



TCM-ABCT & RECON SITREP (week of 12 October 15)

14 October 2015

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1. ABCT

a. Abrams - The Master Gunner will attend the Abrams User Nation Group (ABRUNG) at Sterling Heights 26-29 October. Our office was asked to provide a briefing covering U.S. lessons learned and TTPs on deploying the Abrams during Wide Area Security (WAS) operations over the past 10 years.

b. Bradley.

1) The Bradley Technical Advisor is traveling to Sterling Heights, MI next week to participate in the System Safety Working Group (SSWG) meeting for the Bradley ECP and A3 programs. The focus of this meeting is to continue to evaluate the environmental and safety hazards previously identified in the January SSWG.

c. AMPV.

1) Mike Sjostrom and Scott Williford participated in a two day AMPV Network BOI review. The review was conducted using the "K" edition TOE incorporating decisions at TRADOC through HQDA directly supporting changes as a result of BCT redesign COA 4, FDU 13-1 Scout Redesign and BCT 2020 Redesign, and BCT reductions.

d. Formation and DOTLPP Integration:

1) Doctrine, Organization, Personnel and MC-Network (DOP/MC-Net) - Ron Kuykendall is supporting CDD's Force Design Assessment effort(s) in response to TRADOC tasking for Force Modernization (FM) Proponents to input into the Total Army Analysis (TAA) 19-23. Two force structures are considered. One based on levels established within the President's Budget and one based on further reductions due to the Budget Control Act. FM Proponents will provide their initial assessments to ARCIC, FDD, NLT 10 Nov 15 and their final inputs NLT 15 Jan 16.

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

a) TLS is providing support to a DoD IG Audit Team conducting a visit to 1-194 CAB, 1/34 ABCT (MNARNG) between 16-23 October at Camp Ripley, MN. The audit objective is to determine whether military units have the ability to perform their mission essential tasks. Specifically, this audit will evaluate Army National Guard (ARNG) training proficiency at the company and cavalry troop level.

b) TLS provided a METL-oriented data collection plan to CAC-CALL for use by OPS GRP OC/T's during NTC Rotation 16-01 involving 1/1CD from FHTX. This technique at collecting and documenting DOTMLPP observations, insights, and lessons learned is a pilot initiative by the

CG, NTC. Instead of each of the Centers of Excellence sending 1-3 SMEs to support CALLs Collection and Analysis Team (CaaT), each center is submitting their aforementioned collection plans to NTC. OPS GRP OC/T's will gather the data and enter the observations in the Joint Lessons Learned Information System (JLLIS) repository. When complete, CALL analysts will harvest the data, send it to NTC for staffing, and publish the results in an Initial Impressions Report at a date TBD.

e. Large Caliber Ammo: Mr. Kuamoo is continuing work on several projects:

1) Primers being considered for production of 120mm ammunition. A recently produced LOT of primers did not pass a government test requirement for corrosion. The user's position is not to use these primers for ammunition intended for the field, and to conduct further testing.

2) Completed the initial draft of crew procedures for damaged ammunition found on a tank. These procedures included "Spilled Propellant" are currently under review by the Abrams Master Gunner Branch and have been submitted to PM-MAS

3) Coordinating efforts to provide ARDEC technical support at Ft Benning. This effort is being generated in response to A-BOLC and 1-81 Armor reports of excessive residue in the gun systems after firing M865 training sabot rounds. This residue has resulted in preventing 2 M831A1 training HEAT-TPT rounds from being fully chambered into the gun. Target dates for this evaluation is during the next 1-81 Armor live fire the week of 2-6 November.

4) Assisting MRD in a visit to Ft Benning by ARDEC personnel during the week of 2-6 November. The purpose of "ARDEC Greening" is designed to familiarize new engineers on operations of mounted systems in the field. Activities include classroom briefings, vehicle hands-on (non-firing) familiarization, simulations training, and viewing of live fire exercises on unit range for the visitors.

5) Monitoring movement of six M1002 Frangible Nose (FN) rounds to Korea. PM-MAS will pay for cost within CONUS; 8th Army will provide funding for movement from CONUS to Korea. DA-G4 has concurred with this action. Rounds are intended to be used in a User Familiarization Training (UFT) event during the November/December time frame.

f. Futures Integration:

1) The team continues to develop the ABCT learning demands and essential elements of analysis derived from the Army Warfighting Challenges and the Combat Vehicle Modernization Strategy. The learning demands will be incorporated into the analysis plan of the modeling and simulation effort supported by the Maneuver Battle Lab to inform the ABCT OMS/MP, O&O, and the APA/CPR which reflect the new K-series TO&E and Abrams and Bradley vehicle modernization efforts.

g. Sustainment and Logistics Integration:

1) Mr. Harper participated in a tele-con discussing an 'articulating' tow bar being provided to the Army. The proposed tow bar meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and are legal for towing on public highways in CONUS and OCONUS. Pull weight ratings are 80,000lbs for wheeled vehicles (Stryker's require 'longer legs'), 125,000lbs for wheeled vehicles above 80,000 and all light tracks, and 80 tons for Abrams tanks, the M88A2, and other heavily armored platforms. Some positive characteristics of the proposed tow bar include quick deployment from front vehicle mount location, one person assembly and hook up, off angle connections, lighter weight over current tow bars, and multiple section construction resulting in lower costs to replace sections. Most NATO countries and US Army special units are currently using this tow bar. This was the first meeting with the different Army agencies on how to proceed with testing and cost.

