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**TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP 20 September 2016**

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**1. ABCT**

**a. Abrams.**

1) SFC Williams is in Warren, MI until 30 September supporting PM Abrams in validation and verification of Software 4.6. The team is also updating technical manuals for the Ammunition Data Link and Low Profile Crows.

 2) The team continues to work with PM Abrams, PM MAS and APG to determine a path forward for SW 4.6 in response to erratic firing experienced with M829A4 during the User Beta Test. Potential sources are either isolated to a single source, or a combination of sources including M829A4 ballistic calculation, M829A4 ammunition (particularly with worn gun tubes), 4.6 software or general tube wear. We have submitted and briefed our recommended test plan to isolate the source of error.

 3) Mr. Hay sat on the Abrams Platform Mastery Workgroup panel at the Maneuver Warfighter Conference last week. Other MCoE participants included representatives from ABOLC, MCCC, NCOA, and the Master Gunner School. The workgroup addressed identified POI shortcomings in the development of Armor NCOs and Officers on the tank.

**b. Bradley.**

 1) Mr. Moore attended the Master Gunner forum to discuss TADSS training capabilities available to the force, and to obtain feedback about usage and training of the systems. Systems receiving favorable feedback include CVTESS for the implementation of wireless detectors requiring fewer cables, and the CMUR, with the group recommending moving the power connection to the training device port on the rear of the vehicle. Doing this would reduce interrupted recording and damage to the connection point on the dome light during install and remove activities.

 2) Mr. Moore and SFC Shepherd sat on the Bradley Platform Mastery Workgroup panel at the Maneuver Warfighter Conference last week. Other MCoE participants included representatives from ABOLC, MCCC, NCOA, and the Master Gunner School. The workgroup addressed identified POI shortcomings in the development of Infantry NCOs and Officers on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Feedback from the field suggests that 11B NCOs reporting to an ABCT the first time should attend functional training on the platform prior to the assignment.

**c. AMPV****.**

1) MSG Kennedy, SFC Shepherd, and Scott Williford attended the AMPV human factors event hosted by BAE systems in Sterling Heights, MI. The purpose of the event was to evaluate the operational effectiveness and potential human factors impacts of adding a third work station to the XM1286 Mission Command (MCmd) variant of the AMPV, driver line of sight and to capture Soldier assessment of the current design. Day one of the event focused specifically on the implementation of the addition of a third workstation in the XM1286 Mcmd Variant and effects on egress and operational usability using a scaled plywood mockup. Day two focused on the correct placement and implementation of the driver's thermal viewer and consisted of stationary vehicle use on BAE test track followed by video comparing the current and planned solutions for the Bradley fighting vehicle with those of the AMPV. Initial feedback from Soldiers indicated that the third workstation would not affect ingress and egress and was sufficient to operate mission command systems. In addition, it was determined the driver line of sight of the thermal viewer will need further evaluation on the actual AMPV hull in order to optimize ground intercept with horizon view.

**d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:**

1. **Training, Leader Development, and Safety Integration (TLS):**

a)  The team travelled to Arden Hills, Minnesota last weekend to participate in tactical and strategic AARs hosted by 1/34ID (ABCT) from the MNARNG. In addition to the command and staff at 1/34, other key participants included command teams or their representatives from the other four COMPO-2 ABCTs in Idaho (116th), Tennessee (278th), Mississippi (155th), and North Carolina (30th). The tactical AARs on Saturday were focused on observations, insights, and lessons learned from the execution of their warfighting functions during NTC 16-07 at the National Training Center. The strategic forum on Sunday added participation by the CG-34ID, the DCG-ARNG (FORSCOM), and the FORSCOM G-3/5/7. The purpose of the discussion was to develop a shared understanding of the future National Guard centric model to achieve FORSCOM training objectives through linking resources in time and space to better prepare ARNG ABCTs to participate in and achieve increasingly higher levels of readiness through their NTC rotation.

 b) The team is planning for its participation in NTC 17-01, where 3/1CD will execute a decisive action rotation to prepare for future deployed requirements. Mission Command, Doctrine, and Training Integration analysts will observe force on force activities from 01-13 October. Units wishing to submit DOTMLPF data collection RFIs should submit them by 30 September to carl.r.johnson32.civ@mail.mil

 c) The Center for Army Lessons Learned has published its July-August newsletter. View it here: <https://call2.army.mil/docs/doc7409/CALL_INSIDER__JULAUG2016.pdf>

