

"Only by being on the battlefield and living and working directly with Soldiers, can we understand and address the true needs of the Soldier in a quick and effective manner."  
—REF team member

WHY  
**RAPID EQUIPPING?**



**The 21st century warfighter faces rapidly changing threats and complex problems. The Rapid Equipping Force:**

- Provides today's smaller, faster moving forces with equipment geared to specific, evolving missions.
- Reduces risks to Soldiers who must constantly adjust and adapt their fighting techniques.
- Enables the Army to evaluate potential technical capabilities for the Future Force.

Are you a commander with a technical need or good idea, or an Army project manager or private industry contractor with a technology that is ready to be demonstrated and fielded? If so, please email us at the appropriate address below:

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**GIVING SOLDIERS  
THE TECHNICAL EDGE**



## RAPID EQUIPPING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WARFIGHTER

### THE CHALLENGE

- Soldiers searching caves and compounds in Afghanistan needed better and less risky methods.
- Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan on missions needed a simple, reliable way to communicate basic phrases in local dialects.
- Soldiers needed a quicker, less dangerous and more effective way to search wells and vertical shafts for hidden weapons caches.
- Soldiers conducting house-to-house searches were destroying locks and doors.

### THE RESPONSE

- Within weeks, the REF delivered operational robots, known as PackBots, to Afghanistan to remotely inspect high-risk areas. The PackBots helped clear 34 caves, buildings and compounds in their first four combat patrols.
- A handheld device with a menu of mission phrases allows soldiers on missions to communicate with local citizens without interpreters.
- Within 24 hours, a REF engineer field rigged a web-camera to an ethernet cable and a laptop. On its first mission, this "Well-Cam" discovered a weapons and equipment cache inside an 80-foot well.
- Simple and inexpensive lock shims were field engineered and provided to Soldiers along with training to enable them to accomplish their search missions without destroying civilian property.

*"Without the Well-Cam, the cache would not have been found."  
— Infantry company commander*



### RAPID EQUIPPING FORCE

#### RAPIDLY INCREASING MISSION CAPABILITY OF THE WARFIGHTER WHILE REDUCING RISK TO SOLDIERS AND OTHERS

**EQUIP** operational commanders with off-the-shelf (government or commercial) solutions or near-term developmental items that can be researched, developed and acquired quickly.

**INSERT** future force technology solutions that our engaged and deploying forces require. We do this by developing, testing, and evaluating key technologies and systems under operational conditions.

**ASSESS** capabilities and advise Army stakeholders of findings that will enable our forces to rapidly confront an adaptive enemy.

**OUR SOLDIERS ARE FIGHTING FAST AND INTENSE WARS AGAINST ADAPTIVE THREATS. REF IS PROVIDING EQUALLY FAST SOLUTIONS TO MAKE SURE SOLDIERS GET THE EQUIPMENT THEY NEED TO WIN TODAY AND TOMORROW**