



TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP (week of 27 July 15)

29 July 2015

View activities and products available from TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance by following our milbook location at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/t>

1. ABCT

a. Abrams

1) The Abrams Technical Advisor is supporting the Low Profile (LP) CROWS user jury at APG, MD. A full live-fire safety release could not be obtained due to stabilization issues encountered during ATC testing. PdM Abrams and TCM ABCT agreed that we would continue with a de-scoped user jury conducting only non-firing tasks, and collect feedback on the improvement to the TCs field of view (FOV) in order to help inform upcoming production decision. A full firing user jury will be conducted once the problems are resolved.

2) The Abrams training and TADSS analyst conducted integration testing with CVTESS on the Abrams training port. The testing utilized two adapter boxes one for the internal port and one for the external port. The adaptor boxes worked as designed, though there still needs to be some work done with the final design, and PEO-STRI is putting an IPT together to find a common solution for CVTESS and CMUR training port adaptor.

b. Bradley

1) George Moore conducted data collection and form/fit information for the M2A4 Bradley prototype with engineers from BAE, Tactical Micro and PEOSTRI. Systems used for this form fit were the Crew Module Unit Recorder (CMUR w/ encoder) and the Bustle Mounted Unit (BMU). The prototype introduces new components (Duke V3 and CREW cooling) located in the bustle rack, supplanting space previously occupied by TADSS components used during gunnery (CMUR/BMU/Encoder and CVTESS). The PEO STRI team, TCM ABCT and Tactical Micro observed the following:

- The Duke V3 and CREW cooling components encompass the majority of the space inside of the bustle and precludes components from being mounted in the same locations as they are today on the A3 and ODS-SA vehicles. Currently the CMUR components are mounted on the left rear of the bustle wall.
- The CREW cooling and wiring harness pathway within the bustle partially obscures the training port on the Bradley. Clearances from the training port (once the cover is removed) are tight, which complicates attachment of TADSS cables to the training port.

Another objective of this trip was to resolve the CMUR power connection procedure for the Bradley. Current location for the CMUR power is from the dome light which also dictated disabling the ramp switch to maintain consistent power (not an optimal solution). Unlike CVTESS, which draws power from the Training Port when the Bradley is in training mode, the CMUR mounted on the Bradley must be able to perform actual live fire. In the current configuration, the Bradley will cease power to the Training Port after 30 seconds when the system is configured for live fire mode. Tactical Micro developed a prototype power cable to draw power from the Training Port in live fire mode. However, this powering concept would require a manual switch in the

maintenance panel in order to provide continuous power to the Training Port. Unfortunately the M2A4 prototype was unable to be powered up due to maintenance issues and the additional M2A3 platforms on-site were unavailable to conduct this power connectivity test. This test will be performed at the next opportunity when a functional M2A3 or an M2A4 is available.

2) George Moore also conducted a review of the Combat Vehicle Tactical Engagement Simulation System (CVTESS) mounting to location with the additional equipment on the A4. The main two items that prevent mounting the CVTESS are:

- Training port cover cannot be lowered due to contact with cabling and the A-kit for the duke system. The training port cover uses a bolt on a hinge to allow it to swing open to expose connections for devices. George made a recommendation to replace the bolt with a latch pin that can be slid out of the bottom hinge to allow for the removal of the cover.
- The Vehicle Interface Module (VIM) for the CVTESS is mounted on a bracket that attaches to the top of the training port using the bolts removed when lowering the training port cover. The mount was developed to prevent Soldiers from inadvertently stepping on the cabling and the VIM itself but may be able to be removed with the addition of the bustle covers on the A4. George is providing a recommendation to PEOSTRI to mount the VIM to the inside of the bustle inside wall using Velcro since the bustle will be completely covered with the additional covers developed to protect crew/duke.

c. AMPV

1) Scott Williford and Ron Kuykendall are participating in the AMPV Test and Evaluation workgroup sessions this week at Aberdeen, MD. Key areas discussed included test instrumentation, commonality of test procedures used by contractor and government and network base station design used to evaluate network component integration. The AMPV team will provide more details in next week's SITREP.

d. Formation and DOTLPP Integration:

Doctrine, Organization, Personnel and MC-Network (DOP/MC-Net):

1) Phil Tiemeyer and Mike Sjoström are supporting the expeditionary CAB TAC CP NET, and participating in the NIE 16.1 command post integration sync meeting at Fort Bliss this week. They are also coordinating for PM AMPV's visit to observe the CAB TAC CP. The CAB TAC CP vehicle serves as a surrogate for AMPV (M/C variant) development and PM AMPV has great interest in its design.

