

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT NUMBER	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE
REUSABLE/PORTABLE WHEEL TRACKS	C99-67	MAR 00	OCT 00

**Products Evaluated:** Models 3272HDS & 4296HD MUD-TRAKS, made by SVE Sales, 6128-F Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte NC 28216; 1-800-762-8267 or 704-398-0007; **Web Site:** [www.mudtracks.com](http://www.mudtracks.com). Products are "Portable Roadway Systems" used to prevent turf damage or surface rutting when driving heavy vehicles over lawns or rain soaked areas. Designed to be super strength, light-weight panels/mats made from engineered composite fiberglass materials; strong enough to withstand heavy, rubber-tired vehicles without breaking, splintering, or folding up; & rigid enough to spread weight over a wide area to prevent tire ruts, or vehicles from sinking. **Features:** Lift ropes or hand cutouts for handling; mats are textured top & bottom for good traction & ground gripping. **Note:** Weight of the vehicle & the width of the rear tire(s) determine the model needed. The width of the mats should be 1/3 wider than the tire(s) running on it. **A.** Model 4296HD: mats are 42" x 8' with lifting ropes & hand cutouts for handling. Bushing for bolting together, & "staking kits" are included. Weight = 70 lb. **B.** Model 3272HDS: mats are 32" x 6', and come with lifting ropes. Weight = 65 lb. **Project Monitor:** ACC MEEP Activity. **Comparison:** 1/2" x 4' x 8' plywood or damaged 2' x 12' AM-2 aluminum mating. **Project Results:** Technicians in two different Air Force Base Civil Engineering Squadrons tested MUD-TRAKS. Products were used 26 times as follows: (1) Temporary portable roadways for vehicles traveling over soft ground/turf in areas where decorative rock gardens & sprinkler systems had been installed; (2) temporary portable roadway for stuck vehicles; (3) outrigger support pads for mobile cranes & backhoes to prevent surface damage & provide a stable base for lifting; (4) & to provide support for a large number of vehicles including truck tractors w/trailers, 5 CY concrete trucks w/load, backhoes, pickup trucks, forklifts, electrical line trucks, utility vehicles, & front-end loaders. The mats are very easy to handle, & are very good for protecting the integrity of a work site, especially important when working on lawns, rock gardens & in other environmentally sensitive areas. All mats are textured, top & bottom, for good traction & ground gripping. In all cases of use, an average of 2 to 6 labor hours (average = 5 hours) were saved per task, as little or no grounds/turf repair was required after use of the MUD-TRCKS mats (in most cases, surface damage, if any, was very minimal). These mats worked as advertised. Evaluators were very pleased with the product's light weight & the fact the mats are strong enough to carry heavy, rubber tired vehicles without breaking plus rigid enough to spread weight over a wide area to prevent tire ruts or vehicles from sinking. The mats reduce labor & equipment time, plus the amount of support materials required. **Note:** One mat at one of the test sites cracked while being used to support a mobile crane outrigger. When the company was notified, it was stated cracks from the side of the mats can be "repaired", & a "repaired" mat is as strong as a new mat. **Final MEEP Action:** Both models of MUD-TRAKS are recommended for Air Force use by units with a need for this type product. However, it was recommended

that the company stencil, or otherwise mark, slab weights on individual mats. This will aid in keeping them separate by weight when placing them in storage or preparing them for use. Recommended procurement is by use of established local purchase procedures. **Project Closed.**

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