

TCM-ABCT & Reconnaissance
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TCM-Recon Newsletter

Director's Message

By COL Christopher Wilbeck

Director, TCM- ABCT & Reconnaissance

Greetings to the Army Reconnaissance Community!

After a rough couple of weeks, TCM-Recon in conjunction with the MCoE G8 and Booz Allen has successfully put a new contract in place which allowed us to bring our contractors back to work after a furlough sent them home for several days. Several high profile efforts were put on hold during the furlough period so the team is busy getting caught back up and back on schedule.

TCM-Recon's efforts in support of the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) continue. The FAA Report and approval briefing to Director, CDI is estimated to take place the week of 3-7 NOV14. We continue to prepare the draft decision briefing and internal revision of the initial draft of the FAA report continues. The FNA Report and Director, CDI review is estimated to take place the week of 3-7 NOV 2014. We are updating the FNA EXSUM based on CoE action officer level review. In support of the FSA Report and Director, CDI review, the team has conducted CoE action officer level review of priority recommended solutions. No actions required at this time on the DOTMLPF Change Recommendation and Director, CDI review.

TCM-Recon continues to support the Army's efforts on the BCT redesign and will provide updates on future developments.

The Close Access Target Reconnaissance System (CATR) has finally been approved by the G3/5/7 and is now officially a Program of Record. TCM-Recon can now move forward with developing Institutional Training here at the MCoE in support of the system. TCM-Recon ICW PM Ground Sensors is also working the design of the CATR Basic kit and the NET Kit and will be conducting meetings with the users to obtain their feedback on the system. There are still several significant hurdles to overcome but the program is finally official and moving forward. TCM-Recon will keep our units informed as more information becomes available.

Retention of Army National Guard Long Range Surveillance Companies: MG Glen Moore the newly assigned Deputy Commanding General, ARNG, at TRADOC received a brief from the National Guard Liaisons within the Army Capabilities Integration Center (ARCIC), concerning a memo from LTG McMasters, Director of ARCIC. The subject of the memo was the recommended Force Structure adjustment to Total Army Analysis 17-21 (TAA 17-21) and the need to retain LRS in the ARNG. This process continues and the LRS Community has a great proponent for LRS in LTG McMaster. TCM-Recon will continue to keep the recon and LRS Community updated as this process continues.

As always, TCM ABCT/Recon is here to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact me or my team for assistance.

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Disclaimer

The TCM-Recon Newsletter is published by TCM ABCT & Recon, 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 TCM-Recon Community of Interest. Contents of **The TCM-Recon Newsletter** 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 & Recon.

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Defense Connect Online (DCO) being replaced by Defense Collaboration Services (DCS)

Posted by *Geoffrey Love* in
ARNG Logistics Managers

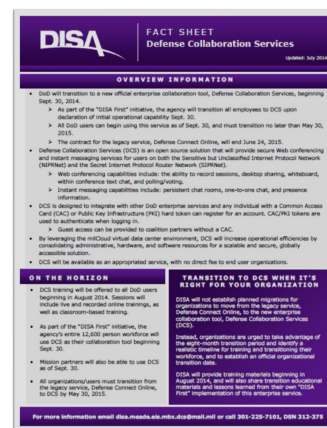
DoD will transition to a new official enterprise collaboration tool, Defense Collaboration Services (DCS), beginning Sept. 30, 2014.

As part of the "DISA First" initiative, the agency will transition all employees to DCS upon declaration of initial operational capability Sept. 30.

All DOD users can begin using this service as of Sept. 30, and must transition no later than May 30, 2015.

The contract for the legacy service, Defense Connect Online, will end June 24, 2015.

For more information on the transition, I recommend the following place: Defense Connect Online (DCO) Users Group.



