



TCM-ABCT/BFSB
Fort Benning, Georgia

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BFSB Monthly

Director's Message

By COL Gary R. Nicoson
Director, TCM-ABCT and BFSB

BFSB Community,

Monthly greetings from TRADOC Capability Manager (TCM) Armored Brigade Combat Team and Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. I believe you will find another great newsletter informing on activities and ideas relevant to the BFSB community.

We have one additional member of the BFSB capabilities development team to introduce, Mr. Mike Dunn who replaces Mr. Bob Silva as the BFSB Organization Integrator and Capability Developer. Mike comes to us from the Maneuver Battle Lab and brings a Military Intelligence background to the team. Mike's email is: Michael.d.dunn.ctr@mail.mil.

Some of the key articles you'll find in this edition of the BFSB Monthly cover:

- 504 BFSB Post Deployment Lessons Learned Event, scheduled for 23-25 August, 2012 at Fort Hood TX. This is the Army's event to capture Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leader, Personnel, and potentially Facility related lessons learned from 504 BFSB's recent deployment to Afghanistan.
- Information Collection: The Army's Contribution to Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR). This article introduces Information collection and highlights issues with the term (ISR).
- Request for review of FM 3-98, Reconnaissance and Security Organizations (replaces FM 19-95, Cavalry Operations).

I'd also recommend you look out for an announcement for the next BFSB WfF Online Symposium, tentatively 23 August, 2012. This online symposium will summarize 504 BFSB's lessons presented during their 21-23 August Post Deployment Lessons Learned Event.

Please keep in mind those BFSB troopers from 201 BFSB, 560 BFSB and 71 BFSB who are deployed and accomplishing key missions for their supported commands.

Inside this issue

Information collection/ISR.....	2
Task Force Raptor update	3
Possible Recon unit changes	4
FM 3-98 (DRAFT).....	4
CATR points of contact	5
Task Force Viper update	6
504th lessons learned events.....	7
Other BFSB articles/updates	7

Disclaimer

The BFSB Monthly is published by TCM ABCT & BFSB, Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate (CDID), Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), Fort Benning, Georgia. The purpose of this newsletter is to share information provided by members of the BFSB Community of Interest. Contents of **The BFSB Monthly** are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U. S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, MCoE, the MCoE CDID or TCM-ABCT & BFSB.

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Note: Please contact me if you'd like to submit an article in the newsletter!

525th BFSB Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



Description: On a rectangle arched at the bottom with a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) yellow border, 2 1/2 inches (6.35 cm) in width and 3 inches (7.62 cm) in height overall, below a white and black checkered chief consisting of two rows of five squares each, a field divided from upper left to lower right with silver gray above oriental blue separated by a yellow lightning flash with point at lower right.

Symbolism: Oriental blue and silver gray are the colors traditionally associated with Military Intelligence. The lightning flash refers to the communication and electronic warfare functions of the unit. The checkered area alludes to the overt and covert aspects of the Military Intelligence mission with the black and white colors referring to constant vigilance day and night.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade on 30 July 1985. It was redesignated effective 16 March 2008, for the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and amended to delete the airborne tab and update the description. (TIOH Dwg. No. A-1-698)

This information was obtained from The Institute of Heraldry website, [here!](#)

Information Collection: The Army's Contribution to Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)

Story by Curtis Archuleta,
Deputy, Doctrine and Collective Training Division, DOTD, MCoE

The 2008 edition of FM 3-0 defines ISR as, “an activity that synchronizes and integrates the planning and operation of sensors, assets, and processing, exploitation, and dissemination systems in direct support of current and future operations. This is an integrated intelligence and operations function. For Army forces, this activity is a combined arms operation that focuses on priority intelligence requirements, while answering the commander’s critical information requirements.” (FM 3-0 [2008], p.7-8)

Essential to tasks in decisive action, continuous reconnaissance is required to gather information upon which commanders assess context, develop plans, make decisions, and issue orders. Commanders direct reconnaissance missions to determine the size, composition, location, and direction of movement of the enemy. Commanders also use reconnaissance forces to gain knowledge of routes, terrain, infrastructure, and people in their areas of operation. Reconnaissance forces operate as necessary independent of and in the terrain between or forward of friendly units in both contiguous and noncontiguous areas of operation. Effective reconnaissance requires the ability to fight for information in close contact with local populations and enemies.

