



Victory Through Training

MCTP welcomes new commander

by Maj. Christopher Hart, Mission Command Training Program Public Affairs

The Mission Command Training Program welcomed incoming MCTP Commander Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr. and farewelled outgoing MCTP Commander Col. Bryan L. Babich during a change of command ceremony July 14, 2023 at McHugh Training Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Combined Arms Center-Training Deputy Commander Col. Scott C. Woodard, presided

over the ceremony, thanking Babich for his endless efforts during his tenure and highlighting the challenges of transitioning the Army's way of thinking of warfighting from counterinsurgency operations back to large-scale combat operations.

"The Mission Command Training Program continues to create training experiences that enable Army senior commanders to prepare units for large-scale combat operations," Woodward said. "Most, if not all, of today's general officers have been through an MCTP Warfighter exercise."

Babich was responsible for leading the first Pacific Scenario Warfighter Exercise under the direction of U.S. Army Pacific to adapt to the way we fight, as a joint force. This exercise proved fundamental in establishing the foundation of how MCTP will continue to evolve warfighter exercises to deliver realistic training for army divisions and corps.

During his remarks, Babich thanked many of the organization's leaders that ensured the success of the overall MCTP mission. "You are kindred spirits in the urgency to make sure that we are giving the proper training for our Army to fight and win our nation's wars," Babich said. "That's the foundation of MCTP."

Babich spoke about how important the people who make up MCTP are, and said the people make the organization highly effective. "MCTP's mission is deadly serious and its about urgency," Babich said. "It's good that we're thinking of modernization. It's good that we're thinking how we are going to transform this Army for future conflicts, but we al-

ways know that it could be 'fight tonight.'"

Ikena's previous assignment was as the 1st Infantry Division Artillery Commander, Fort Riley, Kan. He said he was committed to providing everything he has to the continued success of the organization.

"With clarity and purpose and a deep love for soldiering, as well as being a lifelong, passionate learner, I am humbled for the opportunity to join this great team of teams," Ikena said.

The change of command at MCTP is significant as it highlights 36 years of modernization and adaptability of one of the most significant institutions that provides leadership and innovation on how the Army trains and fights echelons above brigade.

Through the evolution of the organization from the Battle Command Training Program to its current MCTP structure, the organization has continuously adapted to meet the Army's mission.



New Mission Command Training Program Commander Col. Richard Ikena receives the MCTP colors from Combined Arms Center-Training Deputy Commander Col. Scott Woodward as MCTP Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Lewis stands ready to accept the colors from Ikena. Photos by Tisha Swart-Entwistle, Combined Arms Center-Training Public Affairs.



Combined Arms Center-Training Deputy Commander Col. Scott Woodward, speaks during the Mission Command Training Program change of command ceremony July 14, 2023 at McHugh Training Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Woodward presided over the ceremony for outgoing MCTP commander, Col. Bryan Babich, and incoming commander, Col. Richard Ikena.

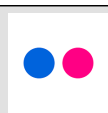
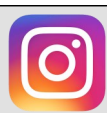


New Mission Command Training Program Commander Col. Richard Ikena prepares to pass the colors to MCTP Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Lewis during the Mission Command Training Program change of command ceremony July 14, 2023 at McHugh Training Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Ikena had just received the colors from Combined Arms Center-Training Deputy Commander Col. Scott Woodward after Woodward had taken the colors from Col. Bryan Babich (outgoing MCTP commander). The passing of the colors during the ceremony represents the change of leadership from one commander to another.



Combined Arms Center-Training Deputy Commander Col. Scott Woodward, and Mission Command Center of Excellence director Col. Bryan Babich listen to new Mission Command Training Program Commander Col. Richard Ikena during the MCTP change of command ceremony July 14, 2023 at McHugh Training Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

FIND US ON THE WEB



NSC hosts corrections brigade

On July 19, 2023 the National Simulation Center (NSC) hosted members of the Army Corrections Brigade at Fort Leavenworth for a facility tour and emerging technology demonstration. The event provided an overview of the capabilities and opportunities available at NSC and within Functional Area 57-Simulation Operations.