Click on the image to download the Defense Collaboration Services (DCS) Fact Sheet

The 25th IBCT Senior Mentor Symposium: 29 OCT 2014

LTG Joseph Anderson, XVIII Airborne Corps Commander, will hold the 25th IBCT Senior Mentor Symposium from 0930-1100 (Eastern) on 29 OCT 2014 via Adobe DCO-S (SIPR); URL link: <https://connect.dco.dod.smil.mil/iwffsms25> The 90 minute agenda will feature members of the Infantry Warfighters' Forum Community of Purpose discussing IBCT topics of interest in order to share best practices and provide feedback for identification / resolution of problems. This symposium will feature a discussion on Joint, Interagency, Intergovern-

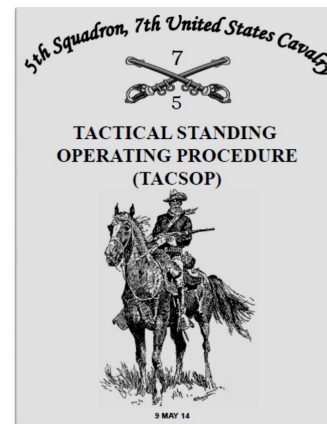
mental, and Multinational Training with IBCTs from JRTC, AFRICOM Regionally Aligned Force Lessons Learned from 4/1 ID IBCT, Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) Rotations and Total Force Partnership Program (TFPP) from 53rd IBCT (FLANG), Multinational / Corps Platform Advising Update from 4/4 IBCT, and an Infantry School Update from the USAIS Commandant. Standby brief (if time available) is the Army Space Training Strategy from Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC). *Click HERE to download a copy of the symposium*

Reconnaissance Knowledge Network updates

The Following documents have been uploaded to the Reconnaissance Knowledge Network site on MilSuite (click on the item to download a copy):

- 2-13 CAV TACSOP
- 5-7 CAV TACSOP
- R&S CBA FAA EXSUM (14 OCT 2014)
- R&S CBA FNA EXSUM (17 OCT 2014)
- Operation Tecumseh Rage OPOD

Do you have a product you'd like to share with the Reconnaissance Community? If so, please send it to derek.p.larson.ctr@mail.mil.





SSG Daniel L. Capps of the Long Range Surveillance (LRS) team, Troop C, 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, Maryland National Guard, climbs up a hill during the final phase of the second annual Admiral Pitka Recon Challenge Aug. 9 at Rakvere, Estonia. Capps and three other Soldiers from Troop C's LRS team participated in the competition that tested the strength, speed, endurance, intelligence and willpower of 26 teams from six countries through a series of obstacles and simulations along an 81-mile route through Estonia's countryside. The Maryland National Guard and Estonian armed forces have been partners through the State Partnership Program for more than 20 years.

Maryland National Guard LRS compete in Admiral Pitka Recon Challenge

*Story by SGT John Carkeet IV,
USAEUR*

RAKVERE, Estonia – At Rakvere's highest point lays a castle. For centuries it stood as a military stronghold and center of commerce as it passed hands from one kingdom to another. Today the historical landmark attracts thousands of tourists eager to relive the Middle Ages.

None would have imagined scores of modern Soldiers charging up the hills, but that's what happened when the Estonian Defense League hosted the second annual Admiral Pitka Recon Challenge Aug. 6-9.

Named after the Estonian Defense League's founder, Sir Johan Pitka, the military competition featured 26 four-person teams from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Sweden and the United States as they completed multiple objectives along a winding 81-mile route through the Estonian countryside.

"The Pitka Challenge roots are found in the Erna Raid," said Brig. Gen. Meelis Kiili, commander of the Estonian Defense League, a paramilitary organization consisting of more than 20,000 volunteers. The Erna Raid is an international military-sporting competition commemorating the actions of the Erna long-range reconnaissance group of Estonian volunteers in the summer of 1941. "However, the Pitka Challenge is more complex than its predecessor. The Erna Raid always had the same route and tasks, but each Pitka Challenge moves around Estonia and offers a wider variety of events." [READ MORE](#)

Other newsletters and documents of interest

Click on the item to download one of the following documents:

- IWfF (30 SEP 2014)
- Stryker Symposium XXIII EXSUM

TCM-Recon Forum Links

- Reconnaissance Knowledge Network
- TCM-ABCT
- AWfF
- IWfF
- Stryker Net
- NTC Cobra Team

RKN & TCM-Recon events

- 25th IBCT Senior Mentor Symposium, 29 OCT 14
- 504th BFSB Kosovo Lessons Learned, FHTX, 9-10 DEC 14

2014 Maneuver Conference recordings

In case you missed the 2014 Maneuver Conference, held 8-12 SEP 2014 at Fort Benning, GA, you can view recordings of the briefings by going to the MCoE website: <http://www.benning.army.mil/mcoe/maneuverconference/>



Operation Tecumseh Rage

The 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry (R&S) of the 219th BFSB (INARNG) recently conducted a Joint Collective Field Training Exercise at Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Indiana. Elements from the 113th ASOS, 122nd FW (A10), Det 1, B Co, 76th IBCT (TUAS), 165th QM, and C Co. 1-150 AV (WVARNG) came together with 2-152 CAV to complete a 7 day full mission profile utilizing training areas in the southern half of Indiana.