**2) Doctrine, Organization and MC/Network Integration (DOP/MC-Network)**

a) Ron Kuykendall is in Michigan this week to look at the AMPV 3rd workstation mock-up that TCM ABCT and MRD Soldiers evaluated last week. He will also participate in the "MNVR Face to Face" discussion with PM Tactical Radios, and network integrators from PMs Abrams, Bradley and AMPV. He is also attending the PEO GCS, PEO C3T and SOSI&E Network Summit. This event provides an opportunity for these organizations to synchronize network platform integration efforts at the GO level. Key for TCM ABCT is SOSI&E's plan for ABCT's transition to an Objective Network architecture.

 b) TCM-ABCT is still in discussions with relevant stakeholders about the addition of JCR TOC kits at the Combined Arms BN, CAV SQDN, and BDE TAC CP. All of these CPs have M1068s that are the nucleus of the respective CP and are fielded a JCR on the CAB and CAV, S6 and S3 M1068s, and the BDE TAC S3 and FSE M1068. In those instances we believe the addition of the route planning cable to those M1068s allows the CP to remote the JCR "Head Unit" into the tent work space of the CP and is a better option than the stand alone TOC Kit. This option eliminates any SWAP challenges of the additional hardware and reduces the complexity and time required for setup.

**e. Large Caliber Ammo:**

1) Mr. Kuamoo is observing ammunition performance during live fire activities with 1-81 Armor on Fort Benning this week.

**f. Futures Integration:**

1) The Futures Team continues to monitor CNA FY16 GOSC proceedings. CNA FY16 results will be briefed to the ARCIC Director on 27 September and to the TRADOC CG on 14 October.

**g. Systems, Sustainment and Logistics Integration:**

1) MAJ Polak attended the second Action Officer Working Group for the ABCT AROC last week along with representatives from G-staff, AMC, FORSCOM, CASCOM, ARCIC, PdM MBT, PdM BFV, and PdM CRS. The AROC, scheduled for 28 OCT 2016, is looking to receive CSA/VCSA guidance on multiple topics to include: the production smoothing of the Lethality ECPs for Abrams and Bradley, Active Protective System integration, and the prioritization of solutions to gaps created by the weight of the M1A2 SEPv2/SEPv3 within the POM 18–22 constrained budget including M88 HERCULES, Heavy Equipment Transport System (HETS), and the scissors bridge subsystem of the AVLB/JAB. Traditionally, each of these programs would participate in their own AROC but are now being consolidated in an attempt to streamline the decision making process and provide Army leadership a holistic view of the problem set. There is a Council of Colonels scheduled for 21 SEP 2016 in which more clarity of intended outcomes will be identified. TCM ABCT is scheduled to provide CDID and MCOE leadership next week.

2) MAJ Polak and Mr. Miller attended an M88 Demonstration hosted by BAE. BAEs business group provided an information brief that reinforced the capability gaps of the M88 HERCULES while simultaneously presenting possible mature technology solutions that could potentially resolve the recovery and towing gap. Based on their analysis, the main subsystem improvements needed are track, suspension, and power train. Yet unproven in military use, there is a concept for an under lift mechanism that is designed to transfer vehicle weights and thus provide more tractive effort to the M88. The M88 CPD that is crafted to regain the Single Vehicle Recovery intent of the system is going through AROC staffing with anticipated approval at the ABCT AROC on 28 OCT 2016.

 **h. ARNG LNO:** Our LNO accompanied Team TLS to Minnesota (see entry above). NGB has tentatively approved/funded two CTC rotations per year for ARNG BCTs. Final decision will be based upon enabler unit availability (COMPO 2 and/or 3) for ARNG BCT rotations. ARNG enabler units are limited and most often not part of the BCT State chain of command requiring outside coordination and unit mission training adjustments for CTC train-up. NGB is currently doing a long range analysis of sustained rotation availability of enabler units to determine feasibility and concurrence of the additional rotation impact to enabler unit readiness.

**2. RECON.**

TCM Recon completed a CAV GRP O&O information paper, briefing slide and provided an update to the ARCIC Director on 16 SEP 2016. Based on senior leader guidance, we continue to refine the CAV GRP organization to reduce the overall size and identify dependencies with a suspense of 30 SEP 16 to provide the CoAR with revised Organizational Structure. In addition, we continue to work with MBL to integrate the CAV GRP into the FY 17 Campaign of Learning.

