



TCM-ABCT & Reconnaissance  
Fort Benning, Georgia

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# TCM-Recon Newsletter

## Director's Message

By COL William T. Nuckols  
Director, TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance

Greetings to the BFSB and Reconnaissance Community and welcome to spring!

TCM-Recon continues to support Big Army as it moves forward with the Reconnaissance & Security Brigade Combat Team. The Army Chief of Staff has been briefed on the progress to date and we expect more information following several Army Force structure decisions that are expected later this summer (July). These decisions will feed the R&S BCT COA development and provide a better look at the units available to support the R&S BCT concept. TCM-Recon will continue to keep the reconnaissance community informed as this effort progresses.

TCM-Recon's efforts in support of the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) continue. The Functional Needs Analysis (FNA) Report is in O6 level staffing and will next go to ARCIC for staffing and approval. Once it is complete, briefs to the leadership for final approval will take place here at the MCoE and the final product will go to TRADOC. The team is currently coordinating gaps and solutions with ARCIC and comparing them to their primary gap list.

TCM-Recon is also expanding its efforts with regards to the Long Range Surveillance Company (LRS). Force Design Update (FDU) Cycle 13-01 lays out a path to retain the LRS Company capacity and capability in Army Force Structure in order to provide the Corps Commander the flexibility and organizational structure to meet all mission requirements. The FDU recommends placing the LRSC under Corps HHB as an attached or augmented company. This will allow the Corps Commander the flexibility to place this capability where operational demands deems most pertinent or to operate as a Corps level asset to gain ISR directly for the corps mission.

TCM-Recon is hosting a LRS Conference here at the MCoE 24 & 25 JUNE 14. The purpose is not only to discuss the FDU but to allow members of the LRS Companies to exchange information on what is going right and wrong with their organizations. TCM-Recon is also inviting members of the Corps Operations Staff to attend to gain their insights on the LRS organization and how to insure it remains a viable force. Mr. Derek Larson remains the TCM-Recon POC in support of this effort.

The Program Manager for Ground Systems and MILDEP will attend a two day meeting with TCM-Recon at the MCoE to discuss and continue working a bridging strategy for the CATR System. This meeting will take place 8 & 9 April. Meetings will also take place with MCoE Leadership to discuss the ongoing institutional training efforts to support the CATR System. TCM-Recon has received positive feedback from the MCoE Doctrine & Training Division on integrating CATR into the current training structure here at Fort Benning.

Finally, I want to recognize the 504th BFSB and 2-38 CAV, currently deployed in Kosovo. We wish them continued success and pray for their safe return. 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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## Disclaimer

The TCM-Recon Newsletter is published by TCM ABCT & Recon, Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate (CDID), Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), Fort Benning, Georgia. The purpose of this newsletter is to share information provided by members of the TCM-Recon Community of Interest. Contents of The TCM-Recon Newsletter are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U. S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, MCoE, the MCoE CDID or TCM-ABCT & Recon.

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# Multinational Battle Group-East transitions to Kosovo Force 18

Story by CPT Cory Sandell,  
Kosovo Force (KFOR)

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – Nearly nine months after assuming command of Multinational Battle Group-East, the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB) relinquished command to another U.S. Army active duty unit, during a transfer of authority ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel, February 13.

The 504th BFSB, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, took command of the battle group from the 525th BFSB, a similar Army unit based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

COL David J. Woods, a native of Denbo, PA, and the commander of the 525th BFSB, transferred authority of MNBG-E to COL Charles T. Hensley, a native of Wilkes-Barre, PA, and the commander of the 504th BFSB.

COL Woods said the distinct nature of the Kosovo Force mission was testing and always shifting, just as most peace support operations are throughout the Balkans.

“For me, working the [Kosovo Force] mission was unique. Peace support operations were always changing, and every day I was faced with a different challenge,” COL Woods said.

He continued by thanking his subordinate units and multinational partners, who helped him “find solutions to the challenges,” and “positively project[ed]” their commitment to their countries, soldiers, and the people of Kosovo.

COL Woods said the soldiers manning the Balkans 18 rotation would be a “dynamic team,” and expressed his confidence they would maintain the “high professional standards that come with being a member of this close-knit team.”

