



Mortar Conference 2003



Purpose

- ***Describe the Implications of the Operational Environment and enduring qualities of the Infantryman***
- ***Provide information on the future of Mortars as it relates to the Infantry Transformation and overall Army Transformation***
- ***Provide lessons learned from U.S. Soldiers in Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom***

Agenda

- ***The Operational Environment***
- ***The Army Transformation***
- ***The Infantry Transformation***
- ***Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom
(Lessons Learned)***

A bald eagle's head is shown in a box, partially obscured by crumpled white paper. The background features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The text "The Operational Environment" is overlaid in a large, bold, blue, italicized font.

The Operational Environment

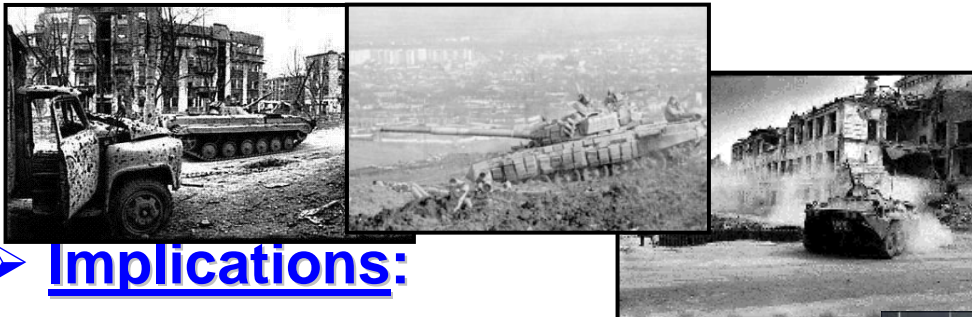
Implications of the Operational Environment

➤ Physical Environment

- Prescribes type forces that fight & manner conducted
- Urban areas growing 3X faster than population:



➤ Urban warfare virtually assured



➤ Implications:

- Limited range, close quarters battle (CQB) predominates
- No Collateral Damage
- Restricts mounted/dismounted maneuverability
- Requirement for responsive, high-angle fires
- Physical & mental strain



➤ Emergence of “fighters” vs. soldiers

- Non-traditional organization
- Emergence of a “Warrior Class”
- In fight for the “long haul”



➤ Implications:

- Unconstrained ROE vs. constrained US ROE
- High intensity, “crude” combat
- Brutal, lethal engagements



Implications of the Operational Environment

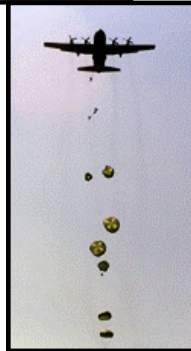
Information

- Increased Media & IO importance
- Interpretation & Cultural challenges



Implications:

- Tactical actions with strategic consequences
- Soldier/Team discipline
- Low level understanding of Higher “picture”, cultural, & historical perspectives



Unpredictable Time & Place For Future Land Combat

- Requires a credible, rapid response force



Implications:

- A need for responsive fires when and where you need it

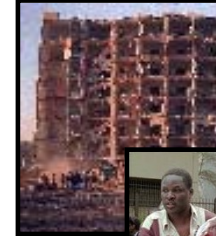
“Asymmetric” Challenges

- Terrorism
- Ever present possibility of combat



Implications:

- No “sanctuary” or “rear” areas
- Increased Force Protection



Political Environment

- Low tolerance for casualties & collateral damage
- Coalitions vs. established alliances



Implications:

- Precision application of CBT PWR
- Casualty avoidance
- Compatibility challenges (CBT ID, C², Wpns, Tng, Leadership)

Enduring Qualities of the Infantry

- ***Dominates the close, personal fight***
- ***Seize, secure, and retain key terrain***
- ***Maximum use of stealth and surprise***



