



TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP (week of 29 June 15)

01 July 2015

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1. ABCT

a. Abrams

1) Members of team Abrams continue to support the PdM in planning to conduct three user excursions this fall with Soldiers from the operational force. The primary purpose of the user excursion is to validate that LP CROWs provides the same capability as CROWs II, but improves the TC's ability to maneuver the tank from the open hatch position. The test program will inform a PdM production decision in OCT of 2015.

b. Bradley

1) The ATCM and the Bradley Senior Technical Advisor participated in a teleconference with PM AFV and PdM Bradley leadership to discuss ATECs safety confirmation status for the HMPT800 transmission. The current Bradley's are equipped with the HMPT500-3ECB transmission which are experiencing reliability and performance issues attributed to weight gains directly associated with survivability and force protect enhancements which go well beyond the transmissions engineered specifications. There is also an insufficient inventory of HMPT500-3ECB transmissions to properly support the fleet demands with an anticipated zero balance within the next two months. PM AFV and the Integrated Logistics Support Center (ILSC) are recommending to field an HPMT800 transmission as a mitigation plan and use these transmission to fulfill the operational demands until the Bradley ECP2 HMPT800-B is available for fielding.

During ATEC performance testing on the HPMT800 transmission showed improvements in all areas such as 60% slope, pivot steer, with the exception of brake fade. This brake fade test is based on an International Test Operations Procedure (ITOP). The PM believes the brake fade test is geared toward wheeled vehicles breaking while traveling down steep hills; not tracked vehicles. The PM assesses the likelihood of these test failures occurring in the field as extremely rare and thus assesses the risk as low and acceptable. PM AFV is confident that PEO GCS will sign the Safety Certification risk assessment assuming the reliability burden.

ATEC is in the process of staffing a Safety Confirmation recommending not to field the HMPT800 transmission based on the risk of increased O&S cost burdens to the units. The HMPT800 costs nearly twice as much as the HMPT500-3ECB. The PM acknowledges that the initial transmission cost of the HMPT800 will be higher but anticipates that its improved reliability will in the long term provide a reduced O&S cost burden to the force.

The typical Bradley vehicle training weight is 72,500lbs which is 6000lbs less than the tested weight, adding credibility to the PM prediction of increased HPMT800 reliability and performance but there is no quantifiable data to validate this projection. TCM ABCT acknowledges the improvements the HMPT800 can provide but has concerns with the potential cost burden that units may incur. TCM ABCT will continue to coordinate with the PM, PEO, and ATEC to determine the appropriate path forward.

c. AMPV

- 1) NSTR.

d. Formation and DOTLFP Integration:

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

1) DOP participated in the Armored Warfighter Forum and will monitor the Corp CDR's directive for the divisions to determine their mission command requirements at platoon through brigade echelon based on their mission sets. The CDR wants them to differentiate between Combined Arms Maneuver and Wide Area Security missions to determine their mission command echeloned needs.

2) Mr. Tiemeyer participated in the DA G3 hosted ABCT Network Modernizations Issues briefing to identify challenges and potential Course of Action. There were five challenges identified;

- Integration and testing timeline for HMS MP on Bradley IFVs. Integration is completed for LRIP HMS-MP with initial fielding in FY-19
- Modernization of ABCT platforms is not synchronized - partial capability will incrementally field to the ABCT from FY-15 to FY-21
- Abrams modernization is limited to 58 vehicles per year (less than one ABCT per year)
- WIN-T not integrated on tracked vehicles until FY 22 (AMPV IOC)
- BDE/BN WNW net not viable until FY22 - BFISTs are currently the only planned combat platform to host MNVR (FY19) until AMPV attains IOC (FY22). Based on potential non-availability of JTRS manpack radios for the Bradley may require NRE to re-integrate legacy SINCGARS.

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

1) Mr. McCrea represented TCM ABCT in briefing the FORSCOM IG on DOTMLPF-P formation trends and focus areas in preparation for a future IG inspection of BCT gunnery. The group covered individual and collective trends, and included recommendations associated with Bradley (IN, CAV, BFIST, EN), Abrams, and rifle/scout squad maintenance, gunnery, and maneuver. Contributing factors to performance outside of gunnery execution were discussed as a means to best capture problems and identify solutions.

