

ARMY PROGRAMS

Land Warrior (LW)

SUMMARY

- Land Warrior (LW) is an integrated system used by the dismounted combat Soldier for tactical operations.
- The Army recently restructured the LW program so that it will produce capabilities in five spirals.
- The Army is currently revising the LW Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP) to accommodate program restructuring.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The LW system includes:

- Weapons
- Laser rangefinder
- Visual displays
- Integrated load carrying equipment with ballistic protection
- Helmet
- Speaker with microphone
- Computer
- Navigation
- Radio

These components are integrated together into a system to support the mission of the dismounted combat Soldier.

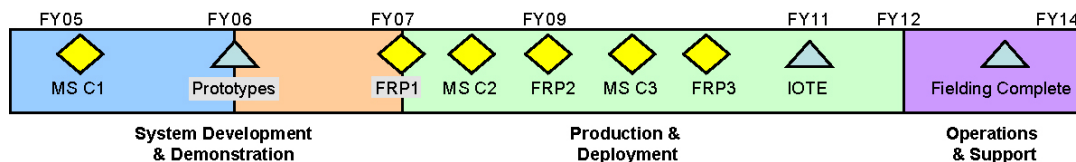
The LW integrated Soldier fighting system enhances the lethality, battle-command capability, survivability, mobility, and sustainability of dismounted combat Soldiers, enabling them to engage and defeat enemy targets while minimizing friendly casualties. LW facilitates command, control, and sharing of battlefield information and integrates each Soldier into the digitized battlefield. The system incorporates communications, sensors, and power, improving capabilities without additional weight.

The Army recently restructured the LW program so that it will produce capabilities in five spirals. Spiral 0 focuses on near-term operational needs for the current force and fields the Dismounted Battle Command System (Commander's Digital Assistant and Enhanced Position Location Reporting System). Spiral 1 focuses on providing LW capabilities to the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. Spirals 2, 3, and 4 focus on achieving LW integration within the Future Combat System (FCS) force structure.



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TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITY



The TEMP was approved in December 2003. The TEMP will need updating to reflect the revised LW acquisition approach.

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There have been no operational tests to date. Operational testing will begin with a series of developmental/operational test events starting in FY05. Present plans call for the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) in FY11. LW participated in a Joint Contingency Force Advance Warfighting Experiment (JCF AWE) at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana, in September 2000. During the JCF AWE, a platoon from the 82nd Airborne Division, equipped with prototype LW systems, demonstrated that LW had the potential to enhance tactical movement, increase survivability, and provide situational awareness.

TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

Current National Information Security policy prohibits uncleared LW soldiers from accessing the Tactical Internet, which is classified SECRET. Since the LW system services a large body of uncleared users, this multi-level security issue will need resolution before the IOT&E.

In addition, LW battery life and power consumption are both critical to mission success. Both of these issues will need to be resolved prior to the IOT&E. Two Limited User Tests will be conducted prior to the IOT&E in order to reduce the risk of previous reliability and power problems associated with the program. Finally, LW and FCS integration will likely be a challenge in any future operational test events.