Training, Leader Development, and Safety Integration (TLS):

1) TCM-ABCT executes six-month data collection windows, compiling edited and staffed content into Semi-Annual Reports (SAR). The SAR provides the ABCT community, and training and material development agencies with comprehensive analysis that reports new issues, tracks emerging/recurring trends, and identifies gaps affecting DOTMLPPF. The SAR contains TCM-ABCTs data analysis, recommendations, actions to date and points of contact. Team TLS is currently staffing version 15-02 with the CTCs and the Armor/Infantry School, and will publish it o/a 14 August.

2) TCM ABCT will observe NTC Rotation 15-09 from 17-27 August at Fort Irwin, CA. The 116th CBCT of the IDARNG is the first RC ABCT to perform a Decisive Action rotation in more than 10 years. Team TLS will cover down on the force-on-force portion of the rotation to collect observations, insights, and lessons learned. POC for more info is Carl Johnson @ 706.545.4652.

3) Training Circular (TC) 3-20.31-4, *Direct Fire Engagement Process* was released this week on the Army Publishing Directorate. TC 3-20.31-4 is intended for all Army personnel,

commanders, and their staffs for use at Soldier through brigade combat team level. This TC provides the standardized direct fire engagement process for crews, teams, squads, and small units. It provides principles coordinating the actions of these entities for establishing cohesion through a common, standardized engagement process. The concepts described in this TC are applicable to all direct fire weapons, weapon systems, and small units in all Armored, Stryker, and Infantry Brigade Combat Teams. Units can download digital or hard copies here: https://armypubs.us.army.mil/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_c/pdf/tc3_20x31_4.pdf

e. Large Caliber Ammo:

1) Mr. Kuamoo continues efforts to assist in the development of the M1002 Frangible Nose (FN). User Handling Test (UHT) is being planned for the last week of August pending availability of the Yuma Test Center. Intent is to involve Soldiers from 1/1 CD as this will be the next unit rotating into Korea and likely the first unit to fire this new FN configuration.

2) Mr. Kuamoo continues to support the investigation of erratic M831A1 training HEAT rounds. The investigation team is compiling live-fire data from 1-155th MSARNG who fired these rounds. The next event to evaluate this round during live-fire is with the Master Gunner Branch at Fort Benning; we'll discuss this further during the Master Gunner Conference at the Maneuver Conference in September.

f. Sustainment and Systems Integration:

1) NSTR (2-man staff is on leave)

g. Assistant Director-ARNG:

1) The ARNG LNO will begin conducting a conference call with ARNG maneuver leaders to share information and discuss relevant topics to the force. The first call is scheduled for 31 July, and the discussion topics will be NTC Rotation Trends, ADL/Network for tanks, and updates from the major ABCT shareholders.

2) The PM for Abrams is currently working on a field modification to equip the ARNG 5 M1A1 ABCTs with an Ammunition Data Link and communications upgrades. The ADL will allow the M1A1 to fire the new AMP round, and the communication upgrades consist of a Blue Force Tracker 2, 128GB Hard Drive, and a Joint Battle Command Platform. These upgrades are currently funded and should begin soon. Currently there is no funding that is forecasted to re-capitalize the ARNG M1A1 fleet over the next ten years. This would mean starting in 2018 the first ABCTs will have been in the field for 8 years. At ten years the Operational Readiness rate begins to decline sharply.

h. Futures Integration:

1) Mr. Jackson attended the Armor Anti-Armor Threat Coordination Group (TCG) and Dismounted Threat Conference from 28 to 30 July at the National Ground Intelligence Center. The conference is held at the SECRET level and the information provided will inform TCM ABCT's APA which has a suspense of 31 August 2016.

2) Mr. Griner attended the Maneuver Fires Integration Exercise (MFI) at Fort Sill from 19 to 23 July. This exercise focused on the ability to detect, track and defeat enemy Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). The objectives of MFI were:

- Provide rapid and precise target location and identification to facilitate engagement;
- Provide a single integrated air picture to allow units down to company level to independently decide to engage identified targets based on Commander's guidance;
- Provide BCT and below the ability to defeat Class 3 and below UAS (include micro & nano); and

- Provide BCTs the ability to conduct offensive and defensive fires rapidly and precisely. During MFIX, the Fires Center successfully demonstrated the capability to detect, track and defeat enemy UAS. The next step, in relation to the ABCT, will be packaging the systems so they can operate in an ABCT environment (fit on our current platforms and not require more Soldiers).

2. RECON.

At this point there is no confirmation that TCM Recon's five defense contractor positions will be funded. The current contract ends on 30 August, 0215. TCM Recon continues to operate without two critical positions filled: The LTC, TCM Reconnaissance and the MAJ, Acquisition Officer, neither position projected to be filled in the next three months.

