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New Qualification Course Trains Knowledge Management (KM) Sections

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan., June 17, 2009 — As the Army Operational Knowledge Management (AOKM) Proponent, the Combined Arms Center (CAC) is responsible for developing an enduring knowledge management capability across the Army. For the last six months, CAC's Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS) has been developing the Army Knowledge Management Qualification Course (AKMQC).

The course will produce a *Knowledge Management Professional* Additional Skill Identifier (ASI)/Skill Identifier (SI) which will allow the Army to track the trained personnel. Along with FM 6-01.1 *Knowledge Management Section*, published in August 2008, and the soon-to-be-published *KM Section Handbook (virtual)*, Soldiers will have both the "what is KM" as well as the "how to do KM" and ready-to-use KM tips and lessons learned.

Although this qualification course was specifically designed for operational KM Sections, it is applicable to the entire Army. BCKS is conducting the first of three pilot courses, Jul 13 – Aug 14. In order, seats will be allocated to: next deploying units (Soldiers); all FORSCOM, USARPAC, USAREUR and Special Forces units; and then all others.

"As the Army begins assigning officers and NCOs to the KM sections at the brigades, divisions and corps, commanders in the field will be asking, 'Where will these personnel get their KM training?'" said BCKS Director Colonel Charles J. Burnett. "The AKMQC will provide that training."

Grounded in FM 6-01.1 and FM 3-0, *Operations*, this course includes separate tracks for officers and NCO content managers. The course will produce KM Sections that can plan, coordinate and synchronize KM, and to train them on various KM processes and technologies, such as the Warfighter Forums and virtual right-seat ride tools.

The five-week course includes a CAPSTONE exercise designed to raise the level of training effectiveness with a KM-focused simulated exercise. The curriculum consists of a common core and individual instruction tailored to meet the special requirements of each duty position.

The KM Section supports the commander and staff in achieving situational awareness and situational understanding to enhance and speed decision making. Like all things important, the Section does that by developing a plan that includes the “how-to” in displaying the common operational picture. That plan details the process on how a unit accesses (and filters) new information internally and externally, and provides a working KM system that can route content while keeping commanders and staff from being overwhelmed.

Some say knowledge is the Soldier’s last competitive advantage; that may be true when realizing that a smart and adaptive enemy is also looking for an edge. At a conference at Fort Leavenworth, Mar 3, 2009, TRADOC GEN Martin Dempsey said, “Knowledge management is one of the things that makes warfare in the future different from warfare in the past.”

About BCKS

Headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS)
<http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/bcks> is a subordinate organization of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC). As the KM lead for CAC, the Army Operational Knowledge Management (AOKM) proponent, BCKS is responsible for defining AOKM requirements for the Army. BCKS develops and implements KM products and services that support collaboration among Soldiers and units. BCKS hosts approximately 60 online professional forums that serve the needs of more than 100,000 DoD Active, Reserve and National Guard leaders. BCKS is a component of CAC-Knowledge, which also includes the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL), Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate (CADD), Military Review Journal and Combat Studies Institute (CSI).