The commander for Kosovo Forces, Italian Army MG Salvatore Farina, recited an extensive list of accomplishments made by the KFOR 17 rotation including the formation of a fusion cell in the northern area of Kosovo, responding to 132 calls for assistance on unexploded ordnance, and completing over 23 medical evacuation missions by helicopter.

More importantly, Farina noted, was that the soldiers of the KFOR 17 rotation added to the increase of a safe and secure environment throughout Kosovo.

“Your presence and action greatly contributed

to safe and secure environment and freedom of movement here in Kosovo,” MG Farina said. “...these actions have all advanced the mission of KFOR and benefited all the people of Kosovo immensely.”

Praising the next MNBG-E Commander, COL Hensley, MG Farina said that COL Hensley’s previous military assignments would be the “best prerequisites for a successful tour in this complex mission.”



COL David Woods (right), receives the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for the Balkans from Kosovo Force commander, MG Salvatore Farina, at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, FEB 13. (Photo by SGT Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)

In his closing remarks, MG Farina commended the Soldiers of Kosovo Force and said no commander could fulfill the duties of command without soldiers who were committed to the mission in Kosovo.

“Let me assure you that I’ve been with [soldiers] many times in the north and east, and I can tell you they are highly-valued soldiers, and have made a great difference. I’m proud of the work that they have done. I’m very proud of you, Soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East,” MG Farina stated to the audience of several hundred multinational soldiers, military leaders and dignitaries.



*A paratrooper with Chaos Troop, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, scans the area as Spartan paratroopers conduct an airborne operation at Deadhorse, AK, FEB 25, 2014 as part of the Spartan Brigade's training for rapid insertion into any environment in the Pacific. This is the first time the Spartan Brigade has conducted operations north of the Arctic Circle. (Photo by SGT Eric-James Estrada)*

## Spartan Brigade conducts its first-ever airborne operation north of the Arctic Circle

*Story by SFC Jason Epperson, 4-25 IBCT Public Affairs*

DEADHORSE, Alaska - Paratroopers with Chaos Troop, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, conducted an airborne operation to simulate a search-and-rescue mission for downed aircraft in Deadhorse, Alaska, Feb. 25.

"Operation Spartan Pegasus was a combined training mission between USARAK, 4-25th, the Air National Guard (144th Airlift Squadron), and the Alaska National Guard to train and validate the unit's ability to conduct a search and rescue of a downed aircraft in Deadhorse, [which] is located only three kilometers from the Beaufort Sea," said the 1-40th Cavalry Regiment Commander, U.S. Army LTC Richard Scott.

LTC Scott said the paratroopers have been working hard to ensure mission success.

"In the last several weeks, Chaos Troop, commanded by U.S. CPT Nelson D'Antonio, has been focused on training his soldiers to execute this type of mission profile, [such as] responding to a downed aircraft," LTC Scott said. "Their training consisted of skiing, skijoring, and training in an arctic environment at the individual and platoon level."

LTC Scott said that the mission was important because it validated the Spartan Brigade's ability to respond to any contingency mission in support of Alaskan Command and the United States Army Alaska. With 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment's recent jump into Thailand, the Spartan Brigade demonstrated it can conduct a forcible entry mission anywhere in support of U.S. Pacific Command.

"There is no other airborne unit in the U.S. Army that can do what they did today and it takes a specially trained paratrooper to endure this type of environment," LTC Scott said. "It also says a lot about the soldiers and their dedication to mission accomplishment."

[Read more](#)

### Other newsletters of interest

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Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- [IWfF \(31 Mar 2014\)](#)
- [SWfF \(28 Feb 2014\)](#)
- [Thunderbolt Blast \(Feb-Mar 2014\)](#)
- [MI Corps CG Newsletter \(Mar 2014\)](#)

### TCM-Recon Forum Links

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- [Reconnaissance Knowledge Network Warfighter Forum](#)
- [TCM-ABCT on milBook](#)
- [AWfF](#)
- [IWfF](#)
- [Stryker Net](#)

### TCM-Recon events

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- 15 Apr: C Trp, 1-38 CAV (LRS) unit visit, FBNC
- 24-28 Apr: 1/40 CAV, 4-25 ID IBCT, JRTC Rotation 14-06
- 5-9 May: 2CR SBCT PCLL, Vilseck, Germany
- 5-16 May: C Trp, 1-297th CAV (LRS) annual training, JBER, AK
- 14-16 May: 1/40 CAV, post-JRTC unit visit, JBER, AK
- 24-25 Jun: LRS Workshop Fort Benning, GA

## Tennessee National Guard uses virtual technology to enhance training missions: 'CAV-T' combines traditional military muscle with state-of-the-art technology

By SSG Melissa Wood, 118th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CATOOSA, Ga. – The Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment took to the field last month for a landmark training exercise combining traditional military muscle with cutting-edge virtual technology.

