OVRLRD

MOBILE WEAPONS PLATFORM

OPERATIONS MANUAL
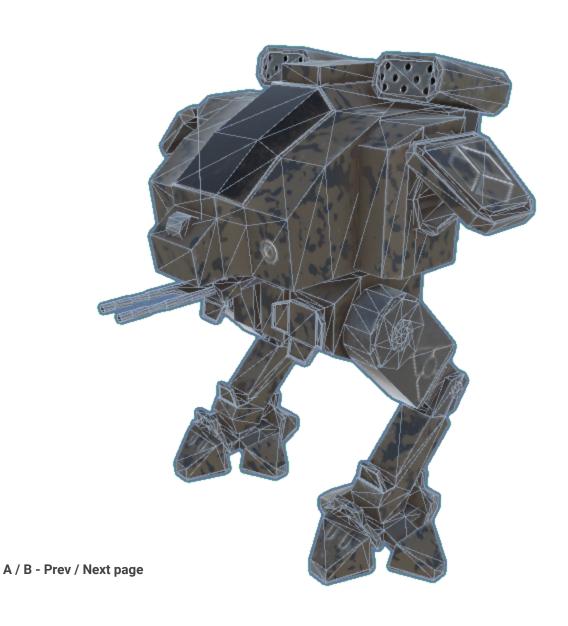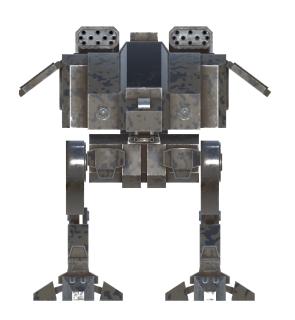
Table of contents

Introduction

Congratulations on your assignment to - or acquisition of - a Maulkin Industries certified OVRLRD operations platform. This guide should be the first port of call for any questions you may have about the operation and maintenance of your platform, whether they be technical, legal or ethical in nature.

Using this guide

An OVRLRD platform is a complex collection of systems working in tandem towards a common goal. The nature of these systems and the relationships between them may vary between platform models.

Be sure to make use of the table of contents to quickly find the most relevant section in times of need.

What is an OVRLRD?

Disambiguation

An OVRLRD is any mobile module platform making use of the O.V.R.L.R.D. superGimbal integration for collective systems architecture. From construction operations to ecological superintendence and beyond, an OVRLRD platform is today's solution to yesterday's problem.

Due to its vast popularity and universal efficacy in military contexts, the word 'OVRLRD' has become synonymous with ambulatory weapons platforms; large-scale walking tanks with infinitely-adaptable capacity for firepower, unparalleled manoeuvrability and tactical utility in a number of previously non-viable roles.

The OVRLRD weapons platform

Following the ambulation gold rush and financial collapse of the late-2000's, military uses for the OVRLRD platform emerged quickly.

The invention of a generic modular weapons platform, low-cost and low-weight, allowed for mass mechanised warfare in bold new theaters. Rapid production and the ability to move heavy platoons in cargo planes had immediate ramifications for the global battlefield.

Every history book now details the effects on world conflict, and the sudden, massive changes to the political and military landscape of the early 2010s. You now sit in the cockpit of the vehicle of that change.

Controls reference

Cold-start quick reference

1. Throw the lever to the main power breaker, indicated by a red light.
2. Toggle the switch marked 'APU'.
3. Wait for the dashboard light to turn green as the APU powers up.
4. Press the ignition button. Check all five cylinder indicators are lit.
5. Toggle the switches marked 'LOCOMOTOR' and 'TORSO ACTUATOR'.
6. Push the throttle to indicate your desired movement speed.
7. Your OVRLRD platform is now operational.

Power

The main breaker lever controls reactor and battery power to all OVRLRD systems, allowing an operator to immediately cut all power in the event of emergency. Nothing in the platform will function unless this lever is thrown.

Locomotion

The main torso gimbal and locomotor both require a feed from the auxiliary power unit (APU). The APU must be fully spun up before activating any actuators, otherwise you may experience faulty behaviour.

