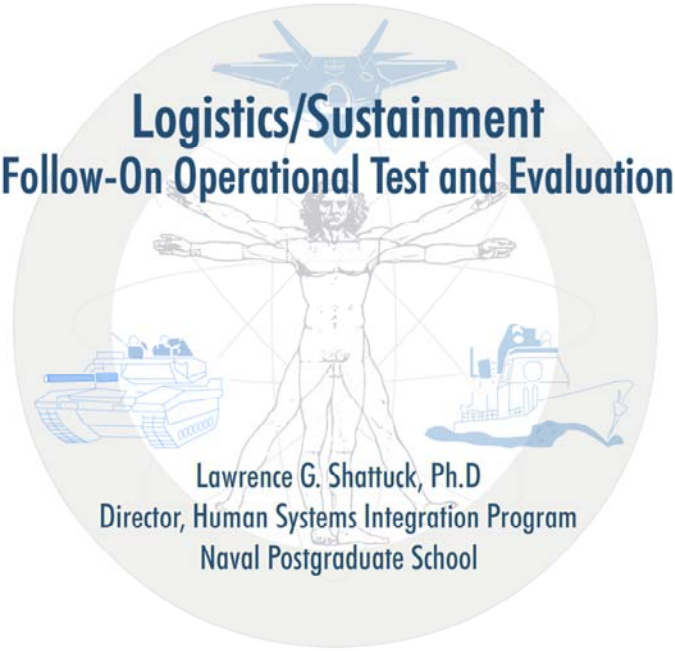
Logistics/Sustainment
Follow-On Operational Test and Evaluation



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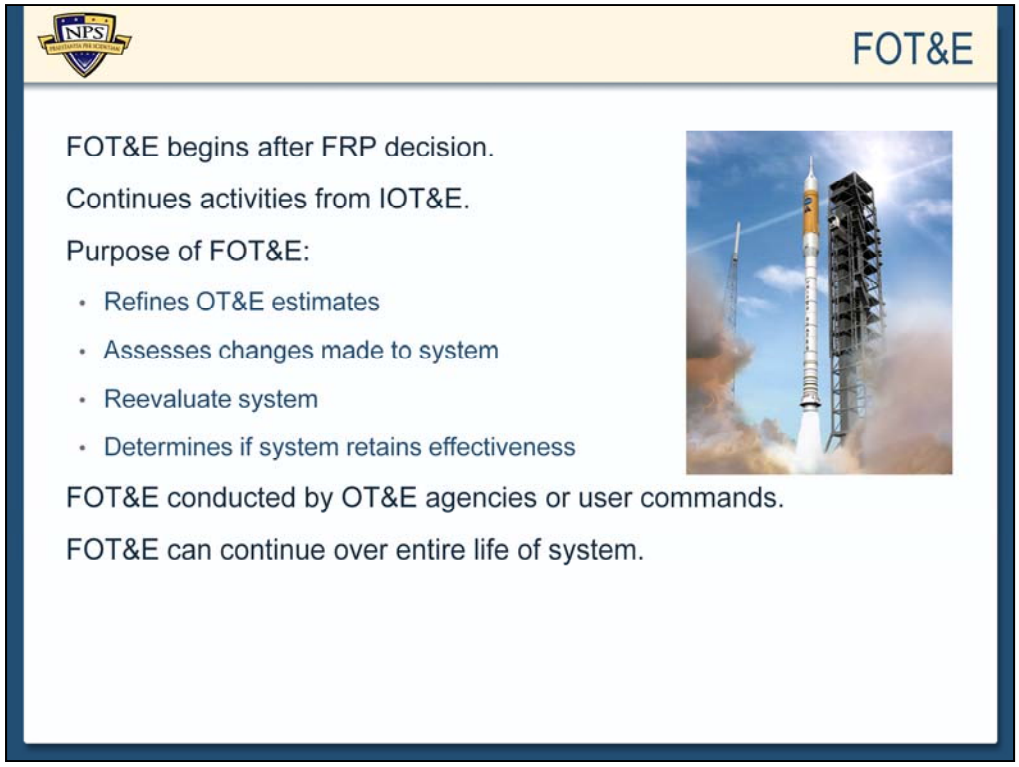


Initial Operational Test and Evaluation is conducted during Low Rate Initial Production. The results of the IOT&E are used by the Milestone Decision Authority at the Full Rate Production Decision Review. If the MDA is satisfied with the program's progress, then a decision is made to move into Full Rate Production. But that's not the end of the T&E activities by any means! Shortly after the Full Rate Production decision, Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation (or FOT&E) begins.

FOT&E activities are designed to accomplish several things.

They refine the estimates that were made during Operational Test and Evaluation.