“Having a collective training exercise allowed the Squadron as whole to work toward mission success throughout the training year. The Squadron’s Commanders and Senior NCOs were able to guide and develop annual training that enabled success in the culminating event” said SFC John Hoffman, Apache Troop’s First Sergeant. “The business of information gathering on a near peer force is an ever evolving process. This mission is a uniquely dangerous endeavor for any element to conduct. Training for this mission must be tough, realistic, and relentless.”

an effort to identify enemy reconnaissance assets and mobility corridors for a Corps level attack. In tandem with the maneuver elements, 2-152 CAV also employed tactical UAS, COIST teams, and a TACP to help shape the battlefield. The exercise culminated with an evasion and recovery inject for the LRS teams with A and B Troops performing a Screen.

MAJ Nicholas Roukas, the Operations Officer for 2-152 CAV, said he enjoyed working with all of the various partners in this operation.

“For the first time in this unit’s history, we’ve been able to fully integrate Air Force and RPA assets into a collective training exercise, which has been one of our goals for quite a while. I believe the training was mutually beneficial for all parties,” he said. “The experiences gained by the staff, and maneuver elements, in working with Air Force JTACS, the Shadow RPA, and WVARNG aviation simply cannot be replicated to the same extent in a virtual environment. It was

“The business of information gathering on a near peer force is an ever evolving process. This mission is a uniquely dangerous endeavor for any element to conduct. Training for this mission must be tough, realistic, and relentless.” - SFC John Hoffman, 1SG, A Troop, 2-152 CAV



Operation Tecumseh Rage was conducted 08 – 14 AUG 14, following months of Squadron staff planning and coordination with the various units involved in the exercise. The exercise architecture was focused on full spectrum operations combating a hybrid threat within the southern Indiana “training box.” Within this training box, 2-152 CAV conducted surveillance and reconnaissance against both the “near-peer” threat and insurgent forces; augmented by the 113th ASOS and 122nd FW for target interdiction, Tactical UAS (Shadow) for target acquisition and communications relay, 165th QM for aerial resupply, and C/1-150 for mobility.

CSM John Piper, 2-152 CAV Command Sergeant Major, says this about the Squadron FTX. “The leveraging of combined annual training periods between this Squadron and multiple adjacent units exercised capabilities we have only been able to simulate in the past. It usually takes a CTC rotation or actual combat to have all of these assets working together and not an Annual Training FTX.”

The FTX was set in a mythical nation with a conventional opposing army. After two days of Company and Troop level planning, OP TECUMSEH RAGE began with LRS team insertions and infiltration to deep surveillance objectives. These teams reported against SIR derived from Corps level PIR, continuously updating the TOC with information relevant to the maneuver of follow on forces. The SQDN’s Apache and Blackhawk Troops conducted zone reconnaissance in

personally gratifying to watch the entire process unfold and to realistically replicate multiple collection assets pushing information to the TOC and our S2 section analyzing this information and turning it into actionable intelligence.”

LTC Dale Lyles, Squadron Commander for 2-152 CAV, has this to say about the FTX. “Op Tecumseh Rage offered us a Complex and difficult scenario in terms of both geography and intelligence gathering requirements. The joint aspects of the operation afforded us a unique opportunity to train with the other services and we all came away with a better understanding and appreciation for each other. We find ourselves operating in a world that is changing all around us, and this training exercise set the standard for our units to conduct intelligence gathering missions in a complex realistic environment, answering real world intelligence requirements for commanders who depend on the information we provide to make hard decisions. The Soldiers and Troopers of this Squadron benefited greatly from this event and we are all better because of it.”

At end state, OP Tecumseh Rage addressed over 26 collective training tasks and successfully integrated the combined power of air and ground forces. The goal of the exercise was to provide cost-effective and realistic combat training in a joint service environment. This goal was successfully met.

[Download the Operation Tecumseh Rage OPORD](#)