

# 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