Therefore, the Army must emphasize the distinction between the warfighting function of intelligence, the task of surveillance, and the task of reconnaissance. “Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance” joins these three terms into the acronym ISR, thereby stripping each term of its unique meaning. The Army lexicon has used ISR throughout, when only one element of the acronym truly applies. As a result, Army forces have misused the term, reducing an otherwise complex series of actions down to no more than a targeting process. This misuse disallows forces to fully understand the importance of reconnaissance and the requirement for reconnaissance organizations to fight for information.

While developing FM 3-0, Operations (Change 1), the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate distributed an issue paper outlining the consequences concerning the use of the term intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) among Army forces. The issue paper recommended the following:

1. Rescind the term ISR in Army doctrine. Army doctrine will use the terms intelligence, intelligence process, reconnaissance, and surveillance, depending on the context of the discussion.
2. Rescind the terms ISR synchronization and ISR integration. Replace them with the terms reconnaissance and surveillance synchronization and reconnaissance and surveillance integration respectively.
3. Emphasize reconnaissance as a combined arms operation and the requirement for reconnaissance organizations that have the capability to fight for information.

To maintain effectiveness, and to retain those functions previously contained within the process known as *intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)*, the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate assembled a writing team to revise FM 3-55, *Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)*. Members of the writing team comprised writers from Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate (CADD), the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) and the Intelligence Center of Excellence (ICoE). The team successfully developed FM 3-55, *Information Collection, 20 April 2012*. In this manual, the term *information collection* replaces the Army’s *intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)*. Information collection is defined as, “An activity that synchronizes and integrates the planning and employment of sensors and assets as well as the processing, exploitation, and dissemination of systems in direct support of current and future operations.” (FM 3-55)

With the publishing of ADP 3-0, Unified Land Operations, in October 2011, it rescinded the term intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (also known as ISR), and replaced it with the term and construct of *information collection*.

On 22 May 2012, LTG Perkins, CG, Combined Arms Command (CAC), stated that GEN Odierno,

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Army Chief of Staff, in discussion with the Army G-2, was concerned that the rescission of the term *intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)* from the Army lexicon might cause a disjoining with joint operations. LTG Perkins directed that a working group assemble to discuss courses of action to reintroduce ISR into the Army lexicon.

A working group was assembled and met at Fort Huachuca 26 - 28 June 2012. Representatives from CADD, MCoE, ICoE, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE), Mission Command Center of Excellence (MCCoE), and Special Operations Center of Excellence attended in person. INSCOM, DA G-2, and USD (I) attended via VTC. MG Potter, CG, ICoE, opened the working group by stating that the purpose was to develop courses of action to integrate ISR back into the Army lexicon.

The working group further refined the problem as, "We need to reintroduce ISR into the Army lexicon for programmatic purposes." They determined that doctrine is not broken; intelligence operations, information collection, and the missions of reconnaissance and security are relevant and concise. The working group then recommended drafting text for input into doctrine. The working group further recommended that the joint term of *intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)* be recognized within Army doctrine and that the following verbiage be inserted into Army Doctrinal Publication (ADP) and Army Doctrinal Reference Publication (ADRP) 2-0, Intelligence:

The Army executes intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) through the intelligence process (with an emphasis on intelligence analysis and leveraging the larger intelligence enterprise) and information collection. Consistent with joint doctrine, *intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance* is an activity that synchronizes and integrates the planning and operation of sensors, assets, and processing, exploitation, and dissemination systems in direct support of current and future operations. This is an integrated intelligence and operations function (JP 2-01).

All commanders and commandants represented approved the working group's recommendation and changes were incorporated into ADP and ADRP 2-0. This input into doctrine will meet the requirements of providing linkages between Army conduct of information collection and the joint construct of ISR. Maintained in doctrine are the requirements for reconnaissance and security missions along with surveillance tasks to collect information.

References:

FM 3-0, Operations, February 2008
FM 3-0, Operations, February 2011
FM 3-0 Issue Paper: Rescinding Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) as an Army Term
FM 3-55, Information Collection, April 2012
ADP 3-0, Unified Land Operations, October 2011
ADRP 3-0, Unified Land Operations, May 2012
ISR Working Group Out-brief (28 June 2012)

Task Force Raptor mid-tour wrap up



Left: Click on the picture to view a video of Task Force Raptor's mid tour wrap-up. Task Force Raptor (3-124 Cav, 71st BFSB) is currently deployed to the Horn of Africa.

