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**TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP 19 July 2016**

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**1. ABCT**

**a. Abrams.**

1) The Abrams Technical Advisor attended a meeting as the Abrams user representative with the TCM ABCT at Idaho National Labs (INL) with the MCoE CG (MG Wesley). We briefed the CG on the ECP1b capabilities and operational benefits to support the PdM Abrams briefing on reduced funding impacts to ECP1b Research Development Test & Evaluation (RDT&E). Reduced funding availability over the next 5-7 years will require a prioritization of the capabilities to be developed. TCM ABCT received concurrence on the prioritization in the attached document from the MCoE CG. This COA will provide the most operational capability based upon the reduced funding available.

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2) Abrams Team continues to provide coordination between the Program Manager- Main Battle Tanks (PM MBTS), the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) office and the MCoE for the Abrams Tank Trial in Oman from 28 July – 18 Aug. The Armor School is providing a trained and experienced crew which will conduct live fire, maneuver, and crew maintenance during a demonstration of the Abrams capabilities.

3) Abrams Team continues support of PdM Abrams and FORSCOM to develop a fielding schedule of LP CROWS. Initial fielding of the first two units will begin in 3QFY17. Due to current deployment schedules, mod windows are extremely tight and will require detailed management to ensure fielding remains on schedule. The ability to shift units is limited and requires converting CROWS II equipped tanks first in order to allow PdM Abrams to maintain a quantity to feed the production line. It should be noted the initial plan has MCoE fielding of the fourteen CROWS II tanks in FY23. We have requested PdM Abrams shift fielding of MCoE earlier in the cycle in order to support training of mechanics and Master Gunners.

**b. Bradley.**

1) We are continuing to meet with the Fires Center of Excellence to get a clear understanding of the types of Bradley trainers they require: a sheltered system, or an institutional (unsheltered) system.

 2) We have provided information to request an additional CVTESS system to be hand receipted to BAE for ECP software integration. This software will correct two needed fixes that allow the crew to use their system like they will with live ammo and provide the BFIST crews the ability to switch between 25mm and the FIST functions in the vehicle.

 3) We continue to support development of the Bradley Common Software Library that will be used for future COFT and CCTT development.

 4) We continue to monitor the movement of a COFT system mounted on a 32ft trailer that will support the EAS.

5) SFC Shepherd conducted a telecon with Mr. Jared Sapp from ARL AMCOM on 19 July for the purpose of conducting a Q&A session with interns in their ARL AMCOM field element’s ALAS-MC/MCAS program, and their efforts concerning the target acquisition process from the Bradley Gunner’s perspective. ARL is looking at ways to bring improved targeting capabilities to the Bradley Gunner and the plan of the Q&A session was to bring the interns up to speed on the target acquisition process. The majority of the discussion took them through the DIDEA process and each of its elements along with what the Gunner does in each element. There was also discussion about range estimation, kinematic lead and whether or not there are any additional capabilities that would benefit the Bradley Gunner during target acquisition.

**c. AMPV.**

1) With the completion of Critical Design Review (CDR), some IPTs are shifting to bi-weekly meetings versus weekly and the test planning/preparation meetings are increasing. The AMPV team continues to support PM AMPV close action items from the CDR. One of these items is a design solution to install Combat Identification Panels (CIPs) and Medical crosses with and without full armor.

 2) The AMPV team will participate in the Test & Evaluation WIPT at APG, MD from 08-12 August. The agenda includes developmental testing schedule, operational test planning, RAM, Cybersecurity, and an ABCT organizational update.

**d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:**

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

a) Team TLS will integrate into a CALL collection and analysis team at NTC 16-08 from 28 July to 05 August covering force on force activities of 1/1ID as the rotational unit. Other Centers participating include Maneuver Support, Cyber, and Intelligence. Units are invited to submit specific learning demands so that the team can collect the data that supports your mission requirements. POC is Derek McCrea @ derek.d.mccrea.ctr@mail.mil

 b) On 12 July, TCM-ABCT participated in the Army Lessons Learned Forum (ALLF) General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC). Over 2,500 pieces of position, navigation and timing (PNT) enabled equipment are potentially effected in a Denied Degraded Disrupted Space Operational Environment (D3SOE). TCM-ABCT continues to serve in the D3SOE working groups to support the DOTMLPF-P assessment. Our detailed summary of the event is available for viewing or download at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-294680> .

