



**TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP (week of 14 December 15)**

**16 December 2015**

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## **1. ABCT**

### **a. Abrams.**

1) The Abrams TADSS analyst is conducting a form, fit, and function test for the Crew Modular Unit Recorder (CMUR) Thru Sight Video (TSV) recorder on the new Multi-Function Vehicle Port (MFVP) on the M1A2 SEPv2 at GDLS in Sterling Heights, MI. The CMUR was installed on the vehicle thru the new MFVP, and the major change to this installation is that only 4 cables and 4 cameras are installed on the inside of the tank; the rest of the CMUR components are mounted in the right side of the bustle rack where the MFVP is located. After the install of the CMUR, the team verified the new install, operate and uninstall procedures to update the Operator Manuals. GDLS provided a photographer to capture the new install locations. The next step for this program is to live fire test at APG in the next couple of months.

### **b. Bradley.**

1) Team Bradley and MAJ Polak participated in a TELECON review of Bradley TMs and dialogue with CASCOM, LOGSA, and the PM expressing our concern with equipping the force with manuals that are not functional or logical in sequence. A review of the manuals was conducted with Senior Noncommissioned Officer Instructors from the maintenance schoolhouse. Their assessment of the new TMs are aligned with our assessment, that the current work package and PMCS flow would cause confusion to the crewmembers conducting maintenance. We also believe that there was no Val/Ver officially conducted for the paper version of the new TM. However, a Val/Ver was conducted for the IETM manual during 3rd and 4th QTR FY15. Our position is that the proposed updates should maintain the traditional format of hull and turret task separation instead of the consolidation format currently under review.

### **c. AMPV.**

1) The AMPV team supported MRD in discussion with PM AMPV and ATEC test team on the operational duty cycle during developmental test. We provided detailed recommendations on the message traffic and communications usage to support the planned testing as well as recommendations affecting the use of the various mission equipment packages. All recommendations were well received and will be presented to the entire RAM IPT for concurrence.

2) Scott Williford participated via the Defense Connect Service (DCS) in part two of the Product Support Management Integrated Product Team maintenance summit hosted by BAE System. The major areas of discussion included programmatic costs and contract deliverable compliance. There were no action items assigned or areas of concern presented that directly impact TCM ABCT's support of the AMPV program.

3) SFC Tyler, Ron Kuykendall and Mike Sjostrom returned from the AMPV Technical Review (TR). No outstanding issues were brought to the table that haven't been discussed and worked through during prior IPTs between government and vendor personnel. The program is currently on glide path for Critical Design Review (CDR) in June 2016.

4) Mike Sjostrom participated in another co-site discussion with PM AMPV, BAE, and Northrup Grumman (sub-contractor to BAE). The focus was surrounding the second run of modeling and ensuring this run incorporated the operational duty cycles of the radios and mission command systems supported by the OMS/MP and OV-3 documents.

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

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

a) Phil Tiemeyer is currently reviewing the proposed ABCT Network Modernization Challenges brief in order to support a coming council of Colonels (CoC) and a subsequent General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC). There is no scheduled brief, but it is expected that a CoC for ABCT Network Modernization will occur sometime after mid-January.

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

a) Team TLS supported the DOTD collective training branch in reviewing ABCT collective tasks. This initiative has resulted in our team getting a head start in support of a DA directed effort, the Cost of Training Readiness Program, linked to the CSA's #1 Priority – Readiness. The MCoE team has a suspense to develop / revise ABCT METL collective tasks to “Objective-T” standards and revise the ABCT Combined Arms Training Strategy (CATS) by 30 MAR 16. Thus far we have provided feedback for the Draft BCT Standardized Decisive Action METL and three ABCT company collective tasks. An MCoE working group will be held every Thursday at 1000 hours from 07 JAN - 30 MAR 2016 in W-153, and will consist of members from DOTD, DOT, A/I/S/Recon TCMs, and AR/IN schools. New drafts will be sent out the Friday prior to the next work group meeting. Each work group will adjudicate 6 – 9 tasks per week.

b) Team TLS provided support to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Engineer School following an RFI for ways to improve Engineer leader skills on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. FORSCOM CDR Training Guidance for 2016 references a requirement for Bradley crewmen unfamiliar with the platform to attend the Bradley Leader Course (BLC) before assuming the duty. The FORSCOM Training Guidance does not specify 11Bs, but implies all MOSs as it just states "Bradley crewmen" (Bradley crewmen = 11B, 12B, 13F, 19D). Currently the Engineer School does not have vehicles to support this training. Engineers are eligible to attend the BLC, and the Engineer School is successfully sending officers to the course. The last BLC graduated the first female graduate, who is an Engineer Lieutenant. The Chief of Staff expressed challenges with getting the right NCOs in BLC through HRC without first establishing an ASI for NCO graduates. The Engineer School also desires to pursue similar strategies for NCOs assigned to Stryker platforms. The Office Chief of Infantry and TCM-SBCT have been integrated in this effort.

