



SQUAD: FOUNDATION OF THE DECISIVE FORCE

20 - 24 August 2012
UPDATE



SFDF Involves ALL Dismounted Elements

WHY FOCUS ON IMPROVING SMALL UNIT EFFECTIVENESS?

- *Foundation* of the Decisive Force is the Squad
- Army's *basic weapon* is the Soldier
- 6,402 Infantry Squads in the Army today; yet *less than 4%* of uniformed manpower in DOD is Infantry
- Post World War II: *81%* of all *Combat Deaths* occurred in the Infantry
- *89%* of all deaths in OEF have occurred in *Small Units*
- OEF *SIGACT Analysis* concluded *significant majority* of all enemy engagements "*surprised*" small units – *Insufficient Situational Awareness*
- The Force that can "*see first, shoot first*" has the initiative to decisively determine the outcome of the battle; to "*see first*" is a function of available *Combat and intelligence information*

HIGHLIGHTS

- **ISAF Commander and Insider Threat.**
- **Training**
 - ✓ **Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT) Information Paper:** provided from the first Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT) course After Action Review (AAR).
 - ✓ **Observations:** insights from firefights to improve weapons proficiency (marksmanship), tactics and battle drills.
- **Materiel:** Nett Warrior (NW) Test Concept Brief – Update.
- **Solution Development/Recommendations:** *Rapid Equipping Force (REF) Expeditionary Lab – Mobile;* connecting soldiers to scientists in remote and austere environments for real-time, actionable, innovation.
- **Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) Program:** Command Emphasis on CSF2 Program.
- **SFDF Team Upcoming Events**

Insider Threat and Morale

You know, we're blessed in the U.S. military -- I mean, truly blessed -- with magnificent small unit leaders. You know, when it happens to a unit, it creates a moment of crisis. But that crisis can be overcome and is usually overcome by the application of the great leadership that is the hallmark of our forces today, the magnificent young NCOs and junior officers, who are at the point of impact every single day in this campaign. And I'm very proud of them.

23 August 2012, DoD News Briefing

GEN ALLEN, ISAF CDR

TRAINING

- (U/FOUO) ***Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT) Information Paper***. Terrorists and insurgents use guerilla warfare, civilians for cover, and unconventional tactics to create havoc. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and other asymmetric threats continue to catch soldiers unaware. ASAT improves the observation and human behavior profiling skills of soldiers, which enhances their ability to identify dangerous persons and situations before a destructive event occurs. It increases soldiers' situational awareness "left of bang". As much of the military has concentrated on the development of technology and armor, the ASAT program represents a different approach to giving soldiers an edge in combat. It is aimed at developing a new mind-set for situational awareness. The information paper provides soldier feedback from the first ASAT course that ended on 25 Feb 2012. Included topics: Overall rating of ASAT Course; Soldier Combat Experience; Relevance of ASAT; Importance of ASAT; ASAT comparisons to other pre-deployment training; ASAT Course descriptions; Way Ahead; ASAT POCs; and Soldier quotes. ([Information Paper](#))
- (U) ***WEAPONS PROFICIENCY - Capturing Insights from Firefights to Improve Training***. The emphases identified by the analysis on marksmanship, clearing and reloading procedures and cross-training on heavy weapons are noteworthy. (1) Also, we found that the recent tendency to focus almost exclusively on close-quarter combat skills, especially in *computer-aided training*, *ignores the realities* of the current theaters of operation where the combatants are usually separated by at least 100 meters or by greater distances and often with substantial elevation differentials in Afghanistan. (2) Furthermore, the discovery that the nine percent of firefights in our database conducted in mountainous terrain generated 30 percent of total casualties implies that a data-driven approach to training would reverse the relative emphases currently placed on urban combat procedures and increase the effort to improve marksmanship and weapons proficiency at greater ranges and in varied terrain. *Follow up to the 18-22 July 2012 SFDF Update*. ([Source Document](#), pg 50)
- (U) ***TACTICS AND BATTLE DRILLS - Capturing Insights from Firefights to Improve Training***. The importance of battle drills is well-known. However, some of the subject matter experts (SMEs) who contributed to this study reported that they and/or others were not fully prepared for combat when they deployed; others were adamant that *training only to the minimum standard is insufficient*. The CALL researchers found that only 70 percent of soldiers who responded to the survey in 2007 considered themselves to be adequately trained for combat. The clear implication is that improved pre-deployment training could increase firefight survival rates substantially. *Follow up to the 18-22 July 2012 SFDF Update*. ([Source Document](#), pg 51)

MATERIEL

- (U/FOUO) ***Nett Warrior (NW)***: Utilizing the Army Configuration Steering Board (CSB) process, over the past year great strides have been made to reduce NW system design, weight, and cost and solidify the

Army directed NW transport layer to the Soldier Radio Waveform (SRW). The NW system will provide End User Devices (EUD [commercial based smart phone devices]) connected to the *Secret* and Below (SAB) AN/PRC-154 (SAB Rifleman Radio) (and other transport devices) for inclusion in the Army's Network Integration Exercise (NIE) 13.1& 13.2. The initial NW EUD's are planned to be fielded in FY 14. In the interim, the Army will support fielding of EUD's connected to a RR to support fielding of up to 8 Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs) in FY13.

SOLUTION DEVELOPMENT / RECOMMENDATIONS

- (U) ***Rapid Equipping Force (REF) Expeditionary Lab – Mobile: Connecting soldiers to scientists in remote and austere environments for real-time, actionable, innovation.*** Beyond the current fight, the expeditionary-labs can support natural disaster relief and human emergencies around the world. meant to build a usable product, it's purpose is to design the product and figure out if it will work; preventing money from being wasted - then make the real product. It saves a ton of money and effort when you are minimizing the work needed on the final product. Rapid prototyping is idea verification, not code for low rate production. ([Video Link](#), 16 August 2012)

COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER AND FAMILY FITNESS (CSF2) PROGRAM

- (U) ***Command Emphasis on CSF Program.*** The Army has some of the most combat-seasoned professional forces in our Nation's history. While our Soldiers remain "the Strength of the Nation," the long-term high level of operational demand has placed significant stress on our all-volunteer force. In response, the Army implemented the CSF2 program to help leaders enhance unit readiness and to support the ability of Soldiers, Families and Department of the Army Civilians to meet the demands of military life. ([CSA Document](#), 6 August 2012)

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE SFDF TEAM

- (U) ***On-going - Leader Development Review:*** The SFDF Team continues review of the pre-911 Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) and post-911 Advanced Leader Course (ALC) Program of Instruction (POI).
- (U) ***ASAT Working Group:*** attend ASAT WG on 28 August 2012 at BLDG #4, Room 2018. POC is [Mr. Winston Allen](#).
- (U) ***Training & Leader Development Working Group:*** attend the Maneuver Battle Lab (MBL) working group to determine Measures of Effectiveness (MoE) for Training and Leader Development. ***The working group dates are 11-13 Sep 2012***, POC is [MAJ Le](#).
- (U) ***Bold Quest (BQ) Experimentation:*** attend BQ events 17 Sep – 19 Oct 2012.

SFDF PORTAL

SFDF Team

SAIC - Program Manager: [Mr. Russ Kern](#), 706-545-4367
SAIC - Information Manager: [Mr. Joe Parker](#), 706-545-8831
Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, GA