

Force Protection and Personnel Casualties - Guidance

Summary

Force Protection attributes are those that contribute to the system's ability to protect its occupants and crew from the effects of threats likely to be encountered in combat. These threats often go beyond what is outlined in system requirements documents. For manned systems and systems designed to enhance personnel survivability on Live Fire Test and Evaluation (LFT&E) oversight, the critical LFT&E issues must include an evaluation of the vulnerability of its occupants to threats likely to be encountered in a combat environment. Personnel vulnerability should be addressed through dedicated measures of evaluation, such as "expected casualties" supported by specific details on the type and severity of injury, as well as the potential operational impact of such casualties on the ability of the platform to accomplish its mission after a threat engagement, when appropriate. Force protection must be addressed even in cases where the platform cannot survive.

Key Performance Parameters (KPPs) for force protection are required for all manned systems and systems designed to enhance personnel survivability, when those systems may be deployed in an asymmetric threat environment. Although force protection is a primary issue for programs on LFT&E oversight, evaluation of force protection may also be appropriate for programs that are not on LFT&E oversight. All Department of Defense (DoD) hard body armor acquisition programs under DOT&E oversight will execute, at a minimum, a DOT&E-approved protocol for testing that results in a decision to qualify a design for full-rate production (i.e., First Article Testing).

References

[LFT&E Statute: 10 USC 2366](#)

[Policy for Updating Capabilities Documents to Incorporate Force Protection and Survivability Key Performance Parameters, The Joint Staff, 13 June 2005](#)

[Defense Acquisition Guidebook, Chapter 9](#)

[Standardization of Hard Body Armor Testing, DOT&E, 27 April 2010](#)