Headed into summer

Summer Safety
For a lot of people, the Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of summer and an increase in outdoor activities.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, is historically the largest vacation period of the year for Soldiers and Civilians.

June is National Safety month and a good time to remind us all to focus on safety when participating in all types of summer activities.

Army Birthday, June 14
The Army is one of the oldest institutions in our country. Born on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress established it, the Army is a year older than the Declaration of Independence and 13 years older than the Constitution.

MCTP Completes Warfighter Exercise 23-4
The Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) conducted a multinational warfighter exercise, April 19-27, at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas.

It involved the III Armored Corps (III AC) leading three combat divisions, the 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Armored Division, and the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division, through a large-scale combat operation (LSCO) scenario under a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) command structure.

The exercise featured significant evolutions in the training environment. MCTP rolled out a more dynamic scenario and opposing force and additional training stimulus for information-related capabilities.

MCTP instituted a new LSCO scenario for III AC to enable more dynamic decision-making and intel analysis to support those decisions from the start. Normally, corps and divisions face an opposing force in a deliberate defense after invading an allied country.

The new scenario postured NATO forces as ready to respond to the crisis before the invasion. Once the adversary’s provocation was significant enough to invoke Article V, NATO’s mutual defense principle, its forces were at the line of departure, ready to confront the OPFOR.

The required response speed introduced more significant unknowns, such as where the adversary would likely attack. Like a grand-chess match, it involved a race by both forces for positioning and key terrain while contesting one another along the way.

It tested III AC and its divisions’ ability to outthink their opponent and achieve decision dominance. That required the formations to maintain a high level of fidelity in their command and control systems, intelligence, and other staff estimates.

Sustainment was also stressed during the training. Lessons from the Russian-Ukraine conflict underscored its critical importance. The new scenario required nimble and more predictive sustainment operations to keep pace and deliver support at the point of need.

The U.S. and U.K.’s military interoperability was likewise tested. MCTP established a mission partner environment, enabling a shared secure communication platform for its allies and partners. It hopes to implement the network permanently as the U.S.’s commitment to working as a multinational coalition deepens.

The Army’s developing Information Advantage doctrine was also a training highlight. On the technical front, MCTP saw the first use of an electronic warfare simulator in the exercise. It gave the training audience a realistic virtual depiction of electronic warfare effects and the overall environment.

For cognitive-related capabilities, III AC and MCTP partnered with the University of Maryland’s Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security for the first time to boost training stimulus for information operations.

Ultimately, the exercise turned out to be another important step in the Army’s effort to operationalize its new multi-domain operation doctrine while reading its combat formations for competition and conflict if it so arises. Check out the video for more.
ASEP-C participants get the CAC-TIF treatment

TRADOC Proponent Office-Synthetic Training Environment Director Col. Jason West discusses some of the TPO-STE capabilities with participants of the Army Strategic Education Program-Command (ASEP-C) course April 27, 2023 at the Combined Arms Center-Training Innovation Facility, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. ASEP-C is a developmental course for General Officers who have been selected for one and two-star level command assignments. Photos by Tisha Swart-Entwistle, Combined Arms Center-Training Public Affairs Office.

Getting Soldiers what they need to succeed from ATSC

Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va. – Across the globe, Soldiers and civilians receive Army training materials with ease thanks to the hard work and dedication of those working at the Army Training Support Center (ATSC) Warehouse located on Fort Eustis, Virginia. The ATSC Warehouse’s mission is to distribute training materials to Soldiers and civilians worldwide. The Warehouse operations team helps maintain a readiness inventory to package training products for shipment to support customer orders and support Training Support Centers worldwide.


The GTA program includes 552 specialized products used to inform and train Soldiers in the three Army training domains: psychological, physical, and military. Examples include foreign nation culture cards, Coordinate Scale and Protractor for map reading, Army Values Cards, Medical Evacuation Request Card, Sexual Harassment / Assault Response and Prevention, Suicide Intervention, and Worldwide equipment cards detailing Chinese, Russian, North Korean, and Iranian equipment.

The ATSC Warehouse also works alongside the St. Louis Army Publishing Directorate to authenticate, publish, and replicate The Army Doctrine Publications, Army Doctrine Reference Publications, Field Manuals, Soldier’s Training Publications, Technical Manuals, Army Technique Publications, and Training Circulars before being distributed worldwide from both warehouses.

This Warehouse works hard for the Army, processing over 100 invoices monthly for the Army Lessons Learned Program and delivering timely and relevant information on behalf of the Combined Arms Training Activity located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Army Training Support Center Warehouse keeps our Soldiers trained and ready to complete their mission.
Innovations in Training Management

As the Army lead and proponent for training management, the Training Management Directorate (TMD) is responsible for sustaining two of the key IT systems that enable training management in the Army: the Digital Training Management System (DTMS) and the Army’s training portal, the Army Training Network (ATN).

