



**TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP (week of 07 December 15)**

**09 December 2015**

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## **1. ABCT**

### **a. Abrams.**

1) The TCM ABCT Abrams Technical Advisor is conducting the live fire Abrams Low Profile CROWS (LP CROWS) User Jury at APG, MD, scheduled to finish on 10 December 2015. Soldiers participating from Ft. Riley and Ft. Benning are the representative armor crewmen. Initial results are positive and there appears to be no degradation of performance from the CROWS II. PdM Abrams intends to make a production decision later this month for the initial LP CROWS quantities if the results of this UJ supports the decision.

2) The Abrams TADSS analyst is conducting a form fit and function test for the Crew Modular Unit Recorder (CMUR) thru sight recorder on the new Multi-Function Vehicle Port (MFVP) on the M1A2 SEPv2. The test ensures the CMUR fits and is compatible with the MFVP.

### **b. Bradley.**

1) The training lead and Master Gunner continue to review Bradley TMs IOT submit proposed adjustments. They will meet with PdM Bradley, CASCOM, and LOGSA next week to discuss our issues.

2) The team is conducting an initial review of the Common Module Unit Recorder (CMUR) job aid to support installation removal and basic troubleshooting of the system. We've noted several areas in the document that will need adjustments and corrections prior to be camera ready and we've passed those on to PEOSTRI for implementation.

3) Our T&E lead attended the ECP-2b WIPT this week in Troy, MI. The event continues development of the draft RFP TEMP, which will be provided to the contract industry to submit a bid for a particular capability. These bids will help shape the projected cost of the program.

4) The team attended a demonstration of the color 'day' TV camera installed on an M2A3 BFV at DOTS, FBGA. This is the current color camera suite that the PM is considering to replace the Direct View Optic (DVO). The following issues were identified during the demo:

- Tracking stabilization that caused image jitter while traversing the turret;
- The 'combat override' had to be turned on in order to traverse or track a target without gun jump being induced; unsure if this was an integration issue or not;
- If digital zoom is selected in high magnification (FLIR mode); day TV would be stuck in the same magnification as the FLIR.

The camera provided sharp and crisp color via High Definition (HD) digital graphics on an inserted HD screen. All issues have been identified and DRS will investigate the issues.

### **c. AMPV.**

1) Members of the team are attending the AMPV Technical Review (TR) at Sterling Heights, MI this week. This TR will provide all stakeholders with an update of the vehicle baseline

w/ changes implemented since the Preliminary Design Review. A detailed report will be available next week.

2) Scott Williford participated via DCS in the Product Support Management IPT maintenance summit hosted by BAE Systems. The major areas of discussion included logistic support to design effort, logistic analysis, technical manual development, and areas of emphasis in support of Milestone C. A follow up meeting will be conducted next week (15 Dec) after the AMPV technical review. There were no action items assigned or areas of concern presented that directly impact TCM ABCT's support of the AMPV program.

#### **d. Formation and DOTLFP Integration:**

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

- a) We continue working with MAJ Dankyan (ARNG LNO) in identifying the ARNG ABCT organizational adjustments required to meet current ARSTRUC guidance and K-Series designs.
- b) Phil Tiemeyer reviewed the latest draft of SOSI&E's ABCT Network Modernization Challenges brief. This briefing has updated cost scheduling and risk reduction strategies for integrating the JTRS into Ground Combat Vehicles. The brief does not identify M113 FOV and wheeled vehicles as receiving JTRS. This will create a fragmented network that will encumber rather than enable the ABCT formation. There are numerous M113 FOV and wheeled platforms that must operate in the Company JTRS combat radio nets. Not having a JTRS capability will require Company nets to remain with SINCGARS. Maintaining the focus on individual combat platforms versus integration of the complete formation will leave holes in network performance capabilities. SOSI&E continues to develop the brief; it will probably not go to a LWN CoC and GOSC before mid-January 16.

