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**TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP 11 October 2016**

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**1. ABCT**

**a. Abrams.**

1) The Abrams team executed the Abrams SW 4.6 and M829A4 accuracy live fire at APG, MD last week. The purpose of this event was to narrow down the error sources related to M829A4 erratic firing discovered during the Abrams SW 4.6 Beta Test. The test fired M865 and M829A4 using both the A3 and A4 SUBDES in order to establish a consistent firing performance. All rounds were consistent and performed as designed. Based upon the preliminary data from the live fire accuracy issues point toward worn tubes as the likely cause of the erratic firing. PM Abrams will be laying out a deliberate test plan to assess accuracy and worn gun tubes.

2) The Abrams Master Gunner is at the National Training Center from 11 – 15 October to collect feedback from 3/1CD Soldiers on Abrams related issues and observe the units live fire exercise.

**b. Bradley.**

1) Mr. George Moore attended the Synthetic Training Environment (STE) working group in preparation for the Council of Colonels prior to the General Officer Steering Committee that will be held in November. Two key thoughts during the presentation was the possibility of recommending the removal of one or two platoon sets of modules from the CCTT at each location and using mobile sets to augment training at the company level. The assumption of removing CCTT modules are based on an AAA report developed from 2013 to 2015 without regard of the types of trainers that were fielded at that time. The CCTT was not on the front burner during the past ten years because of mission requirements and, needed to be upgraded for the modules to look like the vehicle in the motor pool. This was the reason for lack of use, and for the past 2 years PEOSTRI has been upgrading modules to correct the noted issue. We expect usage to rise because of upgrades that create CCTT concurrency with vehicles in unit motor pools.

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

1) The AMPV Team will participate in BAE Human Factors Evaluation in Sterling Heights, Michigan from 18-20 October. This event is a follow-on to the group’s visit earlier this month when they evaluated the driver’s vision sight lines, and the third mission command workstation. This event will also allow the group to evaluate the vehicle Commander’s Weapon Station, where they will confirm whether the design provides required weapon access to allow weapon functioning and provides required lines of sight.

**d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:**

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

a)  Mr. Johnson will deliver an information brief on 14 October to Noncommissioned Officers assigned to ABCTs who are at Fort Benning for the Maneuver Senior Leader Course. The brief is designed to update these prospective platoon sergeants on current and future DOTMLPF activities taking place inside Army Armored Brigade Combat Teams.

b) Members of the team continue data collection activities at NTC for Rotation 17-01, where 3/1CD is conducting a Decisive Action rotation to prepare for future deployed requirements. Mission Command, Doctrine, and Training integration analysts are observing force on force activities until 13 October.

c) TCM ABCT has published its quarterly newsletter covering staff activities between July and September 2016. Read it here: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-314794>

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

a) Ron Kuykendall will participate in a CTC OPFOR Surrogate Vehicle (OSV) work group meeting facilitated by DCG, CAC-T at Ft. Leavenworth from 18-19 October. The current fleet of M113-based OSVs require refresh or replacement. The work group’s goal is to identify COAs that provide the OPFOR safe, reliable vehicles that can oppose BLUFOR with comparable capabilities. This event will finalize/prioritize OSV replacement COAs developed during a series of work group teleconferences last week. The group will focus on providing a viable OSV capability until a Future OSV (F-OSV) JCIDS supported program is established and resourced to provide a longer term capability. One area of discussion is recommended TCM(s) to assume responsibility for this effort.

**e. Large Caliber Ammo:**

1) Continuing to support testing of the M1002 Frangible Nose at the Yuma Test Center, AZ. This effort is to verify accuracy using Target Impact Dispersion (TID) data with this new configuration.

**f. Futures Integration:**

1) The Futures Team is continuing to monitor the Strategic Portfolio Assessment Review (SPAR). TCM ABCT provided feedback on the mitigation strategy for our high risk gaps which include a force design update to add two Rifle Companies to the ABCT and acquisition of a Next Generation Combat Vehicle (NGCV).

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

1) The team participated in a counter-UAS conference with DARPA and Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) representatives last week, and received an update on current DoD and DHS initiatives and investments regarding C-UAS. Discussed programs of developing systems and TTPs for Group 1 UAV countermeasures. Team continues to work with our CDID C-UAS workgroup and monitor FCoE C-UAS efforts.

2) Preparation continues for ABCT AROC #3, focusing on presenting a more comprehensive review of a problem set with the intent of receiving guidance versus a specific decision on an individual platform requirement. The group is looking at capability gap issues for HET/HERC/JAB whether we are discussing the SEPv2 or SEPv3. We are looking for guidance on when the Army needs this gap closed with all parties understanding; 1) the extent of the issue, 2) timeline when we expect to be able to close the gap, and 3) mitigation strategies being implemented.

**h. ARNG LNO:** NSTR.

**2. RECON.**

TCM Recon is co-lead for MCoE in HQDA tasking to ARCIC to develop options for operational level reconnaissance and security formation. Three COAs will be developed.

COA 1: meet the directed guidance of:

1. ACR should closely resemble the L-Edition ACR TOE.

2. Design not to exceed 4,850 TOE positions.

3. Updated ACR should be able to conduct similar reconnaissance and security missions similar to those of legacy "Army of Excellence" ACRs.

