



## TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP (week of 25 January)

27 January 2016

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### 1. ABCT

#### a. Abrams.

1) The Technical Advisor is coordinating with PdM Abrams and Aberdeen Test Center in preparation for the Abrams M1A2 SEPV3 user jury scheduled for 7-15 March 2016 and the Abrams software version 4.6 scheduled for 16-27 May 2016. The M1A2 SEPV3 User Jury is the first opportunity to shake down the new hardware and software associated with (ECP1a) SEPV3. Testing will assess general mobility, power management, mounted surveillance, command & control, ADL, training device interface, embedded training main weapon performance, secondary armaments, sighting systems, target acquisition, target designation, diagnostics, AACs, degraded operation, and Soldier-machine interface. The objective of the version 4.6 beta test is to verify and validate the software update is fully functional, combining the Ammunition Data Link, JCAD integration and LP CROWS. Crews will conduct a live fire consisting of 30 scenarios that validate the FCS through various fully operational and degraded states. This includes validation of the Ammunition Data Link (to include firing the M829A4 round), LP CROWS, Battle Command software, AACs, training device compatibility and general mobility.

#### b. Bradley.

1) The Bradley Program Management Review (PMR) and ECP-2b lethality discussions are scheduled for 2-4 February and will be held at BAE Systems, Sterling Heights, MI. The PMR is a semiannual event designed to inform stakeholders on the current status of the program and project future actions. This PMR provides a status update on logistics support scheduling, contractual deliverables, organizational changes, a review of the logistical processes, management tools, and a product status of ECP2.

2) The Bradley TADSS Analyst is attending the Embedded Training Working Group in Orlando at PEO STRI. The WG is developing a common software to be utilized by Bradley, Abrams, and Stryker platforms to support all future training devices, appended and embedded.

#### c. AMPV.

1) Mark Andrews (MRD) and Ron Kuykendall assisted PM AMPV in reviewing a draft Directed Requirement memorandum for the acceleration of AMPV to support European Activity Set (EAS) requirements. The team recommended clarification of specific requirement(s) and language. The vehicle NET concept was also a key discussion point and will continue to be refined throughout the staffing process.

2) The Network team participated in the AMPV Test and Evaluation WIPT and other IPTs throughout the week. A focus in the MC variant IPTs is on maintaining a technical drawing release of 30 April in order to support CDR and EMD production. Final details are being worked in

preparation for CDR. SFC Tyler also discussed doctrinal inputs with Mr McCrea for both gunnery training and training management POI.

#### **d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:**

##### **1) Doctrine, Organization, Personnel and MC-Network (DOP/MC-Net):**

a) ABCT scout platoons transitioning from “R” series to “K” series OTOE have been instructed to turn in their AN/PRC-150 and/or AN/VRC-104 beyond line-of-sight High Frequency (HF) radios. The AN/PRC-150 man-pack radio (LIN R62247), is also a component of the AN/VRC-104 vehicle mounted HF radio (LIN R87139). Directed removal of these HF radios from scout platoons is an error, and is being addressed by authorizing agencies within the Army. TCM ABCT’s recommendation is to include the AN/VRC-104 radio vehicle mount as part of equipment turn-in, but to retain all AN/PRC-150 radios and accessories on unit MTOEs. Appropriate agencies will provide instruction updates, but until these are published, we recommend units retain their current AN/PRC-150 HF radios.

b) TCM ABCT will host a Command Post Summit here on 2/3 February. The event will provide clarification of future network Computing Environments (CE), programed improvements and their impact(s) on AMPV, Stryker and JLTV development. These O6 level discussions will have participation from Cyber COE, MCCoE, MCoE and various network and platform PMs.

##### **2) Training, Leader Development, and Safety Integration (TLS):**

a) The 2016 Sullivan Cup; Best Tank Crew Competition hosted by the Maneuver Center of Excellence, the US Army Armor School, and the 194th Armored Brigade will be held 02-06 May 2016 at Fort Benning, Georgia. An overview of the competition, projected social events, and a tool to track the competition can be found here: <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/sullivan/index.html> Follow the proceedings on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/USAARMS>

b) Recent survey results from Soldiers and leaders indicate challenges in acquiring and applying current doctrine for planning and executing training. 70% of leader respondents expressed that their platoons/sections do not have a printed library of applicable doctrinal publications. 67% of the same leaders prefer printed manuals to review and apply doctrine during individual and collective training. Trends indicate a reliance on TE&O checklists in Combined Arms Training Strategies (CATS) on the Army Training Network (ATN) to execute training. Although these checklists are great for evaluating and tracking training, they lack details necessary to train many subordinate tasks. Leaders need improvement on cross-walking individual to collective tasks with appropriate MOS STPs, while also referencing digital/print FMs, ATTPs, and TCs. In Dec 2015 TLS reviewed BOLC and NCOES training management lessons plans for strategies to mitigate this gap through leadership education. This week the team provided no-growth recommendations to improve the lesson plans that train SSGs to LTs on manual and digital methods to plan and execute training using AR, IN and CAV doctrinal references published by the MCoE DOTD.

