft, or helicopters, in use with both the Army and Marines. CARC camouflage provides much more than visual camouflage and is a critical element in efforts to increase troop survivability on the battlefield. The rights to the patented CARC material are owned by the U.S. government and certain manufacturers are licensed to produce it for military use. CARC is also regulated under the International Traffic in Arms Regulation, or ITAR.

In addition to being a highly effective visual camouflage, CARC offers the following benefits of use:

Chemical and Biological Agent Resistance

CARC is a non-absorbent material that prevents chemical agents, such as sarin, and various biological agents, from being absorbed into the coating. In the event of a chemical or biological attack it will be necessary to decontaminate or \u201cdecon\u201d vehicles and equipment. This is particularly important since agents can travel, or be transported, on vehicles and equipment. Since the agents will not be absorbed by a CARC camouflaged vehicle, it is much easier to neutralize them by washing with a decontamination solution such as DS2.

Infrared Signature Management

This is one of the least understood, yet most important attributes of the CARC camouflage system. Each of the colors in the camouflage system contains a special pigment package that camouflages vehicles and equipment when they are in their intended theater of operation. As an example, the 383 green color in the camouflage pattern, has an IR signature equal, or less than, that of chlorophyll. When viewed in IR, the vehicle will blend in with the wooded environment and will not create an IR signature that could be used by enemy weapons systems having IR homing technology. IR homing weapons systems can be found in MANPADs or many shoulder fired missiles.

The use of commercially available camouflage aerosol paints presents a real and present danger to U.S. troops. These products offer no protection against chemical or biological agents and can absorb them making decontamination of a vehicle much more difficult.

Additionally, they contain no IR signature management properties and can have the opposite effect. Using commercially available aerosol paints such as Krylon™ may create an IR “hotspot” and potential target for IR homing weapons systems. This is a significant threat to a Blackhawk or Apache crew or to troops operating tactical vehicles. For these reasons, it is important to touch up CARC paint, with CARC paint.