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

a) The network team is participating in NIE 17.1 and AWA 18 planning conferences this week. NIE 17.1 focus is on the MCCoE, Home Station Mission CMD Center (HMSCC); FCoE, C-UAS Mobile Integrated Capability (CMIC); ICoE/MCCoE, Distributed Common Ground System Army (DCGS-A) BN; CMD Post Computing Environment.

**e. Large Caliber Ammo:** We continue to support several issues:

1) Updates to the ammunition section of the Abrams Technical Manual (TM-10). This update will include the 5th generation kinetic energy cartridge, M829A4. Additionally, new safety requirements and ammunition handling procedures will be included. The draft version of these changes is now in its second staffing within the ammunition community.

2) Efforts with 8th Army Korea towards range improvements there to best contain fragments from leaving the modified Surface Danger Zone (SDZ). Prototype dimensions of berms to be used on the range has been made available for our initial analysis. An on-site visit to Korea is in final coordination for execution during the first week of August.

3) Observing USMC tank gunnery at Yakima Firing Center, WA with emphasis on the M865 training sabot round with the Advance Case System (ACS) configuration. The field has reported several M865 lots with this ACS configuration leaving excessive residue in the gun breech after live fire.

**f. Futures Integration:**

1) We continue to work on the Operational & Organizational (O&O) concept and anticipate no issues with meeting the 14 September ARCIC suspense. TCM ABCT will use the O&O Development SIMEX and Unified Challenge 16.2 to analyze DOTMLPF-P implications to the formation and to inform the O&O.

 2) Rhett Griner participated in the Capabilities Needs Analysis (CNA) FY16 Functional Solutions Analysis (FSA) Workshop 11-15 July in McGinnis-Wickham Hall, Fort Benning. The purpose of the workshop was to identify and align possible DOTMLPF-P solutions and ideas to the identified Formation Capability Gaps. Stakeholders in the formation were represented by the CNA analysts from all of the CoEs and ARCIC. Collaboration is ongoing in preparation for the FSA Council of Colonels on 29 July. The work from CNA FY16 will inform the ABCT O&O.

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

1) The team continues to support ARCICs IPT to help provide TRADOC feedback on potential mobility shortfalls that may be a result of previous Tactical Wheeled Vehicle reduction studies generated by the National Commission on the Future of the Army. In addition to a study review from the proponents, TRAC-LEE plans to administer a Tactical Mobility Assessment (TMA) to BCTs as well as students, and staff at the War College to receive input and guidance. The importance of this study is to capture the actual experienced impacts of previous reductions versus the protected ones. Findings will be consolidated by this Fall and presented to both a TRADOC GOSC and HQDA GOSC in October and November respectfully.

 2) In FY17, PM SKOT will start to field the following ordnance material enabler shop sets:

 a. Armament Repair Shop Set (ARSS)

 b. Metal Working & Machining Shop Set (MWMSS)

 c. Fire Suppression Refill System (FSRS)

 d. Hydraulic Systems Test & Repair Unit (HSTRU).

The ARSS BOIP-FD adds LIN T61908, 5T Cargo Truck as ASIOE. The MWMSS BOIP-FD states, T41067 Truck Cargo: Heavy PLS is considered or LIN T93761, Trailer, Palletized Loading. USAFMSA will determine if the unit requires an additional PLS/Trailer. The HSTRU and FSRS will use organic assets; the commander will determine which vehicle is available within the company to pull these systems (not necessary within the same section).

