

JOINT TEST & EVALUATION

Joint Battle Damage Assessment (JBDA)

SUMMARY

- JBDA was a five-year Army-led test that completed September 30, 2004. It was located in Suffolk, Virginia.
- Data were collected from multiple venues. Baseline testing was executed during Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) 02; Contingency testing at Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Enhancement testing at UFL-03.
- JBDA's final report was released at the end of FY04. Nineteen of JBDA's enhancements have been transitioned into permanent test products for the joint BDA process across Service and component lines.

TEST DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

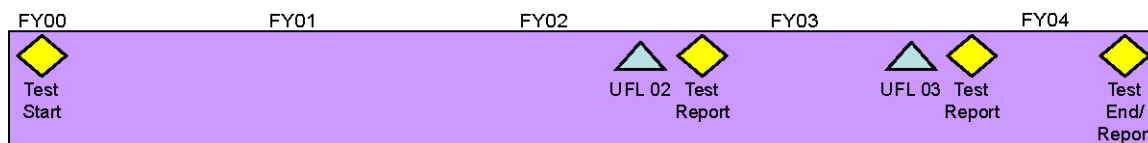
JBDA was chartered to study and enhance the joint battle damage assessment (BDA) process. During Operation DESERT STORM, joint force BDA requirements exceeded the available intelligence collection capabilities. The DoD Final Report to Congress, *Conduct of the Persian Gulf War*, stated, "The BDA process was difficult, especially for re-strike decisions." The report recommended the establishment of effective BDA doctrine and organization, and it identified a critical need to develop a BDA process for maneuver forces. A lack of trained BDA analysts exacerbated the situation. The Army was designated as the lead Service and the Army Intelligence Center and School was appointed the sponsoring command. The Joint Chief of Staff/J2T was selected as the operational mentor.



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JBDA conducted its testing in operationally-realistic environments during joint exercises and during real world operations using the BDA cycle as the basis for the evaluation to ensure thorough testing of each critical function. JBDA evaluated the processes used by a joint force to assess physical, functional, and target system battle damage, and evaluated the ability of the BDA process to support operational planning and execution.

TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITY



JBDA provided input to a GAO report, dated June 2004, (GAO 04-547) dealing with recent military combat operations and barriers to continued progress. JBDA provided the GAO researchers with current information on joint BDA processes and explained how to implement known solutions within combatant commands and other military organizations. These

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comments helped shape GAO's perspective on joint BDA and other targeting issues within their report. DoD concurred fully or in part with all four of the GAO's recommendations in its final report.

JBDA dedicated significant effort and resources toward offering, tailoring, and implementing its enhancements in partnership with all applicable combatant commands, Services, and defense agencies. USFK, USCENTCOM, USPACOM, and USEUCOM continue to utilize JBDA enhancements in their quest for improving BDA, combat assessment, and operational/effects-based assessments. *The Commander's Handbook for Battle Damage Assessment*, published by USJFCOM, provides a non-doctrine source for BDA information to the joint community and the Services. USJFCOM's DOTMLPF Change Recommendation Package for BDA, in response to Operation Iraqi Freedom Major Combat Operations Lessons Learned, leaned heavily on JBDA's experience with BDA. In fact, nine of the ten recommended approaches to improving BDA were either developed by or had significant input from JBDA.

TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

JBDA's focus has been on transitioning test validated enhanced procedures for the Joint BDA process, either as stand-alone products, as improvements to existing doctrine, or as part of a system of record. JBDA has transitioned its test products to the end users, to Combatant Commands, JFCOM, and to the Joint Staff. Through the vehicle of a DOTMLPF Change Recommendation at JFCOM, JBDA test products have become a process for change for BDA within the Department of Defense. Joint Staff/J2T has become the office of record for the test products. JBDA was a successful Joint Test that serves the warfighter in the DoD community.