2) MSG Kennedy is coordinating personnel to support AMPV Human Factors team in an evaluation of AMPV variant(s) Soldier space. This event is tentatively scheduled for 16-19 November at BAE's Santa Clara facility and will use vehicle mock-ups to gain Soldier inputs in terms of physical space required to conduct various tasks. A joint team from TCM ABCT and MRD will support the event.

3) MSG Kennedy received invite from PM M88 to attend their biannual Program Management Review (PMR) on 27-29 Oct at BAE York, PA. The three days will focus on Tech Review which will include top key work directives, M88 Modernization Meeting. We would have this with PM CRS, BAE Systems (Select group), TCM-ABCT, DASC, CASCOM and tour the BAE manufacturing and assembly facilities.

2. RECON.

a. R&S Concepts and Analysis:

- 1) Scout of the Future (SotF): TCM Recon lead the first MCoE Working Group tasked to support the writing the SotF Concept and articulating knowledge, skills, and attributes (KSAs) at core, individual and unit levels in order to gain MCoE approval and incorporate into the R&S CBA. Participants were tasked to provide input based on their areas of proponency, by the next work group.
- 2) R&S CBA: FSA efforts are on hold in order to focus on SotF Concept development. – the FSA will incorporate SotF requirements from the working group.
- 3) CAV SQDN O&O: The O&O remains in team review. The O&O supplement is being developed to capture all of the relevant information no longer a part of the 10 page Squadron O&O. The O&O supplement is expected to be completed on or about 30 OCT.
- 4) Standard Scout Squad FDU preparation. Action Officer level work continues to identify and justify organizational aspects that should be standardized within scout squads.

b. R&S, LRS Support:

- 1) R&S BCT Implementation (ARCIC): **No Change:** Awaiting decision on re-introduction in next QRF
- 2) CIEF/QFR Prep (CDD): **No Change:** Collaboration ISO AWfC #11 Paper – Conduct Air-Ground Reconnaissance.
- 3) R-LL Work Group (316 CAV BDE): Continued participation in the R-LL Work Group in preparation for WG out briefs to the CG on 27 OCT.

c. CATR:

- 1) CATR Fielding Decision Documentation Tailoring Plan: Participated in workgroup to identify way ahead strategy and to mitigate potential risks that could impact the Fielding Decision.
- 2) Life-Cycle Sustainment Plan: Reviewing and providing comments regarding draft plan and appendix F (DEMIL) and appendix J (Post-production)
- 3) CATR program equipment. Updating KeyMaker software and preparing computer for re-imaging.
- 4) Material Customer Test (ATEC). Strategy planning session with PdM GS and ATEC scheduled 15 OCT 2015.
- 5) Training IPT TCM Recon continues supporting role in development of Training Support Packages.

- 6) Coordinating BOIP Feeder Data with PdM GS
- d. Recon Knowledge Network:
 - 1) CAV Council: Providing Defense Collaboration Services (DCS) technical support to 316th CAV for the next event scheduled on 4 NOV, with a rehearsal on 3 NOV.
 - 2) R&S Directory Development: Developing an R&S Directory with all Cavalry Squadrons and LRS Companies locations and CDR/CSM or 1SG for LRSC IOT enhance dialogue with the operational force.
- e. Unit Visit and Experiment Support:
 - 1) AWA 16.1 Support: MAJ Dankyan has returned from AWA 16.1. Emphasis will shift to collecting emerging results reports and feedback on scout / reconnaissance and security / cavalry activities that occurred during the AWA.
 - 1) Recommended FY 16 Unit Visit Plan remains under development:

3. Upcoming Events.

a. ABCT

- 16-23 Oct - Support to DoD IG Audit Team (1/34 ABCT) (Camp Ripley, MN)
- 20-23 Oct - AMPV Mission Command PDR Artifact Close-Out Sessions (SHMI)
- 20-25 Oct - Live fire observations at NTC 16-01 (FICA)
- 21-22 Oct - Co-Site Interference/ Force Protection
- 26-29 Oct - Abrams User Nation Group (Warren, MI)
- 29 Oct - Joint Chemical Agent Detector (JCAD) integration User Jury (Warren)
- 02-06 Nov - Multifunction Vehicle Port CMUR Form, Fit & Function (Warren) (T)
- 16-19 Nov - AMPV Human Factors (MANPRINT) Testing (Santa Clara, CA)
- 30 Nov-05 Dec 15 - Unit Visit to 8A/2ID RAF (2/1CD) (ROK)
- 30 Nov-10 Dec – LP CROWS User Jury (APG)

b. RECON

- 13 OCT: SotF Update to ARSCH DEPCMDT
- TBD Week of 19 OCT: SotF WG#2
- 19 OCT: Inbrief to IN CMDT
- 4 NOV: Cavalry Council / Warfighter Forum, FBGA

Email Members of TCM-ABCT/Recon's staff:

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Abrams Team Lead:	Robert Hay
Bradley Team Lead:	George Moore
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