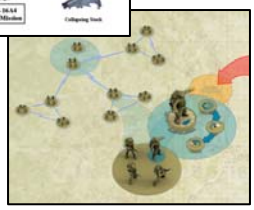
Project Rifleman



Purpose: Enhance the warfighting capability of the individual Marine, and small unit by conducting experimentation to assess the effectiveness of emerging concepts, equipment and technology.

Project Rifleman has a three-fold purpose: (1) Enhance Small Unit leadership and develop TTPs to enable the individual Marines and the Small Units to operate commensurate with the Distributed Operations (DO) concept; (2) Assess proposed lessons learned from current operations; and (3) Recommend improvements to existing and future training facilities, equipment suites, and TTP integration methods.

Project Rifleman experiments enhance the warfighting capability of the individual Marine by assessing the effectiveness of training, and evaluation of selected enabling technologies that enhance small unit combat capability. The program has evolved into an experimental test bed for near term initiatives requested through the Marine Corps Advocates. *Project Rifleman* also assists the Marine Corps Systems Command's Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad Program to make procurement decisions. *Project Rifleman* is the vehicle upon which the Marine Corps Concept of Distributed Operations will be experimented for the future. Distributed Operations (DO) is an evolving concept that seeks to develop the capability to deploy tactical units across the depth and breadth of the battle in order to maximize opportunities to achieve favorable intelligence driven engagements.

Background: *Project Rifleman* has evolved from multiple separate initiatives of individual combat equipment to its present charter of integrating these developing systems with new TTPs to enhance the capability of the small unit. Past experimentation efforts have focused on the Personal Defense Weapon (PDW) and M203 Night Sights in addition to the design and fielding of the Squad Forcible Entry Kit.

Description: Based on input from initial DO planning and wargaming, *Project Rifleman* is focused on experimentation to support the Distributed Operations (DO) concept, aimed at:

- Identification of robust squad and platoon level distributed offensive combat capabilities against an asymmetric threat.
- Developing mounted and dismounted TTPs appropriate to Squad, Platoon and Company.
- Experimentation and development of TTPs for command and control, with common tactical pictures and over the horizon communications residing at the squad level.
- Development of DO unit table of organization and equipment through live force experimentation.
- Development of an Internally Transportable Vehicle (ITV) TTPs.
- Development of comprehensive patrol leaders courses of instruction.
- Establishing supporting arms/terminal controller skills at the fire team level (under Project Phoenix).

Deliverable Product(s): Technology assessments and supporting TTPs.

Milestones:

TASK	FY06	FY07
Project Rifleman	▲——▲	

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