TCM Recon and PM Ground Sensors completed the Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) Materiel Fielding Plan (MFP) and New Equipment Training Plan (NETP) workgroup on 15 SEP. This paved the way for TCM ABCT-Recon to concur with the CATR Life Cycle Sustainment Plan which allows PM Ground Sensor to proceed on a path of scheduling the PEO IEW&S CATR Materiel Fielding decision and first CATR materiel fielding in late 1Q FY17 or 2QFY17. TCM ABCT-Recon has established a set of decision points to track CATR development to ensure the fielding of the intended capability as opposed to a materiel device that is not synchronized with DOT-LPF requirements.

1. Maneuver Conference. Based on workgroup input TCM Recon will examine how the Recon Knowledge Network can collect, organize, make available and support collaboration of reconnaissance and security best practices by echelon..
2. R&S Concepts and Analysis. O&Os are ordered in priority of effort to write or revise:
3. CAV GRP O&O. TCM Recon completed a CAV GRP O&O information paper, briefing slide and provided an update to the ARCIC Director on 16 SEP 2016. Based on Senior Leader guidance we continue to refine the CAV GRP organization to reduce the overall size and identify dependencies; the suspense is 30 SEP 16. In addition, we continue to work with MBL to integrate the CAV GRP into the FY 17 Campaign of Learning. We are in discussions with ARCIC to determine the MCCoE/CAC POCs to include the updated CAV GRP O&O into UC17.1 scenario and CONOP development. In preparation for UC17.2, we have about 30 days to provide the key information on the CAV GRP Structure to ensure the Weapons, Munitions, and Sensors List (WSML) is submitted by 1 NOV to build simulations requirements.
4. Standard Scout PLT O&O. Chief of Armor (CoAR) approval is to be scheduled. Once the O&O is approved TCM Recon will develop and present a plan to the CoAR for concept to DOTMLPF development handover.
5. Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR). Completion postponed until Scout Platoon O&O approval process and concept to DOTMLPF development handover are complete, along with TCM Recon end of base year and execution of option year contract tasks are complete (o/a 10 OCT 2016).
6. Cavalry Troop O&O. Troop O&O development will resume upon completion of the CAV GRP O&O, Scout Platoon O&O and the Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) O&O. Troop O&O development is anticipated to resume in November.
7. Squadron Separate Company (Tank, MPF, MGS/ATGM) O&O. To be written after the completion of the Cav Troop O&O.
8. HHT O&O. To be written upon completion of the Squadron Tank Company / Direct Fire Troop O&O. One of the primary functions of the O&O will be to address the lack of standardization between squadron command posts and staffs.
9. Armd Recon & Security Bde O&O. NO CHANGE. TCM Recon is designated to support MCCoE in the development of the O&O. MCCoE has not received sufficient guidance to begin the task and request specific support from TCM Recon.
10. R&S BCT O&O. The R&S BCT O&O now includes the MCoE standard Operating Environment section; no other revision is anticipated until after the completion of the 1/4 SBCT (R&S) Excursion which will occur in AUG or SEP, 2017.
11. R&S Analysis and Experimentation.
12. TCM Recon attended the Initial Planning Conference for TRADOC’s Unified Challenge 17.1 Seminar Wargame 23 Jan – 03 Feb 2017. Several key dates were identified during the review of the GAMEX glide path. TCM Recon also met with MBL representatives to discuss resources required, deliverables and expectations required of TCM Recon in support of UC 17.1. The CAV GRP will be played during UC 17.1 and UC 17.2 and as a result, TCM Recon will participate in Scenario development working group (11-13 Oct) to ensure the scenario appropriately reflects the missions the CAV GRP is expected to conduct. Additionally, TCM Recon will continue to work with MBL to identify and lock-in the organization and capabilities of the CAV GRP within OneSAF. TCM Recon has provided an initial set of Learning Demands for the CAV GRP and will continue to refine those in preparation for the Army Issue Review Board scheduled for 8-10 Nov 16. .
13. R&S CBA: NO CHANGE. For FY 17, TCM-Recon will continue working with TCM-BCT representatives to update the Capabilities Needs Analysis (CNA) database with critical R&S CBA gaps and solutions.
14. AWA 17 Observer / Analyst (O/A) Support. NO CHANGE. TCM Recon provides one O/A for GMV / MPF / LRV assessments, 11-30 OCT 2016.
15. R&S BCT Excursion. NO CHANGE. TCM-Recon will present the R&S BCT O&O during 1/4 SBCT R&S Academy, 15-18 NOV at Fort Carson.
16. Scout Sensor Strategy and Development. NO CHANGE. Updated the Appendix to Scout Platoon O&O based on 9-11 AUG Future Soldier Integration Workshop.
17. Cavalry Scout Leader and Soldier Competencies: Once the Scout Platoon O&O is approved by the Chief of Armor TCM Recon will recommend a way ahead for concept to DOTMLPF development process. The actual development process will require time and personnel yet to be identified to conduct mission analysis / coordination, dates to be determined, with OCOA and DOTD to determine a way ahead. Platoon, Troop (TBP), HHT (TBP) O&Os will inform the effort.
18. Recon Knowledge Network. NO CHANGE. Recon Council: 19 OCT.
19. Senior Leader Updates.
20. TBD: CAV GRP O&O Update to the CG, MCoE (postponed from 19 SEP)
21. TBD: Scout Platoon O&O Approval by the Chief of Armor
22. CATR:
23. CATR Life Cycle Support Plan (LCSP). TCM ABCT-Recon signed CATR LCSP on 16 SEP, concurring with comment. This completes the staffing process for the LCSP. Next step. PM Ground Sensors will forward to PEO IEW&S for approval.
24. CATR Type Classification. Thirty days after PEO IEW&S approval of the CATR LCSP, PEO IEW&S is projected to approve CATR Type Classification.
25. CATR Materiel Fielding Decision. Sixty days after PEO IEW&S approval of the CATR LCSP, PEO IEW&S is projected to approve CATR Type Classification.

