

# Marine Corps Operational Test & Evaluation Activity



NDIA 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Test and Evaluation Conference  
LtCol Michael Kennedy

March 2011



# Effective Combat Data Collection & Applicability to T&E



# Agenda

- Background
- Command Relationships
- Applicability
- Collection Methods
- Data Opportunities
- Limitations
- Evaluation
- FOA XV
- Questions



# Background

## **Forward Operational Assessment Data Collection:**

- 2003 - Department of the Army G3/G8 tasking designated ATEC as the primary agent for OIF/OEF system assessments
- 2003 - Operational Assessment (OA) team I deploys for 47 days to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait
- 2004 - OA team II deploys for 33 days to Afghanistan and Kuwait
- 2005 - OA team III begins the first six month rotation of a continuing FOA presence to conduct operational assessments on systems that included Rapid fielding initiatives (RFIs) and equipment procured due to urgent materiel release (UMR) requests generated in theater
- 2010 - Discussions between MCOTEA and ATEC resulted in the attachment of a MCOTEA Assessment team with FOA XV from August 2010 through February 2011
- 2011 - FOA XVI is currently deployed with a MCOTEA team attached



# Command Relationships

- Component Command
- ISAF Regional Commands
- Parent Command
- Mobility / Transportation
- Logistics and Communications



# Applicability

- Data collected in a forward operations area can be used to supplement current, validate previous and guide future test and evaluation
- Data collected is from the system as used by deployed forces conducting actual missions and is subject to variables that would confound formal T&E
- Assessments based on available data, not controlled test events



# Collection Methods

- Clearly identify your Data Collection Plan
- Understand the reality of the environment
- Flexibility during execution
- Minimize impact on Operational Units
- One chance to get it right
- CONUS data collection is preferred



# Data Opportunities

- Maintenance Reports
- Logistics Reports
- Operations Logs / SIGEVENTS
- Electronic Data Collection
- Integrated Data Collection
- Forensics
- After Action Reports
- Surveys
- Interactive



# Limitations

- Mission / Current Operations
- Access to system under assessment
- Availability of test instrumentation
- Unit exposure to system
- Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
- Environment
- Unit personnel turnover



# Evaluation

- Understand what information decision makers need / want
- Assessment Evaluations should provide Operational Force Commanders with timely, concise, understandable information
- FOA is only one of multiple sources for gathering information
- Performance Conclusions should be limited to Data Adequacy inherent in a combat environment
- Operational Assessment data evaluation can identify issues for further investigation through formal T&E



# FOA XV

- Systems assessed for USMC:
  - Counter IED Systems
  - Experimental (Green) Energy Systems
  - Biometrics Systems



# Questions

**LtCol Michael Kennedy**

**Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity (MCOTEA)**

**[michael.kennedy@usmc.mil](mailto:michael.kennedy@usmc.mil)**

**703-432-8059**

