



TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP [week of 07 March]

09 March 2016

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1. ABCT

a. Abrams.

1) The Abrams Technical Advisor attended a coordination meeting as part of the Abrams Active Protection System (APS) Non Development Integration (NDI) effort. The IPT was provided a user presentation from the Israeli Army and Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD). They provided a list of challenges they encountered when integrating APS onto their Merkava tank and their experiences of using the system in combat to include changes to their doctrine and TTPs, which were minimal. This was an extremely informative presentation and the US should seriously consider the Israeli Army's feedback as we move forward with our own APS effort. Once the presentations are cleared by the IMOD we will receive a copy from TARDEC.

2) The Abrams Team is currently in the first week of a two week user jury for the Abrams M1A2 SEPv3 (ECP1a). This is our first opportunity to get Soldiers on the next version of the Abrams to provide feedback. The user jury will be assessing the next generation battle command software, Joint Battle Command-Platform (JBC-P); Under Armor Auxiliary Unit; Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS), New Displays (CDR, Gunner, Loader, Driver); Battery Monitoring System; Embedded Training / Opportunity Gunnery Training on the Platform. The user jury will close out with a live fire of over 50 different scenarios evaluating the tank's fire control system in various states of degradation.

b. Bradley.

1) SFC Shepherd attended the initial FFV Spiral B planning meeting hosted by the Maneuver Battle Lab. Those attending the meeting included representatives from MBL, MRD, and TCM ABCT. The next FFV Spiral A will be conducted from 06-30 June 2016 and will inform the FFV CDD on platform lethality. Currently, MRD has submitted force structure designs consisting of one base case and three advanced case designs. Each of the force structure designs will consist of a (4) IFV platoon with three man crews, main guns consisting of 25mm, 30mm, and 50mm calibers; One formation will not have TOW missiles. Initial experimentation design review has been conducted with follow-on IPRs to be conducted to further experiment structure.

2) SFC Shepherd dialed into the weekly SCMM planning meeting on 03 Mar 2016. TARDEC is investigating what it will take to incorporate an unmanned version of the current Bradley turret on to the BFV hull. This is being driven due to funding available for ARDEC to acquire commercial turret configurations for integration. With lethality not being a technicality for this demonstration, TARDEC is going forward with technology integration without commercial turret and 30mm integration for Phase 1a. Of further note, TARDEC is holding a Soldier Innovation Workshop (SIW) with Command Sergeants Major from RDECOM, ARCIC and ASA(ALT). The SIW will be discussing the capabilities of Active Protection Systems (APS) and how Modular Active Protection Systems (MAPS) conceptually fit into the survivability picture.

3) George Moore participated in the weekly Inert BRAT phone call to discuss follow on actions required to complete planning to provide each installation a set of Dummy Drilled Inert (DDI) BRAT for training. The tiles are considered a class 5 item until they are signed out from the ASP and will be a controlled item requiring a unit to request tiles using the same system as for ammo. The team is also monitoring how Stryker will handle their inert tiles and follow them if they are successful having them assigned to the TSC.

4) George Moore participated in the bi-weekly COFT review for the newly signed contract to pure fleet the force with one system for gunnery training. During the phone call TOW engagements were discussed referencing timing for the engagement. The current gunnery manual has all TOW firing grouped into one section that gives 2 minutes for a TOW engagement based on systems that do not have the capability of the Bradley's fire control system. The consensus of the group was to keep the 50 second engagement time that is currently in the gunnery trainer.

c. AMPV.

1) The AMPV team continues to participate in various AMPV IPT session/teleconferences in support of these team's preparation for specific AMPV Integrated Product Reviews conducted throughout the month of April. Specific teams include Hull, Structure, Survivability, Mobility, Vectronics, Auxiliary and SE/Specialty. Results from these teams will feed into AMPV Variant specific IPRs scheduled for the week of 09 May. All of these efforts support the Critical Design Review scheduled for the week of 20 June.

d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:

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

a) TCM ABCT's Organization A/O submitted a request to CDD to replace the CAV Squadron TACP's HMMWV. As we transition our Troop, Platoon Scouts from HMMWVs to Bradley's, we need to insure our AF TACPs have the appropriate mobility and protection to allow them to move forward in support of Troop operations, in an armored environment. The other TACPs in the formation are currently equipped with M113s and will receive MCcmd AMPVs. We recommend the same course of action for the CAV Squadron TACPs.

b) Ron Kuykendall briefed PM WIN-T, TCM MC-BCT and General Dynamics representatives on Armor platforms, their mission roles and need(s) for WIN-T capabilities on these vehicles. This brief provided a better understanding of ABCT Commanders' network challenges and possible solutions, moving forward with increased network capabilities.

