The Army must determine the range of Flat Bottom Hull (FBH) and Double-V Hull (DVH) Stryker BCT mixes and/or Army Prepositioned Stock (APS) capability to meet known and projected operational requirements while meeting fiscal constraints within the U.S. Army's combat vehicle portfolio. Currently, the U.S. Army has nine total SBCTs in the Army. Stryker vehicles in seven of the SBCT are configured with FBH and two are configured with DVH, which provide increased crew and mounted soldier protection against underbody Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and blast threats. In January 2013, the Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) G-3 endorsed the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE) Strategic Assessment that stated a third DVH SBCT was necessary to ensure the Army had DVH capability in all phases of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle. In July of 2013, the Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) authorized the procurement of a third DVH SBCT by December 2016 through an exchange process.

Based on the MCOE recommendation and AAE approval for a third DVH SBCT, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (VCSA) tasked the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) to lead (with HQDA G-3/5/7 assistance) a study to identify the most effective near-term (FY16-20) to mid-term (FY21-28) mix of DVH and FBH SBCTs. TRADOC designated the U.S. Army TRADOC Analysis Center (TRAC) as the analytic lead.

The purpose of the SBCT Fleet Mix study is to inform fiscal year (FY) 15 decisions on the procurement of Stryker vehicles to optimize the SBCT fleet mix based on affordability, operational performance, and deployment rotation considerations. The study will compare the cost, operational and strategic benefit and risk associate with retaining three DHV SBCTs or procurement of up to 6 additional DVH SBCTs. Additionally, the analysis will evaluate the benefit and cost of placing SBCTs into APS.