3) Major Polak and Mr. Steve Harper participated in the Tactical Wheel Vehicle (TWV) Impact Workshop held at Fort Hood, TX 12-14 July 2016. The workshop focused on linear area of operations (AOs), nonlinear and noncontiguous AOs, and with no division deep area. The workshop used three specific vignettes. The workshop for the IBCT formation will take place early August and the SBCT formation workshop has not been scheduled. The summary/outcome will be briefed to the CSA sometime in February 2017.

 **h. ARNG LNO:**

1) Continuing to coordinate with 1/34 ABCT (MN ARNG) to attend a post-NTC AAR ICW a 34th DIV Strategic Review scheduled for 17-18 Sept at 34th DIV HQ in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN

2) Continuing to coordinate with 155th ABCT (MS ARNG) for a pre-NTC brief by TCM-A in the first quarter of FY 17.

3) CATR fielding to the 33rd ABCT (IL ARNG) now moved to 3/4qtr FY 17 as resolution of latest CATR training requirements. Deadline for submission for fielding requested funding has passed for first half of FY17.

**2. RECON.**

TCM Recon’s primary areas of emphasis continue to be resolution of CATR related issues with PM Ground Sensors in order to respond to PM GS’s request for review of the CATR Life Cycle Sustainment Plan, and assisting PM-GS in development of the CATR NET Plan and CATR Materiel Fielding Plan. Additionally TCM Recon continues participation in BCT O&O SIMEXs and support to UC 16.2 and assisting DOTD in the editor’s review of the Scout Platoon O&O.

1. R&S Concepts and Analysis:
2. R&S BCT Implementation. NO CHANGE. No requests for support from 1/4 SBCT have occurred. 1/4 SBCT simulations officer’s last request for information focused on the initial TRADOC analysis that resulted in the R&S BCT task organization concept.
3. Standard Scout PLT O&O. Assisting with DOTD formal editor’s review.
4. Cav Troop O&O: NO CHANGE. Troop O&O development will resume upon completion of the Platoon O&O anticipated for the mid-to late July timeframe.
5. HHT O&O: NO CHANGE. To be written (T) AUG - SEP, editing, staffing and approval (T) OCT-NOV 2016.
6. R&S CBA: TCM-Recon is coordinating to establish the process to update Capabilities Needs Analysis (CNA) database with R&S CBA gaps and solutions. The schedule is TBD.
7. Support to Unified Challenge 16.2: NO CHANGE. TCM-Recon continues to participate in UC 16.2 planning sessions with the MBL to finalize support requirements and R&S BCT cell manning requirements.
8. 2025 BCT O&O SIMEX: NO CHANGE. TCM-Recon continues to observe the three BCT O&O SIMEXs (11-15 JUL SBCT, 18-22 JUL IBCT, and 25-29 JUL ABCT) and participates in key events to gain insights and provide CAV SQDN O&O SME to each formational TCM. We will provide the military role players (MRPs) for the CAV SQDN for the ABCT SIMEX, 21-29 JUL 16.
9. Scout Sensor Strategy and Development. TCM Recon is preparing to send SFC Horias to attend the 26-27 July Reconfigurable Integrated Weapon Platform (RiWP) Demonstration in Santa Barbara CA. TCM Recon continues to work with MRD and BCT TCMs to refine the scout sensor strategy. There is no suspense; however, once completed, CDID will have a document to synchronize efforts between the BCT TCMs, MRD, and CDD. The strategy will support future scout platoon FDUs as well as potential mast mounted sensor development.
10. Cavalry Scout Leader and Solder Competencies: NO CHANGE. Requires time 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.
11. Recon Council: NO CHANGE.TCM-Recon continues to coordinate with 3-16 CAV in support of support the next Recon Council scheduled for 27 JUL 16.
12. Senior Leader Updates. NO CHANGE.
13. 8 AUG 16: TCM-Recon conducts Scout Platoon O&O Approval Brief to the CG, MCoE for approval to publish the PLT O&O (Date changed from 18 JUL to 8 AUG).
14. 16 AUG 16: CoAR Update. Briefing topics will include an update on all FDUs associated with Cavalry units and initial review of the Troop O&O outline and draft.

c. CATR: Overarching effort is to determine the cost of providing basic electronics training during NET and potential trade-offs that can be made to resource the requirement confirmed by by DoTD’s task analysis and NET review. The goal is to provide a series of options for decision makers to compare to the current COA of CATR NET without basic electronics training.