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

a) Team TLS is examining data collected from unit visits to ABCTs who were deployed to COCOM mission requirements in Kuwait, Germany, and Korea. One area of particular interest involves NATO/Coalition/Threat Armored Vehicle Identification techniques. The team is exploring four separate actions involving updates to ROC-V software, resurrecting old GTA cards, developing a smart-phone mobile application, and a future Training Circular (TC). The Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill recently published TC 3-01.80 (dtd 29Feb16), **Visual Aircraft Recognition**. The Air Defense Artillery Branch prepared the publication. Download it here: http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_a/pdf/tc3_01x80.pdf Activities interested in contributing or supporting this initiative can contact Carl Johnson at 706.545.4652 or carl.r.johnson32.civ@mail.mil.

b) Team TLS will attend the second annual Army Lessons Learned Synchronization Workshop on 22-23 March at the Frontier Conference Center on Fort Leavenworth to discuss the

Army Lessons Learned Program (ALLP) and integrate topics, products, and collection efforts across the force in FY17.

e. Large Caliber Ammo: Our ammo lead continues to coordinate a visit to the General Dynamics ammunition production facility in Marion, IL for Soldiers and Master Gunners. The intent of the visit is to allow these Soldiers to learn firsthand how 120mm tank ammunition is produced. The Soldiers will also engage directly with senior management personnel and workers on the line to discuss their experience with tank ammunition both in training and in combat.

f. Futures Integration: The Futures Team hosted the ABCT Seminar Wargame this week at the Maneuver Battle Lab. A full summary will be published next week.

g. Sustainment and Logistics Integration:

1) Team Systems participated in an M88 Mini Model System user panel at Fort Lee, VA on 25 February 2016. Product Manager M88 is exercising an independent contract to execute this Mini Model System which is a subset of the Whole Systems Trade Tool that has been used on past combat vehicle programs and is intended to be one of many data points that will help inform trade analysis based on holistic design choices while understanding the opportunity cost of each choice. Model results are anticipated to be complete by the end of April 2016.

2) Team Systems participated in the Tactical Wheel Vehicle Board of Directors (TWV BOD) via VTC on 01 March 2016. Participants included SCoE, PEO CS&CSS, TWV PM Offices, ARCIC, ASA (AL&T), HQDA G4 and G8. There were many topics covered regarding the TWV portfolio but of specific interest was the Heavy Equipment Transport System (HETS) briefing that covered the programs plan to meet developmental requirements due to Abrams weight growth and Highway Transportability. The current short-term plan, though unfunded at this time, is to execute an upgrade program to a select number of the tractor and trailer systems to properly accommodate the total payload requirement needed to transport the heavier Abrams tank. Goal of this upgrade is to provide the capability in FY20 simultaneously aligning with SEpv3 fielding's. The longer-term plan, also unfunded at this time, is to execute a new start program to meet the full transportability requirement and limitations (payload and axle weights).

h. Assistant Director - ARNG:

1) Army National Guard (ARNG) identifies three long-terms concerns that TCM ABCT could help analyze and generate viable solutions for:

a. Interoperability – Over time, capability gaps will widen between AIM-SA and SEP variant tanks. Gaps in Network, Lethality, and Survivability capabilities may lead to interoperability disconnects. What interoperability disconnects exist now, or will develop, between “digital” and “analog” fleets of Abrams and Bradley variants? How can disconnects be avoided or mitigated?

b. Training – M1A1 AIM-SA crews require 440 hours of training to deploy on M1A2 SEpv2s (per PM Abrams OPNET POI). How can M1A2 SEpv2 pre-deployment training requirements be reduced for M1A1 AIM-SA crews?

c. Sustainability – Operational costs of M1A1 AIM-SA tanks will increase over time, and readiness may be impacted by decreased availability of repair parts and components. How much will M1A1 AIM-SA operational costs increase over time? Will the industrial base continue to produce AIM-SA parts and components to sustain readiness?

