

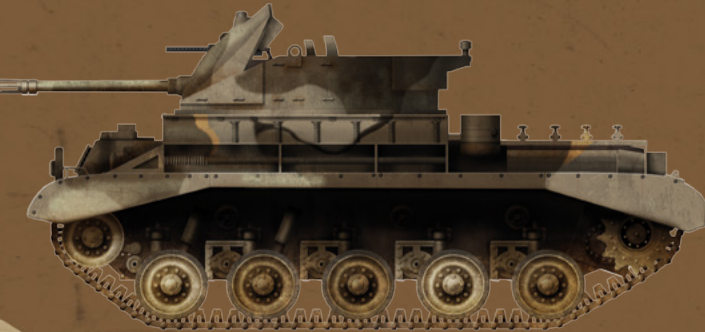
MERDC RED DESERT



MERDC SNOW WITH TREES



MERDC GREY DESERT



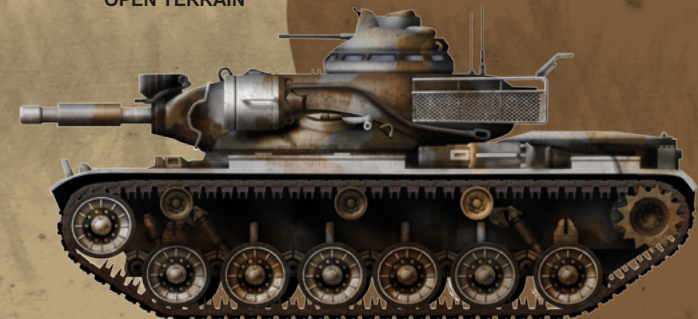
MERDC WINTER VERDANT



MERDC SUMMER VERDANT



MERDC SNOW WITH OPEN TERRAIN



INTRODUCTION

In the early 1970's the U.S. Army recognized that the monochromatic Olive Drab camouflage system that had been in use since WW2 needed to be replaced. In collaboration with Mobility Equipment Research & Design Command (MERDC) they entered into research and development aimed at creating a new camouflage system for their vehicles.

This camouflage system consisted of a set of standard patterns for each vehicle that could be adapted to the terrain, and seasons in which the vehicles operated. The uniqueness and versatility of this system was the ease of which the scheme could be changed. Simply changing one or two colours would change the entire scheme, easily adapting the vehicle to a new field or destination.

This camouflage system was used from the mid 70's through to the mid 80's; at which time the MERDC system was replaced by the three colour NATO pattern.

In total there were eight MERDC patterns. Arid environments were assigned two patterns: Grey Desert and Red Desert. Snow environments were assigned four: Winter Verdant, Snow with open terrain, Snow with trees, and Arctic pattern. Lastly, two were assigned to temperate climates: Summer Verdant and Tropical Verdant.

The most common of the MERDC camouflage patterns were the Winter Verdant, and the Summer Verdant. Winter Verdant was assigned to vehicles that operated in Europe; Summer Verdant was applied to vehicles parked in the United States. Grey Desert pattern is mainly used in vehicles based at Fort Hood, Texas.

MERDC COLORS

In total there are nine different MERDC patterns; each pattern consists of four colours, two basic colours and two secondary colours. The two basic colours covered 90% of the vehicle; 45% each in a wave like pattern. The two secondary colours covered the remaining 10%; typically these are black and a sand colour tone applied in either small irregular shaped spots, or a wave like pattern. The colors used were:



In the following chart we can see the colors assigned to each pattern MERDC published in the Bulletin TB-43 -0209 Army, of October 29, 1975.

MERDC Colors and Environments				
	Color Distribution			
Environment	45%	45%	5%	5%
Winter Verdant	Forest Green	Field Drab	Sand	Black
Snow with Trees	Forest Green	White	Sand	Black
Snow with Open Terrain	White	Field Drab	Sand	Black
Summer Verdant	Forest Green	Light Green	Sand	Black
Tropics Verdant	Forest Green	Dark Green	Light Green	Black
Grey Desert	Sand	Field Drab	Earth Yellow	Black
Red Desert	Earth Red	Earth Yellow	Sand	Black
Winter Arctic	White	White		



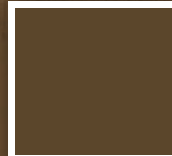
Sand, S
FS30277



Earth Yellow, EY
(FS30257)



Earth Red, ER
(FS30117)



Field Drab, FD
FS30118



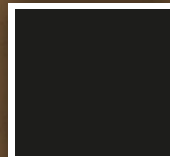
Light Green, LG
FS34151



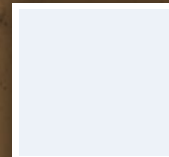
Forest Green, FG
FS34079



Dark Green, DG
FS34102



Black
FS37038



White
FS37875