They evaluate changes that have been made to the system based on previous testing.

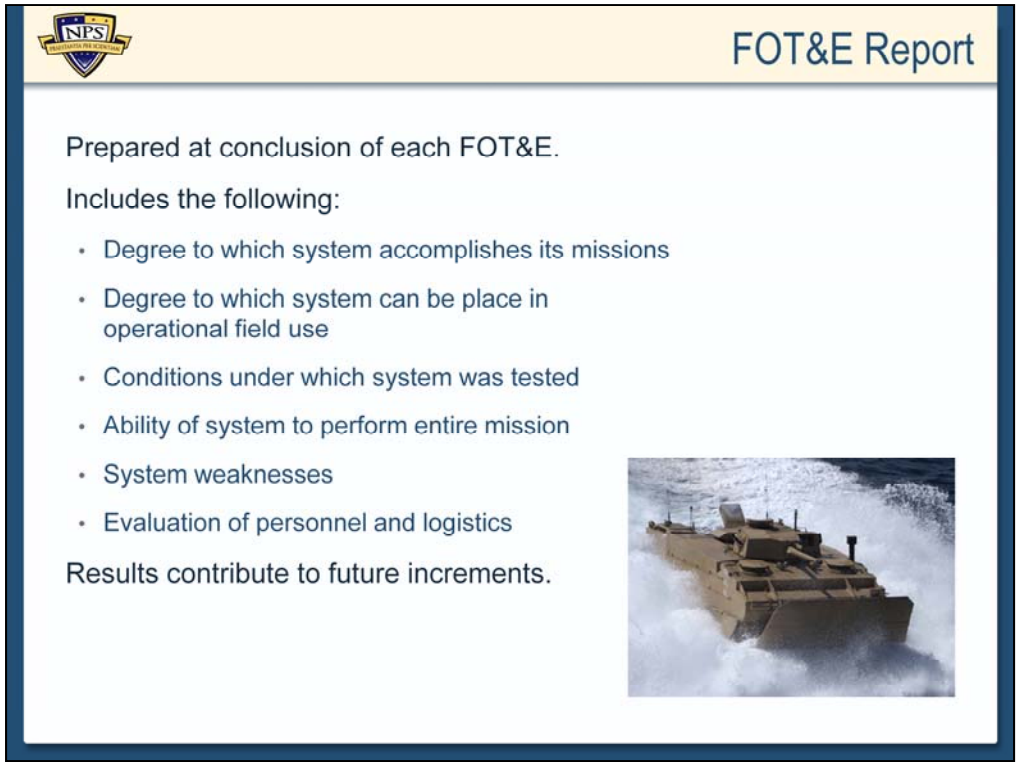
They reevaluate the system to ensure that it continues to meet operational needs.

And, they help determine if the system retains its effectiveness in a new environment or against a new threat.

For systems that have been fielded or deployed, FOT&E activities will assess the system's performance, quality, compatibility, and interoperability. The FOT&E also should identify any deficiencies that still remain.

FOT&E activities can either be conducted by Operational Test and Evaluation agencies or by the user commands. Who actually conducts the testing is up to the individual Service and its policies. Anything that wasn't tested during the IOT&E due to limitations of any kind should be tested during the FOT&E.

Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation sometimes continues over the life of the system. These T&E activities help to refine doctrine, tactics, techniques, and training programs, and to evaluate future increments, modifications, and upgrades.



The OT&E agency prepares an Operational Assessment report at the conclusion of each FOT&E. This report records test results, describes the evaluation accomplished, and documents its assessment of deficiencies that have been resolved. Deficiencies that aren't corrected are recorded.

A final report on FOT&E may also be prepared by the using command test team. This report will emphasize the utility of the system when it's operated, maintained, and supported by operational personnel. The report also includes the following:

The degree to which the system accomplishes its missions in a realistic scenario with the appropriate organization, doctrine, threat, environment, and using the tactics and techniques developed during previous testing.

The degree to which the system can be placed in operational field use. Things that should have been evaluated in this area include availability, compatibility, transportability, interoperability, reliability, wartime usage rates, maintainability, safety, human factors, manpower supportability, logistics supportability, and training requirements.

The conditions under which the system was tested. Things in this area include weather and climatic conditions, terrain effects, battlefield disturbances, and enemy threat conditions.

The ability of the system to perform its required functions for the length of the entire mission.

System weaknesses such as the vulnerability of the system to exploitation by countermeasures techniques and the practicality and probability of an adversary exploiting the susceptibility of a system in combat.

And, a specific evaluation of the personnel and logistics changes needed to integrate the system into the user's inventory.

These assessments provide information that also will be valuable for future increments of the system.