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**TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP 04 October 2016**

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**1. ABCT**

**a. Abrams.**

1) The Abrams Master Gunner completed the VAL/VER for SW 4.6 at GDLS in Warren, MI on 30 October. Verification process has been completed but still awaiting work packets that needed to be corrected. This process will be conducted via desktop, no need to conduct hands on verification due to the hands on portion was completed during the VAL/VER and was only tech pubs errors.

 2) The Abrams technical Advisor attended the Abrams ECP1b SRR and Abrams APS Design Review # 2. The SRR provided an overview of the design requirements for the entire ECP1b capabilities with the understanding that some of the capabilities will be de-scoped based upon the results of the ABCT Lethality Summit pending AROC approval in October 2016. Both the unclassified and classified SRR identified areas that need to be monitored and have follow on actions. However, there were no significant areas of concern that places the program at risk. The APS design review mainly focused on relocation of the radar due to vehicle interference of the current design. It was identified that by 15 November there will be a final mockup of the current monolithic design that we will be able to physically see the impacts to the user. It was also determined that the user test is currently planned for the 1st week of May.

**b. Bradley.**

 1) Mr. George Moore presented training device interface requirements for the Bradley A4 when incorporating the CVTESS and CMUR devices. These devices must be relocated in order to provide a secure mounting location due to the installation of the A-kit mounting brackets for crew devices.

2) Mr George Moore completed the coordination with the gunnery doctrine branch to secure 2 Soldiers for the review of scenarios to be inputted into the delivery order 3 and 4 for the COFT system.

 3) Mr. George Moore continues to participate in weekly IPTs for the ECP II Software VVID, BFIST software IPT, CCTT production IPT, CMUR IPT, TADSS bi-weekly review.

 4) SFC Shepherd participated in a SCMM Phase I IPR Subsystem Status Review telecom held by TARDEC on 28 September 2016. The IPR encompassed a review of all 23 subsystems and how they are to be implemented/integrated on the modified Bradley demonstration vehicles to be used in the FY18 SCMM demonstration. Of noted concerns brought up in the telecom was managing SWaP-C and the use of an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) on the demonstration vehicles IOT host technologies identified for the demonstration. Discussion all included vehicle to vehicle, dismount to vehicle, vehicle internal, and proximity warning subsystems integrate with vehicle communication subsystems and how those channels will be accessed on the vehicle AN/VIC-3(V)-3 intercom system. TARDEC has scheduled bi-weekly meetings have been scheduled for status updates.

 5) The Bradley Senior Technical Advisor is attending an APS Start of Work meeting at BAE. The purpose of the meeting is to review the schedule and characterization plan for the NDI APS solution for Bradley. BAE, PdM Bradley and TARDEC engineers will develop the A-kit. General Dynamics will provide the B-kit and LRU's. Design Review 1 will be held on 19 December.

**c. AMPV****.**

1) The AMPV Team will participate in BAE Human Factors Evaluation in Sterling Heights, Michigan from 18-20 October. The team will include SFC Shepard, SFC Tyler and Scott Williford. This event is a follow-on to the group’s visit earlier this month to evaluate the driver vision sight lines and the third mission command workstation and will evaluate the vehicle commander’s weapon station.

**d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:**

1. **Training, Leader Development, and Safety Integration (TLS):**

a)  The team continues its support to the DOTD Doctrine department in reviewing BCT standard METL supporting collective task(s) at CO, BN, and BCT level. The next meeting is 06 October at 1030 in MWH, Room 2018 with reviews of selected reconnaissance tasks at PLT and CO level.

 b) Members of the team are on the ground at NTC for Rotation 17-01, where 3/1CD will execute a Decisive Action rotation to prepare for future deployed requirements. Mission Command, Doctrine, and Training integration analysts will observe force on force activities from 01-13 October.

 c) TCM ABCT will publish its quarterly newsletter later this week, covering staff activities between July and September 2016.

**2) Doctrine, Organization and MC/Network Integration (DOP/MC-Network)**

a) Ron Kuykendall participated in a series of work group teleconferences this week led by the CAC-T A/O for OPFOR Surrogate Vehicles (OSV). These work groups included representatives from appropriate TRADOC, FORSCOM and ASA (ALT) communities. The current fleet of M113-based OSVs require refresh or replacement. The work group’s goal is to identify COAs that provide the OPFOR safe and reliable vehicles that oppose BLUFOR with comparable capabilities. Four COAs include: 1) Refresh the existing vehicles; 2) Acquire and rebuild Bradley’s harvested as part of the AMPV program; 3) overhaul current fleet and replace turrets with CROWS; 4) TACOM solution similar to COA3 (TBD). After this week, the work group will meet at Ft. Leavenworth on 18/19 October to finalize and prioritize COAs during a session led by the DCG, CAC-T.

b) Ron also participated in a Command Post update provided by COL Ernst, TCM MC/Command Post (via telecom from Ft. Leavenworth) to TCM MC-BCT, IBCT and ABCT representatives. This update provided an understanding of current CP modernization efforts and the Army’s vision for CP 2025 and CP 2040. CP 2025 outcome is an enroute capability for the GRF, standard/sustainable HSMCCs, and expeditionary, agile and mobile command posts for Bns/BCT/Corps and Div TAC CPs. A CP 2040 White Paper envisions an outcome of fully mobile and deployable command nodes on optimized MC platforms with reach from HSMCC, enroute, early entry, to forward command nodes that are mobile, protected, connected, and resilient.

