

US Army Fires Support Organizations

Army Multi-Domain Targeting Center

The Army Multi-Domain Targeting Center remains focused on increasing targeting capability across the force and modernizing the Army's Targeting Enterprise. The AMTC's way ahead will continue to build on the tactical Army targeting process of "decide, detect, deliver, and assess" and add the operational/strategic processes of joint intermediate and advanced target development.

In 2018, the AMTC secured funding and began the development of the Army's Target Material Production (TMP) and the Army's Joint Intermediate Target Development (JITD) Courses. Following accreditation of the JITD course by the Defense Intelligence Agency, the AMTC expects to execute the first pilot class in 2019. The National Geospatial Agency will accredit the TMP course and the first pilot will also occur in 2019. As a result of these new courses, ground force commanders will have joint qualified crews and staffs that can effectively plan, integrate and execute cross-domain maneuver and Fires in support of multi-domain operations.

The AMTC is postured to ensure the Army plays a dominant role in multi-domain operations. To synchronize the Army's initiative to build joint multi-domain targeting capacity across the Army Targeting Enterprise, the AMTC will host the Army Targeting Committee on a quarterly basis. This committee will provide operational units with a forum to identify targeting issues from their respective commands. In coordination with the Combined Arms Center, the AMTC will facilitate a targeting table top exercise (TTX) to provide Army senior leaders with a targeting framework for planning, integrating and synchronizing lethal and non-lethal multi-domain capabilities. The TTX will demonstrate how the targeting process integrates all capabilities for multi-domain operations.

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Field Artillery Branch Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate, Human Resources Command

Field Artillery Branch Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate provides Field Artillery Soldiers to active duty U.S. Army field artillery formations all over the world. Responsible for more than 19,000 Redlegs serving in the Army, there are more than 12 to 15 percent of Soldiers on assignment at any given time. In 2018, the team of civilians and Soldiers that work at FA Branch EPMD ensured that United States Army Forces Command units deploying to overseas operations (field artillery units training in support of combat training center rotations), FA formations serving in Korea (Training and Doctrine Command units that train and develop field artillerymen), Army Special Operations Forces requiring artillery-

men with special skills (Recruiting Command), and security forces assistance brigades had the Soldiers necessary to man howitzers, launchers, fire direction centers, fire support teams, radars and headquarters in our field artillery.

FA Branch monitors all components of the career management field 13 manning enterprise including accessions, training, promotions, retention, separations and retirements and assigns noncommissioned officers and Soldiers to meet Army priorities. The FA Branch supports structure growth of field artillery organizations by providing Soldiers to those units and is positioned to assign NCOs and Soldiers to future requirements. Currently, the branch is at 96 percent aggregate strength for all requirements. Thirteen B (cannon crewmember) is the most balanced military occupational specialties within the branch. Mid-grade NCOs (staff sergeants and sergeants) for 13M (Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember) and 13F (joint forward observer) are the two most glaring shortages within the branch.

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/Enlisted/Field%20Artillery%20Branch%20Directory>

Fire Support Test Directorate, Truth in testing!

Since 1902, Fire Support Test Directorate, the longest standing test directorate of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command, has prided itself in being a part of the Army's only independent operational test organization. FSTD tests current and future Army, joint, and multi-service warfighting systems in realistic operational environments, using representative Soldiers and Marines to determine whether a system is effective, suitable and survivable. Throughout 2018, FSTD personnel continued that mission to provide world-class, trusted, and independent operational testing as they planned, conducted and reported on tests of fire support and field artillery systems.

In January, FSTD conducted an Electronic Warfare Planning and Management Tool (EWPMT) Customer Test (CT) at Fort Sill, Okla. The CT used selected active Electronic Warfare Officers and Electromagnetic Spectrum Managers to represent the operational field. The Soldiers participated in a month-long exercise that consisted of train up on the new equipment and a two-week simulated brigade-sized operation using the EWPMT. Specifically, the tool assists the operator in leveraging joint and national spectrum databases and real-time sensing to synergize effects within the area of operations. EWPMT also provides the warfighter with situational awareness in support of offensive and defensive electromagnetic operations. For the two-week simulated battle, Soldiers equipped with the EWPMT were connected to a closed-circuit network

where both friendly and enemy forces were pitted against one another in simulation. With the help of the EWPMPT, Soldiers integrated data elements from live and simulated mission command and intelligence systems to provide an operational picture of the electromagnetic environment and create various courses of action to combat the environment. FSTD created an operational environment, which allowed the gathering of near real-time data used to improve and evaluate this tool.

In March, FSTD near-simultaneously conducted three operations tests (OTs), which included the Joint Effects Targeting System-Target Laser Designation System (JETS-TLDS), Army Tactical Missile System Modernization (ATACMS MOD), and the M109A7 Family of Vehicles (FOV).

FSTD conducted an initial operational test (IOT) of the JETS-TLDS at the Cold Regions Test Center located at Fort Greely, Alaska. Soldiers from D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment and Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment teamed up to participate in this rigorous operational test throughout Alaska's rugged terrain. The JETS-TLDS is a modular advanced sensor suite consisting of three components, the Hand-Held Target Location Module, Precision Azimuth and Vertical Angle Module and Laser Marker Module. The IOT event gathered operational data to verify whether a Soldier using this system could accurately detect, recognize, and identify targets at various extended ranges.

