



TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP [week of 25 April]

26 April 2016

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1. ABCT

a. Abrams.

1) Team Abrams hosted the Abrams Working Group for the TCM ABCT Summit. Representatives from PdM Abrams, PM MBTS, MRD, CASCOM, National Guard and DOTD attended. The working group met the required objectives of reviewing fielding schedules to ensure synchronization with other platforms and enablers, identify impacts of LP CROWS decision, Abrams weight gain due to armor integration, and modification timeline and path for countermine equipment due to changes of towing and lifting appendages in order to meet MIL STD 209k and STANAG 4478.

Team Abrams continues to coordinate with execution of the Low Profile CROWS demonstration to GEN Perkins and GEN Abrams on 6 May 2016 at the DMPCRC.

b. Bradley.

1) PdM Bradley is hosting the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems (BFVS) Family of Vehicles Program Management Review (PMR) in Sterling Heights, Michigan this week. The Director - TCM ABCT along with the collective Bradley Team are participating in the activities, and an executive summary of the event will be published in next week's update.

c. AMPV.

1) Scott Williford and SFC Tyler facilitated AMPV Maintenance Work Group sessions as part of TCM ABCT's Strategic Summit from 19-21 April. The working group developed a path forward to align the System Training Plan (STRAP) and CASCOM Maintenance Training Requirements within AMPV's Program schedule and funding. Participants in the working group included representatives from PM AMPV, TCM ABCT, MCoE DOTD, TACOM, CASCOM, PEO-STRI, and PM AFV. Highlights from this work group include:

a) CASCOM provides an updated Training Support Requirements Document (TSRD) that includes a critical task list and identifies required quantities of training vehicles and institutional maintainer TADSS to MCOE, to allow DOTD to update the approved AMPV STRAP prior to AMPV Critical Design Review (CDR) (NLT1 May 16).

b) DOTD will provide an updated AMPV STRAP for key stakeholder review (NLT 24 Jun 16) that identifies quantities of TADSS and required number of vehicles.

c) PM AMPV will develop and maintain a program schedule that aligns development and fielding of institutional training aides with program milestones, to insure TADSS are available for vehicle fielding. Key Stakeholders will provide assistance and information to support schedule development as required.

d) PM AMPV will provide RDT&E funds to develop training devices specific to AMPV, and will procure half of the institutional maintainer training device requirements that provide dual usage for AMPV and BFV.

d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:

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

a) Phil Tiemeyer facilitated the ABCT Network Work Group sessions, as part of TCM ABCT's Strategic Summit. This work group focused on resolving two specific issues: 1) replacing the SINCGARS radios in selected M113 vehicles, in 2 ABCTs, with HMS/SRW capabilities and 2) identifying network architecture for the Accelerated Armored Brigades. Highlights from this group include:

(1) Summit's Council of Colonels recommends including CO/Troop 1SG M113, Ambulance M113 and CAV Troop Mortar M1064 in HMS Radio BOI. LTC McGunegle (HQDA, G8-FDD) recommended considering replacing SINCGARS in all 113 FoV vehicles, in the 2 ABCTs. COL McFadden (FORSCOM, Force Integration) recommended gaining concurrence from the ABCT War Fighter Forum, MCoE CDID, ARCIC and then staff through appropriate Army agencies.

(2) Council of Colonels agreed the Accelerated Brigades are equipped with legacy network capabilities, IAW K-Series TOE allocations. This includes legacy Mission Command and Surveillance Systems, and JBC-P. AMPV Mission Command variants will include planned VIC-5, QEAM, and modular CP Shelter with Grounding Kits. These variants are also provisioned for WIN-T increment 2 capabilities but, WIN-T components are not included with these vehicles; ABCTs do not have WIN-T capabilities during the time period(s).

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

a) TCM ACBT has published its quarterly newsletter. Highlights include the approval of the Cavalry Squadron O&O, ABCT conversions to the 'K' Series MTOE, information on pilot courses for the Maneuver Leader Maintenance Course, and MOS surveys from the Armor School. Download it from our milbook here: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-271623>

b) Team TLS is preparing for three separate unit visits to ABCTs conducting CTC and RAF training activities; 1/3ID(-) participating in *Combined Resolve VI* at JMRC (Hohenfels) from 13-25 May <http://www.eur.army.mil/jmtc/CombinedResolve.html> ; 1/3ID participating in *Operation Anakonda* in Poland from 5-16 June <http://www.eur.army.mil/roadtoanakonda/> ; and 1/34 ABCT (MNARNG) at NTC Rotation 16-07 from 15-24 June.

c) The 2016 Sullivan Cup; Best Tank Crew Competition, hosted by the Maneuver Center of Excellence, the US Army Armor School, and the 194th Armored Brigade is set for 02-06 May 2016 at Fort Benning, Georgia. View the schedule of social events and track the competition here: <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/sullivan/index.html>

e. Large Caliber Ammo:

1) Mr. Kuamoo completed monitoring performance of main gun ammunition at Ft Irwin, CA during the live fire rotation of 3/1 AD. A fractured main gun tube and flareback incident occurred during this rotation, and there were no crew injuries. An initial evaluation concluded that both incidents occurred due to crew errors.