CATR Materiel Fielding Plan (MFP) and NET Plan (NETP). TCM Recon in coordination with DOTD formally concurred with both plans on 21 SEP. This paves the way for continued planning and NET related training development.

**Upcoming Events**.

 a. ABCT

* 19-23 Sep - ACO AoA workshop (FLKS)
* 20-22 Sep - MNVR F2F and PEO GCS/C3T Network Summit
* 01-13 Oct - Coverage of force on force activities @ NTC 17-01 (3/1CD) (FICA)
* 10-14 Oct - Visit to EUCOM Theater Sustainment Elements (USAREUR)

b. RECON

* 11-13 OCT: UC 17.1 Scenario Development Workgroup
* 13-14 OCT: CATR Depot Visit (BGAD, KY)
* 11-30 OCT: AWA 17 O/A for GMV/MPF/LRV (FBTX)
* 19 OCT: Recon Council
* TBD NOV: CATR Materiel Fielding Decision (FBVA)
* 1 NOV: UC17.2 WMSL Input to MBL
* 8-10 NOV: UC 17.1 Seminar Wargame Army Issue Review Board
* 15-18 NOV: 4ID R&S Academy ISO 1/4 SBCT R&S Excursion (FCCO)
* 23 JAN – 3 FEB: UC 17.1 (FLKS)
* 7-17 FEB: R&S BCT WFX

**Email Members of TCM-ABCT/Recon’s staff:**

Director: John W. Miller III

Military Deputy: LTC Ken Reed

TCM - ABCT SGM: VACANT

TCM - Recon: LTC Darrell O’Steen

XO, TCM - Recon: Pete Rose

DOP/AMPV/MC Team: Ron Kuykendall

TLS Team Lead: Carl Johnson

Abrams Team Lead: LTC Rudy Grimes

Bradley Team Lead: George Moore

‘Other Systems’ Lead: MAJ James Polak

Sustainment: Stephen Harper

Engineer/Field Artillery: MSG Myron Kennedy

Futures: Rhett Griner

Large Caliber Ammo: Wakeland Kuamoo

ARNG ABCT LNO: MAJ Jacob Dunn

Office Admin Contact: Ms. Shelelia Wynn

Office Mailing Address: TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance (ATZB-CIA)

 7533 Holtz Avenue, Suite 4090

 Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

Office Number: COMM: 706-545-4461 DSN: 835-4461