2) Mr Johnson completed OCONUS TDY to Germany with the Deputy Director and Sustainment / Logistics Analyst on 30 June. In office calls with the HQ 4ID MSE Chief of Staff, USAREUR G35 strategic plans shop, 405th AFSB Deputy Commander, European Activity Set (EAS) Grafenwoehr-based leadership, and the 1/3ID 3d BSB Commander, we received several information briefs that clarified future rotation requirements. Our intent is to pair the information we collected during this event with our findings from our previous two events, and summarize it in our pending semi-annual report NLT EOM August.

e. Large Caliber Ammo:

1) Mr. Kuamoo continues efforts to assist in the development of the M1002 Frangible Nose; ricochet testing on-going

2) Mr. Kuamoo assisting investigation of 2, 105mm rounds out of a range area in Korea. Conducted discussions with ARDEC at Picatinny Arsenal reference rounds out of sector, modeling of the events continue.

3) Mr. Kuamoo investigating report by 194th Armor of erratic M831A1 training HEAT rounds during live fire gunnery. Formal reports state rounds are mainly hitting short of intended target, not a safety issue at this point.

f. Sustainment and Systems Integration:

1) The Global Combat Support System-Army (GCSS-Army) is a major new information system that is improving every warehouse, supply room, motor pool and property book office in the Total Army. Fielding is accomplished using the wave approach in order to not shock the supply chain and cause disruption to ongoing operations. Wave 1 replaces the Standard Army Retail Supply System and Wave 2 replaces the Property Book Unit Supply-Enhanced and the Standard Army Maintenance System. GCSS-Army enhances mission command by allowing leaders to more rapidly and accountably build and maintain unit readiness. The centerpiece of building unit readiness is the ability to make decisions based on accurate and reliable logistics data. GCSS-Army is web-enabled, allowing users to access the same data from the same source, anywhere in the world. Readiness is directly tied to operations; without one you cannot have the other. Learn more about GCSS-A here: http://www.army.mil/standto/archive_2015-06-29/?s_cid=standto

g. Futures Integration:

1) Mr. Jackson and Mr. Griner continue to support the CDID Test and Analysis Office tasking to support the VCSA System Divestiture Study. The intent of the study is to identify the risk of divesting entire LINS from the Army inventory. The Movement and Maneuver-Ground portfolio includes the Bradley, Abrams, and M113 platforms and is scheduled for review 9 JUL.

h. 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 August 2015, and the topics will be NTC Rotation Trends, ADL/Network for tanks, and updates from the major ABCT shareholders.

2. RECON.

Continuing 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.

a. O&O Development.

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

- Completed review of scout of the future text by the Armor School SIG and Cav Doctrine Branch final review on 29 June.
- Forwarded the O&O for DOTD editor's review on 30 June.

Current & Future Actions with No Change:

- Resolution of NIE 16.1 Scout Plt Organization, either 6 x 36, or 9 x 36 is pending.
- Armor & Infantry School, Director, DOTD review and concurrent info paper to CG, MCoE.
- Operational force staffing.
- Initial indication from Brigade Modernization Integration Division (BMID) is the O&O is not required until the 10th of August.

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

- Completed Cavalry Squadron Organizing Principles on 26 June.
- Initial draft of Operational Concept to be completed o/a 8 July.

Current & Future Actions with No Change:

- Organization Concept under review by 316 Cav Bde team member.
- Awaiting refinement of Scout of the Future Concept from Armor School, TBD.
- DOTD editor's review occurs after first draft completed.
- Draft ready for operational force staffing, TBD.

b. LRS DOTMLPF Development.

Key actions for LRS Assessment in sequence:

- Staffing with Armor and Infantry Commandants, began earlier than projected, on 26 June; suspense is 15 July.
- Staffing with I, III and XVIII Corps, NGB, CAC and FDD expected to begin on 2 July.

