



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

Greetings to the Army Reconnaissance Community!

The Maneuver Center of Excellence and TCM-Reconnaissance are currently working several lines of effort within the Cavalry and Scout Community and in support of taskings from the office of the Army Chief of Staff.

TCM-ABCT recently completed a Proof of Principal (PoP) in support of the Standard Scout Platoon (SSP). The SSP concept is designed to bring every ABCT, SBCT and IBCT Cavalry Squadron and maneuver battalion Scout Platoon to a six /nine platform (6 Bradleys, 6 Strykers or 9 UAH) 36 Soldier configuration. 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood was chosen to execute the PoP during their most recent NTC rotation and analysis of the data collected by TCM-ABCT of the unit's performance was overwhelmingly favorable. Force Development Update (FDU) 13-01 is currently going through DA staffing and is expected to be approved following briefings to the VCSA and CSA later this summer. This is a no growth to the Army FDU that will standardize the Scout Platoons in the A, S & I BCT Cavalry Squadrons and the SBCT Maneuver Battalion Scout Platoons to 6x36. The ABCT CAB Scout Platoons and the IBCT Maneuver Battalion Scout Platoons will be reconfigured at a later date due to the potential equipment and personnel growth that would be associated with both.

The Army Chief of Staff (CSA) has directed the planning and execution of a Pilot Program that calls for the standardization of the Cavalry Squadrons in the ABCTs, SBCTs and IBCTs, bringing each to a three troop, three platoon, 6x36 configuration. The pilot calls for the analysis of two each ABCTs, SBCTs and IBCTs executing the pilot following a structure reconfiguration as described above (3x3x6x36). Analysis would focus on the train up and CTC rotation data to determine if this possible Cavalry Squadron structure change is viable. FORSCOM is the Army lead for developing the pilot and TCM-Recon is supporting their efforts. This robust and ambitious pilot program is in the initial phases of analysis and briefs back to the CSA on the cost in personnel, equipment and training will take place during the next several months. No decisions have been made about which units would possibly execute the pilot program.

The CSA has also directed FORSCOM to move forward with designating an ABCT and two SBCTs to potentially assume the R&S BCT Mission. TCM-Recon ICW ARCIC is currently working an information request from the CSA addressing the risks associated with these organizations executing this mission in terms of the BCT's capabilities to conduct its core mission set. An update to the CSA is scheduled for 31 July.

TCM-Recon is in the final phases of preparation for the LRS Workshop being held at the MCoE 24 & 25 June 2014. We have had great response from the LRS and reconnaissance community and expect a great turn out. If you have any questions or need information about the workshop, please contact Mr. Derek Larson the TCM-Recon POC in support of this effort (*continued on page 2*).

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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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Director's Comments

(Continued from page 1)

TCM-Recon's efforts in support of the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) continue. The capability gaps that have been generated during the CBA are currently at ARCIC for comparison with the Army's Capability Needs Analysis (CAN) gap list. ARCIC's current priority is updating their CNA gap information across all the Army formations and this has led to a short delay in the completion of the Functional Needs Analysis (FNA) and the Functional Solutions Analysis (FSA) by the TCM-Recon Team. We expect to be complete with the CBA by the end of the summer.

TCM-Recon got some good news with regards to the Close Access Target Reconnaissance System (CATR). DA G8 has made the decision to fully fund the CATR Program beginning in FY16. TCM-Recon, ICW MCoE and PM Ground Sensors, still faces some significant challenges with regards to setting up institutional training and the replacement of the Field Service Representative Contractors who currently do a bulk of the training in support of CATR operations. TCM-Recon will continue to keep the community informed with our progress but the program has cleared the first big hurdle.

The team has been busy traveling and conducting unit visits around the Army. Unit visits include 1-38 CAV (LRS) at Fort Bragg, 1-40 CAV at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and home station at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) in Alaska, 1-297 CAV (LRS) for annual training also at JBER and 3-38 CAV (LRS) at Joint Base Lewis McCord in Washington and finally an OEF post deployment lessons learned visit with 2CR in Germany.

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

Silver Saber exercise tests the skills of security forces in Kosovo

Story by SGT Cody Barber, Kosovo Force (KFOR)

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - It's the Super Bowl of crowd riot control events and it's what the Kosovo forces have been training for the past couple of months. It's Silver Saber and the three-day event was held May 14-16 at Camp Vrelo, Kosovo.