2) Mr. Kuamoo is monitoring tank gunnery with 1-81 Armor at Ft Benning, GA followed by travel to Ft Carson, CO to monitor ammunition performance with 3rd ABCT 4ID.

f. Futures Integration:

1) TCM-ABCT hosted its Strategic Planning Summit 19-21 April 2016 at MCoE, Fort Benning. Over one hundred representatives from the community of interest attended the summit on-site, with those off-site attending through DCS/telecon. Agencies and organizations represented included HQDA G3/5/7/8, ASA-ALT, ARCIC, ARNGB, PEO GCS, PEO CS&CSS, PEO C3T, PEO STRI, Cyber CoE, MSCoE, SCoE, MCoE, MCCoE, SOSEI, RDECOM, CERDEC, TCM Tac Radio, TCM Fires, TCM BCT-MC, TCM Trans, TCM N&S, SMDC, CASCOM, and platform and systems PM/PD/PdM. TCM-ABCT representatives facilitated working group sessions related to the Armor Multi-Purpose Vehicle, Armored Fighting Vehicle, Main Battle Tank, Network Integration, and Enabler Vehicles to address vehicle modernization and their fielding schedules to ensure synchronization that minimizes the impact on operational units. Two special topic sessions focused on the challenges associated with recovering and transporting the Abrams tank and assessing the ability to execute combat vehicle modernization guidance. The summit culminated with a Council of Colonels which provided a forum for the working groups to summarize their sessions and receive guidance. TCM-ABCT will publish the summit EXSUM upon review of the minutes and CoC recommendations.

g. Systems, Sustainment and Logistics Integration.

1) Last week the TCM ABCT team hosted a planning summit that attracted participation from cross functional organizations and stakeholders ranging from HQDA to other partnering TCM offices. In particular, the Systems team held a working group that reviewed the ABCT maneuver support and sustainment enabler fielding's as well as product improvement and upgrade strategies. There were four major support systems covered in the Enabler working group which included the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM), scissors bridge for the Joint Assault Bridge (JAB) & Armored Vehicle Launch Bridge (AVLB), M88 Recovery vehicle, and the Heavy Equipment Transporter System (HETS).

The PIM program will continue moving forward with their CROWS integration and testing as part of their Force Protection package which will be fielded as Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) on an as needed basis. The system will undergo Initial Operational Testing (IOT) in early FY17 to collect operational insight and feedback. First unit to be equipped is 2/1 ID in 2QRTFY17.

The JAB, which is solely a chassis improvement, is still under Source Selection Evaluation Board (SSEB) review but results and contract award are anticipated within the next month. Regardless the SSEB recommendation, PdM Bridging is resourcing an uprate test which will evaluate the ability of the scissors bridge to support additional crossing weights. The bridges current capability is rated at a Military Classification Load (MLC) of 85 which is equivalent to 75.5 tons (tracked vehicle only). If testing is successful, an improved capability of MLC 95 normal crossing and MLC 100 caution crossing would be made available to the operational force in mid FY18.

The Assault Breacher Vehicle (ABV) is almost completed its fielding to the ABCT formations. The 116th ABCT ARNG will undergo fielding and New Equipment Training (NET) this 3QTRFY16 and will also be the last ABCT to be fielded. Once complete, there will be six ABV's in each of the 9 Active component ABCTs as well as three of the five National Guard ABCTs. Both the 30th ABCT and the 278th ACR National guard units will not receive ABVs due to National Guard funding priorities but will utilize Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) and Mine Clearing Line Chargers (MICLICS) in lieu of the ABVs. Shortages in unit authorizations and on-hand quantities are being resolved through their Integrated Logistics Support Center.

The M88 program is executing a pure fleet program that converts the M88A1 system to an M88A2 system, thus reducing obsolescence, logistical and training burdens, and provides the ABCT formation an improved, cost effective capability that helps enable the maintenance

teams on the battlefield. Both the M88A1 and M88A2 fall short of the needed and intended performance of the recovery systems which is single vehicle recovery mainly due to the Abrams Main Battle Tanks weight growth. This capability gap has been identified and confirmed by stakeholders and even though the M88 upgrade program is unfunded at this time, the Product Director team for M88 is conducting needed analysis to identify platform design short comings and potential solutions that will meet intended requirements while also minimizing scope to ensure the needed capability reaches the point of need in the shortest time possible.

