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# Javelin in Afghanistan:

## *The Effective Use of an Anti-Tank Weapon for Counter-Insurgency Operations*

NDIA Joint Armaments Conference

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

# AAR Analysis of Javelin Use in OEF

## The After Action Review (AAR) Material:

- AARs of Javelin use primarily in OEF, 2010-2011
- Across eight division or independent brigades
- Primarily small-unit personnel: Gunners; Team, Squad, and Platoon Leaders
- Infantry (Light, Heavy, Airborne, Air Assault), Cavalry, Marines
- 13 Hours of interview video, 311 pages of additional interview transcripts and summaries,
- 261 interviewees and an additional 66 Responses to a Structured Survey,



## Analytic Challenge:

- Surveys are statistically valid but with limited insight.
- Interviews were insightful, but not statistically valid.

*"It is a really simple system, I absolutely fell in love with that thing. Really simple and very effective."*

*- Master Javelin Gunner (fired 20 Javelins)*

## Analysis Methodology:

- Identified major bottom-up themes
- Rated **every comment in every interview** against the 21 major bottom-up themes
- Evaluated each theme for consistency with every comment
- Evolved themes into findings using consistency and number of relevant comments
- Evaluated findings in the context of survey results

*This hybrid methodology produced findings that were more insightful than survey results, and more statistically valid than individual interview comments.*



# Our Most Powerful Finding:

## Finding 1.1: ROE Friendliness

**ROE Friendliness:** There is a widespread misperception that the Javelin System is not ROE-Friendly, due to likely collateral damage. This misperception fades as gunners and leaders learn more about system capabilities.



Strength of Finding:

<b>56</b>	++	+	-	--
Comments	28	27	1	0
L1: Clear, Unambiguous, Common				

2500 meters



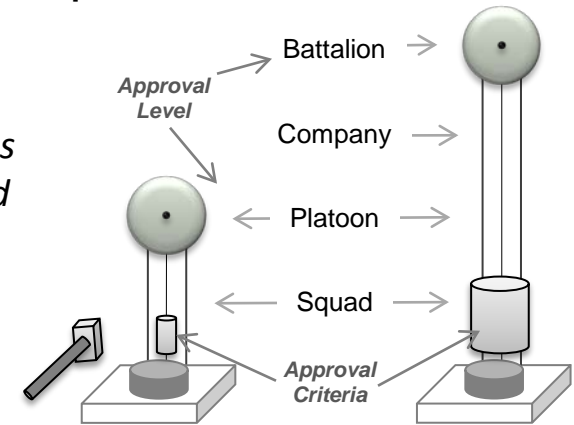
*The Misperception: This Javelin shot will likely result in collateral damage to the Orphanage or Hospital.*



*The Reality: A trained gunner can reliably make this shot, with minimal collateral damage.*

*"Immediately people just perceive it as something that is going to cause mass damage. And, as we use them we realize that it's obviously very precise, and it doesn't cause a whole ton of damage. ... If I had known their capabilities, like I know them now, I would definitely have pushed to use them early on."*

**Likelihood of unit approval of a request to fire a Javelin**



**Unit Familiar with Javelin's Capabilities**

**Unit Unfamiliar with Javelin's Capabilities**

Approved for Public Release: TPCR RMS-1889



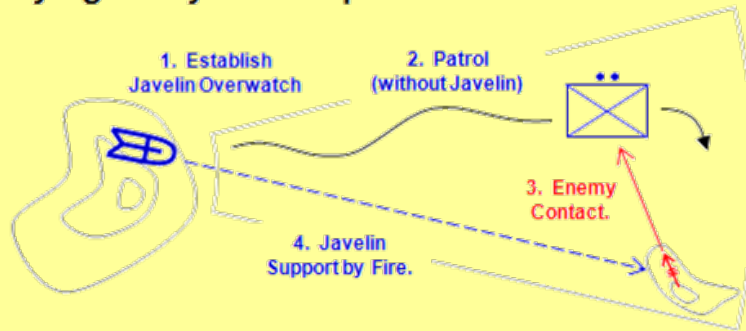
# The Hybrid Approach is Superior

Here's a case where the survey led us astray, and the interviews set us straight:

**Overwatch Bias:** Units strongly prefer to deploy the system for static surveillance or overwatch support of dismounted patrols, as opposed to carrying the system on patrol.