**e. Large Caliber Ammo:**

1) Conducted a conference call with key personnel in the ammunition community to finalize updates to the ammo section of the Abrams tank operator’s manual. A final copy of these updates will be provided to ARDEC for submission to PM Abrams for inclusion into this manual.

2) Finalizing coordination for a visit to the NTC during the upcoming live fire event there. The senior visitor will be COL Gutierrez from PM-MAS. He will be accompanied by an engineer from large caliber, PM-MAS. The Dragon live fire team will support this visit.

3) Observing live fire with ABOLC at Ft Benning, GA. Main gun ammunition is performing as designed. This group contains female officers training on both the Abrams and Bradley systems.

4) Coordinating efforts to support testing of the M1002 Frangible Nose at the Yuma Test Center, AZ. This effort is to verify accuracy using Target Impact Dispersion (TID) data with this new configuration. A Master Gunner from Ft Riley will also be a part of our verification group.

**f. Futures Integration:**

1) The Futures Team participated in a Teleconference with HQDA G-8 concerning the Strategic Portfolio Assessment Review (SPAR). The two ABCT extremely high risk gaps included in the brief were the ABCT’s lack of IFVs and IN Squads and the ABCT’s lack of lethality overmatch. TCM ABCT provided feedback on the mitigation strategy for these gaps which include a force design update to add two Rifle Companies to the ABCT and acquisition of a Next Generation Combat Vehicle (NGCV).

**g. Systems, Sustainment and Logistics Integration:**

1) MAJ Polak participated in the second Ground Functional Council (FC) for the ABCT AROC last week along with representatives from G-staff, AMC, FORSCOM, CASCOM, ARCIC, PdM MBT, PdM BFV, and PdM CRS. The AROC, scheduled for 28 OCT 2016, is looking to receive CSA/VCSA guidance on multiple topics to include the production smoothing of the Lethality ECPs for Abrams and Bradley, Active Protective System integration, and the prioritization of enabler solutions to gaps created by the weight of the M1A2 SEPv2/SEPv3. The M88 HERCULES Capability Production Document (CPD) is continuing to move forward and is anticipated to receive paper approval from the CSA which will provide the needed single vehicle recovery capability the formation needs. The FC is scheduled to host a third meeting on 12 OCT 2016 before leading into the 2 & 3 star GO requirement boards.

 **h. ARNG LNO:** NSTR.

**2. RECON.**

TCM Recon prepares for Recon & Security Strike Brigade (RSSG – formerly CAV GRP) Organizational Design Concurrence and the Scout Platoon O&O Approval briefs to the CoAR on 6 OCT 16. Upon concurrence of the RSSG, updated organizational design and O&O will be forwarded to ARCIC for review. Upon approval of the Scout Platoon O&O, TCM-Recon will begin concept to development handoff with MCoE agencies to further the major DOTMLPF efforts identified in the Scout Platoon O&O. TCM-Recon prepares for a combined PM-GS and TCM-Recon discussion with the G8 on CATR future requirements, currently scheduled for 12-13 OCT, as well as the Materiel Fielding Decision (MFD) currently scheduled for 18 NOV 16.