The ignition button is a safety measure - pressing it will have no effect unless the APU is fully spun up.

Once fully operational, the right control stick will control the torso actuator, rotating the OVRLRD's cockpit around a central hip gimbal.

The left control stick will control the locomotor, driving the walker's legs forward and backward, as well as rotating the legs left and right.

A pair of orientation indicators on the dash show the direction your legs are facing (the direction of travel) as well as the relative 'twist' between your legs and torso. This allows a skilled operator to manoeuvre in one direction while surveying another, or to retreat at full forward speed while laying down suppressive fire in the opposite direction.

> *OPERATOR TIP:*
>
> *Most walkers cannot turn rapidly while moving at high speed. To quickly re-orient your platform, reduce throttle, come to a stop or ease back on the left control stick.*

Remember that high-throttle movement generates heat. To maintain safe operation, monitor your temperature levels and only move at full speed when absolutely necessary.

Weaponry

You will not be able to use any of your weapon modules until the 'MASTER ARM' switch has been toggled. All OVRLRD platforms are equipped with a transponder indicating the status of their master arm switch, and any OVRLRD with an armed weapon system is a valid legal target for armed response. Be mindful of your legal status when choosing to activate your weapons systems.

Assuming your OVRLRD is equipped with weapon modules, arming the system will activate the external camera attached to the currently-active module. You will see the camera feed on your central multi-function display (MFD).

There are additional weapon system controls mounted on the right control stick. Moving the thumbstick will rotate the weapon gimbal, allowing for fine targeting control.

> *OPERATOR TIP:*
>
> *An operator must be capable of long-distance precision strikes. Small adjustments in torso control can create large geometric offsets at long range. To compensate, consider deactivating your torso actuator when engaging at ranges over 500 metres.*

The two buttons on the stick will cycle the active weapon module and cycle the active locking target respectively. You must maintain line-of-sight and and an error of less than 7 degrees to acquire target lock. Some weapons require target lock before they will fire.

Additional weapon system functions

- **Head-Locked Targeting**
  - **Active weapon gimbals will follow your gaze - useful for beam weapons and close-quarters combat.**
- **Project Weapon Cam**
  - **Transmit a low-resolution feed from the weapon's secondary sensor cam directly to your headset.**
- **Thermal/NV**
  - **Swap the sensor cam between image-intensifier and thermal segregation modes. Only visible when projecting.**
- **Auto-Tracking**
  - **Active weapon gimbals will automatically track the active target, if available. Useful for missile lock and high-speed engagements.**

Information display

A good operator must maintain total situational awareness at all times. An OVRLRD platform supports output to multiple multi-function displays (MFDs) at once. The operating system limits you to 1024 concurrently-running MFDs, but in reality you are likely to see 3-9 displays at once in a given platform.

Each MFD features an on-off toggle and a channel selection dial. All your OVRLRD's data feeds (for example, your weapon camera feed, navigation screen and temperature readouts) are constantly running - you can cycle through them using these dials to customise your information display.

In addition to the cockpit-mounted MFDs, your head-mounted interface can project a holographic head-up display (holoHUD) into the space in front of you. Toggle the 'HOLOHUD' switch to enable this more specialised information feed.

The holoHUD can optionally display a compass, for navigation, and a rangefinder, for convenience with artillery support tasks.

Sensors and comms

If your platform's comms system is operational, your OVRLRD will automatically receive and parse any situational data it receives on your platform's unique transponder channel.

When connected to a support platform, such as an AWACS vehicle or ground-based radar station, your identify-friend-or-foe (IFF) system will populate your MFD radar display and holohud feed. If comms are interrupted or suppressed, you will not have access to this data.

