



TWELVE YEARS OF RESULTS

The U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force addressed thousands of requirements in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Many of these efforts informed further Army research and development or became Programs of Record. The following notable projects demonstrate the breadth of REF capabilities in support of deployed units.

1. PACKBOT

The Packbot was inserted into Afghanistan in 2002 after the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General John Keane challenged Colonel Bruce Jette with finding a solution to mitigate Soldier casualties from booby traps and grenade blowback during cave search missions. Packbot was the first man-packable robot deployed to theater and provided Soldiers with visual confirmation capabilities. The system led to the development of follow-on robots that are still in use today. Because this system illustrates a leap in technological capability, the Packbot is featured at the Smithsonian American History Museum's "Price of Freedom" exhibit in the tribute to the Global War on Terrorism.



The Packbot's first mission in Afghanistan. (July 2002)

2. RAVEN

During the early years of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the REF equipped units with the Raven, a hand-launched, unmanned aerial system to provide Soldiers with real-time situational awareness. Today, the Raven is organic equipment and managed by PM UAS.



U.S. Army Spc. Ryan Dickinson launches the Raven UAS. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez/Released)

3. BIOMETRICS

After the fall of Baghdad in 2003, DoD leadership directed REF to partner with the Coalition Provisional Authority, the State Department and the FBI to develop an Iraqi national identification program, including an identification card system and the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, to be used to identify insurgents involved in IED-warfare and to identify known terrorists. This project was transitioned to the Biometrics Task Force.

4. BOOMERANG

The Boomerang, which uses acoustic sensors to detect the source location for sniper fire, was initially developed by DARPA and the Marine Corps. Then in 2006, the Army directed REF to equip units in Iraq with the systems, while integrating it with slew-to-cue weapons to improve Soldiers' ability to confirm and engage the enemy. In 2008, this system transitioned to PM Ground Sensors.