c) During a unit visit to FCCO, leaders expressed concern related to their ability to meet Bradley MG course prerequisites due to operating on non-MToE platforms for a year-long deployment. TCM-ABCT followed up with the MG course and for the gunnery requirement the course is willing to work with units on a case by case basis dependent upon their situation. Units who cannot meet the GT VI prerequisite due to deployment conditions should submit a memorandum for record from the Battalion Commander verifying that the candidate has qualified on Table VI (BC or Gunner) at some point in their career. The candidate will need to meet all other prerequisites.

d) The Infantry School has updated USAIS Pam 350-6, Expert Infantryman Badge. At a recent unit visit to Fort Carson, infantry company commanders from 3/4ID (ABCT) disclosed challenges in finding enough EIB-qualified personnel across the installation to conduct grading to standard. To remedy this, BDEs/DIVs should consider consolidating EIB-qualified personnel at installation level to grade the events until the EIB population at lower echelons can be built up. Access USAIS Pam 350-6 here: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-250418>

**e. Large Caliber Ammo:**

1) Mr. Kuamoo continues observation of tank gunnery with 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Ft Riley, KS. 1-4 CAV completed crew level qualification firing the M1002 MPAT training round, main gun ammunition performed as designed. 3-66 Armor conducting crew level gunnery, one broken training sabot round occurred, no injuries or damage to equipment, unit continues gunnery training. Ammunition briefings provided to Soldiers from 1-4 CAV and 1-16 Infantry Battalion, good two way conversations.

2) Mr. Kuamoo continues efforts with 8th US Army Korea to ensure direct fire munitions meet range safety standards. The current effort involves the 25mm M910 Sabot training rounds. We are waiting on a task list from Korea on engagements involving the M910 round. Once this list is provided, will push forward to ARDEC to perform escapement probabilities per engagements. Results will be sent back to Korea for use in the commanders risk assessment prior to live fire

**f. Futures Integration:**

1) The team continued preparations for the RDEC-MCoE Collaboration Workshop 2-4 FEB. TCM-ABCT breakout sessions will focus on CEMA the afternoon of 2 FEB and the morning of 3 FEB, followed by Counter-UAS discussions the afternoon of 3 FEB. Breakout session back-briefs will be presented the morning of 4 FEB to the main conference audience.

**g. Sustainment and Logistics Integration:**

1) Mr. Harper spoke with the Senior Ordnance Logistics Officer, HQDA ODCS, G44M on the possibly of placing a chapter in AR 750-1, Army Materiel Maintenance Policy on Unit Maintained Equipment (UME). This was due in part because there is no set standard by the Army on how Left behind Equipment (LBE) is maintained as UME when the brigade deploys forward. It turns out that G44M is already writing a chapter on the unit's responsibility to maintain UME. The chapter on maintaining UME will be in the next change to AR 750-1.

2) Mr. Harper conducted sustainment interviews with 1/3 ABCT and 3/4 ABCT upon return from Germany and Kuwait. Interviews focused on the BSB CDR and CSM, all BDE/BN S4, all FSC CDR and 1SGs, BDE PBO and all maintenance technicians. Some trends that affected both theaters of operation were: Unit Maintained Equipment (UME) was a large challenge. The personnel piece needs to be right the next time. Majority of Soldiers left to maintain UME were maintainers, not operators. All maintainers conducted services. All maintenance technicians agreed the BDE ASL needs to accompany the BDE during there next deployment. Leaders pointed out the maintenance facilities in Kuwait and most countries in Europe are inadequate. Many maintenance sections had to work on equipment in the open.

3) The team continues to work with TCM Transportation, SCoE, PdM HTV, and TARDEC to review the current HETS CPD and OMS/MP. Together, the IPT is reviewing each requirements and identifying system design areas that have a potential for trades based on operational demands and cost driven design parameters. The highest potential for trades and cost savings to date is in the turning radius which is an Additional Performance Attribute as well as the trail and cross country mobility which is a subset of the HETS Key Performance Parameter 3 – Mobility.

PdM HTV and TARDEC is planning to conduct an analysis, similar to Cost Benefit Analysis, to help inform appropriate and potential trades that could be presented in front of a Configuration Steering Board this coming March 2016.

**h. Assistant Director - ARNG:**

1) During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ARNG ABCT teleconference, MAJ Dankyan encouraged ARNG ABCT commanders who are scheduled for a CTC rotation to request a TCM-ABCT visit. TCM-ABCT has collected observations, insights, and lessons learned from ABCT units who have participated at a Combat Training Center and will provide this information to units preparing for a CTC rotation. Trends observed include ABCTs continuing to demonstrate similar challenges across all warfighting functions. ABCTs continue to base operations on tactics, techniques and procedures used during the war on terror and they are experiencing challenges as they transition to decisive action environments. These trends indicate continued challenges planning for operations at combat training centers (CTCs). The most common contributing factor to reduced performance remains the complexity to synchronize all warfighting functions across the formation in the expansive time and space of CTCs. An emerging trend suggests units are scheduling the NTC Leaders Training Program (LTP) too late in the training cycle to have a positive impact on home station training.