2) On 08 March 2016 the 1/34th ABCT held their monthly teleconference with organic and supporting units across the US in preparation of their 16-07 NTC rotation. The unit is into final

planning for initial movements. Major point during this call concerned the economy of funds to accomplish pre/post rotation operations. NGB has identified shortfalls in pre-rotation training opportunities with supporting units both of higher and lower echelons. NGB is developing a strategy for increasing funding for CTC rotational units to maintain readiness.

3) ARNG ABCT force structure changes continue. Currently, the focus is on MTOE changes in the 278th ACR (TNARNG) and 116th ABCT (IDARNG). By FY17 the ARNG will have five ABCTs.

2. RECON.

a. R&S Concepts and Analysis:

1) R&S BCT O&O Implementation: TCM Recon participates in Unified Challenge 16.1 MAPEX 14-24 MAR at Fort Leavenworth KS. The experiment will examine the R&S BCT and compare it to a Cavalry Group Concept provided by a draft O&O under development.

2) CAV SQDN O&O: ARCIC has approved the Cavalry Squadron O&O Concept. Contact TCM Recon points of contact listed in the TCM ABCT-Recon sitrep for copies.

3) Scout PLT O&O: Writing the O&O remains postponed to APR due to experimentation taskings that run through MAR. Major RFIs related to writing the O&O include scout squad definition and developing a scout sniper concept and cannot be addressed until APR.

4) R&S CBA: Revising report and EXSUM format IAW guidance from the first review of the Functional Solutions Analysis (FSA) with the CoAR which occurred on 2 MAR. The next CoAR review is scheduled for 29 MAR.

5) Supporting preparation for and participating (via VTC) in the 11 MAR Executive Committee Session with the CSA; topics include R&S BCT, Standard scout and cavalry formations, Recon / Scout vehicle development, and Scout of the Future / Cavalry Scout Leader Soldier Competencies. Guidance to be published in next week's sitrep.

b. CATR:

1) CATR O&O: Review of the initial draft of CATR O&O is on hold due to competing experiment requirements (UC 16.1 and ABCT Seminar Wargame). The O&O will support the development of the training strategy and efforts with PdM.

2) CATR Lesson Plans: Workgroup at Clarksville TN (7-11 MAR) is leveraging CATR master trainers and continuing to support the development of CATR overview and tagging tracking and locating lessons plans. Continuing to support the development of CATR critical task list.

Upcoming Events.

a. ABCT

- 07-09 Mar - MBT survey PEO-GCS (FSGA)
- 07-18 Mar - Abrams M1A2 SEPV3 User Jury (APG)
- 07-11 Mar - TCM-ABCT Seminar War game (FBGA)
- 07-18 Mar - Abrams SEPV3 User Jury (APG, MD)
- 08-10 Mar - Abrams SEPV3 TADSS User Jury support (APG, MD)
- 09-11 Mar - General Dynamics Ammo Production Visit (Marion, IL)
- 21-23 Mar - Army Lessons Learned Synchronization Workshop (FLWKS)

- 05-08 Apr - JAB User Forum (Warren, MI)
- 26-29 Apr - JAB Start of Work Meeting (Warren, MI)
- 10-11 May - Abrams Program Management (PMR) Review (TACOM)
- 15-27 May - Abrams SW 4.6 Beta Test (APG)

b. RECON

- 14-24 MAR - UC 16.1 GAMEXp – R&S BCT (FLKS) (Dunn & Fowler)
- 14-24 MAR - UC 16.1 GAMEXp – ABCT (FBGA) (O’Steen)
- 28-31 MAR - UC 16.1 GAMEXp Analytics Scrum (FLVA) (Dunn)
- 29 MAR - TCM Recon R&S CBA FSA Update to Chief of Armor
- TBD APR - Scout Sniper Concept & Task Analysis (FBGA)
- TBD APR - Scout Squad Definition Analysis

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

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Abrams Team Lead:	Robert Hay
Bradley Team Lead:	George Moore
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