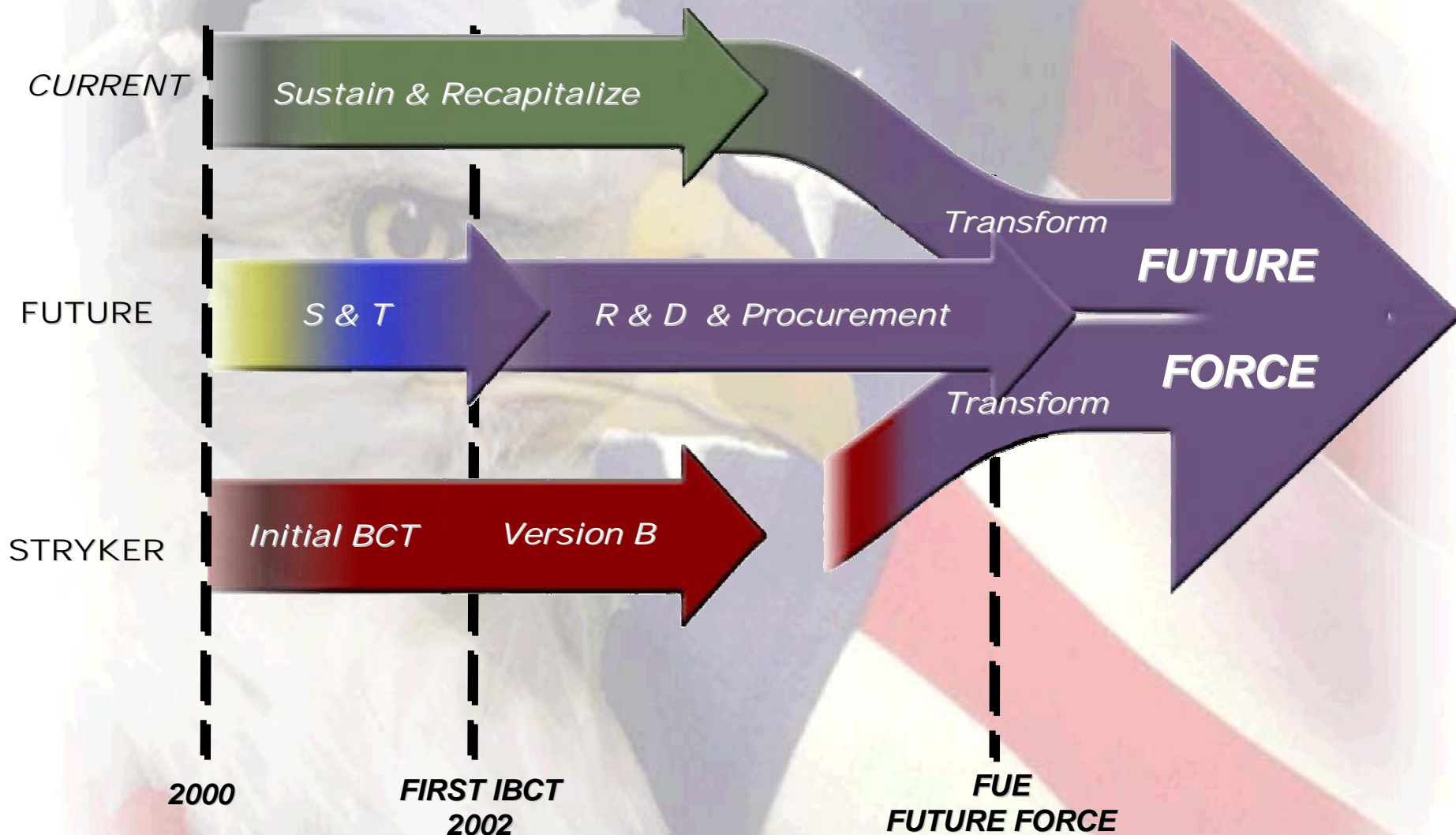
Future Force

- ***Executes decentralized, simultaneous attacks***
 - ***Primarily at night or limited visibility***
- ***Flexible and resilient organizations***
 - ***Enhance full spectrum operations***