Members of the corrections brigade in attendance ranged from the rank of Staff Sergeant to Major. Lt. Col. Tim Migliore, Lt. Col. Tim Dugan, and Marco Connors provided the introduction to the Simulations Community and NSC's role in training and capability development across the Army. The presenters provided their backgrounds and then introduced the mission, purpose, structure, and scope of NSC to the visitors in attendance.

Event attendees experienced current operations within the Simulations Community on Fort Leavenworth by touring the Global Simulations Center, and NSC. They were also ex-

posed to several virtual and constructive simulation tools housed at NSC. Capt.

Sarah Abercrombie took the lead in coordinating and leading the event, while Maj. Cole Patton and members of his team provided an introduction and demonstration of Combined Arms Center-Training Innovation Facility capabilities and the Virtual Operations and Rehearsal Tool-Extended. Attendees experienced augmented reality to gain a better understanding of future visualizations of the battlefield. Attendees also utilized individual training simulators including the Engagement Skills Trainer and Virtual Battlespace 3 for familiarization of available tools to train their formations.



Inspiring growth, a summer of learning and service



Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) Military Analyst (Forward) (MAF), Will Heck, contributed to the U.S. Army Garrison, Bavaria, community by utilizing his extensive military background to directly support the Joint Multinational Readiness Center's (JMRC) Summer Hire program from June 20 to July 21, 2023.

The JMRC hiring program offers mentorship opportunities and experiential learning to teenagers in Hohenfels, Germany, enabling them to develop valuable workforce industry skills and receive a compensation. The program covers various professional areas such as project management, game design, cyber security, music production, and culinary arts.

During the program, Heck engaged with participants in areas

such as facilities and property management, customer service, public speaking, and product development. Together, they undertook tasks to maintain the CALL detachment facility, identify building deficiencies, establish a reporting process, and enhance the facility's appearance by painting common areas.

The experience aimed to instill in the participants the understanding that productivity plays a vital role in achieving success,

and it was more than mere "busy work."

We Want You!

CALL's MAFs have the opportunity to serve as the "face" of CALL in their supported commands' community. We are currently looking for two military leaders at the ranks of O-4 to O-6, or Sergeant Major (E-9), who are eager to serve as MAFs. You will be assigned to U.S. Army Central at Shaw AFB SC, or V Corps at Fort Knox KY.

For more information, visit our restricted site [HERE](#) (CAC required)



Will Heck, Center for Army Lessons Learned, Military Analyst (Forward), center, poses for a photo with summer hire program participants.

Lifelong Learning Centers: Empowering Continuous Training in the U.S. Army

In today's rapidly changing world, where knowledge and skills become outdated quickly, the Army is committed to providing its personnel with access to training and education content anytime, anywhere. Army Training Support Center Lifelong Learning Centers (LLCs) have been established to help meet this goal by offering a comprehensive platform for creating, managing, and delivering training and education content to both resident and non-resident students. The purpose of LLCs is to foster and adapt an agile learning environment for all Army soldiers, Army career professionals, trainers, and training managers.

The establishment of LLCs provides an adaptive and agile learning environment by providing learners with uninterrupted access to training and education material, regardless of their location or training environment. By bridging the gap between the three training domains—institutional, operational, and self-development—LLCs enable Army personnel to continue their learning journey beyond the traditional schoolhouse setting.

The key objectives of LLCs can be summarized as follows:

- **Accessibility:** LLCs prioritize accessibility, ensuring that training and education content is available to all learners and trainers. By leveraging technology and digital platforms, LLCs eliminate geographical barriers, enabling personnel to pursue continuous education and professional development irrespective of their physical location.
- **Agility:** In a rapidly evolving world, agility is crucial for success. LLCs provide an agile learning environment, allowing Army personnel to remain up to date with the latest training, education materials, and information. Through continuous up-



dates and improvements, LLCs ensure that Soldiers possess the knowledge and skills necessary to meet emerging challenges effectively.

