

MARINE CORPS WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

Project Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (Project RSTA) is one of the Lab's primary focus areas. Through Project RSTA, the Lab is developing concepts and tactics to support the Warfighter by enabling enhanced situational awareness, improved decision making and a common understanding of the battlespace between units and commanders.

Description: Project RSTA is addressing Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) reconnaissance needs and the capabilities to acquire timely intelligence about an adversary that enables decisive maneuver and the decisive application of combat force. Project RSTA is an umbrella project that experiments with reconnaissance and surveillance concepts and integrates successful concepts into the Expeditionary Force Development System.

Project RSTA is continuing its efforts to enhance tactical reconnaissance by improving tactics, techniques, procedures and supporting technologies. Efforts are focused across the spectrum of environments in which Marines may operate, but with a special emphasis on urban terrain. Currently, systems are being evaluated that enable reconnaissance teams to gain militarily significant information from extended stand-off distances, sensors and other enabling technologies.

Current Experimental Concepts:

Sniper Enhancement Concept. The hypothesis is that by enhancing the sniper's shoot-solution calculation before pulling the trigger, the first-round effectiveness will improve significantly. Experimentation will determine if the improvements in first-round impacts justify additional training and equipment expenses.

Stand-Off Optical Reconnaissance Concept.

The hypothesis is that modern optics and imagery processing can provide information of tactical significance at greater distances, increase opportunities for urban reconnaissance and improve the survivability of reconnaissance teams.

PROJECT RECONNAISSANCE, SURVEILLANCE AND TARGET ACQUISITION

fact sheet



Sea Viking 2004. Project RSTA will support the Sea Viking 2004 experiments with the following three tasks: (1) examine the optimal mix of sensor platforms and required capability sets for MAGTF reconnaissance and determine which of the required capabilities must be organic to the MAGTF; (2) examine the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity's distributed search capability and its utility to support MAGTF information collection; and (3) develop concepts to enhance reconnaissance mobility and survivability using a mix of all-terrain vehicles and internally transportable vehicles.

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