

## **Force Transformation**

### 10-15 Soldier Modernization

Soldiers continue to be our most deployed system during this period of persistent conflict. Modernization is a critical element in our ability to provide the equipment our Soldiers need at home and abroad. The Army must continue to develop and field equipment to enhance every Soldier's survivability and combat effectiveness on the battlefield.

Soldier as a System (SaaS) takes a systems engineering approach to the Soldier, providing an integrated, modular solution. SaaS integrates more than 400 unique items of equipment, providing increased combat effectiveness for our Core, Ground, Mounted, and Air Soldiers while reducing the Soldier's size, weight and power requirements. The modern battlefield requires this integrated and packaged approach to improve the individual Soldier's lethality, survivability, command and control, situational awareness, sustainability, mobility, and combat effectiveness. Critical elements include: Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP) and Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) for near-term non-developmental items; modular improvements for mid-term solutions; and Ground Soldier, Air Soldier and Mounted Soldier programs for long-term solutions.

Land Warrior, the Ground Soldier precursor program, is the first integrated fighting system to connect the dismounted Soldier to the digitized battlefield. Land Warrior is currently being used successfully in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and has also been successfully used in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Mounted Warrior, the Mounted Soldier precursor program, is currently enhancing vehicle commander and crewmembers performance in OIF. Air Warrior is the rotary wing aviation program focused on providing a fully integrated, mission-tailorable ensemble to enhance crewmember performance during air and ground operations that will include enhancements to survivability, situational awareness, and human factors.

Modernization of Soldier support equipment improves the combat effectiveness and quality of life of Soldiers in the field. Two examples are Force Provider and the Ground Soldier Program. Force Provider includes field feeding equipment, showers, heaters and shelters. The Ground Soldier Program will mature Land Warrior capabilities; incorporate current operational lessons learned and demonstrate the Army's emphasis on integrated system-of-systems functionality. Ground Soldier will provide the dismounted soldier unprecedented situational awareness and battle command and give the Soldier the ability to see first, understand first, act first and finish decisively. Through this effort, the Army provides Soldiers with safe, efficient, modern support items to replace antiquated equipment.

The Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) also contributes to the modernization of Soldier support equipment and provides increased survivability, lethality, and mobility capabilities to Soldiers via an accelerated acquisition program. RFI leverages current programs and commercial off-the-shelf technology to give the Soldier increased capability. In the future, Soldier capabilities now fielded as part of RFI will be fielded in accordance with the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) model.

The Army recognizes the Soldier as a System on the battlefield. Soldier and Soldier support systems are essential elements for executing the Army mission. Soldier and Soldier support modernization investment must be consistent with the Soldier's importance on the battlefield.

**WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to urge the Administration and Congress to:**

- Provide stable and sufficient Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E), Procurement, and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding for Soldier and Soldier support modernization and enhancement programs to develop products that are critically important to the individual Soldier
- Continue to fund the Land, Air, Mounted Warrior programs and Ground Soldier, Air Soldier and Mounted Soldier successor programs to ensure the overmatch capabilities of our Soldiers
- Continue to fund the Rapid Fielding Initiative and continue to fund Soldier equipment requirements as the Army progresses to modernization and resetting the force in accordance with the ARFORGEN model