TMD routinely engages with Soldiers and Leaders to identify and resolve issues, update functionality, and improve user interface across the ATMS and its associated tools. Over the last several years, TMD has introduced several innovations to improve accessibility and usefulness of digital training records and planning tools in the Digital Training Management System (DTMS).

The Small Unit Leader Tool (SULT) is available for junior leaders to use to their training and qualification information. The SULT dashboard includes a column displaying Expert Badge % Complete for the members of the unit. The Soldier’s completion percentage is hyperlinked to a detailed view of that Soldier’s training status and allows input of Expert Badge evaluations for that Soldier based on the Soldier’s Primary MOS.

The view defaults to the first lane in the Expert Badge testing list, but leaders can select other lanes using a drop-down menu selection. Leaders record task evaluations (Go or No Go) for their Soldiers and save the results into the Soldiers' training records.

The Army Training Network also designed a page dedicated to Expert Badge training information. The ATN page provides a single point of entry allowing Soldiers and leaders to find the Expert Badge regulatory guidance, training support packages, and suggested training/testing timelines. The ATN page does not reproduce or replace the expert badge testing event.

To read the rest of this article, visit Training Fact Sheet: Innovations in training management | Article | The United States Army

Digital Job Book

The Digital Job Book (DJB) was introduced to provide Soldiers access to their training and qualification information. The DJB provides Soldiers the ability to select between seven tabs (Physical Training / Weapons Qualification / Training Schedules / Army Warrior Tasks (AWT) / Individual Critical Task List (ICTL) / Expert Badge / Tasks) to view their individual training data that’s been recorded in DTMS. This “read only” function enables Soldiers to verify their training information for accuracy and eliminates the requirement for Soldiers to hand-carry training records when moving to a new unit.

In 2020, TMD made the DJB accessible using personal computers as well as mobile devices with a username and password. Soldiers can review their training records anywhere they have access to an internet connection, not just from a CAC-enabled computer.

Small Unit Leader Tool

The Small Unit Leader Tool (SULT) is available for junior leaders to easily view and update the training status of their assigned Soldiers. When given the proper permissions and having the right subordinate personnel aligned to the leader by the unit’s DTMS manager in DTMS, the SULT provides company level and below leaders the ability to manage and update their subordinate’s training, qualification, and readiness data. The training data that is recorded in the SULT automatically populates in DTMS, which not only informs their command of the small unit’s training status but also shares the training information to other Army authoritative systems. The SULT helps leaders manage Soldier training and ensures the Soldiers’ records are up to date.

The SULT provides first line leaders the ability to record training data for each individual or en masse for their team/squad. The tool provides visibility for Course Registrations (Army Training Requirements and Resource System (ATRRS) courses) and training data for each individual or en masse for the team/squad. The tool provides visibility for Course Registrations (Army Training Requirements and Resource System (ATRRS) courses) and training data for each individual or en masse for their team/squad. The tool provides visibility for Course Registrations (Army Training Requirements and Resource System (ATRRS) courses) and training data for each individual or en masse for their team/squad.
TPO-OPFOR-S provides threat unmanned systems to CTCs

The Army completed fielding of the Opposing Force (OPFOR) Threat Unmanned Aircraft Systems (T-UAS) TS-M800 Block 3 drone system to the National Training Center on 20 April 2023. The TSM-800 Block 3 is an evolution in the OPFOR T-UAS program that is designed to provide greater realism and feedback to improve Combat Training Centers’ (CTCs) Counter small Unmanned Aerial Systems (CsUAS) training realism. The TS-M800 Block 3 provides evolutionary upgrades to the previous iteration of an electro-optical/infra-red system (CTC-IS) training aid, which are instrumental in situation awareness, instrumented After Action Review (AAR) support, and offensive shoot-back capability. These improvements ensure that Soldiers being trained at the NTC experience realistic threats from semi-autonomous drone swarms in line with capabilities the Army expects Soldiers to encounter in 2030 and beyond. The CTC-IS integration and offensive shoot-back enable the CTC to provide Soldiers real-time feedback during drone-swarms to ground engagements. Perhaps more importantly, it will directly enable the high-fidelity instrumented AARs with Rotational Training Units that will drive change in how units incorporate CsUAS into their operations. Furthermore, the data that CTCs capture from these engagements will inform future tactics, techniques, and procedures.