c) Team TLS has integrated with action officers in DOTD to review ALC, M-SLC and BOLC lesson plans. Our team has historically reviewed POIs but they only contain a list of what is being trained, and lack detailed content. Our intent is to provide no-growth recommendations to mitigate ABCT gaps related to leader proficiencies, by improving existing course content. The team will utilize trend data from three years of unit visits, semiannual reports, and CDID Test and Analysis Office to prioritize recommendations.

#### **e. Large Caliber Ammo:**

1) Mr. Kuamoo completed the live fire User Familiarization Training (UFT) with the 120mm M1002 Frangible Nose (FN) configuration in Korea. Six rounds were fired; four by a US tank crew and two by MG Kim, a ROK Army DIV CG. The focus of this exercise was to view performance of the round from the crew standpoint, and to analyze fragmentation of the projectile's nose. Loaders commented the round was simple to handle, and easier to load than normal training HEAT rounds. The gunner's comments included good accuracy, and a preference to fire this round than any other type. MG Martin, CG, 2ID also commented on the positive performance of the rounds. Fragmentation from the round was found at the impact sites providing positive proof that the round performed as designed. MG Kim was also very pleased with these results. Fragmentation of this nose will better ensure that no debris escapes the range safety zone while allowing full gunnery training for the tank crews. Current plans are to provide additional rounds to the division sometime in summer of 2016.

2) Mr. Kuamoo continues efforts with 8<sup>th</sup> US Army to ensure other types of munitions being fired on their ranges are safe and pose no threat to the civilian population. Discussion now centers on 25mm ammunition. Have recommended 8A with 2ID determine critical tasks requiring use of the M910 (TPDS-T) rounds. These tasks would be sent to ARDEC to run modeling determination of risk assessment for each task. This modeling information will be sent back to Korea for the commander to better assess and determine the risk associated with firing this round.

#### **f. Futures Integration:**

1) The team continued its preparation for the TCM ABCT Seminar War game scheduled for 07-11 March in Olive Hall. TCM ABCT leadership has briefed the CDI Director and will implement his guidance.

2) The team participated in an O&O Issue Review Board on Monday 14 DEC. TCM ABCT planned to lead a 15 minute discussion over the attached spreadsheet which includes some of our Learning Demands and the scheduled experiments that will inform the Learning Demands. The audience was the other CoEs and the VTC was led by Dr. Brewer at ARCIC. None of the TCMs briefed. Instead the group had a discussion about how the campaign of learning will inform O&O development over the year.

#### **g. Sustainment and Logistics Integration:**

1) Mr. Harper participated in the Reverse Collection and Analysis Team (R-CAAT) TELECON with presentations given by BG Christopher J. Sharpsten, Commanding General of the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) and key members of his staff to discuss the ESC's Early Entry Command Post (EECP) operations executed during Exercise Swift Response 15 conducted in Europe. The highlight of the discussion showed that communication architecture for the ESC are different from the TSC and below. A common communication network would better enable effective lines of communication internally to include multinational partners.

2) The team continues to work closely with TCM V&G, PEO STRI, TSAID, and MCoE DOT-D to develop the appropriate strategy for training mounted proficiencies within the ABCT formation. Previously, CAC-T was requesting that the Close Combat Tactical Trainers (CCTT), a comprehensive collective trainer for the ABCTs, transition to Sustainment in FY21 thus halting all future concurrency upgrades to mirror fielded vehicles. This strategy was based on a training device portfolio funding shortfall. MCoE continuously communicates their non-concurrence to this strategy and it seems to have finally resonated to decision makers. The Evolution of Training WG has since then change course and is now recommending not to put CCTT into sustainment until a suitable solution is ready to be fielded. That new timeline is forecasted to be around FY2026 with this new strategy to be briefed at the winter Training General Officer Steering Committee (TGOSC) planned for February 2016.

3) MSG Kennedy completed installation of M88 Mud Flaps on two vehicle at the Tracked Vehicle Recovery Course. Team experienced no issues with installation following the install instructions. Feedback on a couple illustrations and steps will be submitted to the PM and BAE team.

