

Mission Focused Evaluation – Guidance

While the test and evaluation strategy should provide opportunities to determine whether a system meets documented requirements, the ultimate purpose of the test and evaluation strategy is to demonstrate the operational effectiveness, suitability, and survivability of the system in its expected operational environment. Operational effectiveness is defined as the overall ability of the system to support successful mission accomplishment, when used by representative operators in the intended environment. This definition takes into account the interplay of the system under test, the operators, and interrelated or supporting systems. In many cases, the system performance specifications in the requirements document will assist in the assessment of mission accomplishment, but a mission focused evaluation will not be limited to these specifications.

To assist in early identification of system problems that might only be manifest in operational environments, developmental test planners should incorporate elements of the operational environment (typical users and maintainers, realistic operational conditions, [representative threat systems](#), [end-to-end missions](#), [production representative test articles](#), weapons, secure communications gear, survivability equipment, interfacing systems and networks, etc.) into developmental testing whenever possible. However, the injection of operational realism into developmental testing does not obviate the need for operational testing. The purpose for mission-oriented developmental testing is to find and fix problems that are unique to operational environments before the system begins operational testing.

References

[Reporting of Operational Test and Evaluation Results, DOT&E, January 6, 2010](#)

Examples

[Operational Evaluation Approach Example](#)

[Mission Focused Metrics Guidance with Examples](#)