1. R&S Concepts and Analysis. O&Os are ordered in priority of effort to write or revise:
2. Recon & Security Strike Group (RSSG) O&O. The CAV GRP was redesignated as the Recon and Security Strike Group in the most recent revision of the O&O based on directed requirements from the CoAR and the ARCIC Director. The purpose of the organization remains the same, provide an Operational Level land-based recon and security capability. We will provide a concurrence update to the CoAR on 6 OCT on the Organizational Design (COA 7) and the revised O&O v1.2. Upon concurrence, these documents will be forwarded to ARCIC for review. This version of the organization and the O&O is currently being used in the UC17.1 and UC17.2 preparation events.
3. Standard Scout PLT O&O. NO CHANGE: Chief of Armor (CoAR) approval is scheduled for 6 OCT 16. Once the O&O is approved TCM Recon will develop and present a plan to the CoAR for concept to DOTMLPF development handover.
4. Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR). NO CHANGE: Completion postponed until Scout Platoon O&O approval process and concept to DOTMLPF development handover are complete, along with TCM Recon end of base year and execution of option year contract tasks are complete (o/a 10 OCT 2016).
5. Cavalry Troop O&O. NO CHANGE: Troop O&O development will resume upon completion of the CAV GRP O&O, Scout Platoon O&O and the Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) O&O. Troop O&O development is anticipated to resume in November.
6. Squadron Direct Fire Company (Tank, MPF, MGS/ATGM) O&O. NO CHANGE: To be written after the completion of the Cav Troop O&O.
7. HHT O&O. NO CHANGE: To be written upon completion of the Squadron Tank Company / Direct Fire Troop O&O. One of the primary functions of the O&O will be to address the lack of standardization between squadron command posts and staffs.
8. R&S BCT O&O. NO CHANGE: The R&S BCT O&O now includes the MCoE standard Operating Environment section; no other revision is anticipated until after the completion of the 1/4 SBCT (R&S) Excursion which will occur in AUG or SEP, 2017.
9. R&S Analysis and Experimentation.
10. On 3 OCT, we participated in the UC17.1 CORPS CONOP development with ARCIC to ensure the scenario reflected appropriate RSSG operational employment considerations to facilitate the CoL learning demands. This CONOP development will facilitate the 17-21 OCT orders writing work group.
11. R&S CBA: NO CHANGE. For FY 17, TCM-Recon will continue working with TCM-BCT representatives to update the Capabilities Needs Analysis (CNA) database with critical R&S CBA gaps and solutions.
12. AWA 17 Observer / Analyst (O/A) Support. NO CHANGE. TCM Recon provides one O/A for GMV / MPF / LRV assessments, 4-30 OCT 2016.
13. R&S BCT Excursion. Established contact with the 1/4 SBCT lead planner to coordinate the support for the R&S BCT O&O discussion during the 15-18 NOV R&S Academy at Fort Carson. 1/4 SBCT has lead and TCM-Recon is in support. Further coordination is required to identify 1/4's specific desire for the O&O discussion.
14. Scout Sensor Strategy and Development. NO CHANGE. Updated the Appendix to Scout Platoon O&O based on 9-11 AUG Future Soldier Integration Workshop.
15. Cavalry Scout Leader and Soldier Competencies: NO CHANGE: Once the Scout Platoon O&O is approved by the Chief of Armor TCM Recon will recommend a way ahead for concept to DOTMLPF development process. The actual development process will require time and personnel yet to be identified to conduct mission analysis / coordination, dates to be determined, with OCOA and DOTD to determine a way ahead. Platoon, Troop (TBP), HHT (TBP) O&Os will inform the effort.
16. Recon Knowledge Network. NO CHANGE. Recon Council: 19 OCT.
17. Senior Leader Updates.
18. 6 OCT 16: RSSG O&O Concurrence Update and Scout Platoon Approval Brief to the CoAR.
19. 12-13 OCT: TCM-Recon and PM-GS CATR discussion with G8
20. CATR:
21. TCM-Recon prepares for a combined PM-GS and TCM-Recon discussion with the G8 on CATR future requirements, currently scheduled for 12-13 OCT, as well as the Materiel Fielding Decision (MFD) currently scheduled for 18 NOV 16.
22. CATR Type Classification. Thirty days after PEO IEW&S approval of the CATR LCSP, PEO IEW&S is projected to approve CATR Type Classification.
23. CATR Materiel Fielding Decision. 18 NOV is the dated scheduled for the PEO IEW&S to make the CATR Materiel Fielding Decision.
24. Tech Refresh. Priority action is preparing the prioritized recommendations for tech refresh, identifying requirements based on user recommendations.

CATR Training: ICW DotD, TCM Recon is developing and staffing training evaluation outlines for NET..

**Upcoming Events**.

 a. ABCT

* 06-07 Oct - Abrams SW 4.6/M829A4 accuracy live fire (APG, MD)
* 01-13 Oct - Coverage of force on force activities @ NTC 17-01 (3/1CD) (FICA)
* 11-14 Oct - Coverage of live fire activities @ NTC 17-01 (3/1CD) (FICA)
* 17-21 Oct - M-1002 Frangible Nose Testing (Yuma, AZ)
* 18-20 Oct - AMPV User Demo / Eval (Sterling Heights, MI)

b. RECON

* 11-13 OCT: UC 17.1 Scenario Development Workgroup
* TBD: CATR Depot Visit (BGAD, KY)
* 11-30 OCT: AWA 17 O/A for GMV/MPF/LRV (FBTX)
* 17-21 OCT: UC 17.1 DIV Orders Writing WG
* 19 OCT: Recon Council
* 31 OCT – 24 OCT: CATR NET Validation and 101AAslt NMIB ClksvlKY & FCKY
* 1 NOV: UC17.2 WMSL Input to MBL
* 8-10 NOV: UC 17.1 Seminar Wargame Army Issue Review Board
* 15-18 NOV: 4ID R&S Academy ISO 1/4 SBCT R&S Excursion (FCCO)
* 15-18 NOV: UC 17.1 MPC
* 18 NOV: CATR Materiel Fielding Decision (FBVA)

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