1. NO CHANGE. Priority efforts in order remain: assisting in the development of a CATR NET Plan, completing the review of the CATR Materiel Fielding Plan, CATR Life Cycle Sustainment Plan, and preparing a memorandum for PM Terrestrial Sensors outlining CATR Training Support Package sufficiency, and identifying critical actions that should inform the August 2016 CATR Materiel Fielding Decision. Near term priority actions related to preparing a NET Plan. A subsequent priority task is developing the ECATR Requirements document / MOA and identifying required CATR ASIOE and TMDE. CATR lines of effort include:
2. CATR Technology Refresh: NO CHANGE. Established MILSUITE collaboration site (https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/tcm-recon/projects/catr-tech-refresh) for units to provide recommendations for tech refresh to facilitate preparation for first tech refresh window in FY18. Recommendations from users must be submitted no later than 11 July 2016. TCM Recon will host a user IPT on 13 July 2016 to discuss unit recommendations. The Tech Refresh IPT with units will be conducted via DCS: https://conference.apps.mil/webconf/catrtechrefreshfy18
3. CATR O&O: NO CHANGE. Review of the initial draft of CATR O&O continues. Awaiting inputs from copies sent to division representatives. The O&O will support the development of the training strategy and efforts with PdM.
4. CATR Lesson Plans: NO CHANGE. Providing support to DoTD for the development of CATR CONOP and software lessons plans.
5. CATR BOIP: Awaiting USAFMSA to formalize the CATR BOIP based on the GOSC Organizational Requirements Document Approval Briefing (ORDAB) to approve the CATR BOIP.

**Upcoming Events**.

a. ABCT

* 18-22 Jul - NIE 17.1 and AWA 18 Planning Conference (FBTX)
* 18-23 Jul - USMC Tank Gunnery (YTC, WA)
* 20-21 Jul - CoE v3 F2F, JBC-P and CERDEC discussions (APG)
* 21 July - ARCIC Portfolio Assessment Action Officer Working Group (FBGA)
* 24-29 Jul - CVTESS SME Support @ NTC 16-08 (1/1ID) (FICA)
* 25-26 Jul - Korea range improvements meeting (Picatinny Arsenal)
* 25-29 Jul - O&O Development SIMEX (FBGA)
* 28 Jul - 05 Aug - Force on Force coverage of NTC 16-08 (1/1ID) (FICA)
* 29 Jul – CNA FY16 FSA Council of Colonels VTC
* 29 Jul - 06 Aug - 8A Range improvements (Korea)
* 01-03 Aug - Bradley ECP 2b T&E WIPT (SHMI)
* 04 Aug - Abrams/Bradley ECP 1b/2b Lethality Summit (SHMI)
* 08-12 Aug - AMPV T&E WIPT (APG)
* 15-18 Aug - STE WG (FBGA)

b. RECON

* 14-22 JUL: IBCT SIMEX, MBL (FBGA)
* 18-29 JUL: CATR Key Personnel Training (Clarksville TN)
* 19-21 JUL: 16.2 Rehearsal of Concept, MBL (FBGA)
* 21-22 JUL: CATR Basic Electronics Training NET Option Review (Clarksville TN)
* 21-29 JUL: ABCT SIMEX, MBL (FBGA)
* 25 JUL: Site Visit (Blue Grass Army Depot KY)
* 27 JUL: RECON Council (FBGA)
* 01-12 AUG: UC 16.2 Execution (FBGA)
* 8 AUG: PLT O&O Approval Brief to CG, MCoE (FBGA)
* 16 AUG: TCM Recon Update to CoAR (FBGA)

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