- **Continuity:** LLCs foster continuity in the learning process by seamlessly integrating the three modes of training and education delivery—resident, distributed, and blended. These centers serve as a bridge, enabling a smooth transition between different training phases and ensuring the Army personnel can continually build upon their existing knowledge and expertise.

Lifelong Learning Centers have had a significant impact on the Army community, facilitating continuous learning and professional development. Annually, 400,000 students benefit from LLCs, with 35,000+ course iterations taking place each year.

To further enhance the capabilities of the LLCs, the Enterprise Lifelong Learning Center (ELLC) located at Fort Eustis is currently undergoing a modernization effort that aims to update the infrastructure and application software, ensuring that LLCs operate on the most current versions. This allows for the Army to remain at the forefront of distributed lifelong learning and accessible training.

Contact TPO-ATIS LLC Program Manager, Valerie Wilkinson for more information on the program and its capabilities.



About the Combat Training Center Directorate

By Daniel L. Palmer, Joint Integration Directorate

The Combat Training Center Directorate (CTCD) operates under supervision of the deputy commander of the Combined Arms Center - Training. CTCD serves as the staff for the Combat Training Center Responsible Official and the extended staff of the Headquarters Department of the Army G-3/5/7 to facilitate administration, integration, validation, resourcing, and management of the Combat Training Center Program.

CTCD is responsible for ensuring Combat Training Center (CTC) program requirements and modernization are linked to a viable resourcing strategy and CTC vision for the future. Additionally, The directorate assists in programming and integrating DoD Training Transformation (referred to as Joint National Training Capability) initiatives into the CTC Program.

CTCD also serves as the TRADOC Proponent Office for Opposing Forces (TPO-OPFOR), the centralized manager for all OPFOR capability development activities and user representative for OPFOR training aides, devices, simulators and simulations across the Combat Training Centers and Army-wide.

Within the organization, the Joint Inter-agency, Intergovernmental, Multinational and Strategic Initiatives Division (JID) works as the forward-looking component of the directorate, keeping an eye on the future and strategic vision of the CTC program. JID coordinates with the HQDA G-3/5/7 for planning and the conduct of both the chief of staff of the army CTC Huddle and the Operations Portfolio Council of Colonels.