4. Provide updated URS by 1 Nov 2016 in sufficient detail to develop draft TOEs. This will enable the Army to program this unit in the BES/POM so resources are available once the final design is approved for implementation.

COA 2 will be a resource informed version of the emerging RSSG to ~ 4850.

COA 3 is the full up Security Strike Group Design that becomes the objective design.

TCM-Recon has received additional feedback from USAARMS on the Scout Platoon O&O, once these are incorporated into the final draft (anticipate 2 weeks), the Platoon O&O will be resubmitted for approval by the CoAR.

TCM-Recon prepares for a combined PM-GS and TCM-Recon discussion with the G8 on CATR future requirements, currently scheduled for 19OCT, as well as the Materiel Fielding Decision (MFD) currently scheduled for 18 NOV 16.

1. R&S Concepts and Analysis. O&Os are ordered in priority of effort to write or revise:
2. Recon & Security Strike Group (RSSG) O&O. The CoAR concurred with the RSSG O&O and organizational design to facilitate the HQDA task as COA 3. Version 1.2 was provided across TRADOC CoEs for review and input to prepare for FY17 CoL events.
3. Standard Scout PLT O&O. NO CHANGE: Chief of Armor (CoAR) approval is scheduled for 6 OCT 16. Once the O&O is approved TCM Recon will develop and present a plan to the CoAR for concept to DOTMLPF development handover.
4. Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR). NO CHANGE: 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).
5. Cavalry Troop O&O. NO CHANGE: 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.
6. Squadron Direct Fire Company (Tank, MPF, MGS/ATGM) O&O. NO CHANGE: To be written after the completion of the Cav Troop O&O.
7. HHT O&O. NO CHANGE: 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.
8. R&S BCT O&O. NO CHANGE: 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.
9. R&S Analysis and Experimentation.
10. On 11 OCT, we participated in the UC17.1 CORPS CONOP review with CDID, MCBL, and MBL in preparation for the Set the Experiment Workshop on 12-13 OCT. The CORPs CONOP development will facilitate the 17-21 OCT orders writing work group.
11. 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.
12. AWA 17 Observer / Analyst (O/A) Support. NO CHANGE. TCM Recon provides one O/A for GMV / MPF / LRV assessments, 4-30 OCT 2016.
13. R&S BCT Excursion. NO CHANGE: Established contact with the 1/4 SBCT lead planner to coordinate the support for the R&S BCT O&O discussion during the 15-18 NOV R&S Academy at Fort Carson. 1/4 SBCT has lead and TCM-Recon is in support. Further coordination is required to identify 1/4's specific desire for the O&O discussion.
14. Scout Sensor Strategy and Development. NO CHANGE. Updated the Appendix to Scout Platoon O&O based on 9-11 AUG Future Soldier Integration Workshop.
15. Cavalry Scout Leader and Soldier Competencies: NO CHANGE: 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.
16. Recon Knowledge Network. NO CHANGE. Recon Council: 19 OCT.
17. Senior Leader Updates.
18. 19 OCT: TCM-Recon and PM-GS CATR discussion with G8
19. CATR:
20. TCM-Recon prepares for a combined PM-GS and TCM-Recon discussion with the G8 on CATR future requirements, currently scheduled for 19 OCT, as well as the Materiel Fielding Decision (MFD) currently scheduled for 18 NOV 16.
21. CATR Type Classification. NO CHANGE: Thirty days after PEO IEW&S approval of the CATR LCSP, PEO IEW&S is projected to approve CATR Type Classification.
22. CATR Materiel Fielding Decision. 18 NOV is the dated scheduled for the PEO IEW&S to make the CATR Materiel Fielding Decision.
23. Tech Refresh. Priority action is preparing the prioritized recommendations for tech refresh, identifying requirements based on user recommendations.

CATR Training: ICW DotD, TCM Recon is developing and staffing training evaluation outlines for NET.

**Upcoming Events**.

a. ABCT

* 01-13 Oct - Coverage of force on force activities @ NTC 17-01 (3/1CD) (FICA)
* 11-14 Oct - Coverage of live fire activities @ NTC 17-01 (3/1CD) (FICA)
* 17-21 Oct - M-1002 Frangible Nose Testing (Yuma Test Center, AZ)
* 18-19 Oct - OPFOR Support Vehicle WG (FLWKS)
* 18-20 Oct - AMPV User Demo / Eval (Sterling Heights, MI)

b. RECON

* 12-13 OCT: UC 17.1 Scenario Development Workgroup
* TBD: CATR Depot Visit (BGAD, KY)
* 11-30 OCT: AWA 17 O/A for GMV/MPF/LRV (FBTX)
* 17-21 OCT: UC 17.1 DIV Orders Writing WG
* 19 OCT: Recon Council
* 19 OCT: G8 CATR Discussion with PM and TCM-Recon
* 31 OCT – 24 OCT: CATR NET Validation and 101AAslt NMIB ClksvlKY & FCKY
* 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)
* 15-18 NOV: UC 17.1 MPC
* 18 NOV: CATR Materiel Fielding Decision (FBVA)
* 6-9 DEC: UC 17.1 Orders Writing WG
* 12-16 DEC: UC 17.1 RoC
* 6 JAN: UC 17.1 FPC
* 23 JAN – 3 FEB: UC 17.1 (FLKS)
* 7-17 FEB: R&S BCT WFX

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