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**TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP (week of 03 August 15) 05 August 2015**

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**1. ABCT**

**a. Abrams**

1) The Abrams Technical Advisor completed the non-firing portion of the LP CROWS User Jury at APG, MD. Feedback from the Soldiers was positive, and all said improvements to the TCs field of view are significant, and that they would want LP CROWS as the commander’s weapon over the FLEX-50, and over not having a weapon at that crew station. There was one critical issue of interference with the LP CROWS sight assembly and the .50 caliber MILES transmitter that caused the system to abort initialization. PdM Abrams and PM CSW have taken action to resolve this issue. The next event is a user excursion from 8-10 September at Ft. Hood, TX. A full firing user jury will be conducted once a firing safety release is obtained.

**b. Bradley**

1) Team Bradley along with several Soldiers participated in the Bradley A4 (ECP2) stowage fit-up from 20-23 July BAE Systems in Sterling Heights, MI. The purpose was to develop a standardized load plan for IFV, CFV, and engineer mission roles. The stowage plans for the M7A4 were put on hold until a production representative asset is available.

The team spent two days successfully configuring internal and external load plans for each mission role with Soldiers providing recommendations for optimal locations to store equipment. Drawings were updated with pictures taken to develop stowage strapping diagrams which will be incorporated into technical manuals for future reference by crews and test personnel. Safety and human systems integration experts were also on site conducting ingress and egress trials with and without crew cooling vests. All issues were documented and assigned action items for future follow-up.

2) Mr. Dave Rogers and LTC Denomy attended the Bradley ECP2 Contractor Test Review held 28-29 July in San Jose and Camp Roberts, CA. The two day review laid out ongoing test activities at BAE test facilities in San Jose, and concluded with a visit to Camp Roberts Test Facility in Paso Robles, CA. Key topics of discussion were BAE Systems downsizing/move from their 30 year old facility to a new facility 15 miles south. The downsizing effort is projected to save 5 million dollars, and the PM was assured that the move will not impact current or future testing.

3) SFC Shepherd participated in the Combat Vehicle Modernization Summit (CVMS) held at Detroit Arsenal, Warren, MI on 03AUG2015. Attendees for this summit included LTG McMasters, LTG Williamson (ASA(ALT)), MG Wins (G8), BG McKean (Armor Commandant), CSM Clemens (OCOA CSM), Dr. Paul Rogers (TARDEC Director), ARDEC, Ted Maciuba (MRD), COL Nuckols (MRD), and Master Gunner SMEs from FORSCOM and MCoE. The purpose of this summit was to achieve a common understanding of capability requirements for Mobile Protected Firepower (MPF) and Future Fighting Vehicle (FFV) with input from Army stakeholders to establish a path forward for potential development of ICD documents for both MPF and FFV. Many decision and actions points for MPF and FFV were identified for follow-on development and analysis upon completion of the CVMS. A trip report will be generated IOT capture all of these points in detail.

**c. AMPV**

1) Scott Williford, Ron Kuykendall, and Mark Andrews (MRD) participated in the T&E WIPT in Aberdeen, Maryland from 27-31 July. The agenda included an AMPV program update, system evaluation plan review, review of the test logistics plan, test center updates, and cyber-security. Focus during day one included test procedures for the mortar carrier variant, discussion on C4ISR requirements of the test centers, and COL Milner’s update to OSD on the results of the AMPV PDR. Day two consisted of review of the systems evaluation plan, AMPV Portal access, and an update from Operational Test Command (OTC) on the limited user test. Day three was mainly devoted to the cybersecurity requirements AMPV must meet during both development and operational testing. There were no major issues between combat/material developers and the test community.

2) A human factors engineering assessment is scheduled for 16-20 November in Santa Clara, CA. This event will allow Soldiers to provide input to the allocated internal space of AMPV variants. BAE will provide vehicle mock-ups that Soldiers will occupy to determine the level of acceptability to conduct required tasks. Current plan is to have TCM ABCT and MRD NCOs provide this user feedback.