FSTD conducted the ATACMS MOD OT at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Soldiers from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery conducted multiple training events that led to the firing of two ATACMS-MOD missiles. For most Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) crewmembers, firing an ATACMS-MOD is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The existing ATACMS inventory contains cluster munitions, which will be replaced with enhanced and more reliable munitions in accordance with the Department of Defense Policy on Cluster Munitions.

FSTD conducted the M109A7 FOV IOT 2 with Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery at Fort Riley, Kan. The M109 FOV consists of the new M109A7 FOV 155 mm/39 caliber Self-Propelled Howitzer (SPH) and the M992A3 FOV Carrier Ammunition Tracked (CAT). The purpose of the IOT was to test the effectiveness, suitability and survivability of these vehicles in a full operational environment under various tactical scenarios. Soldiers received training, which included collective training at both platoon- and battery-level, beginning with new equipment operations and maintenance training for both the SPH and the CAT. The SPH provides the primary indirect fire support for full spectrum operations. It has the ability to support armored brigade combat teams, infantry brigade combat teams and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. The CAT provides armored ammunition supply support to the

SPH operating in support of full spectrum operations. The battalion, known as *Hamilton's Own* was the first unit equipped with this new capability, deploying with the systems to the National Training Center.

In December, FSTD conducted a user accreditation exercise (UAE) of the Extensible Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence Instrumentation Suite, Fire Support Application (ExCIS FSA) in support of upcoming Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) software testing. The ExCIS FSA provides an integrated test instrumentation suite that supports event planning, preparation, operations, data collection and analysis. Additionally, ExCIS reduces the number of Soldiers, systems and command posts required for test and training events at multiple echelons while providing realistic and robust testing of mission-critical systems, and supports systems' developers with early problem identification.

Concurrently with the UAE, FSTD hosted the product verification test (PVT) of the latest AFATDS software version. A PVT is a system-level developmental test conducted post-FRP (full-rate production) to verify that the production item meets critical technical parameters and contract specifications, to determine the adequacy and timeliness of any corrective actions indicated by previous tests, and to validate the manufacturer's facilities, procedures, and processes.

In 2019, FSTD is scheduled to continue testing improvements to the AFATDS software. These tests will help ensure that Soldiers are equipped with systems that meet their operational needs in support of multi-domain operations.

Joint Readiness Training Center Task Force Fire Support

Observer-controller/trainers from Task Force Fire Support at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., continued to provide world-class coaching, teaching and mentoring to numerous active duty and National Guard units throughout the 2018 calendar year. The rotational calendar was laden with back-to-back training events that found the task force supporting a total of nine units to include readying 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade from Fort Benning, Ga., for deployment to Afghanistan in January of 2018, six active-duty infantry brigade combat teams, and two National Guard infantry brigade combat teams.

Fire support OC/T's at the JRTC have been steadfast in their commitment to improve the Fires war-fighting function at echelon by teaching and coaching current doctrine. Specific training emphasis has been placed on the utilization of unobserved Fires as well as providing coaching on the latest tactics, techniques and procedures to gain and maintain fire direction in GPS-jammed environments. Additionally, Task Force Fire Support conducted video teleconferences, teleconferences and leader ride-alongs



Soldiers from the Joint Readiness Training Center Task Force Fire Support pose for a unit photo. (Courtesy photo)

during rotations in order to inform and spread best practices. All of these efforts are reversing negative trends observed at the JRTC. The task force is looking forward to facilitating pre-deployment training with the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade from Fort Bragg, N.C. beginning 2019.

Mission Command Training Program, Operations Group Bravo, Vikings

Throughout the year, the *Vikings* observer coach training teams across all Warfighting Functions (WfF) delivered unwavering coaching and teaching to six field artillery formations. In total they trained over 2,000 Soldiers from five of the Army's 11 division artilleries (DIVARTYs) and one field artillery brigade (FAB) through Mission Command Training seminars and warfighter exercises (WFXs).

These exercises were fast paced, and offered a

Lt. Col. Chris Brown from Operations Group Bravo coaches majors Lina Vanessa Perez and Jeremy Coates from 1st Armored Division Artillery during Warfighter Exercise 19-2 at Fort Bliss, Texas. (Jason Sweet/U.S. Army)



contested near-peer environment to sharpen the atrophied skills of delivering timely and accurate Fires. Units exercised a myriad of assigned tasks ranging from Counterfire Headquarters to Force Field Artillery Headquarters, while providing input into the division and corps targeting cycles.

The *Vikings* strived to increase the Army and field artillery community's awareness and education on observations, trends and best practices witnessed during the course of previous warfighters. Establishing an operational approach aimed at educating the force helped narrow the organizational focus and amplified outreach opportunities. This approach brought the problematic intricacies of airspace management and control to the forefront of artillery units, resulting in an increased appetite for vertical and lateral coordination of the unit airspace plan. Airspace management, increased DIVARTY/FAB input to the division targeting process, and effective cross-boundary coordination are the primary focus areas for the Fires WfF based on exercise trends. To help improve airspace management, Ops Group Bravo incorporated a workshop in MCT Academics, and shared lessons learned across the force. The emphasis is on synchronization in lieu of deconflicting missions via the Division Joint Air Ground Integration Cell. This is accomplished by incorporating airspace coordination measures into field artillery support plans (FASPs), and integrating all airspace users during planning to enable a permissive environment for Fires. Two consistent improvements over the past several exercises are the increased level of detail in the FASP, and the employment of command posts that are leaner and more lethal.

The *Vikings* participated in several local initiatives to improve the education of field grade officers at the Command and General Staff College. Additionally, the team initiated outreach visits with the Field