

Rapid Equipping Force (REF)

Delivers new technological solutions rapidly and directly to engaged and deploying forces to address current battlefield issues, and to experiment with, develop, and evaluate solutions under operational conditions.

Requirements List Summary

Force Protection	Weapons
Exspray	TLOS
Ferrotrace	AN/PSQ 18
Hemizer 3	TWS Hide Sight Monitor
Vapor Trace	Shoot Around the Corner Sights
Fiberscope	
Magnetometer	ISR
Hand Held thermal Sensors	NS Microwave
Pocket interpreter	WellCamera
	IED
	S-System ECM
	Comms
	MBITR/5590 Battery Adapter
	& power cables
	LRAD
	RAMP 25

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

Rapid Equipping Force (REF) was established to provide operational commanders with rapidly employable solutions to enhance lethality, survivability, and force protection and to evaluate under operational conditions key technologies and systems that support rapid attainment of future force capabilities. REF exploits the full range of possible solutions from the Army, from other services, from within government, and from commercial sources.

REF is an independent entity reporting directly to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (VCSA) and under the operational direction of the G3. REF reports through the operational chain of command and is not an Army Acquisition Executive chartered program.

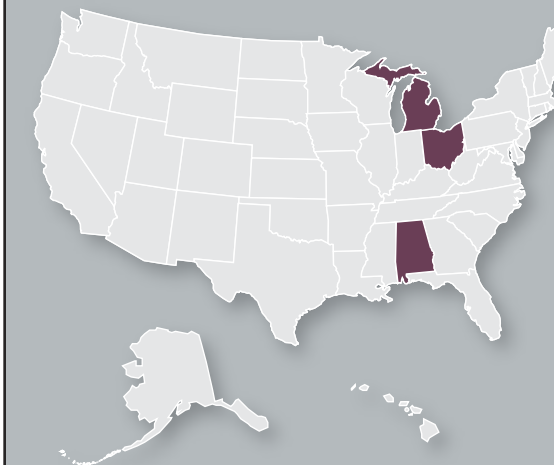
The evolving dynamics of The Army at war in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom (OEF and OIF), rapid technological advances, and highly adaptive threats demand new, innovative, and timely changes to Army processes. REF efforts improve current capabilities and develop a model for lasting change and improvement of Army business practices while reducing risk to soldiers. REF forward teams quickly identify and evaluate the needs and desired capabilities of our forces. With the cooperation and oversight of the Army Acquisition Executive, REF develops and rapidly acquires appropriate solutions while documenting a streamlined methodology for acquisition.

PROGRAM STATUS

- **Current** REF has introduced 65 different types of equipment providing more than 1,000 items used in OEF and approximately 4,000 used in OIF. REF is directly managing a significant COTS ISR project and has recently transitioned to PMs an ECM capability and the Persistent Surveillance and Dissemination System of Systems (PSDS2). REF funded the initial deployment of the persistent threat detection subsystem of PSDS2
- **FY03** REF provided robotics, counter-sniper, counter-mine, and force protection capabilities with funding from Army Strategic Planning Board approved operational needs statements and supported delivery of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and unmanned aerial vehicle capabilities
- **4QFY03** VCSA established REF as an experiment to respond to the global war on terrorism by rapidly meeting the emerging requirements of operational commanders
- **FY04** With supplemental funding, REF provided robotics, counter-sniper, force protection, communications and counter-improvised explosive device (IED) commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) and government off-the-shelf capabilities as well as field-engineered solutions to emerging requirements
- **1QFY04-1QFY05** Direct support to the Asymmetric Warfare Group begins
- **2QFY04** Partnering with Defense Advanced Research Projects Administration to field "quick reaction" initiatives to include near-term counter-RPG capabilities
- **2QFY04** Continental U.S. (CONUS) training for pre-deployment units, with particular emphasis on ECM training
- **4QFY04** Outside CONUS assessment support to the counter-rocket, artillery and mortar initiative.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **FY05** Expanded direct support to the IED Task Force for rapid implementation of equipment funded by the IED bridge supplemental, and also vetted the IED Task Force request process
- **Ongoing** Transition planning for REF projects that have proven to have wide applicability in support of OIF and OEF



CONTRACTORS

General Dynamics Land Systems
(Sterling Heights, MI; Lima, OH; Anniston, AL;
London, Ontario)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

ACQUISITION PHASE

- Concept and Technology Development
- System Development and Demonstration
- Production and Deployment
- Operations and Support