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US Army Announces Test of Wikis to Revise Tactics, Techniques and Procedures

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. -- The Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate and the Battle Command Knowledge System at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center have launched a test allowing Soldiers and leaders to make real time updates to the Army's Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) via a wiki environment. The intent is to accelerate the creation and sharing of knowledge, as compared to typical timeframes of three to five years for staffing and updating Field Manuals (FMs).

With this test, the Army is exploring the possibility to share and revise TTP using a milWiki platform available on Army Knowledge Online (AKO). Seven FMs that currently describe TTPs have been selected for the test, which will include updates to these TTPs, as well as allow the Army to learn how to rapidly expand this capability to more than 200 other FMs that also describe TTP. During a doctrine reengineering study directed by Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) in May, more than 200 FMs were identified for renaming from FMs to Army TTP (ATTP).

Soldiers and leaders are encouraged to make contributions to revisions for the following FMs, by signing on to AKO, selecting the Self Service Tab, select My Doctrine and then select ATTP Pilot or the URL: https://wiki.kc.us.army.mil/wiki/Portal:Army_Doctrine
The seven FMs available for the pilot are:

- FMI 3-04.155 Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations
- FM 3-07.20 Modular Brigade Augmented for Security Force Assistance
- FM 3-21.9 The SBCT Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad
- FM 3-90.15 Site Exploitation
- FM 3-97.11 Cold Weather Operations
- FM 5-19 Composite Risk Management
- FM 6.01-1 Knowledge Management Section

While the Army is hoping to attract a large volume of Soldiers and leaders to contribute to the ATTPs' revision via the wiki test, it will also be exploring how to provide some governance over how TTPs are shared via the wiki, with editing rules for submissions requiring authentication and expertise, similar to that used by the commercial tool Wikipedia.

This method of revising ATTPs could fill some of the knowledge gap between what students learn at TRADOC schools and the practical application in a fast changing field environment.