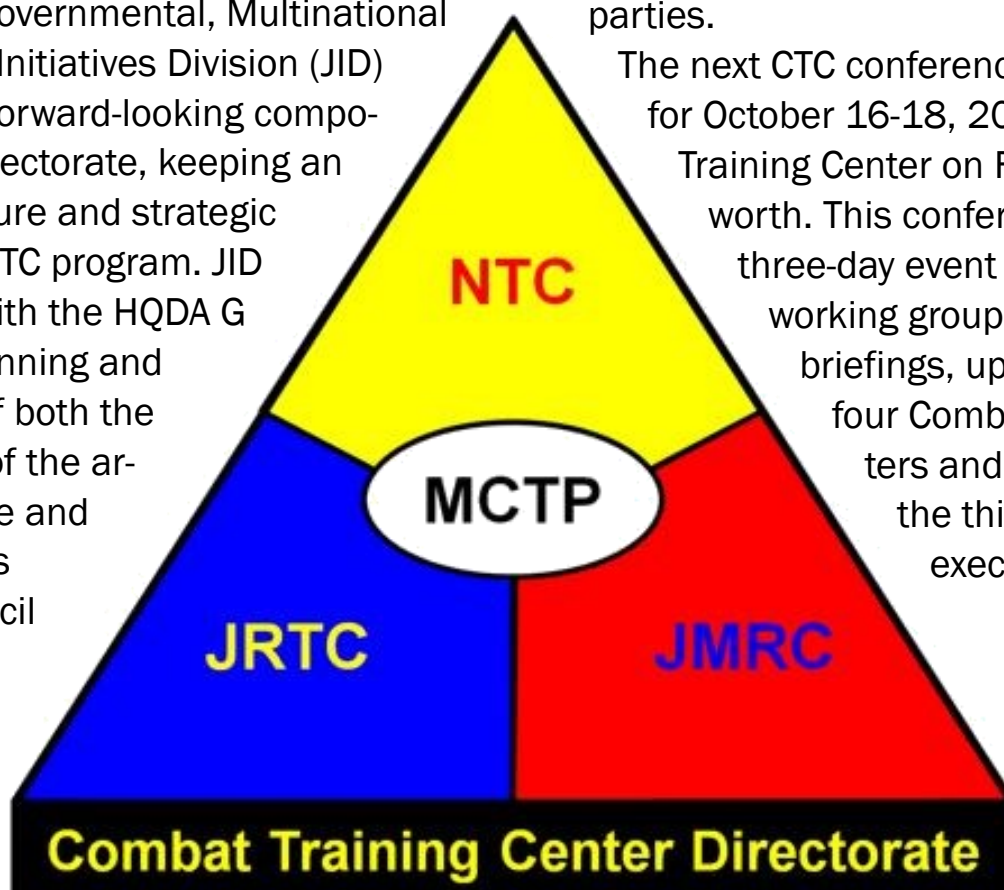
JID participates in the monthly

Combined Arms Center Commander's Force Modernization Forum to keep abreast of the latest Army-wide modernization efforts and force design changes. Also, JID closely monitors the Army Synchronization and Resourcing Program (ASRP) Council of Colonels and the Army Resourcing and Synchronization Conference hosted by US Army Forces Command to ensure Combat Training Center priorities align with the overall Army Senior Leader priorities.

JID also has responsibility for the shaping strategic concepts, futures, and policy of the CTCs. Working closely with the Joint Staff J-7, members of JID program and integrate Joint funding through the Joint National Training Capability program.

CTCD and JID's most publicly visible effort is planning, coordination and execution of the semi-annual CTC Commander's Conference. Hosted by the CAC commanding general in his role as the CTC Responsible Official, the CTC Commander's Conference brings together the all the stake holders in the CTC program including, all four CTC Commanders (NTC, JRTC, JRMC, and MCTP), FORSCOM leadership, HQDA G-3/5/7, PEO-STRI, TRADOC, Commanders from various Centers of Excellence, Human Resources Command (HRC) and the other interested parties.

The next CTC conference is scheduled for October 16-18, 2023, at McHugh Training Center on Fort Leavenworth. This conference will be a three-day event comprising working groups, stake holder briefings, updates from the four Combat Training Centers and conclude on the third day with an executive session.



MCTP conducts training to improve simulation

The Mission Command Training Program conducted the Operational Readiness Exercise at McHugh Training Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The event serves as an annual evaluation to determine fielding and requirements for future warfighter exercises.

At its core, MCTP focuses on developing leaders who can effectively command and control operations across various domains. Whether it be land, air, or cyberspace, this program equips soldiers with the skills they need to excel in complex operational environments.

One of the key components of MCTP is simulation-based training. By utilizing advanced computer models like WARSIM (Warfighter Simulation), trainees are immersed in realistic virtual scenarios where they must exercise their decision-making abilities. This technology-driven approach allows for real-time evaluation and feedback, enabling individuals to sharpen their tactical acumen.

But it doesn't stop there - MCTP goes beyond individual skill development. It also emphasizes collective training by facilitating collaboration among different units and organizations. Through joint exercises and shared experiences, participants learn how to synchronize efforts seamlessly and achieve mission success more efficiently.

That's where the ORE comes in. By conducting the ORE, they are able to identify

areas of improvement within WARSIM and make necessary adjustments.