**2. RECON.**

a. R&S Concepts and Analysis:

1) R&S BCT O&O Implementation: 20 JAN Steering Committee resulted in guidance to refine the MCoE R&S information paper and collaborate to provide input into the ARCIC opportunity papers in preparation for the March 16 Executive Committee.

2) CAV SQDN O&O: Select operational force review of the revised Senior Leader Draft Version was completed on 26 JAN. The read ahead for the 29 JAN 16 update to the CoAR was submitted on 27 JAN. The review will provide an overview of staffing comments received and our actions and updates on the draft O&O. Goal is to obtain the CoAR's concurrence to submit the SQDN O&O to ARCIC.

3) R&S CBA: The team will conduct an FSA review on 28 JAN to finalize draft documents in preparation for the 17 FEB 16 FSA Azimuth Check with the CoAR. Following internal review, TCM-Recon will re-staff DOTMLPF recommendations with senior action officers to ensure continued support received during initial staffing last as well as reorganization of the FSA for senior leader decision briefs.

4) 19D Scout Sniper. The 19D Scout Sniper FDU was submitted from CDD this week. TCM-Recon concurred with comments for the FDU request of two (2) scout snipers per platoon. Our recommendation was to request three (3) per platoon based on the Platoon Organizing Principle to be able to conduct three independent section operations simultaneously. We will continue to pursue USAARMS executing a Scout Sniper Requirements Workshop to develop and evaluate courses of action for adding a scout sniper capability to the scout platoon as well as develop the initial concept of employment. This effort will inform the Scout Platoon O&O and Standard Scout Squad Force Design Update (FDU) preparation.

b. Standard Scout Squad Force Design Update (FDU) Preparation. **NO CHANGE:** ON HOLD PENDING Scout Squad Definition Analysis, date TBD: Completed initial draft of A-I-S BCT Cavalry Squadron Scout Platoon Standardized TOE reflecting both current and future Organizational designs and began coordination with OCOA & TCM S & I. continuing work on standardizing Battalion Scout Plt TOE and organizations.

c. CATR:

- 1) CATR O&O. **NO CHANGE**: Completion on hold due to competing requirements.
- 2) CATR Lesson Plans: Reviewed lesson plans for the Hawk Data Logger, iFox over the horizon tracker, and bilby Ae2+ digital recorder. Developed draft POI outline for NET training.
- 3) CATR integration into functional courses. **NO CHANGE**: ICW with CATR Master Trainer continuing discussions with instructors from RSLC and Sniper course to determine a way ahead to incorporate familiarization training. Conducted office call with ARC course manager.
- 4) CATR technical and audio video (TAVS) **NO CHANGE**: training is scheduled to be conducted 16-19 FEB.
- 5) CATR Draft Life Cycle Sustainment Plan. **NO CHANGE**: Reviewing the document with planned response to PM Ground Sensors NLT 26-27 JAN

d. Sensor Capability Development. TCM Recon provided cavalry scout/recon and security SME support to both the CDID 12-14 JAN Sensor Strategy Workshop and CDID's 11-14 Soldier Borne Sensor CPD writing workshop.

**Upcoming Events.**

a. ABCT

- 01-05 Feb - Bradley PMR (Sterling Heights, MI)
- 02-03 Feb - Command Post Summit (FBGA)
- 02-04 Feb - RDEC Collaboration Workshop (FBGA)
- 02-04 Feb - Bushmaster Weapon User WG (YPG, AZ)
- 21-24 Feb - Cmd. Post Integration Sync meeting (FBTX)
- 07-12 Mar -TCM-ABCT Seminar Wargame (FBGA)
- 07-11 Mar - Assured PNT WG (APG, MD)
- 07-15 Mar - Abrams User Jury (APG, MD)
- 05-08 Apr - JAB User Forum (Warren, MI)
- 26-29 Apr - JAB Start of Work Meeting (Warren, MI)

b. RECON

- 29 JAN: SQDN O&O Operational Force Review Results with Chief of Armor
- TBD JAN: Scout Sniper Table Top Scenario (TCM-R/USAARMS)
- 2 FEB: Improved Ghillie System (IGM) requirements working group
- 3 FEB: LRS CBA way ahead teleconference
- 4 FEB: HF-TTL PM Special Reconnaissance IPT (ST Petersburg, FL)
- 4 FEB: SQDN O&O – Request for Concurrence with the Chief of Armor  
On the Scout Squad Definition Analysis Study Plan
- 16-19 FEB: CATR technical and audio video training
- 17 FEB (T): R&S CBA FSA, Presentation of Read Ahead with the Chief of Armor

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