

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is “rapid equipping”?

A: “Rapid equipping,” means acting quickly to procure and deliver nonstandard equipment for a specific time, place and unit to mitigate urgent capability shortfalls. REF’s goal is to fill a requirement in less than 180 days to meet unit deployment cycles.

Q: What is the difference between “equipping” and “fielding”?

A: Equipping is providing a timely solution to address the urgent operational needs of a specific unit. Fielding, conversely, is a complete and detailed doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) approach and focuses on a general solution for the entire Army.

Q: What makes REF unique?

A: The REF combines three core authorities, requirement validation, acquisition and flexible funding, integrating all elements of Life Cycle Management on a much smaller scale, into a single organization to address urgent requirements for specific units.

Q: Who is the REF customer?

A: REF provides immediate commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) and government-off-the-shelf (GOTS) solutions to deployed and pre-deploying Army units.

Q: I am a Soldier with a capability gap. How do I get REF support?

A: Any Soldier can contact the REF operations center to request a 10-Liner, the HQDA requirements authorization document that allows REF to procure COTS and GOTS solutions. This simple form gathers information about the capability gap and operational intent for the solution.

Visit www.ref.army.mil for more information.

RAPID EQUIPPING FORCE

United States Army

REF OPERATIONS CENTER –

FORT BELVOIR:

703-704-0937

NIPR EMAIL:

USARMY.BELVOIR.HQDA.MBX.REF-OPS-CENTER@MAIL.MIL

SIPR EMAIL:

USARMY.BELVOIR.HQDA.MBX.REF-OPS-CENTER@MAIL.SMIL.MIL

REF FORWARD TEAM –

BAGRAM AIR FIELD

BAF BUILDING #13997

SVOIP:

308-431-6063/5733/5012

DSN:

318-481-8775/9278



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Mission:

The Rapid Equipping Force (REF) harnesses current and emerging technologies to provide immediate solutions to the urgent challenges of U.S. Army forces deployed globally.

Lines of Effort:

Equip operational forces with solutions in order to reduce operational capability shortfalls, increase Soldier safety and reduce overall risk.

Insert future force technologies, threshold capabilities and surrogates into operational forces to speed development and validate concepts in an operational environment.

Assess the full range of desired capabilities and Army business practices to refine, modify and streamline actions and provide Army senior leaders with appropriate change recommendations.

UNIQUE AUTHORITY

The REF Director is authorized by HQDA G-3/5/7 to generate requirements for near-term solutions for an identified capability gap. REF is rapid because it combines requirement validation, acquisition and flexible funding under one roof.

The REF's primary focus continues to be support to U.S. troops deployed to Afghanistan, followed by support to Iraq, Horn of Africa and the Philippines. Direct access to Soldiers is a critical component of the REF process, and a small REF forward team remains in Afghanistan today, working directly with end users to define requirements and identify potential capabilities. Additionally, the forward team oversees delivery and sustainment of REF systems in theater.

In addition, the organization is leaning forward to anticipate requirements from the Global Response Force and Regionally Aligned Forces. Through active engagement with Army units deployed globally, REF will identify emerging, urgent needs by region and identify corresponding off-the-shelf solutions when requirements for non-standard equipment are anticipated.

The Army deemed REF an enduring capability in January 2014. With this decision, it retains a mechanism for rapid acquisition, adaptation in unpredictable operational environments and technological advantage over our adversaries. Milestone Decision Authority, or PM REF, is provided by PEO Soldier. In October 2014, REF will transition under the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

REF Capability Areas:

REF solves Soldier problems across all warfighter function areas. The organization focuses on tactical challenges faced by units at the Brigade-level and below.

- Mission Command, including Blue Force Tracking and Communications
- Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
- Small Combat Outpost Sustainment
- Force Protection
- Dismounted Soldier Support
- Counter-Improvised Explosive Device