The TS-M800 Block 3 fielding began with a system update to incorporate CTC-IS integration that validated the training capability as ready-for-use. Then, Project Manager Cyber Test and Training and TRADOC Proponent Office for Opposing Forces Systems representatives prepared and inventoried the 105 TS-M800 Block 3 drones NTC received before flight testing and validation. The fielding concluded with officially signing over the drones to B/229th who operates the drones during training rotations. A flight demonstration of the CTC-IS shoot back capability occurred near Ujen (Four Corners) in the training box on 20 April 2023. With this fielding, the NTC achieved Full Operational Capability (FOC) under the 2018 T-UAS Directed Requirement. NTC now maintains 105 semi-autonomous, swarm capable TS-M800 Block 3 drones. Fielding events later this year will bring the Joint Readiness Training Center and the Joint Multinational Readiness Center to FOC status with this important training capability. The T-UAS capability will challenge rotational training units by contributing to the near persistent Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) expected in a Multi-domain environment while bringing an additional low cost attack platform to the CTC-OPFOR.

CALL providing innovative solutions for reaching a multigenerational force

CALL’s Publishing and Digital Media Branch are constantly scanning the environment to develop innovative ways to share the Army lessons learned and best practices. Their goal is to meet the Soldiers where they are and provide them with content in a manner that they enjoy.

“Understanding the multigenerational force—and the differences in how each generation enjoys reviewing content—gave us the idea that audiobooks would be a nice addition to CALL’s publishing platform. Additionally, we recognize that each generation brings new and different perspectives about what the Army is doing right and where we can improve,” said Diana Keeler, CALL Chief Editor. “To leverage these diverse perspectives, give Soldiers a voice, and provide additional resources to get their experiences documented, this gave us the idea to launch our new external submissions program. We are excited to bring these new programs to the force and look forward to watching the Army benefit from them.”

Audiobooks

CALL launched its first six audiobooks this year, which have been a great success! In fact, the downloads quickly surpassed the number of digital publication downloads and print requests for the same books.

Soldiers can listen to audiobooks on demand at their leisure. This really gives them a new and exciting way to learn the Army lessons learned and best practices. The first six books were carefully selected based on their impact on the force.

The titles include, Building Cohesive Teams, The First 100 Days of Company Leadership, The First 100 Days of Platoon Leadership, Commander and Staff Guide to Rehearsals, Preparing for Large-Scale Combat Operations, and How to Master Wargaming.

Look out for more releases in the future, in the meantime, listen here: https://rdi.train.army.mil/catalog/search?current=true&search_terms=CALL_Audiobooks

External Submissions Program

CALL’s new external submissions program launched in May. “We are using this platform as a method for Soldiers to submit their lessons learned and best practices that they have personally seen or experienced during their career,” said Keeler.

If you are interested in telling your story and getting on the path to being published, visit our restricted site for writing recourses and submission guidelines: https://armytaas.sharepoint.com/teams/lessonslearned/SitePages/Writing-for-CALL.aspx
Anthony Woodward, TMD

Anthony Woodward led a highly-successful DTMS Question and Answer session over MS Teams on 16 Mar 23. Over 356 Soldiers, Army Civilian Professionals and contractors participated in the live Q&A forum which lasted over 2 hours and covered the use of the DTMS by units to manage Army training records. Woodward planned the event, coordinated for announcements and meeting notifications to be distributed over ATN and DTMS, and thoroughly prepared updates to users on ACFT implementation and IPPS-A transition in DTMS. During the session, he responded to user questions both live and sent in over chat services to include following up on many specific requests once the session concluded. Woodward received many appreciative comments from the participants for a very informative training event.

Maj. Andrew Corcoran, NSC

Maj. Andrew Corcoran coordinated and led the NSC’s Future Capability Forum from 21-24 MAR. The Forum included 48 participants from 23 organizations consisting of subject matter experts in doctrinal changes, the joint environment, and emergent M&S technologies. Participants worked to refine desired characteristics for a Next Generation Constructive (NGC) capability which will enable the Army to train in an MDO environment with its Joint and Unified Action Partners. His successful efforts enabled NSC Leadership to answer RFIs, conduct further analysis to identify legacy capabilities that meet future requirements, and further refine requirements development.

Nate Everett—CTCD

Nate Everett, Threat UAS Capability Developer, TPO OPFOR-5 is nominated as the employee of the month due to his contributions in fielding the T-UAS Swarm Block 3 Directed Requirement capability at the National Training Center (NTC). His superb coordination enabled fielding the next stage of an integrated, multidomain threat representative UAS platform to the NTC. In addition, Everett’s expertise and dedication to writing the T-UAS Capability Development Document for Army staffing will ensure the Army has a sustainable, threat representative UAS platform to challenge CTC rotational training units’ use of counter-UAS tactics, techniques and procedures, and use of current and evolving counter-UAS technologies.