The training event tested the abilities of Kosovo Police, European Union Rule of Law Mission of Kosovo forces, and KFOR troops on their ability to coordinate, react and execute a large-scale multinational movement for a simulated CRC event.

The main muscle movement behind the event also was being able to synchronize all of the different forces and work like a well-oiled machine, said Italian Army Maj. Gen. Salvatore Farina, Kosovo Forces commander. [Read more](#)

201st BFSB Soldiers make a good showing at 2014 Best Ranger

Story by SGT Mark Miranda, 7th ID Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. – The best of the best were at Fort Benning, Ga., taking part in the 2014 Best Ranger Competition April 11-13, and two infantrymen represented 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, 7th Infantry Division.

Staff Sgt. William Haney and Sgt. Brendon Wellendorf, both assigned to C Company, 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment formed a two-man "buddy team" to compete in the three-day event, finishing in seventh place out of 50 teams.

"We were at the National Training Center (Fort Irwin, Calif.) when we were told we got the 7th ID shot for the competition," said Haney. "Our unit was as supportive as they could be by being flexible with our schedule to give us time to prepare." [Read more](#)



560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Soldiers teach infantry tactics to the Cameroon Army during Central Accord 2014 (CA 14) in Cameroon, Africa, March 11, 2014. CA 14 is a culmination of military forces of Central Africa, the Netherlands, and the United States conducting a combined joint training exercise in order to sustain tactical proficiency, improve multi-echelon operations, and develop multi-national logistical capabilities in an austere forward environment. (photo by SSG Kaily Brown)

560th BFSB Soldiers train partner nations during Central Accord 14

The 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry (R&S) of the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (GAARNG) recently sent twenty three Soldiers to Cameroon to take part in Exercise Central Accord 14. Central Accord 14 is a U.S. Army Africa-led multinational exercise hosted by Cameroon. The exercise brings together approximately 1,000 troops from eight nations including the United States, Nigeria, Gabon, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and the Netherlands. U.S. participants include contingents from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, and the Air and Army National Guard. The 3-108th CAV are returning veterans of this exercise, having also participated in Central Accord 13, and Atlas Drop 11 in Uganda. The 3-108th's mission has been to enhance partner nation's abilities to conduct aerial resupplies both in a military and civilian capacity.

Pathfinders from the 560th provided training and instruction on Aerial Delivery Operations. The training was focused on drop zone selection and setup, Pathfinder formulas, and radio communications with aircrafts. This year's exercise served as an opportunity for these Soldiers to expound upon previous training conducted during Central Accord 13. The Pathfinders, along with their foreign national counter parts conducted 29 successful air drops consisting of LCADs, LCLAs, and the Free Drop System box. These Soldiers also provided drop zone and Jumpmaster support for two personnel drops with the 173rd IBCT, and Paratroopers from Cameroon's BTAP Battalion based out of Koutaba. Twenty two of the 560th's Soldiers participated in the Airborne Operations, becoming the first National Guard Soldiers to be awarded the Cameroonian Parachutist Badge.

Ranger qualified Soldiers from C CO, Long Range Surveillance, 3-108th CAV, provided training on Advanced Infantry Tactics. The training was focused on patrolling techniques, Platoon level ambush operations, and CASEVAC operations. The training consisted of four days of hands on field instruction in Douala, followed by three days of STX lanes in Koutaba. Partner Nation Soldiers conducted the STX lanes side by side with Soldiers from the 173rd IBCT. The Advanced Infantry Tactics Team was led by SFC Joshua Eaton, who is also a current Pre-Ranger Instructor with the National Guard Warrior Training Center. The 560th BFSB is now currently planning and making preparations for Exercise Central Accord 15, tentatively being held next year in Gabon.

Other newsletters of interest

Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- IWfF (30 May 2014)
- SWfF (6 June 2014)
- Thunderbolt Blast (Apr-May 2014)
- MI Corps CG Newsletter (Mar 2014)

TCM-Recon Forum Links

- Reconnaissance Knowledge Network
- TCM-ABCT on milBook
- AWfF
- IWfF
- Stryker Net

TCM-Recon events

- 18 Jun: IWfF Symposium (DCO-S)
- 24-25 Jun: LRS Workshop, Fort Benning, GA
- *8-12 Sep: 2014 Maneuver Conference, Fort Benning, GA

*The Reconnaissance Summit is incorporated into the Maneuver Conference

Reconnaissance Knowledge Network updates

How to become a member

If you're not a member of the Reconnaissance Knowledge Network on milSuite, click [HERE](#) to join. This is an excellent venue to share your ideas and collaborate with other members of the Reconnaissance Community.