4) Mr. Harper and MSG Kennedy participated in a Heavy Equipment Transport System (HETS) Council of Colonels TELECON. LTC Jasper participated as the Senior TCM-ABCT rep. The purpose of this brief is to obtain consensus on way ahead for the Heavy Equipment Transporter System (HETS) gaps that will be filled with a new start or RECAP program addressing transportability (axle weights), payload due to M1A2 SEP V3 increased weight, and highway transportability restrictions. HETS Working Group ACTO level recommendation is to Combine New Start or Conversion with a RECAP program. RECAP will focus on providing near term transportation for upcoming SEPV3 fielding until the new start system is available, meeting all program requirements.

#### **h. Assistant Director - ARNG:**

1) The 1/34<sup>th</sup> ABCT (MNARNG) DoD IG Audit Team completed their evaluation on the ABCT training readiness during battalion collective training events at Camp Ripley, MN. The unit continues to conduct monthly teleconferences across states with organic and supported units in preparation for NTC rotation 16-07. The next scheduled sustainment teleconference is 161430DEC2015.

2) We continue to monitor ARNG ABCT force structure changes, currently focusing on MTOE changes in the 278<sup>th</sup> ACR (TNARNG) and 116<sup>th</sup> ABCT (IDARNG). Over the next two years, the ARNG will reduce to five ABCTs with the inactivation of the 55/28<sup>th</sup> ABCT (PAARNG) by the end of FY 2016, and the conversion of the 81<sup>st</sup> ABCT (CA/ORARNG) to a SBCT by August 2016. The 1/221<sup>st</sup> Cavalry (NVARNG) is tentatively designated as the cavalry squadron for the 116<sup>th</sup> ABCT.

## **2. RECON.**

### **a. R&S Concepts and Analysis:**

1) CAV SQDN O&O: Revised Senior Leader Draft was forwarded to the Chief of Armor on Tuesday for review. This version changed the format to a short (13 page) main body with supporting appendices. Once reviewed, we'll provide a draft to the Director, CDID and CG, MCoE as a read ahead for the 6 JAN 16 Special Topics Update.

2) Scout of the Future (SotF): **NO CHANGE:** The initial construct and KSAs were briefed to the ARCIC Director on 1 DEC 15 and we received minor additions to the SotF concept. TCM-Recon will continue to refine this concept and work with the Armor School on conducting a MCoE stakeholder update and implementation plan overview. Awaiting notice from USAARMS on the scheduling of the first Program of Instruction Task Selection Board

3) R&S CBA: **NO CHANGE:** In addition to continuing FSA refinement and incorporating the SotF KSA solution recommendations, TCM-Recon is re-staffing 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) Preparing for 19D Scout Sniper Requirements Workshop, 7-8 JAN 2016. The workshop will develop and evaluate courses of action for adding a scout sniper capability to the scout platoon. 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**

1) 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**: Forwarded copy of O&O to 10th MTN for review and comment.

2) CATR Training and Lesson Plan Review: Conducted training on tagging, tracking, & locating devices provided by PdM GS. Overall feedback from Soldiers and DoTD representatives was positive. Soldiers recommended additional practical exercise time be added to lessons as well as a class on the graphic user interface (Raptorx).

CATR integration into functional courses: ICW with CATR Master Trainer conducted discussions with instructors from RSLC and Sniper course to determine a way ahead to incorporate familiarization training.

3. **Upcoming Events.**

a. ABCT

- 11-15 Jan - Umbrella Week Visit to 1/3ID (FSGA)
- 11-13 Jan - HETS Weapon System Review (Wash DC)
- 19-22 Jan - Umbrella Week Visit to 3/4ID (FCCO)
- 25-27 Jan - Embedded Training Working Group (Orlando, FL)
- 26-28 Jan - AMPV T&E WIPT (APG)

b. RECON

- 17 DEC: R&S-LL OPT to CDR 316 CAV.
- 6 JAN: Special Topics Update to CG, MCoE, Subjects Cav Sqdn O&O (incls SotF and R&S CBA Update)
- 7-8 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
- TBD FEB: CATR audio/video device Training and Lesson Plan Review FBGA

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

Director: [John W. Miller III](#)  
Military Deputy: [LTC Joseph Jasper](#)  
TCM - ABCT SGM: [SGM Quentin Barber](#)  
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: [Robert Hay](#)  
Bradley Team Lead: [George Moore](#)  
'Other Systems' Lead: [MAJ James A. Polak](#)  
Sustainment: [Stephen Harper](#)  
Engineer/Field Artillery: [MSG Myron Kennedy](#)  
Futures: [Rhett Griner](#)  
Large Caliber Ammo: [Wakeland Kuamoo](#)  
ARNG Representative: [MAJ Matthew Dankyan](#)

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