

Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI)

Supports the warfighter by reducing equipment deficiencies and providing equipment when and where it is needed to conduct combat operations worldwide.

Current FY-04 RFI Equipment List

Force Protection/Mobility

- Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH) w/ Accessories
- PRC-148 Multi-Band Inter-/Intra-Team Radio (MBITR)
- Modular Integrated Communications Helmet (MICH)
- Army Combat Boot (Hot Weather)
- Army Combat Boot (Temperate)
- Knee/Elbow Pads
- 35# Door Ram
- Assault Ladder
- Disposable Handcuffs
- Grappling Hook
- Modular Entry Tools
- Quickie Saw & Replacement Blades
- Battle Axe

Soldier Mission-Essential Equipment

- Black Fleece Bib & Jacket
- Combat Belt
- COTS Socks
- Cold Weather Cap
- Goggles
- Glove System
- Modular Lightweight Load-Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) Accessories
- Multi-Purpose Tool
- Hydration System
- Silkwight Underwear
- Moisture Wicking Sports Bra
- Moisture Wicking T-Shirt

Individual Weapons/Optics

- TA31-F 4x Advanced Combat Optic Gunsight (ACOG)
- M68 Close Combat Optic (CCO)
- Fiber Optic Viewer
- M145 Machinegun Optic

Lethality

- M4/M16 Magazines
- M24 Small Binoculars
- M122A1 Tripod
- M240B Combat Ammo Pack
- M240B Forward Rail System
- M240B Soft Ammo Pack
- M249 Ammo Soft Pack
- M249 Forward Rail System
- Mark VII Target Locator/VIPER
- Weapon Light

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) is a program to expedite the process of acquiring and fielding up-to-date, government off-the-shelf (GOTS) and commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) individual equipment and weapons technology to support soldiers engaged in combat operations, including Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Treating the soldier as a system, RFI aims to ensure that soldiers and the equipment vital to their success are deployed together. RFI also aims to ensure that soldiers have the most current technology available as rapidly as possible to support mission accomplishment without requiring soldiers to purchase commercially available but potentially inferior equipment.

RFI evolved from after-action reports (AARs) from units deployed to Afghanistan that cited a lack of mission-essential clothing and individual equipment (CIE) needed to perform assigned missions, as well as reports that soldiers were purchasing COTS items before deployment to alleviate those deficiencies.

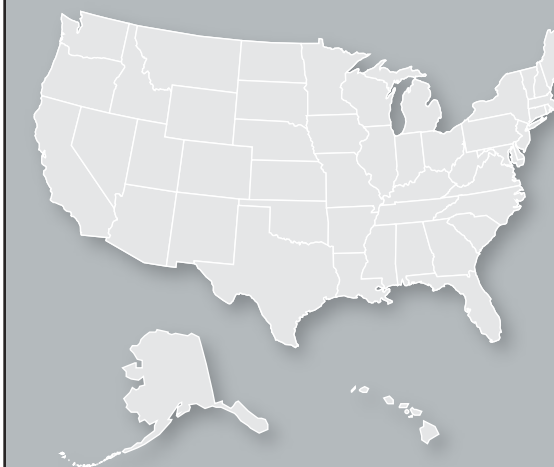
Initial funding for RFI beginning in November 2002 was provided largely through internal reprogramming of \$11 million in Program Executive Officer (PEO) Soldier funds. Subsequent funding was contained in supplemental bills for the purchase of Brigade Combat Team (BCT)-equivalent packages. For planning purposes, G-8 currently allocates \$19.1 million per BCT (Operations and Maintenance, Army [OMA], Other Procurement, Army [OPA], and Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles [WTCV]) and \$9.1M per associated Echelon Above Brigade (EAB).

PROGRAM STATUS

- **Current** Standardized RFI list of equipment developed based on soldier feedback gained by the Training and Doctrine Command Soldier-as-a-System ICT, Task Force Soldier, and the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, GA. The RFI list is now more than 50 individual and unit items for BCTs in the categories of force protection/mobility, lethality, soldier mission-essential equipment, and individual weapons/optics. A core soldier list has been approved for the EABs associated with the BCTs.
- **1QFY05** RFI fielded to 29 BCT-equivalents

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **FY05** Fielding of RFI items to 26 BCT-equivalent units and over 160,000 support soldiers
- **3QFY05** Implementation of revised RFI list
- Continental U.S. (CONUS) fielding to deploying units at home stations and mobilization stations
- **Ongoing** Outside CONUS fielding to units deployed in-theater for OIF/OEF
- **Ongoing** Enhanced staging, transportation, and inventory control procedures to achieve maximum flexibility, positive control, and efficiency of operations
- **Ongoing** Coordination with the Soldier-as-a-System ICT, the Infantry School, and Task Force Soldier to further refine RFI equipment item selection and acquisition processes



CONTRACTORS
Multiple

INVESTMENT COMPONENT
Modernization

ACQUISITION PHASE
• Production and Deployment

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