Steve Humes—CALL

CALL would like to acknowledge Steve Humes as employee of the month. Humes of the Operations Division, Program Branch is the Army Tier Joint Lessons Learned Information System (ULLIS) administrator and teaches the Army Lessons Learned Course. He developed and created an analyst writing improvement course for the CALL analytical divisions. The pilot class had five participants and was highly praised by everyone in attendance. Zachary Shelby and Paige Cox, CALL Editors, taught the supplemental writing workshop and facilitated an interactive environment that enriched the base knowledge of CALL analysts.

Sgt. James Lundy, ATSC

Sgt. James Lundy, Army Training Support Center, Visual Information Specialist, received the Distinguished Leadership Award during the 46 Tango Advanced Leadership Course located at Fort Meade, Maryland on 19 April 2023. This award is given to “a non-commissioned officer who has demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and potential while having contributed the most to the class as selected by his peers,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony Torres, Assistant Instructor of the course.

"After receiving the award Lundy lead the class of graduates in reciting the Non-Commissioned Officer’s Creed. “No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time-honored corps, which is known as The Backbone of the Army.”

Lundy believes that having real conversations with his fellow Soldiers is a great way to show he cares and help them understand that he is there to support them. “My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind, accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers,” said Lundy, quoting the NCO creed.

One of the lines that particularly speaks to Sgt Lundy from the NCO creed is “All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership. I will provide that leadership and understand that earning my Soldiers’ trust is most important.” Being a Soldier himself, he understands that leaders who acutely earn their Soldier’s trust is pivotal. “That is the type of leader that Soldiers want. That is how you actually get Soldiers to do what you need them to do,” he explained.

Col. Barry, the ATSC Commander, and Sgt. Maj. Card, the ATSC Senior Enlisted Advisor attended the graduation, showing their support for Lundy.

During his time in the course, a highlight for Sgt Lundy was studying Visual Information Maintenance Plans “about a lifecycle, daily maintenance, monthly maintenance, and annual maintenance and how it also goes into creating a training schedule using the Mission Essential Task List, tailoring it to different Military Occupational Specialty to accomplish the tasks,” said Lundy.

One of the main takeaways for Lundy was how the maintenance plan assists with managing the focus of the unit and helping Soldiers progress in their careers.

Lundy’s current placement has allowed him to learn about and join in the producing and directing of videos and films at VIO. “[I] enjoy seeing a concept go from just an idea to a finished video,” said Lundy.

Working alongside other Producers and Directors in VIO, he has fully produced and directed one video completely on his own, focusing on the reason why a Soldier chooses to join and continue service in the Army.

“We will set up the camera, the green screen, and lighting for whoever we are filming and I will sit beside the camera, ask the questions, and the talent give their responses,” said Lundy.

Often people can be nervous in front of the camera, so he has a way to help them feel more relax and comfortable on the screen. “I will ask random and casual questions to help them loosen up before and get them talking so they are more relaxed for the interview questions,” said Lundy.

Lundy’s leadership, creativity, and hard work ethic are sure to influence multimedia products from ATSC’s Visual Information Office and the U.S. Army overall.

Capt. Josh Bailey and Lance Harwell, MCTP

Capt. Josh Bailey was recognized as the Officer of the Warfighter for his work during Warfighter 23-4. Bailey served in the Sustainment Control Cell at Fort Hood, Texas for the Exercise Control Group. He tirelessly worked to adjust parametric data for the consumption rate of Class III of all vehicle types in the WARSIM database. Bailey used mathematical equations and testing to more closely align the actual burn rate of fuel for all vehicles in the WARSIM to the doctrinal burn rate used by sustainment professionals. His actions allowed for all the assigned training audience staff members to have a more accurate running estimate for planning and execution during the exercise.

Lance Harwell was recognized as the Civilian of the Warfighter for his work during Warfighter 23-4. Harwell served in the Air Operations Cell at Fort Bragg, North Carolina for the Exercise Control Group. WXF 23-4 established a new procedure of executing live running intelligence and operations prior to the WARSIM and the exercise beginning. Harwell greatly advanced this new product by creating a live action CFACC versus the OFFP engagement for all training audiences and elements to see. Harwell took initiative and distinguished himself for participants of WXPF 23-4 by providing realistic pilot reports and controller texts into chat communications during an envisioned enemy joint forcible entry operation in simulated denied territory.

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