Each frigid weekend this January, soldiers from the 278th's 3rd Squadron surged onto the maneuver area at Volunteer Training Site –Catoosa in northwest Georgia, equipped with Bradley Fighting Vehicles and heavily-armored Humvees. As one platoon of scouts positioned their tanks along the hillside watching over the terrain below, another occupied a state-of-the-art virtual battle space meticulously designed to simulate a maneuver area 300 times its size.

The Guard debuted the Combined Arms Virtual Training concept Jan. 11, during its inaugural virtual-meets-live-fire training exercise. The CAV-T concept leverages multiple virtual simulators to replicate heavy equipment and remote training sites that are often difficult to reach and expensive to maintain.

While the physical maneuver area at VTS-Catoosa offers only 10 square kilometers of actual terrain, the CAV-T interface occupies 3,000 square virtual kilometers of the Mojave Desert, all tucked inside what appears to be a simple semi-trailer parked on an unassuming lot.

[Read more](#)

## Fort Hood LRS Soldiers train for Best Ranger title

Story by Heather Graham-Ashley, News Editor, Fort Hood Sentinel

FORT HOOD, Texas – While the rest of their unit is deployed to Kosovo, four Long Range Surveillance troopers have been training for the 2014 Best Ranger title.

The four Ranger-qualified Company C, 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment (LRS) Soldiers representing Fort Hood – 1LT Greg Scheffler, SFC Jeremy Lemma, SSG Adam Davila and SGT Matthew Kurz – have spent the past four months rucking, running, shooting and perfecting the Prusik and other Ranger skills for this year's Best Ranger Competition.

"In our community of paratroopers, there's nothing better," SFC Lemma, who placed 14th in last year's competition, said.

The Best Ranger Competition, which will be held April 11-13 at Fort Benning, GA, is an annual event held to determine the armed forces' best of the best two-man team.

In the paratrooper community, the competition and its title are significant, but for these Soldiers, it is about more than personal bragging rights.

"Your competitive side comes out and you want to show you're the best," SFC Lemma said.

These troops know their unit is counting on them.

"Our unit left us back from deployment for this because our leadership thought this was a big enough deal," SSG Davila said. "It's about esprit de corps and showing them that at the

Fort Hood LRS, we've got some danged good Soldiers here."

Full-scale training for the competition began in December and has included rucking marathons, stress shoots, Prusik climbs and rappelling, anything and everything to push their own limits.

"I have pushed my personal limits every day to test my training," 1LT Scheffler said. "We go to 100 percent and push past it."



*In an unrelated photo, then-SSG Jeremy Lemma, SGT Matthew Kurz, and SSG Adam Davila, took first place in the Fort Hood Grand Prix on Aug. 29 of last year.*

A recent training day included a nearly 20-mile ruck march, a 5-mile buddy run, a stress shoot at a Fort Hood range, a timed run through the Fort Hood Air Assault School's obstacle course, then a Prusik climb up the tower and rappelling down the tower.

[Read more](#)

## LRS Workshop: 24-25 June 2014

A Long Range Surveillance (LRS) Workshop is being planned for 24-25 June at Fort Benning, GA, with representatives from TCM-Reconnaissance and AC/NG LRSC's presenting topics for discussion and addressing the challenges, and propose solutions or insights for LRS units. Time will then be allocated to discuss the topic in breakouts and/or as an open discussion.

Proposed topics include: LRS in the COE / Non-doctrinal LRS missions, The future of LRS - current status update, Insertion/Extraction methods, Tactical Communications, LRS Company Mission Command, LRS integration in the ISR process, Personnel issues, Equipment issues, The future of LRS - the way ahead, and more.

If you would like to be receive additional information on this event, or would like to attend, please contact [Mr. Derek Larson](#), or click on the button below to RSVP if you haven't done so already.

[RSVP](#)