> *OPERATOR TIP:*
>
> *Standard OVRLRD munition mounts include a target-tagging laser designation module. If your weapons are armed and your comms system is active, you can hover the reticule over a hostile asset to create and upload an IFF profile. This profile will be used by your remote sensor station to tag and track the target's movement, as well as to coordinate computer-guided weapon strikes.*

Your holoHUD will tag friendly targets in blue and hostile targets in red. Neutral targets and mission objectives will render in grey.

Once tagged in this way, a target that is eligible for weapon lock can be acquired using the buttons on the right control stick. Weapon lock will only be acquired for weapons that require it.

If a relevant target is spotted by a connected ally in the field, your platform will automatically acquire that target. This can be useful for executing flanking manoeuvres with a squadmate.

Cooling system

The most dangerous threat to an overconfident operator is the OVRLRD platform itself. OVRLRD cooling systems must always be enabled before use.

For safety reasons, your OVRLRD platform features a heat safety cutoff breaker. This feature restricts the operation of non-critical subsystems once a temperature threshold has been crossed. Your weapons and locomotion may be automatically disabled until the system core temperature has fallen back within safe levels.

However, for maximum adaptability and control, a platform's heat safety cutoffs can be disabled by the operator. Maulkin advises against disabling heat safety, but recognises that some situations may not be survivable without pushing your platform past its safe limits.

Maulkin Superheavy Industries is not liable for injury, death, collateral damage or ecological disaster resulting from heat overload of a purchased platform. Capacitor meltdown, micronuclear explosion, toxic gas release and actuator collapse are the responsibility of the operator.

Operators can use the coolant control panel to vent their limited coolant supplies to mitigate serious overheating. Maulkin does not recommend this course of action, as it reduces the efficacy of the cooling system.

Troubleshooting/FAQ

Provided below is a list of common questions asked by operators in the field, often in the moments before loss of platform or loss of life. By memorising these questions and answers, you can reduce your personal liability.

- **Why is the lighting red inside my cockpit?**
    - **You have failed to disable the emergency lighting. Toggle the switch marked 'INT LIGHT'.**
- **Why is my platform not moving?**
    - **Check the following: main battery lever; APU switch; ignition; locomotor, torso actuator; throttle.**
    - **If each of these is activated and your platform is not moving, then you are either stuck in a ditch or your locomotor has been critically damaged. Please transmit your final platform payments to Maulkin immediately.**
- **I can't maintain steady aim on faraway targets.**
    - **Try disabling your torso actuator or reducing the speed of your weapon gimbal using the slider on your dashboard.**
    - **If this does not help, consider using missiles or auto-tracked beam weapons, rather than more challenging ballistic weapons.**
- **I can't see or lock on to targets in my holoHUD.**
    - **Ensure that the holoHUD switch and COMMS switch are both toggled to the 'ON' position. Also ensure your sensors are not damaged or subject to hostile interference.**
- **My platform is moving very slowly.**
    - **Check the throttle, and ensure your platform is not overtonnage.**

- **My platform won't slow down or stop.**
  - **Check the 'CRUISE' switch. This switch, when toggled, will attempt to maintain the platform's current speed until disabled.**
- **My platform won't turn, or turns very slowly.**
  - **Check the 'TORSO ACTUATOR' switch.**
  - **Check your speed - most platforms turn slowly at high speed.**
  - **Check for damage to your locomotor or torso actuator.**
- **My weapons keep shutting off while firing!**
  - **This is a safety feature to prevent overheating in your weapons system. It can be disabled using the 'HEAT SAFETIES' switch.**

Corporate history

Walking platforms, 1996-1999

Maulkin's success as an automotive manufacturer dates back to the mid-twentieth century, but Maulkin's great strides in superheavy ambulation can be traced back to the generous spirit of renowned Irish engineer Nigel Conwell.

In 1995, Conwell published superGimbal - a neural network-based algorithm to adaptively control and balance robotic limbs. Conwell developed superGimbal as an open-source alternative to proprietary software, and released it with manuals detailing its potential applications in medical robotics.

Word soon spread in the open-source software community. Engineers found in testing that the adaptive properties of superGimbal made it particularly well-suited to lifting and balancing heavy weights in motion. In combination with the Bosewick Institute's famed discovery of next-generation carbon alloys in 1999, the stage was set.