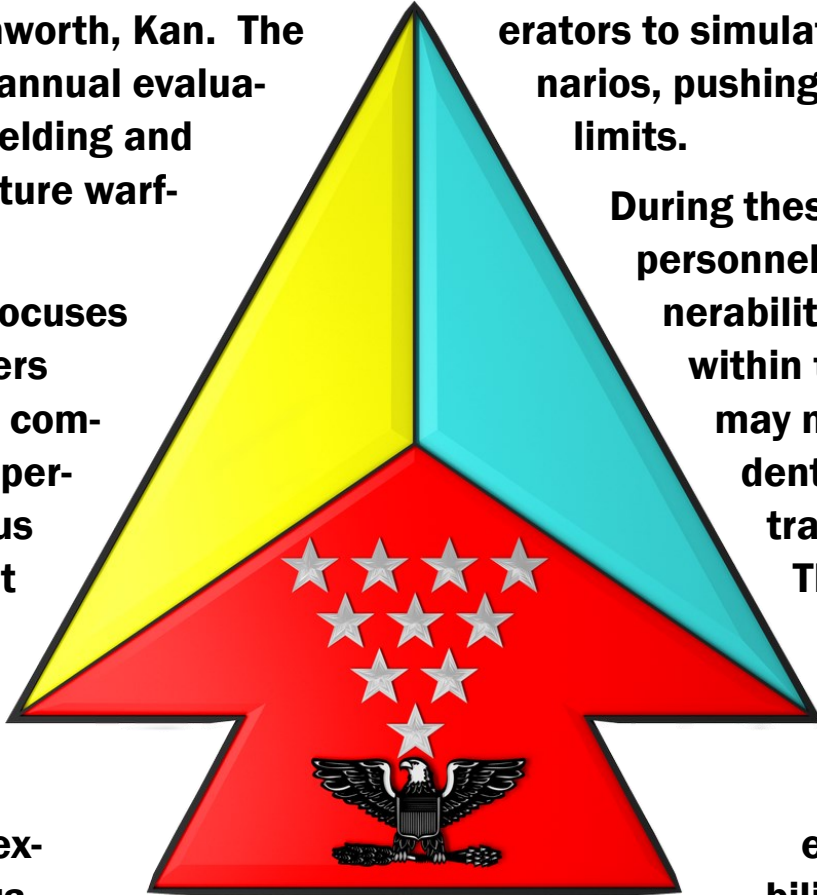
These events allow directors and operators to simulate real-world scenarios, pushing WARSIM to its limits.

During these events, MCTP personnel can uncover vulnerabilities or glitches within the system that may not have been evident under normal training conditions. This invaluable feedback is then used by to fine-tune WARSIM's performance and enhance its capabilities.

In addition to testing the system, MCTP is able to identify any shortfalls and resource requirements to ensure that the system keeps up with the real-life training environment. The evolution of the system is essential in the training of today's warfighters to maintain a level of realism and continue having an effect on improving readiness.

As a result of this targeted training approach, WARSIM became more reliable and effective in preparing soldiers for actual combat situations. Its ability to accurately replicate complex battlefield environments was enhanced through continuous testing and refinement.

MCTP evolves and supports the mission command in unified land operations through constant refinement, rigorous training, and providing updated tools to provide the required stimulation for training audiences to evolve with real world operational environments.



Army Training Network: Bringing Value to the Soldier



U.S. Army Paratroopers assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, plot a point on a map for a land navigation event as part of the Expert Infantryman Badge, Expert Soldier Badge and Expert Field Medical Badge training at Campomulo Asiago, Vicenza, Italy, Oct 26, 2022. Candidates will demonstrate their individual proficiency in navigation from one point to another, while dismounted without the aid of electronic navigation devices. The 173rd Airborne Brigade is the U.S. Army Contingency Response Force in Europe, capable of projecting ready forces anywhere in the U.S. European, Africa or Central Commands' areas of responsibility. (U.S. Army photo by Paolo Bovo)

The skills and proficiencies Soldiers train are the foundation to unit-level collective training. Proficient Soldiers enable their units to execute more complex collective tasks. – FM 7-0

Soldiers are the foundation of the US Army. Well-informed and well-trained Soldiers are essential to unit readiness and accomplishing assigned missions. The [Army Training Network](#) (ATN) is the Army's secure, web-based portal providing access to training and education resources to meet individual Soldier needs. It assists Soldiers in understanding themselves, preparing for required individual and collective tasks, and providing tools to improve themselves and their performance.