**d. Formation and DOTLPF Integration:**

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

1. Phil Tiemeyer and Mike Sjostrom supported the expeditionary CAB TAC CP NET at Ft. Bliss, TX, last week. Brad McNeilly-Anta, CERDEC lead for the M1068A3 (AMPV Surrogate) mod, conducted the training. 1/6th IN provided two NCOs for the duration of the training. A Battle CPT and the CAB Commander, LTC Brown, attended Thursday and provided guidance for the boot extension configuration. CERDEC has a great vehicle design that meets the mission requirements for mission command on the move (MCOTM). Their design includes three laptop workstations secured to the vehicle shelf using docking stations that are interchangeable with each other. One area of concern with this configuration is the operators are seated sideways to the vehicle’s forward movement and this could cause motion sickness with some Soldiers but, the seats can swivel to allow the Soldiers to face forward during movement. There is also a large, non-ruggedized 22" monitor mounted on the wall, roadside, in front of all three operators which is capable of receiving display feeds from any of the three workstations, the OSRVT or the JBC-P basic tablet. CERDEC has also integrated a VoIP phone that is remote able to the boot tent. All systems can access the onboard printer which has environment protections to prevent dust and debris from degrading it. Operators can access software applications from any of the three laptops. These applications are: AFATADS, CPOF (or TBC), and DCGS-A which can access the web-based TIGR. The One Station Remote Video Terminal (OSRVT) remains a stand-alone system as does the JBC-P tablet. All systems are capable of remote operation inside the boot tent extension that provides more working room during longer halts. The voice communication system is routed through the laptop USB ports and into the TOCNET system. This significantly reduces the amount of cabling required. The current boot tent design narrows at the tent door area to provide compatibility with other shelter systems. Overall, this configuration should serve the unit well during AWA and LTC Brown is pleased to have his Mobile CP back. We continue to recommend the AWA 16.1 scenario support the absence (off the NET) of the unit’s Main CAB CP for at least 24 hours to stress this vehicle’s capabilities when assuming control of the fight.

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

1) TCM ABCT will observe NTC Rotation 15-09 from 18-26 August at Fort Irwin, CA. The 116th CBCT of the IDARNG is the first RC ABCT to perform a Decisive Action rotation in more than 10 years. Team TLS and the ARNG LNO will cover down on the force-on-force portion of the rotation to collect observations, insights, and lessons learned. POC for more info is Carl Johnson @ 706.545.4652.

2) Fort Benning will host the 2015 Maneuver Conference here from 14-17 September with all events scheduled to be held in McGinnis-Wickham Hall (Bldg 4). The theme this year is “Future Maneuver – Building Soldiers, Leaders and Formations that are Smart, Fast, Lethal, and Precise.” For more on registration, agendas, directions, lodging, and participation via Defense Collaboration Services (DCS), visit <http://www.benning.army.mil/mcoe/maneuverconference/>

**e. Large Caliber Ammo:**

1) TCM-ABCT concurred with Engineer Change Proposal (ECP) R15T2002. This ECP will allow replacement of the current M-14 propellant in the M1002 MPAT tank training round with the new RPD-596 propellant. This new propellant will make the round safer for the Soldier to use.

2) Mr. Kuamoo continues to support plans for a Master Gunner Conference to run concurrently with Maneuver Conference activities between 14-17 September. The projected two-day agenda would include presentations by the FORSCOM and TRADOC Master Gunners, update briefs from the Abrams/Bradley chiefs at Master Gunner School, and roundtable discussions by field master gunners able to attend.

**f. Sustainment and Systems Integration****:**

1) MSG Kennedy continues to work with PM-GCS and CASCOM on the M88 modernization strategy. Currently, CASCOM is working on converting the M88 ORD to a CPD for staffing and approval to get the M88A2 back to a single vehicle recovery platform as it was intended to be. The requirement is based off the M88 being able to perform single vehicle recovery operations of all current Abrams variants, and the M1A2 SEPv3, which is scheduled to begin fielding in FY20.