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

- a) TCM ABCT conducted a unit visit from 30 November to 05 December to 2/1CD, currently deployed as the Republic of Korea's Regionally Aligned Force. The team conducted key leader interviews, panel discussions, and computer-based surveys with each of the battalions situated on Camp Casey, Hovey, and Stanley. Notable focus areas involved feedback on the Korea Enduring Equipment Set (KEES), the number and type of available training support enablers (CCTT, BATS, AGTS, etc...), maintaining unit training readiness in restricted maneuver spaces, and facilities management as Camp Stanley closes and forces move to occupy Camp Humphreys. Lessons Learned and Best Practices will be included in TCM ABCTs next Semi-Annual Report, due to be published February-March 2016.
- b) Team TLS is preparing to execute data collection at two separate FORSCOM scheduled Umbrella Week activities in January 2016. ABCTs involved are 1/3ID @ FSGA (11-15 Jan), currently conducting redeployment operations from USEUCOM and Operation Atlantic Resolve, and 3/4ID @ FCCO (19-22 Jan) who recently returned from CENTCOM and Operation Spartan Shield in Kuwait.

#### **e. Large Caliber Ammo:** Mr. Kuamoo is working the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Kuamoo is in Korea supporting M1002 Frangible Nose (FN) User Familiarization Training (UFT) for key USFK personnel. MG Kim, CG, 8<sup>th</sup> ROK Army will participate in this exercise to view firsthand the amount of effort US forces are putting into ensuring safe firing at the Rodriguez Range Complex. We also continue efforts with 8<sup>th</sup> US Army to ensure other types of munitions fired on their ranges are safe and pose no threat to the civilian population.

#### **f. Futures Integration:**

1) The team continued its preparation for the TCM ABCT Analysis Venue scheduled for 07-11 March in Olive Hall. TCM ABCT leadership will brief the CDI Director on 15 1600 DEC.

2) The team attended an SVTC briefing presented by the European Strategic Assessment Team (ESAT) which highlighted current Russian capabilities based on recent activities in the Ukraine. The information presented during the SVTC will inform the TCM ABCT Analysis Venue.

**g. Sustainment and Logistics Integration:**

1) Mr. Harper traveled to Camp Casey Korea from 30 Nov to 5 Dec to identify sustainment gaps, collect sustainment insights, and lessons learned utilizing DOTMLPF-P feedback from 2/1CD Soldiers and leaders executing their rotational mission. He conducted interviews with the Support Operations Officer, Brigade Maintenance Technician, the Korea Enduring Equipment Set (KEES) property book officers, BDE/BN S1/S4s and the BSB command team. This was the brigade's first deployment to Korea and there were some sustainment shortcomings and lessons learned. The biggest take away was the recommendation that 2nd ID and KEES establish a draw, maintain, ordering (all commodities) and turn in SOP for future deployments. Other comments and insights that will be captured in the semiannual report published by TCM ABCT.

2) The team continues to work closely with TCM V&G, PEO STRI, TSAID, and MCoE DOT-D to develop the appropriate strategy for training mounted proficiencies within the ABCT formation. Previously, CAC-T was requesting that the Close Combat Tactical Trainers (CCTT), a comprehensive collective trainer for the ABCTs, transition to Sustainment in FY21 thus halting all future concurrency upgrades to mirror fielded vehicles. This strategy was based on a training device portfolio funding shortfall. MCoE continuously communicates their non-concurrence to this strategy and it seems to have finally resonated to decision makers. The Evolution of Training WG has since then change course and is now recommending not to put CCTT into sustainment until a suitable solution is ready to be fielded. That new timeline is forecasted to be around FY2026 with this new strategy to be briefed at the winter Training General Officer Steering Committee (TGOSC) planned for February 2016.

3) MSG Kennedy completed coordination with PM M88, BAE and the MCoE Tracked Vehicle Recovery Course to receive Mud Flap Fender Kits and have them installed on two M88A2 vehicles for Soldier demonstration and feedback. Kits will be installed on 10 Dec and will be evaluated during the next course. Based on feedback from the Soldiers the current prototype fender will be modified or set to be available for distribution to units as they request them.