Understand Yourself

A Soldier's Individual Training Record (ITR) is the repository for the training accomplished throughout their career. Today, Soldiers can access their ITR through the [Digital Job Book \(DJB\)](#) hosted on ATN. They can log into their DJB at anytime and anywhere they have an internet connection; either through a CAC enabled computer, or on a personal mobile device using a username and password.

The DJB contains Soldiers' latest physical fitness scores, weapons qualification records, unit training schedules (if the unit posts them through the Digital Training Management System (DTMS)), Army Warrior Task (AWT) status, and Individual Critical Task List (ICTL) for the Soldier's military occupation specialty. If a Soldier is preparing for one of the Army's three Expert Badges, the DJB also shows the required tasks to train, when the Soldier trained them, and if the Soldier passed the training. In addition, the Soldier can view other tasks their unit leadership has as-

signed them, including mandatory training.

For airborne Soldiers, the DJB includes a jump record tab that logs of all their past jumps. Unit leaders routinely update a Soldier's ITR following training events through the Small Unit Leader Tool or DTMS. Easy access to the ITR allows Soldiers to understand themselves by checking their records for currency and accuracy, reviewing accomplishments, identifying upcoming requirements, and determining areas for improvement.

Preparing for Training

One of the principles of training in Field Manual 7-0 is 'train to standard using appropriate doctrine.' Army approved doctrinal products such as Soldier Training Publication 21-1-SMCT, Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks, Training and Evaluation Outlines (T&EO), and weapon system publications, establish the standards that all Soldier must meet. ATN supports a Soldier's ability to access doctrinal products and enables them to study, understand, and prepare for training. The more a Soldier knows and understands the performance steps and measures prior to training, the more efficiently they can grasp and execute the task.

Training schedules posted in the company area or the DJB specify training tasks. Knowing the tasks to train, Soldiers can search ATN for proponent approved T&EOs. The DJB provides links to AWT, ICTL, and expert badge tasks to find individual tasks. Soldiers can search for collective tasks using the [T&EO Task Search](#) or the [Platoon Tasks/T&EO's](#) button on the ATN home page. The Platoon search function links directly to the Soldier's unit of assignment to present relevant options for the Soldier to view, download, or print.

As another option, ATN provides access to the [Central Army Registry \(CAR\)](#). The

CAR is searchable and contains field manuals, training support packages, individual and collective tasks, and drills. Reviewing task requirements prior to training, enhances a Soldier's ability to understand and execute the task successfully.

Improve Yourself

ATN can assist Soldiers in the desire for improvement, through pages such as the [US Army Holistic Health and Fitness \(H2F\) Physical Readiness Training \(PRT\)](#) page, the [Expert Badges](#) page, and access to [Operational Environment \(OE\) Games](#) on the Operational Environment (OE)/OPFOR Training-TRADOC G2 page.

On the H2F PRT page, Soldiers can download and review reference publications to learn more about the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). There are also links to individual tasks that provide information on conditioning drills and exercises to help Soldiers prepare for the ACFT. Many of the individual tasks provide links to YouTube videos where individuals can watch how to perform the drills and exercises.

The Expert Badges page is for Soldiers who desire to demonstrate mastery within their chosen profession. The badges include the Expert Infantryman Badge, Expert Soldier Badge, and Expert Field Medical Badge. From this page, Soldiers can explore the history of each badge, eligibility requirements, and the tasks and standards to achieve the badge. There are also links to each badge website where Soldiers can learn more.

