



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

To the BFSB and Reconnaissance Community, welcome to a New Year!

TCM-Recon remains focused on supporting Big Army on developing the Courses of Action that will lead to the implementation of the Reconnaissance & Security Brigade Combat Team. The efforts of the Maneuver Center of Excellence remain on developing the Combined Arms Training Strategy (CATS) to support the formation. MCoE Reps from Doctrine and Training Development are meeting with the other Centers of Excellence to review the R&S BCT Training Strategy. Once the final review is complete, the CATS will be delivered to DA G3/5/7 who will work with FORSCOM and TRADOC to develop the final R&S BCT COAs. Briefings to the Army Chief of Staff will follow and TCM-Recon will continue to keep the reconnaissance community informed as this effort progresses.

TCM-Recon's efforts on the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) continue. The team completed the Functional Solutions Analysis Workshop on 31JAN14 and the team is processing the data to develop final input. The next key steps in the process are the preparation of the Functional Needs Analysis Report (10-21FEB), complete the Functional Solutions Analysis by preparing recommended solution approaches worksheets (24-28FEB), prepare the Functional Solutions Analysis Report (3-14MAR) and conduct the Initial Capabilities Development & DOTMLPF Change Recommendation virtual workshop (24-28MAR).

The Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) Integrated Product Team (IPT) meeting took place in January at Fort Bragg to discuss the current state of the program. While the Program of Record process continues, a solution to bridge the program following the end of the current war funding to the start of the POR funding remains a significant challenge. TCM-Recon is working with units and the CATR Program Managers to secure the funding needed to insure unit training continues and current institutional knowledge is not lost.

The team continues to develop the plan for a Long-range Surveillance (LRS) Conference now tentatively scheduled for 24-25 June 2014 here at the MCOE and Fort Benning. Mr. Derek Larson is the TCM-Recon POC in support of this effort.

The team conducted a Lessons Learned visit with the 525th BFSB at Fort Bragg in January following their recently completed deployment. TCM-Recon is working to expand these unit visits to include scout and recon organizations across all the Brigade Combat Teams and CTC rotations. The team will be participating with the 1st CAV's upcoming NTC rotation to look at the unit's execution of the Standard Scout Platoon Concept

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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504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade cases colors for Kosovo deployment

*Story and photo by SGT Cody Barber,
11th Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT HOOD, Texas - The 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB) cased their colors in a ceremony at Ready Field on West Fort Hood, Jan. 8, for an upcoming deployment to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

The brigade will deploy 500 soldiers from the 2d Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment and the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

This is the first time the 504th BFSB has deployed in support of this mission, and will be replacing the 525th BFSB out of Fort Bragg, NC. The brigade will be joined by National Guard soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division, who have been training on North Fort Hood since their arrival in early December.

"All of these soldiers conducted their individual and small unit training here at Fort Hood, supported by soldiers from First Army Division West, East and observer controllers from Germany," said COL Charles Hensley, 504th BFSB's commander. "After several months of challenging training, learning new tasks, and forming new teams, the soldiers who will be part of Multinational Battle Group East stand ready to deploy in support of Operation Joint Guardian."

Consisting of nearly 1,500 troops from nine different countries, MNBG-E will be commanded by the "Always Ready" brigade after taking over from the 525th. Kosovo Forces will be working with the United Nations and European Union to support a healthy and peaceful development of Kosovo.

"The challenge for those deploying is that we must maintain the current safe and secure environment in Kosovo," said COL Hensley. "We must be prepared to conduct operations to prevent any deterioration of that environment and improve that environment so that someday the people of Kosovo no longer need NATO forces' assistance and so that the Government of Kosovo is able to stand independently in the international area."

COL Hensley went on to describe that while Kosovo isn't as dangerous as other deployable locations, Soldiers and their families are still making sacrifices.

"Deployment is never easy," said COL Hensley. "We take some comfort that the operational environment in Kosovo is stable and isn't nearly as dangerous as other locations in which soldiers serve, but that doesn't make the missed anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, report cards, summer vacation, and just missing out on normal family activities any easier to accept for the soldiers or their families."



COL Charles Hensley, 504th BFSB commander, talks to soldiers and family members about the upcoming deployment to Kosovo during the colors casing ceremony on the Ready Field on West Fort Hood, Jan. 8.

Operation Joint Guardian is a mission that started in Kosovo, June 12, 1999, to provide peace support operations. For 15 years, service members have deployed supporting KFOR.

"In 1999, many may not have seen how the Kosovo mission would evolve over time, but our challenge today is to continue the mission started in 1999," said COL Hensley. "We will continue to carry it on to victory; not so much for ourselves but for the people of Kosovo and to honor the service and sacrifice of the tens of thousands of soldiers who served before us."



SSG Marcos Falcones (right), confirms a 201st Afghan National Army Corps soldier has the accurate frequencies selected on the Wolfhound signal gathering system during the first Wolfhound training class at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, 25 JAN 2014. SSG Falcones serves as a low-level voice intercept trainer with the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion deployed in support of Task Force Patriot. The Wolfhound capability will allow the Afghan National Army to find enemy radio transmission sources.

Afghan National Army: Picking up the intelligence signal

*Story and photo by SFC E.L. Craig,
Task Force Patriot PAO*

LAGHMAN, Afghanistan – The 201st Afghan National Army Corps received its first training and fielding of the ‘Wolfhound’ signal intelligence gathering system at Forward Operating Base Gamberi, Jan. 18-31, 2014.

