



TCM-ABCT & Reconnaissance
Fort Benning, Georgia

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TCM-Recon Newsletter

Director's Message

By LTC Eric Lowry
Team Chief, TCM-Reconnaissance

Greetings to the Army Reconnaissance Community!

The Maneuver Center of Excellence recently welcomed a new Commanding General. MG Austin S. Miller comes to Fort Benning as the new Maneuver Center of Excellence Commander. TCM-Recon, along with the other TRADOC Capability Mangers, recently conducted in briefs with MG Miller on our roles and responsibilities. MG Miller provided his initial insights on reconnaissance and potential changes to the future force. TCM Recon will keep the force informed of his guidance and direction with regards to reconnaissance and security.

TCM-Recon, with support from numerous participants and organizations from around the Army, conducted the LRS Workshop at the MCoE from 24-25 JUN 14. We had a great response from the LRS and reconnaissance community and the workshop generated positive discussions and insights on the future of the LRS organization. TCM-Recon will be using this data as we move forward with efforts to retain LRS as a viable and necessary organization. Please contact Mr. Derek Larson, TCM-Recon Knowledge Network for more information on the information gather during the workshop.

TCM-Recon's efforts in support of the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) continue. The Executive Summaries (EXSUMs) of the Functional Needs Analysis (FNA) and Functional Area Analysis (FAA) are currently at ARCIC for informal review. TCM-Recon still expects to be completed with the CBA by the end of summer.

TCM-Recon and the Program Manager for Ground Sensors continue to wait for the final approval of the CATR CPD by the Army G3/5/7. This is the last step before the funding of the Program of Record for CATR by the Army G8. The adoption of the CATR Program for the conventional Army has been a slow process and we at TCM-Recon know that the operational units are frustrated waiting for significant training and employment guidance from the MCoE in support of this program. The future replacement of Field Service Representatives (FSR) to insure the success of the program at Division and lower remains at the front of the issues to be solved. TCM Recon ICW PM GS and user input from operational units utilizing the system continues to work solutions for the FSR issue. TCM-Recon will keep our units informed as more information becomes available.

As always, TCM ABCT/Recon is here to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact me or my team for assistance.

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Tagging, Tracking and Locating: Intelligence- Gathering in Support of Army 2020

Story by LTC Eric Lowry,
Team Chief, TCM-Recon

As the Army continues to define the structure and doctrine of Army 2020, lessons-learned from 13 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan – and applying these lessons to wide-area security, stability and combined-arms maneuver operations – have become a cornerstone of building that Army. The counterinsurgency (COIN) environment generated new processes and programs across the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) domains. Intelligence-gathering is no exception; the insurgent / counterinsurgent environment drove the need for audiovisual, tagging, tracking and locating (TTL) capabilities. These capabilities provided the combat commander with the ability to pinpoint and remove hostile forces embedded in civilian populations while reducing collateral damage and building a

network of information addressing all aspects of the COIN fight.



LLDR thermal optics used with CATR TAVS

One of the materiel solutions that has provided commanders with those exact capabilities is the Close-Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) system. Read more

Have an upcoming NTC rotation? Join Cobra Team's MilSuite site

Join Cobra Team's MilSuite *site* to get information on current rotational unit trends, best practices, and other general information for units with an upcoming date in "The Box" at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA.

Recent uploads to the site:

- A TRP, 1-7 CAV TACSOP
- A TRP, 4-4 CAV TACSOP

- Document on Troop level Trends in Decisive Action Training Environment
- DCGS-A Interoperability Handbook and Mission Command Validation Checklist
- Troop Level OPOD Template

If you have a product that you would like to share with the Reconnaissance Community, please send it to Mr. Derek Larson or post it on the Reconnaissance Knowledge Network.

Reconnaissance Knowledge Network updates

Several updates have been made to the Reconnaissance Knowledge Network, to include:

- 5 LRS-specific sub-groups have been created, based on recommendations made during the 24-25 Jun LRS Workshop. You can now collaborate with others on Mountaineering Operations, Communications, Airborne Operations, and Maritime Operations. There is even a site where National Guard LRS personnel can exchange information and ideas.

- Recordings from the 24-25 June LRS Workshop sessions that were broadcast on Defense Connect Online (DCO) can be viewed by going to the links described in this document. You will need a DCO account to view these recordings, so if you don't already have an account go [here](#).

If you would like to provide feedback on the Reconnaissance Knowledge Network, or are having difficulty accessing any of the above links, please contact Mr. Derek Larson.