2) Mr. Harper is reviewing the M88A3 draft CPD authored by CASCOM. Suspense for TCM-ABCT review and staffing is 21 Aug 2015. Review is necessary to ensure that the CPD lists performance parameters that enables the M88A3 to perform single vehicle recovery of the M1A2SEPv3 with full armor package, and gains the speed needed to maintain mobility capabilities within the ABCT.

**g. Assistant Director-ARNG:**

1) The ARNG LNO conducted a conference call on 31 July with ARNG maneuver leaders to share information and discuss relevant topics to the force. This was an opportunity to hear from the field on DOTMLPF-P issues with a focus on NTC rotations and capabilities. The topics covered NTC Rotation Trends, ADL/Network for tanks, 19K MOS branch transfer, and updates from ABCT stakeholders. Participants included FORSCOM, NTC, ARNG bureau representatives, and representatives from 1/34th ABCT, 55/28th ABCT, and ID RTI representative. LTC Peter Kowalewski from the armor commandant’s office expressed interest in leading the next conference and follow on quarterly conferences.

2) The 81st ABCT’s conversion to an SBCT will begin with equipment turn-in in 1QFY16, and projected receipt of Stryker platforms ~1QFY17. LTC Matthew James ((253) 512-8033) is the WAARNG conversion lead, and MAJ Joshua Daily ((253) 512-7970) is the POC for the 81st. MAJ Dankyan will maintain contact with both agencies.

**h. Futures Integration:**

1) From 27 to 31 July, Mr. Jackson represented TCM-ABCT at the Armor/Anti-Armor Threat Coordinating Group conference hosted by NGIC, DAMI-FIT, JTAPIC and RDECOM at the NGIC in Charlottesville, VA. Over the three-day conference representatives from NGIC, ARCIC, OGA, ERDC, ARL, TARDEC, JTAPIC, MCoE, and PEO Soldier provided updates to kinetic threats to maneuver forces (including dismounted Soldiers, not just armor), equipment, and formations. Briefings were applicable to maneuver aspects from target acquisition to terminal ballistics, including lessons learned from current operations in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. Briefing topics included Intelligence support to MATDEV, Russian AFV and MBT, Ukraine/Russia observations, ISIL/Iraq Combat Incidents, Asia/Africa/Middle East AFV, ISR, Fire Control Systems, Ammunition, ATGM, Anti- Materiel RPG, Indirect Fire, Off-Route Mines, Anti-Armor IED, HME, UGV, UAV, VBIED, Cyber Threats, APS, Camouflage Concealment and Deception, Applique/Base Armor, JTAPIC, Blue Survivability-Human in Extreme Ballistic Environments, IBCT lightweight vehicle initiatives, Soldier Protection Systems, Base Camp Protection, Afghanistan Base Camp Attack Analysis, Small Arms, Anti-Personnel IED, and Anti-Personnel Mines. The majority of the briefings were classified SECRET/FVEY and will be available through SIPR when released by the parent agencies. Expected release date is several weeks.

2) On 3 August the Futures Team participated in a Dominating Mobility through Terrain Shaping and Engagement (DMTTS&E) Increment I Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) teleconference. The DMTTS&E, Increment I AoA will assess both the necessity and options to replace the deep terrain shaping capability provided by the Gator Mine System. The AoA will identify trade space in performance, schedule, risk and cost across a full range of Joint Force options for alternatives to Gator Mine System capability. The AoA will inform both the next Milestone (MS) decision and the development of the Capability Development Document (CDD) for DMTTS&E, Increment I. The loss of Gator impacts TCM ABCT’s Terrain Shaping Capability Gap. The Futures Team will continue to participate in teleconferences and workshops in order to identify possible solutions to mitigate the Terrain Shaping Capability Gap.

3) On 3 August the Futures Team attended the CERDEC Collaboration Workshop (CWS) back brief. The back brief included an update on technologies sponsored by CERDEC that might mitigate capability gaps discussed in February’s CWS; TCM ABCT briefed its CUAS and Collaborative Engagement Gaps during the CWS. Several of the technologies presented at the back brief addressed TCM ABCT gaps are aligned as potential solutions in the Capability Needs Analysis (CNA) database. The Futures Team will continue to work with the various labs in order to identify possible solutions to mitigate capability gaps.