NEW ACTIVITY – FIRST REPORT:

AWA 16.1. Completing coordination with 316 Cav Bde for ARC instructor to provide initial standard scout platoon training on 11 August to the newly activated scout platoon that will participate as the LRV surrogate scout platoon. TCM Recon's implied task is to provide the lesson plan and slides for an overview of a 9x36 standard scout platoon, based on the standard scout platoon O&O and coordinate with the ARC instructor who will provide the initial training.

CONTINUING ACTIONS:

a. Support to Leader Course for Sensor to Shooter Linkage Application. (Rose)

- Continuing to participate in weekly IPR's led by DCO, 316 Cav Bde, along with TCM MC, TCM IBCT, SRD and MBL.
- Last IPR provided 3 BCTs Cavalry Troop based listings of personnel and related equipment related to sensor to shooter linkage to inform the workgroup on current formations.
- Next session (31 July) CDID participants will present:
 - Updated quad charts for equipment currently in battalions and squadrons that enable sensor to shooter linkages and where Soldiers and leaders are trained on the systems.
 - TOE equipment role-ups for the tank company and three BCT Rifle Companies highlighting equipment related to sensor to shooter linkage.

b. Future Vertical Lift (FVL). (Fowler / Rose)

- FVL IPT had completed briefing the AV COE CG on the current FVL vehicle designs.
- The IPT plans to brief the MCOE leadership on the designs in September 2015, potentially during the Maneuver Conference the week of 14 September 2015; CDD is tracking this action.
- TCM FVL is scheduled to stand-up on 14 August at FT Rucker.

c. Analysis and experimentation.

1) UC15.3.1 (Unified Quest):

- Supporting CDD in the development of 2 days of Air-Ground Integration during the 2nd week of the GAMEX.

- Preparing revision to R&S BCT to reflect anticipated ABCT and SBCT organization revision.

Current & Future Experimentation with No Change:

- Upcoming Key Events:
 - 27 - 30 Jul 15 - SMEs & distributed event to drive transition events / vignettes
 - 4 Aug 15 - Initial Planning Conference
 - 19 Aug 15 - Final Planning Conference
 - 14 - 25 Sep 15 - UC 15.3 GAMEX.

2) AWA 17 (24 October – 4 Nov 2016, FBTX). Supporting ELTA's preparation of the AWA participation application. ELTA will provide for AWA 17 a lightweight, man-portable GSR employed at scout platoon and scout section level.

d. LRS DOTMLPF Development. Key actions for LRS Assessment in sequence:

- I Corps to provide comments or concurrence o/a 1 August.
- Date for III Corps response is TBD.
- CAC, ARCIC FDD, Armor and Infantry Schools concur; XVIII Corps provided recommendations.
- Adjudicated copy of the assessment to be provided to Deputy to the CG (T) within two workdays of receipt of Corps staffing; then forward to CG, MCoE.
- Submission to ARCIC following CG, MCoE approval.

e. Support to Force Design Efforts.

- Standardized Dismounted Scout Squad TOE Paragraph FDU Jr. This week's informal coordination with OCOA identified OCOA's primary task is to implement the revised grade structure for scout platoons that have not re-organized as standard scout platoons. Next step is to prepare the unit reference sheets for SBCT and IBCT scout platoons.

f. Close Access Target Reconnaissance.

- Awaiting response from PEO IEW&S for funding support for one CATR DOTMLPF developer / integrator, and the transfer of a CATR SME / instructor to reinstate CATR leader familiarization training at MCoE.
- Have been unable to return to CATR O&O writing.

ACTION WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

a. O&O Development. (Rose)

1) Scout Plt O&O. Key actions in sequence:

- Continued support to TCM IBCT related to AWA 16.1 planning and Standard Scout Platoon O&O with 9 x 36 Appendix.
- Staffing with Operational Force, Brigade Modernization Integration Division (BMID), Armor & Infantry School, and Director, DOTD will run through 5 August 2015.
- BMID suspense for the O&O is 10 August.

2) BCT Cav Sqdn O&O. Key actions in sequence:

- Staffing with Operational Force, Armor & Infantry School, and Director, DOTD will run through 5 August 2015.
- DOTD editor's review will occur concurrent to staffing to compress O&O completion timeline.