Strength of Finding:

<b>71</b>	++	+	-	--
Comments	19	43	9	0
L1: Clear, Unambiguous, Common				



And here is the exact opposite case (surveys corrected interviews):

Question 3: What are the Near-Term Issues?

## Finding 3.3: System Reliability

**System Reliability:** The Javelin system seems to be highly reliable when properly stored and maintained.

*Did you hear of any support or maintenance issues with the Javelin, or did you encounter any?*

Survey Results:

<b>57</b>	Yes	No
Responses	18	39

Survey Results:

<b>58</b>	Yes	No
Responses	56	2

*Was the Javelin CLU reliable?*

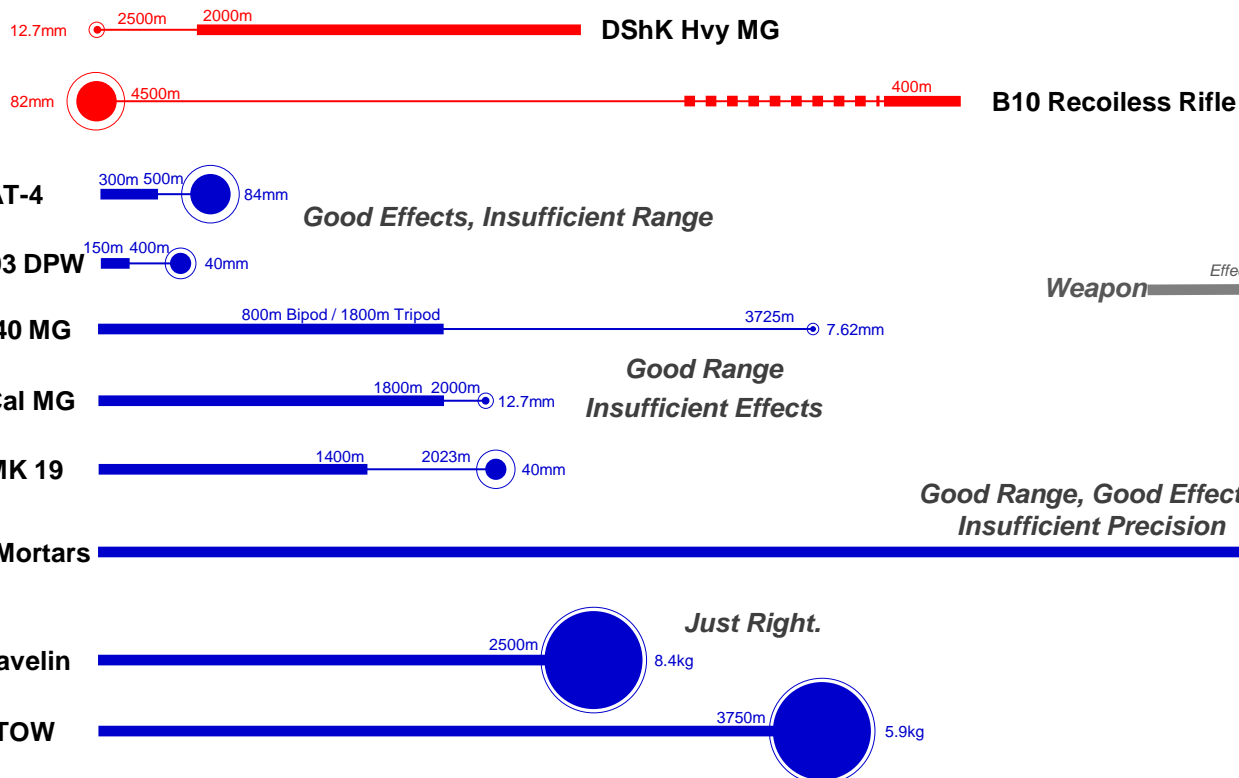
Strength of Finding:

<b>35</b>	++	+	-	--
Comments	5	16	13	1
L2 Finding: Contested				
19 of 35 comments described system failures.				

**L3 Reasonable Inference:** The respondents discussed most of their Javelin failures in the interviews, but answered the surveys with respect to all firings.