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Plan for Added Firepower in Army Reconnaissance Units Taking Shape

From TRADOC News
17 July 2012
InsideDefense.com

By Sebastian Sprenger

A plan to provide more combat capability to Army reconnaissance forces is beginning to emerge as the expectation that U.S. forces will have to "fight for information" in future conflicts takes hold in service doctrine and a key inter-service warfighting concept unveiled earlier this year. The proposal, hashed out in detail at the Ft. Benning, GA-based Maneuver Center of Excellence, calls for the creation of a new type of surveillance and reconnaissance brigade. The new unit would replace the so-called battlefield surveillance brigades that came out of the Army's reorganization into a modular force during the last decade.

The addition of more firepower to reconnaissance forces, if approved, would represent another step in the Army's reexamination of the modularity concept. The transformation, only recently completed, leans heavily on spying technology to give commanders crucial information, going so far as to trade maneuver forces for units employing unmanned aerial vehicles and other high-tech equipment to monitor the enemy.

"The concept also says that an R&S brigade could act as a light to medium "strike force" to be sent into battle following forcible entry operations..."

FM 3-98 (DRAFT)!

Reconnaissance Branch, Doctrine Division MCoE is staffing FM 3-98 Reconnaissance and Security Organizations. This manual will now replace FM 17-95. Please feel free to make comments to the addresses provide below.

FM 3-98 provides doctrinal guidance for commanders, staff and leaders who are responsible for planning, preparing, executing and assessing missions and tasks of reconnaissance formations in Brigade Combat Teams, and Battlefield Surveillance Brigades.

The initial draft of FM 3-98 can be viewed and downloaded at [this link](#).

Responding by e-mail is the preferred method, using DA Form 2028 which is in the same folder as the initial draft. Please send your comments to: [Mr. Steve King](#), (706) 545-6734, and [SFC Kenneth Gowins](#), (706) 545-5062.

"If you wanted it to fight for information, you'd have to give it firepower," one Army official said of the emerging R&S brigade idea. Exactly what kinds of capabilities are needed remains under discussion. And, as is the case with the Army's broader reorganization of its brigade combat teams, officials declined to discuss on the record what sorts of changes are on the table.

The issue is "still very much in the design phase," Training and Doctrine Command spokesman Greg Mueller wrote in an email to Inside the Army. "It will probably [be] two or three months before we have better clarity." TRADOC oversees the Maneuver Center of Excellence, where most of the work is being done. Officials there also declined to comment for this article.

As of earlier this year, the proposal was for an organization numbering 2,700 personnel -- 1,700 more than a current military-intelligence unit includes, according to briefing slides presented at Army-Air Force staff talks in March. Compared with a "base case design," the proposed brigade includes three 120 millimeter mortar sections, six instead of four scout platoons, artillery forces, and additional mounted reconnaissance formations, according to the briefing.

The additional firepower would give Army reconnaissance forces the ability to "fix and finish," rather than simply "find" adversaries, as a popular military catchphrase holds. "Find, fix and finish" has become a prominent term in counterinsurgency thinking, describing the chain of events leading from identifying an enemy to tracking him to killing or capturing him.

The Army briefing makes the case that current service units are insufficient for the job. "Doctrinal revisions or modest organizational fixes will not address the gap," the documents states. And: "Sensors or lightly armed troops alone cannot conduct effective recon operations at [echelons above brigade]."

The concept also says that an R&S brigade could act as a light to medium "strike force" to be sent into battle following forcible entry operations, and that the new unit would be combat-capable enough to secure large areas unassisted within a division or corps area of responsibility, thus allowing "the concentration of effort elsewhere," the briefing states.

(Continued on Page 5)



Above: A 502nd Military Intelligence Battalion Soldier, 201st BFSB, took this photo while en route to FOB Masum Ghar, Afghanistan.

Plan for Added Firepower in Army Reconnaissance Units Taking Shape

(Continued from Page 4)

The Army's experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan caused some Army officials to rethink the tenets of modularity. Commanders felt the service redesign had taken urgently needed maneuver capabilities out of their formations to secure large swaths of land while pursuing a counterinsurgency strategy that required them to cooperate with local populations at the same time.

