



Operation Patriot Strike Nets AQI Suspects  
Photo by Sgt. Ben Brody

Capt. George Morris, commander of Co. B, 2-502 Infantry, and his Soldiers hit the ground running in the opening salvo of Operation Patriot Strike in Ubaydi.

## Army SBIR Vision

To be the Army's premier source of innovative technology solutions, providing direct access to America's high-tech small business Research & Development community, enabling our Soldiers deployed around the world.

The purpose of the SBIR Newsletter is to provide Army, DoD, and other government leadership with additional insight into the vital contributions made by the SBIR program to Army R&D.

## Army SBIR Helpdesk:

The Army SBIR office maintains a helpdesk for any questions or concerns. You may reach the helpdesk via e-mail at [army.sbir@us.army.mil](mailto:army.sbir@us.army.mil) or by calling (703) 806-2085 from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday EST, except on Federal Holidays.

## SBIR Program Office

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## Introducing the Army SBIR Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Army Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program Newsletter. This quarterly newsletter is intended to keep program participants abreast of requirements, highlight important milestones and new processes, and showcase Army SBIR successes. Look for issues to be distributed in January, April, July, and October each year. In each newsletter you will find: **Spotlight** - where we will pick an area of the Army SBIR program to highlight and explain in detail; **Dates to Remember This Quarter** - a list of upcoming conferences, expos, and meetings are listed and hyperlinked to details for your convenience; **Solicitation Dates** - a list of upcoming milestones for each ongoing solicitation; and **Success Stories** - a featured project that has shown success in the SBIR program. Any suggestions, requests, success stories or other contributions to the newsletter are welcome and may be sent to [daniel.haslam@army.mil](mailto:daniel.haslam@army.mil) or [jenn.thompson1@us.army.mil](mailto:jenn.thompson1@us.army.mil).

I extend my thanks to everyone for all your hard work in support of the Army SBIR Program and look forward to another successful year in SBIR.

Susan Nichols, PM, Army SBIR

## Spotlight

### Technical Assistance

The Army has begun its initiative to provide technical assistance services to small businesses engaged in SBIR projects through a network of Technical Assistance Advocates, who will work closely with small businesses, Army scientists and technologists, and SBIR stakeholders. Ultimately, the Army expects to see SBIR technologies developed into a viable product or service for sale in the government or private sector markets. The Army understands that, for many small businesses and their potential customers, the path to successful transition can be extremely difficult and is therefore providing technical assistance to help.

Technical Assistance Advocates (TAAs) have been assigned to five regions across the Army to provide assistance to small businesses that have projects with the participating organizations within their regions. The TAAs are talented and experienced industry professionals with varied backgrounds, who will work closely with small businesses to ensure that their technologies/products fit both the goals of the company and Army requirements. Using their experience, TAAs will play an important role to help identify potential military and/or commercialization partners and assist small businesses make better technical decisions and solve technical problems in order to minimize the risks associated with the SBIR projects.

Another important TAA role is to focus on technology transition planning and developing integration roadmaps in coordination with the government research manager, SBIR awardee, and other identified stakeholders. By participating in acquisition development, technology assessment, and technology transition planning and management activities, TAAs will assist in the development of a Phase III plan for Phase II projects to document the strategy, requirements, and resources needed to transition the SBIR project into an acquisition program, larger science and technology effort, or stand-alone product or service.



“Fire fight in Rashid” Photo by Sgt. Tierney Nowland

A sniper searches for insurgents from a rooftop as darkness falls.

### SOLICITATION DATES:

**08.1**

Solicitation 9 Jan

Closed - Phase I's due

Phase I selections announced March

Phase I Award Goal March - May

### DATES TO REMEMBER THIS QUARTER:

AUSA Winter Symposium Feb 27-29

<http://www.ausa.org/>

SPIE Defense and Security Mar 16-20

<http://spie.org/>

Tri Service Apr 14-17

<http://tinyurl.com/2fkdqy>

### Did you know...

The Army announced the 25 firms identified for participation in the Commercialization Pilot Program this cycle. For more information visit the Army SBIR website <https://www.armysbir.com/sbir/>

## Featured Army SBIR Success Story

I.D.E.A.L. Technology Corporation

[www.idealcorp.com](http://www.idealcorp.com)

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US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command

Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center

“Digital Forensics Device for Fighting War on Terrorism”

**The Requirement** - Soldiers are facing a growing challenge in the war against terrorism. An increasing amount of digital devices and media are being seized during operations against the enemy, and there is limited time for processing and analyzing this digital evidence to determine tactical relevance. Computers and other devices have become the backbone of both conventional and unconventional forces, and they contain data on everything from operations to logistics, from finances to underground cells. Currently, the information contained on a captured computer can only be extracted in a digital forensics laboratory that is remote from the tactical world. This information becomes intelligence only after a human analyzes it. While this meets strategic intelligence requirements it does not, however, provide timely and useful information to the tactical force. Using this process, soldiers rarely receive any valuable actionable information from seized digital media.

**The Technology** - In response to this Army requirement, I.D.E.A.L. Technology Corporation developed a cutting-edge, digital forensics product for counter-terrorism, intelligence gathering and criminal investigations called the **System for TRIaging Key Evidence (STRIKE™)**. The STRIKE is a portable, easy-to-use digital media exploitation tool designed for Special Operations Forces, Law Enforcement Officers, Homeland Security Personnel and Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Agents. STRIKE provides the soldier with rapid, in-field analysis capabilities for immediate results. STRIKE's operational capabilities include: configurable levels of interactivity and assistance, an easy-to-use Graphical User Interface (GUI), uniform data acquisition across different media types, live browsing and the ability to store only data of interest. STRIKE leverages COTS, GOTS, Open Source, and other 3rd party hardware and software components in order to create a robust, modular, plug-and-play system framework for counter-terrorism and intelligence gathering operations.

**The Impact** - In support of the United States war on terrorism and Army counter-terrorism efforts, STRIKE provides a rugged, portable forensics system to forward deployed forces that enables operators to assess if a captured computer or other digital media contains information critical to the success of their operation and act upon it in real-time. The system aids the tactical user with rapidly searching data to assess its relevance to current or future operations. It also provides a "triage" tool to enable operators to flag which computers must be prioritized immediately for detailed analysis in a full-fledged digital forensics laboratory or strategic analysis center. By providing a means to quickly extract data and analyze information, in-field in real-time, from captured devices and media, the STRIKE supports a wide range of tactical operations against a variety of file systems, file formats and storage media. Some examples include USB thumb drives, multimedia cards, SIM cards, cell phones, PDAs, hard drives and live computers. STRIKE is the only tactical evidence capture and triage device of its kind, designed for speed and simplicity - providing actionable intelligence within minutes, not hours, days, or weeks. As of Jan 2008, a total of 214 STRIKE Kits/Licenses have been delivered to various government/military organizations.

\* Sales Revenue:\$1M+ in 2006, \$2M+ in 2007 and Sales Revenue Mix: 50% product, 50% R&D

\*The STRIKE project started as a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) project. The first prototypes (4 kits) were delivered in March 2006 (end of SBIR Phase 2 Plus contract) to US Army I2WD, USMC RadBnMods and USSOCOM. Product sales started mid-2006.



A STRIKE unit hooked up to a computer hard drive.