Maulkin Automotive, 1999-2004

The ambulation gold rush of the early 2000s is well-documented - the mass conversion of factories to support the development of high-demand lightweight walkers that sent shockwaves through the global economy.

Early models found use in surveying and clearing the massive swamplands and minefields of the southern United Kingdom, as well as in the execution of faster, safer and cheaper construction projects. Construction firms found that they were no longer limited by natural terrain, as builders could simply walk across mountainsides and through treacherous ravines.

Maulkin Automotive found early success in the development of a generic software platform that could support, control and co-ordinate any superGimbal-based module architecture.

An early prototype was internally dubbed O.V.R.L.R.D. (Overseer for Vehicular Roaming over Long-Range Distances), but following a miscommunication with an external contractor and the mass production of promotional materials, OVRLRD became the customer-facing name of the platform.

OVRLRD's modularity and accessible documentation quickly made it the industry standard for hardware platform integration. Maulkin Automotive's strong software license policy, coupled with widespread adoption of the platform and industrial requirements for OVRLRD support, placed Maulkin in the perfect position for what followed.

Maulkin Superheavy Industries, 2004-Present

In March 2004, a strain of malware emerged that specifically targeted software-hardware integrations for superGimbal-based systems. This malware created significant safety risks for anyone using a mechanical walker under heavy load - these users representing the majority of the consumer base.

Maulkin's cybersecurity division were able to devise an effective defence, and quickly distributed it as part of a standard firmware update. This enhanced security was a major factor in securing support for the new OVRLRD End-User License Agreement amongst consumers, who were required to agree in order to install the update.

Among the terms accepted by users was a new set of standard non-competition clauses. Maulkin's position was now secure as the world's foremost supplier of OVLRD platforms and their associated hardware.

By the end of 2005 Maulkin had generously negotiated new terms with a number of hardware manufacturers to ensure a steady consumer flow of ambulator components and platform modules. Many firms were able to continue operating thanks to the guidance and support of Maulkin executives.

The brand name OVRLRD has since become shorthand for any walking modular platform, most commonly those with military applications.

Maulkin Automotive rebranded in 2005 to Maulkin Superheavy Industries, and became the singular, universal platform supplier trusted by the consumer today.

Legal terms

User liabilities

As per your End User License Agreement, Maulkin Superheavy Industries cannot be held liable for damage to property, persons, private organisations, governmental bodies or countries, by means of kinetic or chemical disruption, or by means of fire, gas exposure, crushing, demolition or cyber-attack, that arise as a direct or indirect result of the use or misuse of a platform.

Furthermore, Maulkin Superheavy Industries does not recommend and will not authorise aftermarket modifications to any of our products. If you find that the nature of your platform differs from that described in this manual, you may assume that such aftermarket modifications are the cause, and not any malpractice on the part of Maulkin Heavy Industries or its subsidiaries.

Returns and warranties

The OVRLRD License and Liabilities document (64A-F, available from your local field office, send form 64A-G with enclosed SAE, recorded delivery) details the legal and ethical reasoning behind our warranty policies. If you have questions or concerns about these policies, please record and store them for your own future reference.

Further reading

- ***The Decline of Government-Backed National Militaries**, G. Hoover (2009)*
- ***World of Mercenaries: The New Battlefield,** F. Prince (2013)*
- ***System Shocks: An Objective View on Military Revolution**, A. Rand (2013)*
- ***Fight for Gold: Pay off your OVRLRD in Four-to-Six years**, G. Reid (2013)*
- ***Walking Tanks for Peace in the Global South**, R. Reagan (2010)*
- ***Corporate Altruism and Maulkin Superheavy,** M. Thatcher (2019)*
- ***Ambulator Platforms for Radioactive Swamp Surveys**, P. Trent (2002)*
- ***Striding over Scum: a Memoir**, Q. Yaxley (2024)*