



TCM-ABCT & Reconnaissance
Fort Benning, Georgia

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TCM-Recon Newsletter

Director's Message

By COL William T. Nuckols
Director, TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance

BFSB and Reconnaissance Community,

Seasons Greeting to the BFSB and Reconnaissance Community! I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for this holiday season and for the coming new year.

Mission analysis on developing a viable Reconnaissance & Security BCT construct continues with TCM-Recon's efforts remaining focused on developing the training strategy to support the formation. DA G/3/5/7 continues to lead the effort on developing the Courses of Action for the organization. Briefs to the Army G3 and the Army Chief of Staff are expected to take place sometime the beginning of the new year. The exact dates are to be determined. The transition of the three Active Component Battlefield Surveillance Brigades (BFSBs) to the Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade (EMIB) is still currently slated for late October 2014 into 2015. There has still been no decision on the future of the National Guard BFSBs.

Progress on the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) continues. In preparation for the Functional Solutions Analysis Workshops taking place in January 2014, the team will be conducting preparation and coordination sessions with the CBA Stakeholders 10-12 December. The FSA Workshop will take place in two parts currently scheduled for 6-10 and 13-31 January 2014. The FSA will allow the team to begin developing DOTMLPF solutions to address the capability gaps in the formations.

In January 2014, an Integrated Product Team (IPT) Meeting will take place at Fort Bragg, NC to discuss the current state of the Close Access Target Reconnaissance System (CATR). The Capabilities Production Document (CPD) which lays out the requirement for CATR is at "The Building" and is through the Three Star Army Requirements Oversight Council (AROC) process and is pending approval by the Army G3/5/7. PM Ground Sensors continues to work with the Army G8 to secure funding for CATR as part of the 2016/2020 budget.

TCM-Recon is currently working with the Long-Range Surveillance (LRS) Community regarding a potential LRS workshop tentatively scheduled for 12 & 13 March 2014 here at the MCoE and Fort Benning. SSG Pitz, of the 58th BFSB, is in the process of organizing the workshop with representatives from the other nine BFSB LRS Companies and leadership from the MCoE Reconnaissance Senior Leaders Course (RSLC) More information to follow.

Finally, I want to recognize the 163rd and 303rd Military Intelligence Battalions, currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade's headquarters and 1-38th Cavalry Squadron deployed to Kosovo. We wish them continued success and pray for their safe return.

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

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TCM-Recon now on milSuite

TCM-Recon now has a milBook site. Editions of this newsletter along with reconnaissance-related articles, discussions, and documents will be posted here. This site replaces the BFSB Warfighter Forum Collaboration community site, which will be inactivated at the end of December.

To become a member, all one needs to do is click [HERE](#) (CAC required). After logging on, select the "Join this Group" button in the upper-right portion of your screen. Note: If you are not already a member of milSuite, log on to <https://www.milsuite.mil> to register for an account before following the steps above.

On the TCM-Recon site, reconnaissance-related TACSOPS, SOPs, articles and other important documents can be found by clicking on the contents tab in the upper-left portion of the page. As it stands now, we are still in the process of gathering many of these

products, so please check back regularly for any updates. If there is something you would like to share with the group, please feel free to post what you have or contact the site administrator, [Mr. Derek Larson](#), for assistance.



Connect with the TCM-Recon team on milBook (click the logo above and select "Join this Group")

319th & 519th MI BNs OEF post-deployment lessons learned event

Lessons learned collection teams from the MCoE and ICoE will travel to Fort Bragg, NC next month to conduct an Operation Enduring Freedom post-deployment lessons learned collection event from 7-9 January 2014. While there, the teams will gather information from the Soldiers and leaders of the 319th & 519th Military Intelligence Battalions of the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

If you would like additional information on the event, please contact [Mr. Derek Larson](#) at 70.545.8825.

Fort Hood unit tries out Army's newest parachute

Story by Madison Lozano,
Fort Hood Herald writer

Fort Hood's only airborne unit, Charlie Company, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, tried out the Army's newest parachutes on a breezy, sunny morning Nov. 19.

The paratroopers floated down from the Black Hawks 6,000 feet above them toward flares billowing blue and green smoke, used to alert those in flight of changing wind direction.

The new chutes, the RA-1, will replace the MC-4 free fall parachutes.

The RA-1 chutes are larger, with greater capabilities.

"Small characteristics were changed," said SFC Nicholas Ford. These include added and rear-ranged holes in the canopy and a change in material and size, allowing the chutes to carry 150 more pounds than previous ones.

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Soldiers with the 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, float to the ground during the testing of the new RA-1 parachute on November 19 at North Fort Hood.

Fort Hood unit tries out Army's newest parachute

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"The old parachutes were designed for free fall use," SFC Ford said, adding the aircraft had to drop the jumpers directly over the landing spot and they came straight down.

The new chutes allow for manipulation by the user.

A soldier can travel farther distances and guide where they go, a technique SFC Ford calls "steering."

The results are significant.

"The glide ratio went from 2.5:1 to 4:1," said Jim Arnette, a member of the Personnel Airdrop Team Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment for the RA-1 Parachute System and a retired master sergeant with special forces.

