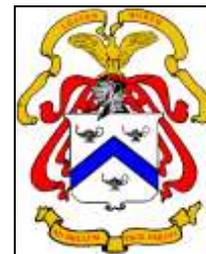




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NATIONAL GUARD UNITS DISCUSS KOSOVO ROTATION FOR GENERAL RELEASE

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Feb. 29, 2008— Army National Guard leaders from three different states met here recently to discuss knowledge management issues related to support of NATO's peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

The 35th Infantry Division (Kansas), the 40th Infantry Division (California) and the 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (Missouri) participated in the collaborative workshop. The units are currently deployed to Kosovo or are slated for an upcoming rotation. The collaboration workshop was conducted by the Battle Command Knowledge System at Fort Leavenworth.

NATO has been leading a peacekeeping operation in Kosovo since June 1999 in support of wider international efforts to build peace and stability in the contested province. The NATO-led Kosovo Force, or KFOR, deployed in the wake of a 78-day air campaign launched by the Alliance in March 1999 to halt and reverse the humanitarian catastrophe that was then unfolding.

The workshop participants agreed upon a KFOR web site, access to the site and document storage procedures. They also gained an understanding of the Virtual Right Seat Ride capability created by BCKS for these specific units.

The vRSR built on Army Knowledge Online allows unit commanders and their battle-staffs to interact with forward deployed units, especially with the units they will replace, in near real-time, to transfer knowledge quicker. The vRSR also enables individual Soldiers and teams to assist peers by providing a place to transfer know-how, experience, insight and lessons learned. As the workshop progressed, BCKS made real-time modifications to the vRSR sites so that the participants had a "ready-to-use" vRSR when they returned home.

The workshop participants returned to their units with a solid understanding of how KFOR will use KM for collaboration before, during and after deployment. Units can request additional KM training, and there will be virtual meetings to follow-up on progress.

“This workshop was a great opportunity for three National Guard units from separate states to develop a knowledge sharing program for exchanging information and data before, during and after their rotations to Kosovo,” said BCKS Director, Col. James Galvin. “KM can enhance mobilization time of National Guard units by employing KM tools (networks, forums, virtual seminars) during pre-mobilization, and accelerates the process to prepare units to be ready to perform their mission as soon as they enter the theatre of operations.”

About BCKS

Headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS) is a subordinate organization of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC). As CAC’s lead agent for implementing Army Operational Knowledge Management (AOKM) across the Army, BCKS is responsible for developing and implementing KM products and services that support collaboration among Soldiers and units. BCKS hosts 80 online professional forums that serve the needs of more than 92,000 Active, Reserve and National Guard leaders. BCKS is a component of the recently created 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) <http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/bcks>