

PRESS RELEASE
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Paramount Group's Marauder Showcased on Top Gear

Marauder armoured vehicle defeats 'terrorist' explosions, brick walls and wild lions in Top Gear test

'TOP GEAR' the BBC's leading motoring show has tested the 'world's most unstoppable vehicle' after it put a Paramount Group MARAUDER through a series of challenges.

More than 5 million UK viewers saw the Marauder, which is designed and built by the Paramount company of South Africa, take on and pass all the tests it was set by presenter Richard Hammond in the urban jungles of Johannesburg, South Africa.

South Africa is world renowned for producing some of the best protected and most technologically innovative armoured vehicles in the world.

During the programme, which was broadcast in the UK on Sunday 26th June, the Marauder flattened cars, smashed through brick walls and defied attacks by hungry lions in the South African bush.

In the final test a Marauder and a Hummer were blown up in explosions simulating the roadside bombs faced daily in conflict zones. The Hummer was totally destroyed, but the Marauder was barely damaged and drove away from the explosion and into the South African sunset.

Richard Hammond also took Marauder on an entertaining tour of Johannesburg and almost brought South Africa's largest city to a complete standstill.

Stunned onlookers watched in awe as the bright red Marauder roared through the crowded streets, exciting pedestrians and totally dominating the usually busy roads.

Hammond even managed to order a burger while driving through a McDonald's, although he did demolish a number of security bollards in the process.

Ivor Ichikowitz, the Executive Chairman of the Paramount Group, said: "The Marauder is one of the toughest vehicles in the world. We challenged Richard Hammond to throw anything he wanted at it and Marauder withstood it all.

“Despite the fun working with Top Gear, it is important to remember soldier protection is a very serious issue for armies worldwide. We are talking about saving lives. With this type of technology available and the ever present threat of IED’s there really is no excuse for governments not to provide the best protected vehicles for their defence forces.

“Personnel can be assured that when travelling in Marauder they are in one of the world’s toughest vehicles. South Africa, and Paramount Group in particular, has a rich tradition of providing some of the most innovative and best protected vehicles in the world and Marauder is one such vehicle.”

Marauder is a high-mobility armoured personnel carrier with outstanding levels of protection against mines, IEDs and ballistic attack. It can carry up to 10 fully armed troops and can be configured in a number of variants depending on the role. It is extremely flexible and is a true infantry workhorse.

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Notes to editors

About Paramount Group

The Paramount Group was founded in 1994 and works with governments around the world in matters of peacekeeping, defence and internal securities. As the largest privately owned group of defence companies in Africa, Paramount serves sovereign governments worldwide. The company develops and designs solutions to tackle peacekeeping, defence, and internal security problems, and seeks to expand its manufacture of armoured vehicles worldwide. Solutions range from camp systems, logistic equipment, and personal protection gear, as well as crowd control equipment, communication technologies and armoured MPVs.

www.paramountgroup.biz

About Top Gear

Top Gear is an award winning British television series about motor vehicles, primarily cars. It began in 1977 as a conventional motoring magazine show and now has 350 million viewers across the world. Over time, and especially since a relaunch in 2002, it has developed a quirky, humorous style. The show is currently presented by Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May, and has featured three different test drivers known as The Stig. The programme is estimated to have 350 million viewers worldwide. Sixteen series have been broadcast, and season seventeenth will return on 26 June 2011.

www.topgear.com/uk

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