Tasked with the deliberations for the new unit type is Maj. Gen. H. R. McMaster. The two-star returned from a tour in Afghanistan earlier this year to lead TRADOC's Maneuver Center of Excellence. McMaster was an early critic of the Army's reliance on technology in setting up so-called "reconnaissance, surveillance and target attack," or RSTA, units in the new, modular BCT structure.

"I would argue that we need to take a hard look at it, and that the [RSTA] structure may have been influenced by some flawed assumptions about not having to fight for information," then-Colonel McMaster told Inside the Pentagon in early 2005. "You know, being able to use surveillance and information technologies to lift the fog of war, remove ambiguity -- and I think we've proven every day in Afghanistan and Iraq that's not the case."

The idea of "fighting for information" reappeared in the Army Capstone Concept and the Army Operating Concept several years ago. It also is included as a "supporting idea" in an Army-Marine Corps concept titled "Gaining and Maintaining Access," released in March.

"Intelligence gained through technical means is sometimes inaccurate and rarely sufficient," the concept states. "Forces on the ground are an important means for confirming adversary dispositions and intent."

The proposal for the new unit type comes amid a plan to reduce the size of the Army and reorganize its BCTs. This could make finding the requisite personnel difficult, said the Army official. "It's not a given that it's worth the change," the official opined. "We haven't come to that conclusion. We still have some wargaming and experiments to do before we jump into that."

BFSB Warfighter Forum (WfF) Links

- [BFSB WfF Homepage](#) (Includes links to BFSB unit homepages)
- [BFSB Collaboration Site](#) (CAC required to register)
- [BFSB Warfighter Forum on Facebook](#).
- SIPR info: The BFSB Warfighter Forum on AKO-S can be found by going to <https://www.us.army.smil.mil/suite/page/21502>.

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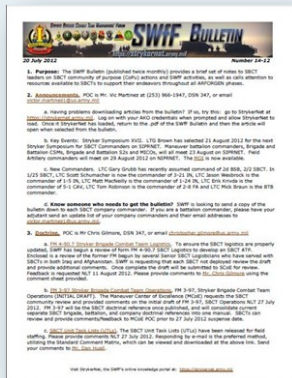
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Mission accomplished for Combined Task Force Viper

Other Wff Newsletters



SWFF Newsletter (20 Jul 12)



IWFF Newsletter (31 Jul 12)



AWFF Newsletter (26 Jul 12)



Story and photo by SSG Brendan Mackie, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan – The 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade’s mission in Afghanistan is complete. The unit’s flag was symbolically furled during a colors casing ceremony here, June 18.

“This is a historic event that marks the end of a long but very rewarding year,” said Col. Gary Johnston, commander of the 504th BFSB, also known as Combined Task Force Viper. “This year has been a great experience with a lot of lessons learned that will be applied as we build the reconnaissance and surveillance brigades of the future.”

Other speakers included Maj. Gen. Jim Huggins, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, Regional Command-South, Brig. Gen. Haji Abdul Razziz, chief of police of Kandahar province and Brig. Gen. Nesrullah Zarifi, commander of education and training for the Afghan Uniformed Police.

Following the speeches, local Afghan politicians and members of the Afghan National Security Forces presented Soldiers of the 504th BfSB with various gifts and awards in honor of their partnership and hard work during their tour in Afghanistan.

During that tour, CTF Viper served in a combat capacity in support of Regional Command-South and Regional Command-East in southern and eastern Afghanistan, June 28, 2011-June 18, 2012.

The unit was comprised of three battalion sized elements during the deployment: 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Tracker; 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Task Force Bluewatch; and 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Task Force Longhorns. The brigade’s force also supported three companies: Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, 504th BfSB; 268th Network Support Company; and 509th Forward Support Company.

The 504th BfSB served as landowner and force enabler for 10 brigade combat teams and four coalition battle groups throughout southern Kandahar province. Their battle space consisted of more than 10,000 square

kilometers in the Spin Boldak, Shorabak and Takhteh Pol Districts. Approximately 230 square kilometers of that area were along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Elements of CTF Viper participated in 97 named operations including 26 air assaults, 33 focused targeting force raids, the disruption of three insurgent networks, and conducted more than 2,000 combat patrols of the area.



COL Gary Johnston (right), and SGM Gianotti, prepare to case their unit colors during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak, June 18, 2012.

