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## **RICO AWARDED US MILITARY CONTRACT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**(July 25, 2006 – Medina, Ohio)** Rhino Industries, through their affiliate, BPR/RICO Equipment, Inc., recently secured a new contract with the U.S. Military to supply up to 31,650 Humvee Drop Down Spare Tire Carriers over the next five years. The RHINO Spare Tire Carrier was chosen following an extensive evaluation and competitive trial of available products by TACOM, the U.S. Army's Tank – Automotive and Armaments Command,

"We are honored that the most elite military force in the world has once again chosen to utilize RHINO's HMMWV Spare Tire Carrier," announced Dave Mueller, president of both companies. The patented Spare Tire Carrier is currently in use by U.S. troops and by other commercial and civilian customers worldwide.

"The Army's decision to continue with our Drop Down Spare Tire Carrier makes a great deal of sense," said Dave Mueller. "The makeup of our armed forces is so diverse, the military needed a product that would allow a 5<sup>th</sup> percentile female to lower and raise a spare tire, without risk of injury. The spare tire can weigh up to 163 pounds. It would normally take at least two individuals, male or female, just to remove and replace the spare tire. The product also has to handle the rigors of punishing terrain and abuse that Humvees encounter on a daily basis."

The Drop Down Spare Tire Carrier is a patented spare tire carrier that raises and lowers a tire in excess of 165 lbs with an electric or manual actuator. It is designed to swing out 180-degrees in order to access the rear of a vehicle without obstruction.

RICO is proud to be fabricators of the world's finest specialty lift trucks. With more than 125 years of industry experience, RICO has pioneered the design, development and manufacture of specialized lift trucks with capacities ranging from 3,000 to 300,000 lbs. The company's products are sold to a diverse customer base which includes users in the industrial, military and commercial markets.

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