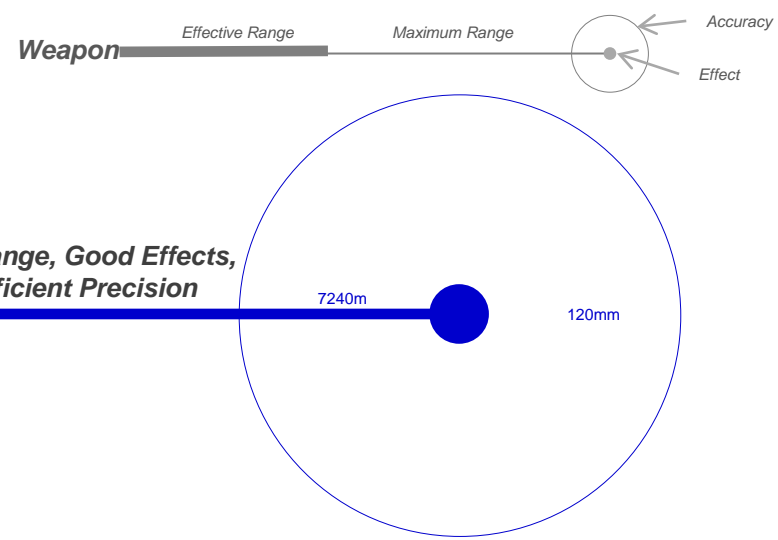
# Finding 1.4: Munitions Niche

**Munitions Niche:** The primary operational niche for the Javelin missile is when a unit needs immediate, precisely targeted effects at distances outside the capabilities of competing combat systems.



Strength of Finding:

<b>36</b>	++	+	-	--
Comments	18	16	1	1
L1: Clear, Unambiguous, Common				



*“(The Javelin) fills the gap. They got an 82 (mm recoilless rifle), and they like using it because they can be like, a frickin’ thousand meters away and hit almost every time, what they’re aiming at. It’s a very simple point, click heavy weapon that we have no answer to, except for the Javelin. You know what I mean?”*

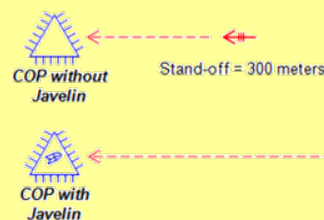
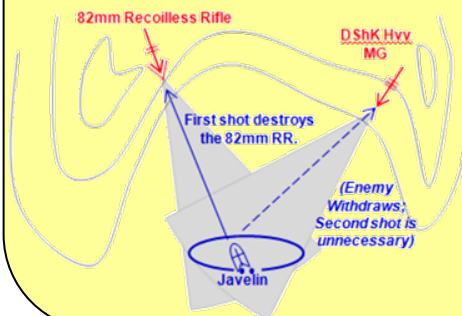


# Other Interesting Findings



## Finding 1.3: Firefight Termination

**Firefight Termination:** The OEF enemy has learned to fear the Javelin, which is routinely described as having the ability to 'shut down' a firefight. The system also significantly extends the enemy stand-off range for firefight initiation.

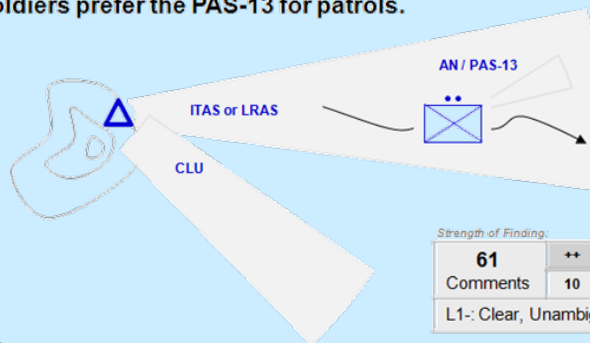


Strength of Finding:

<b>47</b>	++	+	-	--
Comments	27	18	2	0
L1: Clear, Unambiguous, Common				

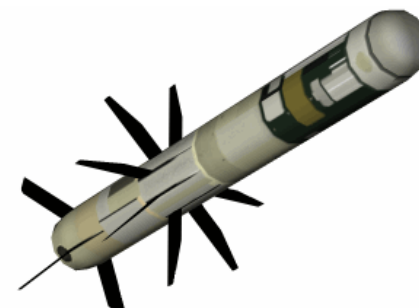
## Finding 2.4: Surveillance Niche

**Surveillance Niche:** The CLU is useful as a supplement to the superior LRAS and ITAS mounted surveillance systems, and is generally preferable to other man-portable systems for OP surveillance. Soldiers prefer the PAS-13 for patrols.



Strength of Finding:

<b>61</b>	++	+	-	--
Comments	10	45	3	3
L1: Clear, Unambiguous, Common				



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QUESTIONS?