SSG Colin Opegard, a survival lane instructor with the 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Regiment, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, teaches a class on antenna theory to members of the Mongolian armed forces during a survival-training course as part of Khaan Quest 2014 at Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia, June 25. KQ14 is a regularly scheduled, multinational exercise co-sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific, and hosted annually by Mongolian armed forces. KQ14 is the latest in a continuing series of exercises designed to promote regional peace and security. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by SGT Edward Eagerton/released)

Khaan Quest 2014 comes to an end

*Story by CPL Alyssa N. Gunton,
III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marines Corps Installations Pacific*

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia - "It's my pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to the countries for sending their military personnel and peacekeepers to the Khaan Quest 2014 multinational peace support operations exercise, and unifying for the global peace deeds, and also to the individuals for coming to our country to contribute to the global harmony, wishing a success to the cause of the global peace," said President of Mongolia Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj during the exercise's closing ceremony.

Over 100 distinguished guests and hundreds of service members from across the world attended the event July 1 at Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia. The exercise officially began June 20. KQ14 is a regularly scheduled, multinational exercise hosted annually by Mongolian Armed Forces and co-sponsored this year by U.S. Army, Pacific, and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. KQ14 is the latest in a continuing series of exercises designed to promote regional peace and security. This year marks the 12th iteration of this training event.

Soldiers from across U.S. Army, Pacific participated in the exercise, primarily from the Alaska Army National Guard, along with Marines from Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program, participated in the exercise.

"Currently, more than 98,000 unified personnel are serving in the U.N. peace keeping missions in 16 different countries" said Lt. Gen. Ts. Byambajav, the chief of the general staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces. "The successful accomplishment of Khaan Quest 2014, which is a result of our cooperative effort, has positively contributed to the structure of the regular force of the United Nations. Khaan Quest has been making its contribution to meet the necessities to organize constant training and exercises among the nations to improve the peace keepers' skills and expertise to perform their duties and to share their experience and lessons learned during the peace support operations." [Read more](#)

Other newsletters of interest

Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- IWfF (31 July 2014)
- SWfF (6 June 2014)
- Thunderbolt Blast (June-July 2014)
- TCM-ABCT Newsletters

TCM-Recon Forum Links

- Reconnaissance Knowledge Network
- TCM-ABCT
- AWfF
- IWfF
- Stryker Net
- NTC Cobra Team

RKN & TCM-Recon events

- 8-12 Sep: 2014 Maneuver Conference, Fort Benning, GA
- Stryker Symposium XXIII, 3 Oct 14
- IWfF Senior Mentor Symposium XXV, 29 Oct 14



MNBG-E Soldiers fly high with SPIES training

Story by CPT Kevin Sandell, KFOR

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - Suspended from a rope at 100 feet in the air, five Multinational Battle Group-East Soldiers outstretched their arms and gave a thumbs-up, signaling they are okay. With their adrenaline flowing, the Soldiers were flown in a “racetrack” flight pattern around the camp in a rare training opportunity none of them would soon forget.

Soldiers with 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, who comprise the battle group’s Forward Command Post, learned the intricacies of the Special Patrol Insertion and Extraction System, or SPIES, during a hands-on training event at Camp Bondsteel, July 18. SPIES developed as a means to rapidly insert or

extract a reconnaissance patrol from an area that does not permit a helicopter to land.

“Initially, when you get hooked in and the helicopter starts to rise up, the wind is blowing on you pretty hard. You feel the adrenaline and you’re feeling pretty excited, but I was ready to go. I was ready to get up there,” said SGT Ryan Owens, an infantryman with 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, and a first-time participant in the training. [Read more](#)

Photo (left): Soldiers from the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, train on the SPIES/FRIES system at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, July 18, 2014.

“Initially, when you get hooked in and the helicopter starts to rise up, the wind is blowing on you pretty hard. You feel the adrenaline and you’re feeling pretty excited, but I was ready to go. I was ready to get up there.” -SGT Ryan Owens



Maryland LRS chutes from the skies

Story by SSG Michael Davis,
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LITTLE ORLEANS, Md. – Soldiers with C Company, 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, Maryland Army National Guard, conducted a non-tactical jump from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter over Bitner Drop Zone in Little Orleans, Maryland, June 14.

The long-range surveillance (LRS) unit performed its quarterly routine airborne exercise and transitioned to a new parachute system, the MC-6.

“We’re an airborne company, and in order to be airborne, you have to maintain your proficiency,” said Staff Sgt. Eric Zubkus, C Company’s training noncommissioned officer.

Zubkus said they also wanted to try out the new parachute system during the quarterly exercise because they plan to perform airborne missions with it during their annual training (AT) next month at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“We don’t want the Soldiers to do their first combat equipment night jump with a chute they’re not familiar with,” Zubkus said. “So this is basically a familiarization jump and an airborne refresher so they can get familiar with their new chutes in order to successfully complete their mission at AT.”

Although the training mission was meant to introduce everyone to the new parachutes, not everyone got a chance to jump. The wind velocity increased during the second jump iteration, and then became too strong for the exercise to safely continue.

However, Zubkus said he would try his best to make sure those Soldiers who didn’t get a chance to jump have an opportunity to practice before their combat equipment night jumps.

[Read more](#)