4) On 4 August the Futures Team participated in an ARCIC led DOTMLPF-P Fielded and Programmed Solution Aggregation working group. The purpose of the working group was to validate the CNA produced DOTMLPF-P Fielded and Programmed Solution 1~n list. The take away from the working group was that the CoEs need to scrub the CNA database and delete any unnecessary tasks and solutions from the database. The Futures Team will complete the scrub NLT 10 August.

**2. RECON.**

**ORGANIZATION STATUS**

* Funding is confirmed for one contractor man year to operate the Recon Knowledge Network / Warfighting Forum.
* PEO IEW&S is working funding for two contractor man years to support CATR DOTMLPF development and execute CATR instruction in appropriate MCoE leader courses.
* No confirmation TCM Recon’s the defense contractor positions that perform R&S DOTmLPF will be funded. The current contract ends on 30 August, 2015.
* TCM Recon continues to operate without two critical positions filled:
* The LTC, TCM Recon will be filled by LTC O ’Steen in September.
* The MAJ, Acquisition Officer position is not projected to be filled in the next three months; TCM ABCT’s ARNG LNO is assisting to mitigate the vacancy
* TCM Recon received a 19D SFC last week to support scout platoon DOTmLPF development and integration.

**NEW ACTIVITY – FIRST REPORT:**

Supporting MRD by developing two vignettes to demonstrate Soldier Aerial Mobility (SAM) and Soldier Aerial Mobility Vehicle (SAMV). The first vignette demonstrates the concept during to conduct of zone reconnaissance. The second vignette demonstrates the capability in support of air assault operations, including pre-assault landing zone (LZ) observation and observation of enemy avenues of approach to support LZ security.

**CONTINUING ACTIONS:**

a. **Support to Leader Course for Sensor to Shooter Linkage Application.** **(Rose)**

* TCM Recon is working itself out of a job supporting 316 Cav Bde in their course development by answering early planning RFIs.
* No future IPRs are scheduled involving TCM Recon.

b. **Future Vertical Lift (FVL).** **(Fowler / Rose)**

* Participated in the 3 August FVL telecon; next event is FVL Attribute Study SAG scheduled for 11 Aug at FT Rucker with members from TRAC.
* No additional information on this meeting at this time; TCM Recon or MCOE participation has not been requested.

c. **LRS DOTMLPF Development.** Key actions for LRS Assessment in sequence:

* Awaiting I Corps and III Corps comments or concurrence o/a 1 August.

**Current & Future Experimentation with No Change:**

* CAC, ARCIC FDD, Armor and Infantry Schools concur; XVIII Corps provided recommendations.
* Adjudicated copy of the assessment to be provided to Deputy to the CG (T) within two workdays of receipt of Corps staffing; then forward to CG, MCoE.
* Submission to ARCIC following CG, MCoE approval.

d. **Support to Force Design Efforts.**

* Standardized Dismounted Scout Squad TOE Paragraph FDU Jr.
* TCM Recon is providing the ARC instructor tasked to brief Scout Platoon, HHC, 1-37 Armor o/a 11 August with information related to a standard scout platoon.
* The standard scout squad will be replicated in AWA 16.1.

e. **Close Access Target Reconnaissance.**

* Awaiting response from PEO IEW&S for funding support for one CATR DOTMLPF developer / integrator, and the transfer of a CATR SME / instructor to reinitiate CATR leader familiarization training at MCoE.
* Have been unable to return to CATR O&O writing.

**ACTION WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE**

a. **O&O Development. (Rose)**

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

* Continued support to TCM IBCT related to AWA 16.1 planning and Standard Scout Platoon O&O with 9 x 36 Appendix.
* Staffing with Operational Force, Brigade Modernization Integration Division (BMID), Armor & Infantry School, and Director, DOTD will run through 5 August 2015.
* BMID suspense for the O&O is 10 August.

