



## **Civilian Armoured Vehicles (CAVs) The Essence of Protection, Discretion and Mobility**

### **Regular Vehicle Maintenance – Check It Before It Breaks Down.**



To be sure, one of the most overlooked aspects of civilian armoured vehicles (or any vehicle for that matter) is that of regular and scheduled maintenance.

We all know that prevention is better than cure, but for a whole range of reasons, this seems to be lost on many armoured vehicle fleet managers.

So why do many fleet managers either neglect scheduled services or not even consider the scope of their routine servicing? Probably the number one reason is a lack of budget. This of course is very short sighted as neglected servicing and the preventative replacement of worn parts will of course lead to a significant reduction in repair costs due to a vehicle breakdown. And breaking down in a high threat environment is the last thing anyone wants!

The next most common reason is that fleet managers tend to not be vehicle specialists and so don't know what level of servicing is best suited to their vehicle. My experience from varied fleets around the world is that service regimes tend to be either too little or too much. And you can never be surprised that local workshops see the retirement fund being enhanced when they see an armoured vehicle drive through their front door.

Ideally, a structured approach over a five-year life of the vehicle should be put in place right from the very beginning of the vehicle's life in the field. Some aspects are less common in the early days and then are most critical as the years progress. For example, after 6-12 months, brakes, suspension and tyres should get very close inspection and budget allocated for replacement. After say 2 years, close attention should be paid to window seals, door hinges, and glass delamination. This structured and timed approach also enables the finance department to better plan budgets.

Of course, the service regime should incorporate the servicing recommended by both the base vehicle manufacturer as well as the uparmourer. In any case, these recommendations should be reviewed carefully by a specialist and modified to take into account the vehicle's driving profile, operating conditions and mission scenarios.

If I can assist you with any aspects of civilian armoured vehicles, please do not hesitate to contact me at [armouredconsulting.com](http://armouredconsulting.com)

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