

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT NUMBER	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE
TOWABLE PALLET CARRIER	OC00-34	OCT 00	MAR 01

Equipment Evaluated: Model ANT-4500DL "Pallet Carrier", made by AMAZE-N-TOW, Inc., PO Box 8476, Columbus GA 31908; **Website:** <http://home.earthlink.net/~amazentow>. The "ANT", much its namesake of the insect world, is designed to pick up & carry loads several times its own weight, & allow any vehicle with a conventional ball or military hitch to haul & unload heavy loads simply, quickly, & safely. Hook the product to a vehicle, back it under the pallet, then raise the pallet using electrically driven hydraulic lift. Wide wheel spacing allows plenty of room to clear wide loads, & provides outstanding stability on the road. After lifting the load, install two safety bars, insert the locking keys, & release hydraulic pressure to lower the weight & lock the frame. The load is now safe to tow at highway speed. The "ANT" combines the lifting power & material handling flexibility of a forklift, with a highway transport speed capacity of a truck. Made to be strong to carry/ haul loads from 2,500 to 4,500 lb. **Project Monitor:** ACC MEEP Activity for a NASA contract operation. At the test location, & possibly other places, there is a requirement to drive a 6K FL long distances to move different items. This is time consuming, & during inclement weather the driver is out in the rain. In units with mobility commitments, it is often difficult to move palletized cargo if a forklift truck is not readily available. This type product may be able to be effectively used instead of a forklift, meaning a smaller equipment item can be shipped.

Comparison: 4K and/or 6K forklifts. **Project results:** A company representative demonstrated to several operators how the "ANT" lifts & hauls a pallet. It requires a 12-volt power source to operate the powerful electric powered hydraulic lift. The power source can be from the tow vehicle or from a 12-volt battery pack, which is offered as an optional item not tested. The product's unique design makes it almost completely self-contained, the only exception being the need for a power source & a tow vehicle. Never the less, the ant was used very little during the evaluation, primarily to transport pallets of sandbags. Even though the mover worked as advertised, there simply was not a great enough need for it at the test location to justify continuing the test. Operators did like the versatility & ease of use, & they especially liked the fact they could lift & haul pallets long distances provided they could gain access to the pallet needing to be hauled. However, they soon became frustrated when they discovered how limited its capabilities were & simply stopped using it. Problems were encountered when attempting to lift pallets that had been stacked side by side with a forklift, as there was not enough spacing left between the pallets to allow the ant access to lift them. The mover obviously can only lift pallets that it can gain access to, & if a pallet is located in a confined or tight area or stacked beyond normal ground clearance it can not be lifted by this product. Plus, it can only lift a pallet high enough to obtain normal load clearance & it could not be used for stacking pallets or loading them into a cargo carrier if need be, which severely limits the capability. **Final MEEP Action:** Testers did not recommend this product for normal Air Force use, primarily due to the limited capabilities. Rather, they figured a cost avoidance of \$ 9,320.00 by not purchasing the product. They did recommend the company look into the possibility of locating the fork tines differently so the mover can be used to pick up pallets that are stacked close together, & configure it to lift pallets at least high enough to be placed in the bed of a pick-up truck. This would enhance the ant's capabilities & allow it too be more comparable to what a forklift can do, without the same amount of upkeep. Any unit wanting to purchase this type product, knowing the limitations involved, do so using established LP procedures. **Project Closed.**