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

* Staffing with Operational Force, Armor & Infantry School, and Director, DOTD will run through 13 August 2015.
* DOTD editor’s review will occur concurrent to staffing to compress O&O completion timeline.

3) R&S BCT O&O. Key actions in sequence:

* Action Officer’s draft appendix reflecting UC 15.2lessons learned is complete.
* No other actions are required.
* The appendix will not be completed until HQDA makes a determination on implementing the ABCT redesign (3 Company CABs).

b. **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.

c. **Analysis and experimentation.**

1) UC15.3.1 (Unified Quest):

* Supporting CDD in the development of 2 days of Air-Ground Integration during the 2nd week of the GAMEX.
* Preparing revision to R&S BCT to reflect anticipated ABCT and SBCT organization revision.
* Upcoming Key Events:
	+ 4 Aug 15 - Initial Planning Conference
	+ 19 Aug 15 - Final Planning Conference
	+ 14 - 25 Sep 15 - UC 15.3 GAMEX.

2) AWA 17 (24 October – 4 Nov 2016, FBTX). Supporting ELTA’s preparation of the AWA participation application. ELTA will provide for AWA 17 a lightweight, man-portable GSR employed at scout platoon and scout section level.

d. **CATR.** (No change 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)
* 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).
* Test and Evaluation IPT scheduled to begin 28 July.

d. **Reconnaissance Knowledge Network** (RKN / WfF). No significant activity.

e. **Support to Doctrine Development**. No activity.

**ACTIONS ON HOLD DUE TO LIMITED STAFF**

a. **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.

b. **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.
1. **Upcoming Events**.

 a. ABCT

* 10-14 Aug - NTC Rotation 15-09 CV-TESS Support (116th CBCT - IDARNG) (FICA)
* 17-27 Aug - NTC Rotation 15-09 Force on Force (116th CBCT - IDARNG) (FICA)
* 17-19 Aug - ABCT Brief 101 (BFV Integration)(Detroit, MI)
* 17-19 Aug - CMUR IMI Review (Orlando, FL)
* 24-28 Aug - CCTT Review/Fielding (FRKS)
* 07-11 Sep - LP CROWS User Excursion (FHTX)
* 11-18 Sep - (T) Unit Visit to 8A RAF (2/1CD) (ROK)
* 17 Sep -10 Oct - NIE, Ex CAB TAC CP evaluation (FBTX)
* 16-20 Nov - AMPV Human Factors Engineering Assessment (Santa Clara, CA)

b. RECON

* 5 AUG: Std Sct Plt O&O Staffing Window Ends
* 10 AUG: Std Sct Plt O&O to BMID
* 13 AUG: Sqdn O&O Staffing Window Ends
* TBD AUG: Unit Visit 3ID & CATR Facility, FSGA
* TBD AUG: Reconfigurable Integrated Weapons Pedestal DEMO, Redstone Arsenal (Cason)
* 25-26 August: FVL RIPT Working Group #14: CONOPS Development, Telecon (Fowler)
* 14-25 SEP: UC 15.3 GAMEX Phase III CAM-WAS, MBL FBGA
* 21 SEP-17 OCT: 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: John W. Miller III

Deputy Director: MAJ James A. Polak

TCM - ABCT SGM: MSG Myron Kennedy

TCM - Recon: Pete Rose

DOP/AMPV/MC Team: Ron Kuykendall

TLS Team Lead: Carl Johnson

Abrams Team Lead: Robert Hay

Bradley Team Lead: George Moore

Sustainment: Stephen Harper

Engineer/Field Artillery: MSG Myron Kennedy

Futures: Rhett Griner

Large Caliber Ammo: Wakeland Kuamoo

ARNG Representative: MAJ Matthew Dankyan

Office Admin Contact: Ms. Shelelia Wynn

Office Mailing Address: TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance (ATZB-CIA)

7533 Holtz Avenue, Suite 4090

 Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

Office Number: COMM: 706-545-4461 DSN: 835-4461