The Army Transformation

Army Transformation



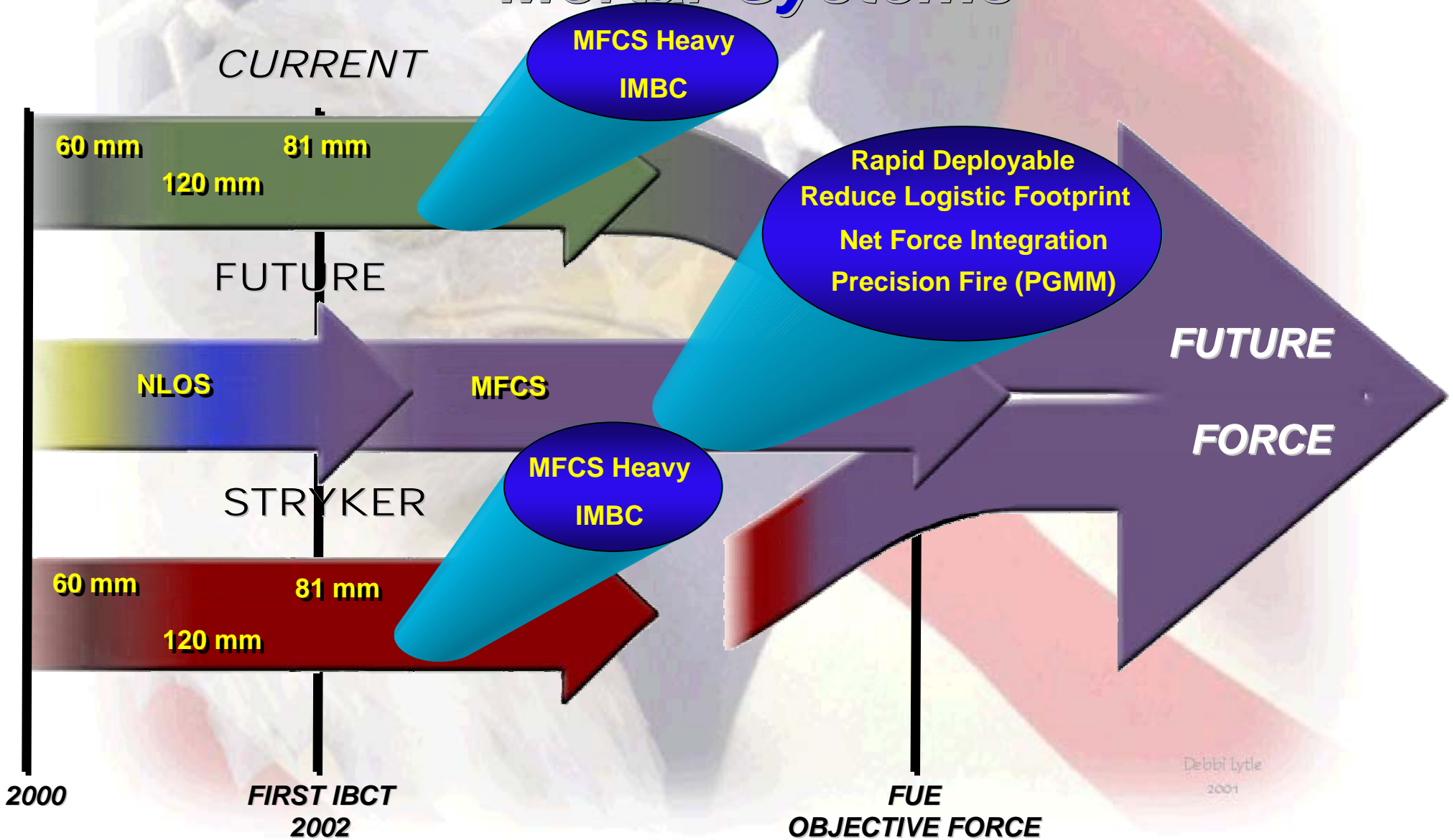
**... Responsive, Deployable, Agile, Versatile,
Lethal, Survivable, Sustainable.**

A gift box wrapped in crumpled white paper, with an American flag design on the lid. The text "The Infantry Transformation" is overlaid in large blue letters.

The Infantry Transformation

Infantry in Transformation

Mortar Systems



Mortar Combat Requirements

Dismounted (Complex Terrain: Urban, Mountains and Jungle)

- **A mortar system that has increased range and more lethality, digital, and with less weight than current dismounted systems**

Mounted Supported by Dismounted (Open, Rolling & Mixed Terrain)

- **Survivable, digital, fully automated, shoot on the move mortar system**



**Operation
Enduring Freedom
(Lessons Learned)**



“Our 60mm and 81mm mortars accounted for most of the kills.”

1SG, 101st ABN DIV,
Operation Enduring Freedom

Lesson Learned from Operation Enduring Freedom

- The Arms Room Concept was a valuable asset in mission planning.
- The mortars versatility and portability proved to be an invaluable asset in the rugged terrain.
- The 60mm and 81mm mortar provides maneuver capabilities, but 120mm mortar provides more firepower.

***Ref: 10th Mountain and 101st ABN DIV
AARs/Lessons Learned***



CH-47D inserts mortars (Operation Enduring Freedom)

*HHC 1/8th INF MORTAR'S
First Mortar PLT To Fire The 120mm In Combat
Shah-e-Kot Valley Afghanistan*



“My verdict is if you want it killed,
use your mortars.”

1SG, 101st ABN DIV,
Operation Enduring Freedom





**Operation Iraqi
Freedom
(Lessons Learned)**

“Mortars were especially excellent in MOUT because of their high angle fire which enabled them to get rounds in between and on top of buildings”



3rd IN DIV Official AAR
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Lesson Learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom

- 173rd ABN was fielded Ground Mounted 120mm Mortars one week prior to Parachute Jump into Northern Iraq
- The 60mm and 81mm Mortar provides maneuver capabilities, but 120mm Mortar provides more lethality and versatility. (1st MAR DIV AAR)
- FSE's must maintain a close relationship with Task Force Mortars
- Mortar Platoons were very proficient at the Hip Shoot
- Use of Mortars in the Close Fight allowed the FA to focus on shaping and prepping the battlefield. Average engagement was less than 300 meters
- Mortars were reliable, responsive and lethal
- Need for precision fires to minimize collateral damage was identified with positioning of Iraqi forces near schools, mosques, hospitals and housing areas



Eric Feferberg / AFP



Simon Walker - Pool / Reuters



***Ref: 3rd IN DIV, 101st ABN DIV and 1st MAR DIV
AARs/Lessons Learned***



“Mortars were very effective during OIF...
They were in the fight!”

3rd IN DIV Official AAR
Operation Iraqi Freedom



MAJ Jeffrey Lane
Firepower Division