Within their battle space, the number of improvised explosive devices decreased by 31 percent from the previous year, according to the 504th BfSB. In the same area of responsibility, civilian and military casualties were also reduced by 71 percent.

The unit captured and destroyed more than 80,000 pounds of homemade explosive materials and more than 26,000 pounds of illegal drugs that were directly tied to supporting the Taliban. The unit also captured more than 110 detainees, including 26 named targets.

“To our Government of Afghanistan and our Afghan National Security Force partners, I will never forget the friendships we have developed over the past months as we fought the Taliban together, built trust and confidence together, talked as honorable men with tribal elders, changed the operational environment together and accomplished much,” remarked Johnston. “These memories and experiences will be etched in my mind forever.”

The 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade’s commander and command sergeant major are COL Gary Johnston and CSM Dennis Eger, whom already redeployed stateside. The unit is based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Official combat veterans

Story and photo by SPC Tyler Meister,
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ZHARAY PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Soldiers from Bravo Company, 502nd Military Intelligence Battalion (201st BFSB) received their deployment patches at a Patch Ceremony July 23 at Forward Operating Base Pasab, Zharay district, Afghanistan.

LTC Deborah Ellis, the 502nd MI BN commander, personally visits the location of each company for the patching ceremony.

"I am very proud of them," she said. "They completed a great deal of training prior to the deployment and after arriving in theater." The unit arrived in Afghanistan in early June and has maintained high spirits and morale, Ellis continued.

Only a portion of Bravo Company works at Pasab. The rest of the company is spread throughout Zharay in order to support all units of Task Force Fury.

Read [MORE...](#)



*502nd Military Intelligence Battalion
Soldiers receive their deployment patches*

504th BFSB Lessons Learned Conference and BFSB Warfighter Forum Symposium 03-2012

The 504th BFSB will host their post-deployment lessons learned conference in Fort Hood, Texas from 21-23 August.

On 23 August, the BFSB Warfighter Forum will broadcast BFSB WfF Symposium 03-2012 from Fort Hood between 1300-1500 CDT, focused on the lessons learned from the 504th BFSB's deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

An agenda and MOI for these events will be sent to all members of the BFSB Warfighter Forum Collaboration Site, and members on the distribution list of the BFSB Monthly Newsletter once they have been approved.

If you would like additional information on these events, or plan on attending, please contact derek.larson@us.army.mil.

US and Ugandan soldiers exchange best practices, mentor soldiers

Story and photo by SSG Malcolm McClendon,
Task Force Raptor Public Affairs

SINGO, Uganda – Texas Army National Guardsmen and Uganda Peoples Defense Force exchanged skills and experiences during two seminars, May 18 – June 30.

U.S. Army Capt. Bradley Grimm, Staff Sgt. Jason Smith, Sgt. Enrique Icedo, and Sgt. Andrew James, Task Force Raptor, 3rd Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment (71st BFSB), Texas Army National Guard, were invited to participate in a

Raven operational skills exchange with Ugandan airmen and soldiers.

"We shared best practices on how to operate the Raven small unmanned aircraft system," said Grimm, intelligence officer for the squadron. "I shared my specific experience with the system, which is to take the images it provides, analyze them, and then provide the commander with a detailed report."

Read [MORE...](#)

Upcoming Events

- 21, 23, 29 Aug: SWfF WfF Symposium, download newsletter on page 6 to view details
- 21-23 Aug: 504th BFSB Post-deployment Lessons Learned Week
- 22 Aug: BFSB WfF Symposium 03-2012 (504th BFSB Lessons Learned)
- 14 Sep: AWfF Symposium (tentative)
- 2012 Maneuver Conference, 18-19 Sep at the Iron Works Convention Center in Columbus, Georgia.
- 10 Oct: IWfF Symposium

CATR representatives at the Maneuver Conference

The Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) program will have a display booth at the 2012 Maneuver Conference scheduled for September 18-19, 2012 at the Iron Works Convention Center in Columbus, GA. The Convention Center is at 801 Front Street between 8th and 9th streets in downtown Columbus. There will be a group of CATR Field Service Representative (FSRs) present to answer questions or demonstrate CATR equipment at the event. Please stop by and see us at the location.

If you have any questions about the CATR program, please contact one of the POCs on page 5 of this newsletter.

