

## The Rapid Equipping Force

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### ABSTRACT:

The Rapid Equipping Force (REF) is an operational organization dedicated to rapidly providing operational commanders with increased capability. The REF's mission is "To get solutions in the hands of soldiers rapidly to solve immediate battlefield problems and enhance operational force capabilities (EQUIP), to identify and introduce future technologies and emerging capabilities into operational environments to assess and evaluate concepts and effectiveness (INSERT) and to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of REF equipping and provide feedback to appropriate agencies for institutionalization (ASSESS)." As such the REF occupies a key niche in filling operational needs with Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Technologies for Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, the REF is a fairly new organization undergoing rapid changes and evolution as it supports current operations. This talk will outline the current charter for the REF and review several recent REF successes stories.

**KEYWORDS:** Rapid Equipping Force, operational force, Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Technologies

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