Marine Corps Operational Test & Evaluation Activity

NDIA 27th Annual National Test and Evaluation Conference
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Effective Combat Data Collection & Applicability to T&E
Agenda

• Background
• Command Relationships
• Applicability
• Collection Methods
• Data Opportunities
• Limitations
• Evaluation
• FOA XV
• Questions
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
• 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
• Systems assessed for USMC:
  • Counter IED Systems
  • Experimental (Green) Energy Systems
  • Biometrics Systems
Questions

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