3) R&S BCT O&O. Key actions in sequence:

- Action Officer's draft appendix reflecting UC 15.2 lessons learned is complete.
- No other actions are required.
- The appendix will not be completed until HQDA makes a determination on implementing the ABCT redesign (3 Company CABs).

b. **Cbt Veh Mod Strategy Campaign of Learning.**

- ARCIC formulating plan. TCM Recon support to this effort will include providing copies of scout platoon, cavalry troop, cavalry squadron, R&S BCT O&Os to the ARCIC lead.

c. **CATR.** (No change due in large part to the loss of our Acquisition Corps Major)

- Current Requirements Review: CATR Baseline Requirements MoA (TCM ABCT – Recon and PM Terrestrial Sensors) is awaiting final signature from PM Terrestrial Sensors.
- Policy IPT Workgroup. Published initial coordinating draft policy for field review. The policy is approximately two – thirds complete, due to limited IPT members at the MCoE workshop.
- CATR architecture development.
- CATR STAR. Coordinating with MCoE G2 in order to determine if an additional threat assessment is required for the program.
- Upcoming unit visits. TBD June (Tent) 3ID CATR Facility (Cason, DOTD rep)
- Security Classification Guide (SCG). PM Ground Sensors is currently staffing the document.
- Net Plan Development. Coordinating with PdM Ground Sensors to determine program of instruction (POI).
- Test and Evaluation IPT scheduled to begin 28 July.

d. **Reconnaissance Knowledge Network (RKN / WfF).** No significant activity.

e. **Support to Doctrine Development.** No activity.

ACTIONS ON HOLD DUE TO LIMITED STAFF

a. **R&S CBA**

- Functional Needs Analysis (FNA): Organizing FNA capability gaps and their associated solutions within the FSA according to an operational priority of core Squadron mission sets and then enabler and Army-wide gaps.
- R&S CBA Functional Solutions Analysis (FSA): Internal and external CoE colonel level review of relevant areas of the R&S CBA FSA is currently ongoing with no significant issues raised. Upon completion of this staffing, TCM-Recon will begin BCT Command Team staffing through Division G3s. TCM-Recon then adjudicates

staffing comments and completes final draft FSA Report. This staffing is on hold pending completion of Cavalry Squadron and Scout Platoon O&O's and LRS Assessment.

- R&S CBA Draft DOTMLPF Integrated Change Recommendation (DICR). Under development; goal is to submit a draft with the FSA for ARCIC's concurrent approval to speed up the CBA's approval.

b. **CATR.** (Due in large part to the loss of our Acquisition Corps Major)

- Sustainment IPT: reviewing and providing recommendations for Sections 2 and 5 of Life Cycle Sustainment plan.
- CATR system training plan (STRAP). DOTD and TCM Recon adjudicated comments and forwarded document to DOTD Systems Branch Team chief for review.
- CATR DOTMLPF Assessment.

3. **Upcoming Events.**

a. ABCT

- 27-31 Jul - AMPV T&E WIPT (APG)
- 28-30 Jul - Armor Threat Coordinating Group – NGIC (Charlottesville, VA)
- 03-07 Aug - ECP2 Stowage/HFE fit up event (Detroit, MI)
- 10-14 Aug - NTC Rotation 15-09 CV-TESS Support (116th CBCT - IDARNG) (FICA)
- 17-27 Aug - NTC Rotation 15-09 Force on Force (116th CBCT - IDARNG) (FICA)
- 17-19 Aug - ABCT Brief 101 (BFV Integration)(Detroit, MI)
- 17-19 Aug - CMUR IMI Review (Orlando, FL)
- 24-28 Aug - CCTT Review/Fielding (FRKS)
- 07-11 Sep - LP CROWS User Excursion (FHTX)
- 11-18 Sep – (T) Unit Visit to 8A RAF (2/1CD) (ROK)
- 17 Sep -10 Oct - NIE, Ex CAB TAC CP evaluation (FBTX)

b. RECON

- 5 AUG: Std Sct Plt O&O Staffing Window Ends
- 13 AUG: Sqdn O&O Staffing Window Ends
- 10 AUG: Std Sct Plt O&O to BMID
- TBD AUG: Unit Visit 3ID & CATR Facility, FSGA
- TBD AUG: Reconfigurable Integrated Weapons Pedestal DEMO, Redstone Arsenal (Cason)
- 25-26 August: FVL RIPT Working Group #14: CONOPS Development, Telecon (Fowler)
- 14-25 SEP: UC 15.3 GAMEX Phase III CAM-WAS, MBL FBGA
- 21 SEP-17 OCT: NIE 16.1, FBTX (Pers TBD)

c. CATR Training Events: **No Change:** TBA pending replacement of contract personnel

Email Members of TCM-ABCT/Recon's staff:

Director: [John W. Miller III](#)
Deputy Director: [MAJ James A. Polak](#)
TCM - ABCT SGM: [MSG Myron Kennedy](#)
TCM - Recon: [Pete Rose](#)

