



III Corps

Army Materiel Command and Army Research Laboratory

# Operation Iraqi Freedom FAST Deployments

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Dr. Raymond M. Bateman

Science Advisor to Commander, III Corps  
US Army Research Laboratory  
Human Research and Engineering Directorate



# Agenda



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- FAST Mission Overview
- Assessment
- Operational Observations
- Working Initiatives
- Recommendations
- Questions



# FAST Mission



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- Field Assistance in Science and Technology (FAST)
  - Serve as link between III Corps Soldiers and materiel development community to **address capability gaps**
    - Contact with R&D Community
    - Field Evaluations
    - Leverage AMC technology
  - Provide technical advice
  - Demonstrate rapid solutions for materiel problems
  - Improve performance, readiness, safety, and training with science and technology
- RDECOM LNO
- STAT Teams



# Assessment



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- Requirements eruption in an austere environment
- Mature battlefield
  - Mitigating IED vs. criminal investigation
  - OEM data proved unrealistic for maintenance
- Operational Needs Statements
- Failure analysis
- Technology development
  - Sustainment
  - Training
  - System Integration
- Adopting modular Brigade structure



# Operational Observations



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- Anti-Iraqi Forces are resourceful and cunning
- Fallujah Offensive
- Level III Armor Test
- “Skunkworks” inside of AMC Logistical Support Elements
- Vehicles are overloaded
- Many different organizations and commercial vendors working to help Soldiers which causes priority and guidance conflicts



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# Capability Gaps



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- Compatible Battle Command Networked Systems
- Operations in a Counter-Insurgency Environment
- Logistical support in a high OPTEMPO with geographically isolated units
- Joint Operations and interoperability with Coalition Partners



# Working Initiatives



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- Improvised Explosive Devices
- Ballistic Protection
- Failure Analysis
- Less than Lethal Technology
- Power “tool box” generator
- Joint and Coalition Forces Interdependence



# Recommendations



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- Communicate with Soldiers that have operational experience – ***critical voice!***
- Address operational capability gaps
  - Field to a capability and not a system
  - Value added?
  - How measured?
- Military modeling and simulation
  - link sustainment and logistics inside of Warfighting models
  - maintenance in isolated and dynamic environments
- Emerging concepts and technologies must include material developers and human factors engineers (MANPRINT)
- Realistic tests for new equipment
- *Can not answer operational questions from behind a computer – go outside!*



# Fundamentals are the key to success



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- Basics must be constantly reinforced
  - Every Soldier a warrior; a scout (Scan-Focus-Act)
  - From marksmanship to Coalition management
  - Force protection and safety
  - Values, cultural awareness, ROE
- Our leaning strategy works
  - Individuals through Corps formations
  - Joint fires, logistics, effects based operations
  - Balanced experience, training and education
  - In theater: operate, maintain, rest, train
- Big dividends come from:
  - Leading from the front, discipline, endurance
  - Patience; don't rush to failure; study and think
  - Situational Awareness & Precision; lethal and non-lethal
  - Considering all tools in the Joint kitbag





# Questions?