

From the Commandant's desk

Update on the Fires Targeting Center & DIVARTYs

I would like to start off by saying please take the time to pay tribute to all veterans: present, past and future. While we should all thank our Soldiers for their service every day, find ways to give back to those who have served and protected our country.

Happy Holidays to everyone. This time of the year passes quickly. Please remember to take time to reflect and express thanks for the many great things happening around you. Today's events will be tomorrow's most cherished memories. The holidays are about making good memories; take advantage of every opportunity to make the time count.

As always we are working on multiple initiatives, but in this edition I would like to update you on what's happening with our Fires Targeting Center (FTC).

The Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) tasked the Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) to conduct an Operational Targeting Study to identify gaps in Army targeting. The study compared the Army's abilities against the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center and the Air Force Targeting Center, focusing on areas such as target intelligence; target validation; developing no-strike entities, and conducting collateral damage estimation

The three recommendations from the study were to establish a targeting center, assign proponentcy over targeting matters to the FCoE, and conduct leadership education focused on targeting.

So in order to bring the Field Artillery and the Army in line with Joint targeting standards, a Fires Targeting Center was created.

It is anticipated that the Fires Targeting Center will transition into the Army Targeting Center in the coming year. This change also requires DA approval and will ultimately represent the Army's targeting requirements and greatly enhance Army targeting capabilities. The FTC will be the Army's lead for Joint targeting issues, policy, doctrine, and training.

Recently, the FCoE has gained approval for a change to AR 5-22, "The Army Force Modernization Proponent System" which designates the CG FCOE as the Army force modernization proponent for Targeting. This is great news. AR 5-22 now assigns FCoE

the responsibility for coordinating targeting related DOTMLPF-P functions as well as serve as the user representative for the Army. The FTC is the lead FCoE agency managing these AR 5-22 responsibilities.

Targeting transcends multiple war fighting functions – it encompasses maneuver, intelligence, cyber/electronic warfare, military information support operations, and mission command. This leads the Targeting Center to naturally want and need to partner with other CoEs, including though not limited to the Intelligence, Mission Command, Cyber, and Maneuver Centers of Excellence, as well as the Army operational force, the Joint force, and Combatant Commands.

We have been working diligently to reach out to those we see as partners – Cyber CoE and Intel CoE visits are already complete along with visits to the Naval Air Warfare Development Command, or Navy Targeting Center, and the USAF's 363rd ISRW, formerly called the Air Force Targeting Center. We intend to continue with more visits to socialize what we are doing and to seek active partners in this important Army mission. These partners will be, in our conception, the charter members of an Army Targeting Working Group which will vet ideas, issues, and proposals internally before the Army Targeting Center engages with the joint targeting community as the service's spokesperson.

In this edition, I would like to invite you to read about ***Bold Quest*** [{See page 7}](#). Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, participated in a capabilities demonstration between Bravo Battery and several NATO partners. The exercise served as an interoperability training opportunity for our Field Artillery Soldiers, and was a prime opportunity to practice our Combined, Joint and coalition integration efforts.

Bold Quest occurs once a year and participating nations included artillerymen from Norway, Britain, Denmark, Germany, France and Italy. ***Bold Quest*** helped create strong bonds with NATO countries and opened dialogue and showed their similarities in how we conduct our Field Artillery missions.

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I am proud to report that the last two of our DIVARTYs have activated. 10th Mountain Division and the Big Red One's Division Artilleries are back. [{See pages 9 and 11}](#). We now have all 10 DIVARTYs in place and look forward to providing highly-trained and proficient FA Soldiers with exacting standards, leaders and formations.

Along with 'Big Red One's' DIVARTY activation comes praise for this force structure from a highly-respected Maneuver Commander, MAJ GEN Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. [{See Page 13}](#). Beyond improving support to the Maneuver Commander, the DIVARTY force structure allows us to provide oversight for training all our Field artillery men and women.

Leading from the front are our Field Artillerists from 10th Mountain Division as they have now taken over a mission in eastern Afghanistan [{See Page 10}](#). They are now in charge of training, advising and assisting the Afghan National Defense Forces.

Over the past several years, we have been working on modernizing and strengthening our core competencies as a branch. However, it is important to know we are not alone in this endeavor. Across the Army, other branches are working on restoring their fundamental core warfighting capabilities, too.

GEN Abrams who took command of FORSCOM in August [{See Page 19}](#) stated, "Our fundamental focus is really on restoring our fundamental core warfighting capability. I go back to the example I gave you about a staff sergeant company master gunner who has fired all of three gunneries in his eight-year career. You can choose any branch, and they are going to tell you similar stories."

We are bringing a lot of energy and vigor into developing standards across the FA branch, and we are improving daily. Our DIVARTYs are playing a substantial role in those improvements. Maintenance and readiness have improved significantly.

DIVARTYs across the Army are accomplishing this by instituting standardization letters and Red-books. These documents direct a common standard for cannon, mortar, fire direction and fire support sections for training and certification up to the battalion collective level. There is power in consistency and standardization provides consistent training results.

DIVARTY leaders are enforcing these standards, providing mentorship, direct oversight, and evaluation. Additionally, peer-to-peer mentoring and competitive-

ness is now challenging young officers and NCOs to aggressively learn their profession as DIVARTYs provide detailed focus.

The duties and responsibilities of the DIVARTYs are defined in FM 3-09 and soon to be released ATP 3-09.90, DIVARTY. The FORSCOM Commander further defined their roles and responsibilities in FRAGO 1 to the US Army FORSCOM Division Artillery Implementation Order with DIVARTY Key tasks:

1. Improve the Division Commander's ability to deliver operational and tactical level fires.
2. Serve as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for the Division. The DIVARTY Commander serves as the Division FSCoord.
3. Develop standardized approach to training and integrated fires to ensure accomplishment of operational and tactical level fire support tasks.
4. Provide support to the BCT commanders with FA subject matter expertise. Coach, mentor and develop artillery commanders and leaders, and provide readiness assessment and advice to maneuver commanders.

The bottom line: DIVARTYs are the Fires integrators for the Division and BCT commanders. Through stringent training and certification programs they ensure standardization across the division in the employment of fires assets. Their success is incumbent on building strong relationships across the Division and with Joint Fires resources to ensure the Fires teams deliver over-match to the Division and BCT Commanders.

Finally, in this edition, is an article detailing the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A Milley's priorities for our future Army. It is a good read, and provides us with a road map for what will be in store for us in the future as a part of the America's fighting force and how we must prepare [{See Page 14}](#).

Please have a joyous holiday season. Stand tall, hold your heads high and be proud!

**King of Battle!
Fires Strong!**

Brigadier General William A. Turner