Current & Future Actions with No Change:

- Review by Deputy to the CG (T) 16-17 July.
- Forward to CG, MCoE o/a 20 July.
- Submission to ARCIC following CG, MCoE approval.

c. Support to Force Design Efforts.

- Standardized Dismounted Scout Squad TOE Paragraph FDU Jr. projected completion slips one week due to o/a 9 July. This is due to the request for support to CG, MCoE and Cdr, 316 Cav Bde discussions involving conventional scout platoon capabilities compared to 75TH Ranger Regiment capabilities.

d. Support to Doctrine Development.

Completed review (on 26 June) to ATP 3-20.97 Cavalry Troop revision, reviewed organization, capabilities and limitations section in support of DOTD.

e. Reconnaissance Knowledge Network (RKN / WfF).

- Supporting XVIII ABC task formulation concerning potential recommendation for a two person FDU to LRSCs.
- Supporting Ghillie Suit BOIP development.

f. Close Access Target Reconnaissance.

- Priority is support the completion of the first CATR Employment Policy.

g. Working actions with no significant change in status.

1) Analysis and experimentation

- Participating in UC 15.2 Seminar/Wargame Phase III, 15 June – 2 July (Fowler).
- Army Warfighting Assessment (AWA) 17, 24 October – 4 Nov 16, FBTX. Submitted recommendation for AWA to examine the lightweight, man-portable GSR employed at scout platoon and scout section level.
- Future Vertical Lift (FVL). 23-24 June: FVL RIPT Working Group #13: FVL Attribute Study Update, CONOPS Development, Telecon (Personnel TBD).

2) 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.

3) CATR. (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)
- CATR ONS Tracking. TCM Recon is continuing to work with division CATR OIC at 1AD, 3ID, and 82nd Airborne regarding ONS requirements.
- 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).

h. Actions without activity due to competing requirements.

1) 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.

2) 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

- 29 Jun-2 Jul - CMUR IMI development (Orlando, FL)
- 07-17 Jul - Bradley Common IETM desk top review (Detroit, MI)
- 13-17 Jul - Bradley Sync Meeting PdM, TCM and HQDA (Arlington, VA)

- 19-23 Jul - Maneuver Fires Integration Exercise (Fort Sill, OK)
- 20-24 Jul - Bradley A4 Stowage Fit-Up (Sterling Heights, MI)
- 27-31 Jul - LP CROWS User Jury (APG, MD)
- 28-30 Jul - Armor Threat Coordinating Group – NGIC (Charlottesville, VA)
- 03-07 Aug - ECP2 Stowage/HFE fit up event (Detroit, MI)
- 17-27 Aug - NTC Rotation 15-09 (116th CBCT - IDARNG) (FICA)
- 17-19 Aug - Bradley 101 Information Brief (Detroit, MI)

b. RECON

- 15 June - 2 July: UC 15.2 SIMEX Execution Phase IIIA, MBL, FBGA
- TBD July: Unit Visit 3ID & CATR Facility, FSGA
- 6-10 JUL: HF-TTL testing, FHAZ
- TBD August: Reconfigurable Integrated Weapons Pedestal DEMO, Redstone Arsenal
- 25-26 August: FVL RIPT Working Group #14: CONOPS Development, Telecon
- 14-25 September: UC 15.3 GAMEX Phase III CAM-WAS, MBL FBGA
- 21 September-17 October: 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: [COL Christopher W. Wilbeck](#)
 Deputy Director: [Mr. John W. Miller III](#)
 TCM - ABCT SGM: Vacant
 TCM - Recon: Vacant
 TCM - Recon XO: [Pete Rose](#)
 DOP/AMPV/MC Team: [Ron Kuykendall](#)
 TLS Team Lead: [Carl Johnson](#)
 Abrams Team Lead: [MAJ Robert M. Brown](#)
 Bradley Team Lead: [MAJ James A. Polak](#)
 Systems (EN/FA/LG): Vacant
 Sustainment: [Stephen Harper](#)
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