



SQUAD: FOUNDATION OF THE DECISIVE FORCE

September - October 2013

UPDATE



29 October 2013

SFDF IS DEDICATED TO ALL DISMOUNTED ELEMENTS

This update includes highlights on:

- SFDF Maneuver and Fires Integrated Exercise (MFI)
- MCoE Recommendations
- Impact of Phase II Infantry Advanced Leader Course (ALC)
- Building Strategic Landpower
- Upcoming Events

INFANTRY ALC PHASE II FINDINGS

- *NCOs' performance, as measured by their confidence in their ability to employ the more general NCO competencies and the specific ALC tasks increased significantly over the length of the course. For the competencies, no significant drop-off in confidence was noted at follow-on (transfer), three to five months later at the unit. This pattern held for the ALC tasks as well with two exceptions (Call for Fire and Combat Operations - significant decline at follow-on but still higher than start-of-course ratings).*
- *Compared to other Army courses, the students rated the overall training value of the ALC as slightly better than average, indicating that there are areas where ALC can be improved. Factors impacting the overall training value of ALC included unit background (NCOs with a primarily mechanized background viewed the course as more valuable than did NCOs with either a wheeled or light Infantry background), experience (SGTs rated the ALC higher than did the more senior NCOs-SSGs), and course versions (resident rated higher than MTT).*

July 2012

-- Army Research Institute --

[Linked to Report](#)

SFDF – MANEUVER, FIRES INTEGRATED EXERCISE (MFI)

- **MFI Brief to Branch Chiefs:** The future SFDF-MFI will inform Power, Protection; Situational Awareness; Fires; and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS). This exercise is tentatively scheduled for August-September 2014, where Squad Gaps and Fires Gaps are being targeted. Initial desired outcomes include to verify and inform current requirement documents (support JCIDS process); Inform new or future requirements; Identify plausible solutions for accelerated development; Provide data, analytics and soldier feedback; Move forward on attaining overmatch at the Squad level; Accelerate MCoE and Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) priority initiatives and system requirements. Planning and working groups are ongoing. The focused required capabilities (RC) for the MCoE are:
 - RC 1 - Fire, maneuver and survive in close combat
 - RC 4 - Determine friendly, enemy, neutral and noncombatant
 - RC 6 - Fight for information to contribute to situational awareness
 - RC 7 - Manage and Generate power

MCoE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MCoE recommended seven post-experiment actions for Army Capabilities Integration Center (ARCIC) action or directive from Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiments (AEWE).** Topics include: the (1) Network; (2) Power and Energy; (3) Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS); (4) Lethality, Mobility, and Force Protection; (5) Counters to Threat Capabilities; (6) Fire Support; (7) Promising Technologies. The MCoE is taking the following post experiment actions: (1) Small Unit Solutions, Soldier Load and (2) Review Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) findings outlined in the AEWE Bold Quest 12 Report that impact ([MCoE Memorandum for Record](#), [Spiral H Report](#) and [Bold Quest 12 Report](#))
- **MCoE recommended Prioritization of Resources for Combat Portfolio and Combat Vehicle Modernization:** One of the recommendations include initiate a new program to improve dismounted Soldier tactical mobility in the IBCCT through an inexpensive, easy to maintain Lightweight Combat Vehicle (LCV) that is UH-60 airmobile and can move combat Soldiers across close and complex terrain to a position of advantage. ([MCoE Memorandum for Record](#))

BUILDING STRATEGIC LANDPOWER

- **Clash of Wills:** Strategic success - or failure - most often occurs within the land domain, so our ability to conduct sustained land operations against the range of potential threats as part of the joint force is vital to protecting U.S. national interests.
- “The greatest lesson we learned from Iraq and Afghanistan is that all conflict remains a human enterprise: a clash of wills involving governments, militaries and people.”*
- **The Human Nature of War – Strategic Landpower:** Emerging central and supporting ideas for strategic land-power focus on the principles of “Prevent, Shape, Win.” Fulfilling these principles requires regionally engaged, culturally agile forces that can prevent events from developing and unhinging strategic objectives. These forces must be globally responsive and integrated into the human domain at all levels. They must also be culturally and technologically astute enough to operate comfortably at the confluence of human, cyberspace and physical domains.

- **Operationalizing Strategic Landpower:** If we have just three or four of our 33 brigades conversant in the language, culture and networks of where we are deploying to, we will be eons ahead of where we started in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **Developing Leaders:** We are emphasizing Mission Command across the Army so that agile and adaptive leaders can better execute unified action in complex and ambiguous environments.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SFDF- MFIX Kick Off Meeting:** Accelerated Capabilities Division (ACD), Army Capabilities Integration Center (ARCIC) and the Soldier Division (SD), MCoE will host the SFDF-MFIX Kick-off Meeting at FT Benning, GA from 29-30 Oct 2013. Focus areas of the SFDF-MFIX are Situational Awareness, Power (energy), Protection, Fires, and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS).
- **SFDF ICDT VTC/TELECON Update:** the next Squad Foundation of the Decisive Force - Integrated Capabilities Development Team (SFDF-ICDT) update will take place at Ft Benning, GA on 14 Nov 2013, 1000-1200 EDT. Location is BLDG 70, CR 1060. If you wish to participate by TELECON or VTC:
 - TELECON; dial in number is 706-545-4298, pin is 8831#
 - VTC; submit your SITE-ID, POC Email and POC telephone number to Mr. Joe Parker (joseph.m.parker1.ctr@mail.mil) and Mr. Dave Dice (david.t.dice.ctr@mail.mil)
 - Dial in for the VTC and TELECON will begin at 0930, and the SFDF-ICDT update will begin at 1000hrs.
- **12 – 22 Nov 2013 Target Hand-Off Assessment:** assess the effectiveness of current prototype technologies to conduct target hand-off between Soldiers in a squad and between squads and mounted platforms.

[SFDF Portal](#)

SFDF Team

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