The Wolfhound will allow ANA soldier’s to hear enemy radio communication and, as an improvement to the current system, it will tell Afghan troops the enemy’s location which has been a source of irritation in the past.

The Wolfhound signal intelligence gathering system is new to the entire Afghan Army; the 201st ANA Corps, located in Regional Command East, North of Kabul and the 203rd ANA Corps in RC East, South of Kabul are the only Afghan units currently receiving the equipment and training.

“In the past they’ve gotten enemy plans as [the enemy] talked about it on the radio,” said Capt. Gabriel Justus, 201st ANA Corps intelligence advisor with 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Task Force Patriot. “As a result [the ANA] were able to change their actions and intercept the enemy stopping their plans.”

Although their current system has provided quality results in thwarting enemy activity, it was missing one thing -- direction.

“ANA soldiers like [the AOR 8200]; they use it, but they asked for more direction finding,” said Staff Sgt. Marcos Falcones of Tampa Fla. “They felt a little frustrated because they can hear the enemy but they can’t always locate where the enemy’s signal is transmitting from.”

The 201st and 203rd Corps are receiving this equipment and training because their advising teams were able to provide something unique.

[Read more](#)

Other newsletters of interest

Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- IWfF (31 Jan 2014)
- SWfF (31 Jan 2014)
- Thunderbolt Blast (Dec 2013- Jan 2014)

TCM-Recon Forum Links

- TCM-Recon on milBook
- TCM-ABCT on milBook
- AWfF
- IWfF
- Stryker Net

TCM-Recon events

- 15-28 Feb: 1/1 CAV ABCT NTC Rotation 14-04
- 14-25 Apr: 4/25 ID IBCT JRTC Rotation 14-06
- 6-8 May: 2CR Post-combat Lessons Learned event, Vilsack, Germany
- 24-25 Jun: LRS Workshop Fort Benning, Georgia

MCoE Doctrine and Training Division, Reconnaissance Branch



525th BFSB's return from Kosovo nears

By Drew Brooks,

There's been a steady stream of Fort Bragg troops heading to Afghanistan in recent weeks.

But let's not forget that there are other local troops in other parts of the world, too.

The 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade is inching ever closer to its return from Kosovo, where the brigade headquarters and the 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment have been serving since last summer.

The 525th led a coalition of countries in Multinational Battle Group East in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

Earlier this month, the 525th's replacement, the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from Fort Hood, cased its colors in preparation for the move to Kosovo.

Fort Bragg officials said the 525th should start coming home in early February, with the bulk of troops returning closer to mid-month.

The brigade has been in command in Kosovo since June, after it took over for a South Carolina National Guard unit, the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

COL David J. Woods, the commander of the 525th, led the brigade in Kosovo during a mission that has been a largely forgotten by the public as it was overshadowed by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The U.S. presence in Kosovo dates to the late 1990s, but the deployment of the 525th was the first time in nearly 10 years that an active-duty Army unit assumed command in Kosovo, officials said.

[Read more](#)

KFOR soldier performs life-saving actions, receives NATO MSM

Story by SGT Samantha Parks, KFOR

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – A Kosovo Forces soldier received the NATO Meritorious Service Medal for life-saving actions performed July 7, 2013, in Kosovo.

SGT Paul Flores, a soldier with 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Bragg, NC, and a native of Los Angeles, received the NATO MSM from Naples Commander Admiral Bruce W. Clingan, Allied Forces commander, in a presentation at KFOR Headquarters in Pristina on Jan. 13.

"I was just doing my job," SGT Flores said. "That is what I told them, I don't deserve this. You wouldn't thank a chef or a cook for doing their job. I just don't think that I deserved it, and I still feel that way."

At the time, SGT Flores was a member of the personal security detail for the Multinational Battle Group-East commander. The command and escort vehicle were on mission to Prizren.

Flores said the convoy was heading west-bound when they encountered the accident.

"We saw that there was a car and a bus that collided [head-on]," SGT Flores said. "The car was destroyed. It was a miracle that no one was seriously injured and everyone walked off the bus."

According to SFC Derreck Fischer, the command team's personal security detachment noncommissioned officer-in-charge and a native of Houston, TX, he and others in their two vehicle convoy stopped to assist.

"[We] contained the engine fire from the sedan that hit the bus head on, after the fire was out [another soldier] controlled traffic, while I cleared the bus to make sure there were no more injured personnel on the bus," said SFC Fischer describing the scene.

SFC Fischer said during that time, SGT Flores was providing first aid to the fee collector from the bus. According to the accident report, the individual had sustained a deep laceration to the head, approximately five cm. long, which was bleeding heavily.



SGT Paul Flores, a Senior Scout Observer with 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, received the NATO Meritorious Service Medal from Naples Commander Admiral Bruce W. Clingan, Allied Forces commander, in a presentation at KFOR Headquarters in Pristina on Jan. 13.

"It was a team effort for the most part," SGT Flores said. "I couldn't have done this without everybody. Col. Woods was the one who decided to stop and help, and SFC Fisher was the one directing traffic. I was just doing what I was supposed to be doing."

LRS Workshop: 24-25 June 2014 (change)

A Long-range Surveillance (LRS) Workshop is being planned for 24-25 June, **a change from the previous proposed date of 12-13 March**. This event will be conducted at Fort Benning, GA, with representatives from TCM-Reconnaissance and AC/NG LRSC's presenting topics for discussion and addressing the problems or issues, and propose solutions or insights of 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 receive additional information on this event, or would like to attend, please contact [Mr. Derek Larson](#).

[RSVP](#)