

Long Range Precision Fires-Cross Functional Team (LRPF-CFT)

On 6 Oct 17, Army Directive 2017-24 established a future Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) Cross Functional Team (CFT) pilot. The CFT's purpose is to facilitate horizontal and vertical integration within the acquisition enterprise for long range surface to surface fires, improve the speed of materiel development activities, and inform the activation of the Army's future Modernization Command. LRPF is the Army's number one modernization priority and critical to winning in a fight against a peer or near-peer adversary.

The Army must provide Commanders at echelon surface to surface fires that are precise, responsive, effective, and adaptable. Army long range precision fires must be able to penetrate through Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2AD) operational environments by synchronizing effects across multiple domains.

What has the Army done?

- The LRPF CFT Pilot reached Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in November 2017 at Fort Sill, OK.
- The CFT is led by BG Stephen J. Maranian and comprises team members with the appropriate skills and experience who are linked to the Operational Force, Industry, and partners in Academia to bring forward the best solutions for our Soldiers.
- Following mission analysis, the CFT Director briefed the Under Secretary of the Army and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army in December on the CFT's focus areas: Deep Fires, the Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) Missile, and Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA).

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

Deep Fires: Deep Fires will provide the Army and joint force commanders with a surface to surface capability that can penetrate peer adversary A2AD bubbles to engage key targets at strategic ranges.

Long Range Precision Fires Missile: The LRPF missile will replace the aging Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) for the Corps-level fight and above. The LRPF missile provides ten times the current capability through a combination of: increased range; improved logistics and lethality by including two missiles per pod; faster time of flight to target; increased rate of fire; jamming resistance and; lower cost per missile.

Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA): ERCA will be an improvement to the latest version of the Paladin 155mm self-propelled howitzer that provides indirect-fires for the Division-level fight. Building on the mobility upgrades that the M109A7 provides to the fleet, this capability will increase the lethality of self-propelled howitzers to fill gaps in the fires portfolio. ERCA provides ten times the current capability through a combination of: increased range; increased rate of fire; increased lethality; increased reliability, greater survivability and; lower cost per kill.

The LRPF-CFT programs will accelerate surface to surface fires capability and capacity at all echelons to significantly increase the ranges and lethality of current and future fires systems. These efforts will provide additional strategic options to the Joint and Combatant Commanders and serious dilemmas for our adversaries through overmatch.

Resources:

http://sill-www.army.mil/usafas/;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fieldartilleryredleglive>;

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@ArtilleryRedLeg>;

Hashtag: #ArtilleryRedLeg