The glide ratio change means the soldiers can jump from the aircraft in an area as far as 25 kilometers from their landing destination. A great amount of freedom is given to the aircraft and jumper through this improved technique.

The landing has changed with the new chutes, too, making it a standing landing that is much softer than the previous method.

"It's a lot safer, especially for nighttime jumps," Arnette said.

Each paratrooper spent 8-10 minutes in the air, performing two jumps each.

"The guys love it," Arnette said. "It's leaps and bounds beyond the old (parachutes)."

The RA-1 has numerous benefits that improve the unit's capabilities at Fort Hood and the Army as a whole, Ford said.

"These can be used by anyone who trained at basic airborne school at Fort Benning, Ga.," SFC Ford said.

Soldiers will no longer be required to attend additional training, making Fort Hood units more self-sufficient, with internal jump masters.

"It will greatly benefit special operations units," he said. "We'll be more effective and more mission ready ... and cost-effective."

Other newsletters of interest

Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- IWfF (NOV 2013)
- Thunderbolt Blast (NOV 2013)

TCM-Recon Forum Links

- NEW! TCM-Recon on milBook
- BFSB WfF Homepage
- BFSB Collaboration Site
- BFSB Warfighter Forum on Facebook
- AWfF
- IWfF
- Stryker Net

Upcoming events

- 7-9 Jan: 319th & 519th MI BNs OEF post-deployment lessons learned event, Fort Bragg, NC
- 8-9 Jan: CATR IPT, Fort Bragg, NC
- 12-13 Mar: LRS Conference, Fort Benning, GA

MCoE Doctrine and Training Division, Reconnaissance Branch



504th BFSB to deploy to Kosovo

Fort Hood Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas - III Corps announced Dec. 10 that a battalion -plus sized task force from the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade will deploy about 500 soldiers to Kosovo early next year to assume the Multinational Battle Group-East's mission as part of the Balkans-18 rotation. They will replace the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from Fort Bragg, N.C.

Multinational Battle Group-East conducts peace support operations in the MNBG-E operating environment in order to contribute to a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement.

MNBG-E has approximately 1,500 troops comprised of nine countries including: Armenia, France, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine and United States. The Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission is to contribute to a safe and secure environment for all people and communities in Kosovo. KFOR cooperates with and assists the UN, the EU and other international actors to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo.

For more information concerning MNBG-E, e-mail the [U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office](#) or visit their [Website](#).

For more information on the 504th BFSB, contact the III Corps Public Affairs Office at (254) 286-5139.

Editor's note: You can also follow the unit's deployment by "liking" the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade's Facebook page by clicking on the icon below.

facebook

Troops maintain skills with radio training

Story by SGT Samantha Parks, Kosovo Force (KFOR)

CAMP CABRA, Kosovo – U.S. troops from Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment conducted radio training at Camp Cabra, Oct. 31.

"We are practicing training on sending data over high frequency using the radios that we have in the company," said 1LT Brett Bowdren, signal platoon leader and a native of Charleston, SC.

1LT Bowdren said the training is important because it is an essential part of the soldiers' mission.

"When they're out on missions and at surveillance sites, [Soldiers] will send pictures back through radio waves back to our TOC [tactical operations center], which will help us shape the next part of their mission," 1LT Bowdren said.

PFC Johani Londono Jr., the instructor for the day's training and a native of Miami, FL, said the purpose of long range surveillance is being able to go out and pull surveillance and then send important information back to the command.

1LT Bowdren said it is important to have junior Soldiers conduct training because it shows the knowledge the younger Soldiers have and that they can teach someone else. He said PFC Londono did a good job with the class.

"We like to train within the team," PFC Londono said. "Every person should know their job."

PFC Londono said he has full confidence in his

leaders and the knowledge they have passed on to him.

"They taught me everything I know about the radios," he said.

The Soldiers conduct regular training to maintain mission readiness. As a detachment, PFC Londono said they like to conduct daily training so that everyone is constantly refreshing their memories on any little things that they may have missed.

"The radio is the most deadly weapon in the battlefield and we make sure we know every aspect of it," PFC Londono said.



PFC Johani Londono Jr. explains the operations of a radio to 1LT Brett Bowdren (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Samantha Parks)

LRS Workshop: 12-13 Mar 2014

A Long-range Surveillance Workshop has been proposed for 12-13 March 2014, to be conducted at Fort Benning, GA. Representatives from AC/NG LRSC's will present topics for discussion and explain how their unit is currently addressing the problems or issues, and propose solutions or insights. Time will then be allocated to discuss the topic in breakouts and/or as an open discussion.

Proposed topics include: LRS in the COE / Non-doctrinal LRS missions, The future of LRS - current status update, Insertion/Extraction methods, Tactical Communications, LRS Company Mission Command, LRS integration in the ISR process, Personnel issues, Equipment issues, The future of LRS - the way ahead, and more.

If you would like to be receive additional information on this event, or would like to attend, please contact [Mr. Derek Larson](#).