4) The Team supported PdM Bradley's and PdM M88's engagement with HQ DA G-8 as the programs move closer to the Weapons System Review. A much needed M88 ECP is currently identified as an unfunded requirement within the FY18-22 POM and 18 LIRA but through multiple meetings with G8 action officers the team has helped influence funding priorities. Although not a guarantee, G8 representative feedback has stated that the justification/requirement is strong and there is a high possibility that the program will receive the needed funding to help regain the M88s single vehicle recovery capability of the Abrams tank. PdM Bradley is attempting to leverage Below Threshold Requirements (BTR) to lower risk in ECP2 testing and ensure the engineering work is completed in order to retain SINGARS radio mount capability due to the integration risk of the HMS-MP.

5) The team hosted a synch meeting between TCM ABCT, MRD, and TARDEC to discuss ongoing technology development/integration efforts within TARDECs Squad Centric Mounted Maneuver project. TARDEC is planning to execute a second vehicle technology demonstration in FY18 here at Ft. Benning, GA. The first demonstration was held at Ft. Hood in June 2015 which included two tracked vehicles hosting collaborative technologies at the squad level. Each vehicle was modified to accommodate seating of 6 dismounts thus splitting the squad into coherent dismount teams. The second demonstration in FY18 is planned to follow the same

strategy but will incorporate more technologies and different turret systems (Manned, manned accessible, and remote turrets) across 8 vehicles. The demonstration is intended to be at the squad level but both TCM and MRD recommended that the scope be expanded to address cognitive overload and task management at leadership positions above the squad level (PSG, PL, CO, etc.).

**h. Assistant Director - ARNG:**

1) The 1/34<sup>th</sup> ABCT (MNARNG) continues to conduct monthly teleconference across states with organic and supported units in preparation for NTC Rotation 16-07. The next sustainment WG teleconference is scheduled for 16 1330 DEC 2015.

**2. RECON.**

a. R&S Concepts and Analysis:

1) CAV SQDN O&O: Final edits to the Senior Leader Draft version of the SQDN O&O will be complete this week with the draft being forwarded to the CoAR for review. USAARMS will send out to select Operational Force organizations for review and comments. The draft will go to the Director, CDID and CG, MCoE next week for read aheads for the 6 JAN 16 Special Topics Update.

2) Scout of the Future (SotF): **NO CHANGE:** The initial construct and KSAs were briefed to the ARCIC Director on 1 DEC 15 and we received minor additions to the SotF concept. TCM-Recon will continue to refine this concept and work with the Armor School on conducting a MCoE stakeholder update and implementation plan overview.

3) R&S CBA: **NO CHANGE:** In addition to continuing FSA refinement and incorporating the SotF KSA solution recommendations, TCM-Recon is re-staffing DOTMLPF recommendations with senior action officers to ensure continued support received during initial staffing last as well as reorganization of the FSA for senior leader decision briefs.

b. Standard Scout Squad Force Design Update (FDU) Preparation. Completed initial draft of A-I-S BCT Cavalry Squadron Scout Platoon Standardized TOE reflecting both current and future Organizational designs and began coordination with OCOA & TCM S & I. continuing work on standardizing Battalion Scout Plt TOE and organizations.

c. CATR:

1) CATR O&O: **No Change:** Forwarded copy of O&O to 10th MTN for review and comment.

CATR Training and Lesson Plan Review: Ongoing this week 7-11 December.

**3. Upcoming Events.**

a. ABCT

- 08-11 Dec - AMPV Technical Review (Sterling Heights, MI)
- 11-15 Jan - Umbrella Week Visit to 1/3ID (FSGA)
- 11-13 Jan - HETS Weapon System Review (Wash DC)
- 19-22 Jan - Umbrella Week Visit to 3/4ID (FCCO)
- 26-28 Jan - AMPV T&E WIPT (APG)
- 07-11 Mar - TCM ABCT Analysis Venue (FBGA)

b. RECON

- 7-11 DEC: CATR Device Training and Lesson Plan Review, FBGA
- TBD DEC: Squadron O&O Update to Chief of Armor, USAARMS, FBGA
- 17 DEC: R&S-LL OPT to CDR 316 CAV.
- 6 JAN: Special Topics Update to CG, MCoE, Subjects Cav Sqdn O&O (incls SotF and R&S CBA Update)
- 2 FEB: Improved Ghillie System (IGM) requirements working group

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