The final system covered in the small group was the HETS. Recently, a Configuration Steering Board (CSB) approved changes in the HETS Capability Production Document (CPD) moving three objective level requirements (Payload, Loading/Unloading Disabled Main Battle Tank, and Force Protection) to the threshold requirement. HQDA G8 will fund the program in FY18-22 enabling the system to upgrade both the tractor and trailer systems to meet needed transportability requirements. Special permits will still need to be approved to use the system in both CONUS and OCONUS operations but the capability provides the Army a much needed capability the removes its reliance on commercial and non-military transport systems. The program plans to upgrade 192 of the HETS to support ongoing operations by FY22 with a long term strategy to develop a more capable system in FY26.

2) MSG Kennedy continues to support Network Integration Exercise (NIE) 16.2 as an Observer Controller until 17 MAY 2016.

ARNG LNO:

1) 1/34th ABCT (MNARNG) in final stages of preparing for NTC Rotation 16-07, with two home-station training days left until the unit deploys to Fort Irwin. Approval and logistical movement of service 120mm HE ammo on going for 1/34th ABCT live fire at NTC.

2) The M1A1 Master Gunner ASI course has been approved. The new course is an ATTRS stand-alone 10 day course funded by NGB taught at the Warrior Training Center. The course will immediately follow the M1A2 MG course, which will be a prerequisite. This additional course will give ARNG MG both M1A1 and M1A2 MG ASIs.

2. RECON.

a. R&S Concepts and Analysis:

1) R&S BCT Implementation: NO CHANGE: TCM-Stryker leads the 1/4 SBCT R&S BCT Excursion. We will continue to collaborate with TCM-Stryker and 1/4 SBCT to complete mission analysis and begin development of the MCoE support plan for the R&S BCT Excursion.

2) Standard Scout PLT O&O: The coordinating draft of the Standard Scout Platoon O&O was completed and submitted to the CoAR, 3-16 CAV, ARC, and CAV Doctrine Branch for review and guidance. Once guidance is received, we will update the O&O and begin the external staffing process.

3) R&S CBA: The Functional Solutions Analysis (FSA) was forwarded to ARCIC on 11 April 16 for staffing.

4) Support to Unified Quest 5-13 May. Requirements are to be determined. Anticipate at a minimum providing one action officer to serve as the SME for the R&S BCT O&O. There is the potential the action officer will also serve as the SME for the Cavalry Group O&O.

5) Support to Unified Challenge 16.2: TCM-Recon will participate in the UC 16.2 Initial Planning Conference (IPC) on 28 April 16 to begin to frame the participation and requirements of UC 16.2.

b. Senior Leader Updates. TCM Recon provided an R&S Initiatives Update to Director, ARCIC on 21 April 16. We presented the overall FSA recommendation to use this document as a synchronization tool for R&S related efforts and conduct routine annual or bi-annual reviews. The ARCIC Director was generally supportive of the recommendation.

c. CATR: TCM-Recon, DOTD, and PdM GS continues development of lesson plans in support of CATR NET and Fielding. We are requesting a teleconference or office call in the coming weeks to further discuss the training development process and review way forward to enable the upcoming AUG 16 fielding decision.

1) CATR O&O: Review of the initial draft of CATR O&O continues. The O&O will support the development of the training strategy and efforts with PdM.

2) CATR Lesson Plans: Continuing to support the development of CATR overview and tagging tracking and locating lessons plans. Continuing review of proposed device lesson plans.

3) CATR Task List: Developing CATR new equipment training critical tasks to inform the NET Plan, DTT Plan, and facilitate the upcoming teleconference.

4) CATR BOIP: Adjudicating comments from USASOC and USAFMSA. ICoE is reviewing BOIP for EMIB's

Upcoming Events.

a. ABCT

- 24-27 Apr - Cyber Blitz (Ft. Dix)
- 25-28 Apr - CMUR VAL/VER (APG, MD)
- 26 Apr - 01 May - Tank Gunnery w/ 1-81 Armor (FBGA) and 3/4ID (FCCO)
- 25-29 Apr - Bradley PMR (Warren/Sterling Heights, MI)
- 26-28 Apr - AMPV Vetronics, Mobility and Aux IPRs #2 (SHMI)
- 26-29 Apr - JAB Start of Work Meeting (Warren, MI)
- 02-04 May - Bradley ECP-2 Test Readiness Review
- 26 Apr - 16 May - NIE 16.2 Observer Support(FBTX)
- 02-06 May - Sullivan Cup (FBGA)
- 10-11 May - Abrams PMR (TACOM)
- 13-25 May - Unit Visit to 1/3ID (Combined Resolve VI) (Hohenfels)
- 15-27 May - Abrams SW 4.6 Beta Test (APG)

b. RECON

- 28 APR: Recon Council
- 28 APR UC 16.2 Initial Planning Conference
- 5-13 MAY: Unified Quest (Carlisle Barracks)
- 16-20 MAY, CATR Analyst Course Development, Clarksville, TN
- 16 JUN, UC 16.2 Mid Planning Conference
- 13 JUL, UC 16.2 Final Planning Conference
- 19-21 JUL, 16.2 Rehearsal of Concept
- 01-12 AUG, UC 16.2 Execution

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