The OE Games site provides access to interactive applications to assist with training. These games include Observed Fire Trainer, Land Navigation, and Equipment Identification. Each application provides an opportunity to practice skills learned during training in preparation for future training exercises.

Conclusion

The Army Training Network is an excellent resource for the entire Army. The pages and products provide information for individual and collective training. ATN provides value to the individual Soldier by providing access to training records, doctrinal products to prepare for training, and tools and information that enable Soldiers to improve themselves.

For more information visit the Army Training Network.



CAC-T's heroes of the month — August



Raymond Ingram, Army Training Support Center

TMD

TMD's Hero of the Month is Al Jans. On 30 Jun 23, Al Jans and his son-in-law were preparing to clear brush in Leavenworth, KS, when they heard loud noises and a person yelling. Both men ran in the direction that the noise was coming from and found a large tractor with an attached mower wrapped around a tree and a man lying on the ground bleeding from multiple places. After assessing the victim's injuries, Jans called 911 for assistance and went to the road to guide the emergency responders to the scene where they were quickly able to treat the injured man and transport him to the hospital.

ATSC

Raymond Ingram is the Ammo Training Specialist at the Army Training Support Center (ATSC), U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Proponent Office-Live (TPO-Live), Standards in Training Commission (STRAC) where he assists in educating action officers across Army Commands, Schools, and Centers on the Army Munitions Requirements Council of Colonels (AMRWG) validation process.

Recently, Ingram worked on an effort to reestablish State Ammunition Managers (STAM) workshops for the Army National Guard Bureau (NGB). These workshops facilitate the Train-the-Trainer classes for newly assigned STAMs to learn about the STRAC program, the NGB ammunition process, procedures, and peer networking. The availability of these

workshops is critical to the overall success of these STAMs across the force and help maximize ammunition resources to meet the Army and National Security readiness.

Ingram retired from the U.S. Army as an Infantryman following 20 years of service and he serves as an Army Civilian Professional in ATSC.

CTCD

In his capacity as the CTC JNTC Coordinator, Robert A. Melanson worked tirelessly for the last several months seeking approval of the nomination Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) to become a member Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) community. As of July 2023, that nomination has been approved. The Joint Staff J7's Joint Training Exercise Evaluation Program (JTEEP) Service Board convened and unanimously approved JPMRC and JMISC-INDOPACIFIC (JMISC-IP)'s petition to be officially recognized as a JNTC program on 19 July 2023. Recognition as a JNTC program and subsequent accreditation/certification will avail JPMRC/JMISC-IP of significant Joint resources and capabilities.

CALL

The hero of the month at CALL is Eliseo (Eli) Rivera, who has made significant

contributions to the organization. He completely overhauled the security standard operating procedure for CALL's current location and proactively prepared for the move to Building 50. Additionally, Rivera identified potential issues with the use of MS Teams and implemented measures to prevent accidental exposure of sensitive information, showcasing his exceptional skills and unwavering commitment to protecting CALL's assets.

NSC

The NSC heroes of the month for August are Walter McCullum, Connie Santos, Eric Edgecombe, Shaun Toy, Karen Vaughn and Andre Fontaine. The NSC has been undergoing major renovations over the last several months to repair flood damage sustained in 2022. Over the past four weeks, the main entrance and security checkpoint had to be closed to accommodate construction crews in the central corridors of the building. This team of NSC Army Civilian Professionals simultaneously manned three access control points each day to facilitate all NSC and TMD personnel access to the building to ensure steady state operations during this phase of construction. The team often operated in uncomfortable conditions by the entrances as heat indexes were near 100 degrees outside. Their dedication and professionalism enabled key operations such as the JLCCTC v9 ORE operator training and in-processing to occur with no impact to the mission.



Eliseo (Eli) Rivera, Center for Army Lessons Learned