Unanswered discussion

Jack Munstock, MCTP trainer for the Army National Guard, would like to get some input about the use of LRS units from a Mission Command perspective. To reply to his request for information, click [HERE](#).

Recent Uploads

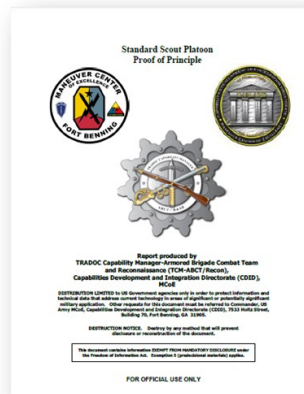
The following documents have been recently uploaded to the Reconnaissance Knowledge Network:

- TC 3-55.11 Reconnaissance, Security and MI Discipline 2 Collection (BFSB)
- CALL Handbook- THE LONG-RANGE SURVEILLANCE (LRS) OPERATIONS HANDBOOK FOR JRTC (Jan 02)
- Task Force Phantom Article about LRS Operations in OIF
- LRS Workshop Welcome Packet
- LRS Workshop Agenda

Standard Scout Platoon Proof of Principal

Last year the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) submitted a Force Design Update (FDU) to standardize scout platoons assigned to cavalry squadrons in ABCTs, IBCTs and SBCTs. The FDU was initiated following the identification of formation capability gaps involving uniform versatility, survivability, protection, mobility, and firepower to conduct effective reconnaissance and security operations during combined arms maneuver and wide area security. In the ABCT, the FDU accomplishes this by reorganizing the platoon from three Cavalry Fighting Vehicles (CFV) and five High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) to six CFVs, commonly referred to as 6x36. This configuration requires fewer vehicle crewmembers, creates six additional positions for dismounted operations, and utilizes remaining NCOs to train and lead them without adding Soldiers. In June 2013, 1st Squadron 7th Cavalry Regiment (Garryowen) from 1st Cavalry Division was identified to participate in a gap solution analysis and reorganized all six of their scout platoons into the 6x36 formation. Shortly after, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between 1st Cavalry Division, the National Training Center (NTC), The Maneuver Center of Excellence, and Tank Automotive Command (TACOM) to outline justification, responsibilities, and process implementation culminating with NTC Rotation 14-04. The Armor Commandant then assembled a MCoE analysis team to form a data collection plan to gather information during the experiment that would examine predicted capabilities of the 6x36 scout platoon. The ABCT scout platoon must be fully capable of developing the situation through action, employ appropriate

combinations of mounted and dismounted forces, and survive while fighting for information.



Click on the image above to download a copy of the Standard Scout Platoon Proof of Principal report

The MCoE data collection team has conducted surveys and interviews with the unit, observed home station training at Fort Hood, and attended their culminating training event at NTC Rotation 14-04 this past February. The goal of this effort will validate all improvements or deficiencies in versatility, survivability, protection, mobility, and firepower. It will also identify shortcomings in doctrine, organization, training, professional development, materiel, and personnel as they pertain to the 6x36 force design.

Long Range Surveillance Company Workshop

A Long Range Surveillance (LRS) Workshop is being held 24-25 June at Fort Benning, GA, with representatives from TCM-Reconnaissance and all 10 AC/NG LRSC's presenting topics for discussion and addressing the challenges, and propose solutions or insights for LRS units.

If you would like to be receive additional information on this event please contact [Mr. Derek Larson](#), or click on the button below to RSVP if you haven't done so already.

For those unable to attend the workshop in-person, each day is going to be broadcast live over Defense Connect Online (DCO). DCO URL: <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/lrs-workshop/>

If you'd like to download a copy of the welcome packet click [HERE](#).

If you'd like to download a copy of the agenda click [HERE](#).

RSVP

Photos and video



Photos: (Top) Long Range Surveillance Soldiers of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Regiment (AKARNG), take a break for a photo at Crow Pass during the unit's annual training from 4-17 May. (Bottom-left) SSG Joseph Dominic, a linguist with the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (GAARNG), relays information to a Guatemalan woman at a school construction site at El Roble, April 7, 2014. In partnership with Guatemala, U.S. Army South is executing Beyond the Horizon, a focused humanitarian assistance operation conducting various engineering assistance, medical, dental and civic action programs.

Video: (Bottom-right) While deployed to Kosovo, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment conducted an Excellence in Cavalry testing event to improve their troops cavalry scout proficiency. Click on the image to watch the video.