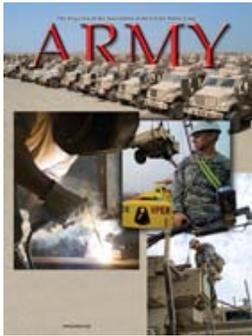




US ARMY COMBINED ARMS CENTER
"Intellectual Center of the Army"
Battle Command Knowledge System

IN THE NEWS

...WHAT THEY'RE SAYING



Inside the Pentagon's
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"For a couple hundred years, the Army has been writing doctrine in a particular way, and for a couple months, we have been doing it online in this wiki," said Col. Charles J. Burnett, the director of the Army's Battle Command Knowledge System. "The only ones who could write doctrine were the select few. Now, imagine the challenge in accepting that anybody can go on the wiki and make a change — that is a big challenge, culturally." --- *New York Times*

"The Army's Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS) is one way we can energize the knowledge sharing process...our ability to facilitate the rapid transfer of KM — while it still has value to those who can immediately put it to use elsewhere on the battlefield— is what KM is all about. Everything else is just mechanics and enabling technology," said CSM Donald Saunders, the command sergeant major of the Aviation branch at the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center --- *ARMY AVIATION Magazine*

"If you've ever read an Army manual and thought you could make it better if only the Army would give you a chance, your moment has arrived...Soldiers and 'anybody with a Common Access Card' can gain access through the Army Knowledge Online site in the 'forums' section of the home page," said Col. Charles Burnett, director of the Battle Command Knowledge System that will run the test." --- *Army Times*

"A BCKS survey of forum participants reported that the professional forums helped save more than 1,400 lives from June 2008 to June 2009. Nearly 2,500 of the more than 100,000 members of 12 forums responded to the survey conducted last year. The respondents also said the forums had conservatively saved them or their unit 6,749 labor hours from June 2008 -June 2009. Likewise, they estimated that the things they had seen, read or downloaded from the Forums saved the Army nearly \$1.6 million... 'The professional forums hosted by BCKS promote a culture of learning in the Army and play a vital role in forming agile and adaptive leaders,' said Mr. Dale Ormond, deputy to the commanding general, Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth. 'The survey clearly shows the value Soldiers place on the knowledge they glean from the online discussions and documents in the Forums.' " --- *Stand-To!*, a daily news sheet from DA Public Affairs that goes to more than 15,000 subscribers, including all general officers, senior executive civilians, and command sergeants major.

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"Through the Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS), for example, a forum provides an environment in which each command can share information. 'We can get comments almost in real time and then incorporate them for the next group being trained,' said Art Schlusel, KM consultant at the U.S. Army War College Center for Strategic Leadership ... The collaboration backbone is provided by Tomoye (tomoye.com) and the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) platform. KM has a large role in military training, because it provides a variety of methods for disseminating information. 'The environments people face in military conflicts are complex, and the downside of failure is high,' said Eric Sauve, CEO of Tomoye." --- *KM World*

"BCKS is designed to rapidly transfer knowledge among soldiers in the operating and generating forces. The participants in the Checkpoint 4 [on NCO Net] discussion gathered virtually in one online community, but geographically resided on four continents and represented both the operating and generating forces. Some participants were in Iraq at the time, most others were veterans of previous deployments. They ranged in grade from sergeant to command sergeant major....Most BCKS members participate in multiple forums. For example a major attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth is a member of the Military Intelligence Net because of his branch. He is also a member of S-3/XO net because of his next likely duty assignment at the battalion level." --- *ARMY Magazine*

"There are of course significant improvements in Army leadership to be realized with new technology. An example today is our ability to network people together in collaborative knowledge-sharing ventures like the Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS) and other communities of practice. Because of systems like the BCKS, people in the Army can now assume a leadership role in one or more fields or areas of interest outside their formal hierarchical positions—unbounded by rank, geography, or duty assignment." --- *Military Review*

"The Army is trying to capitalize on the practices of 'digital natives' by creating online communities for soldiers to exchange information, with the hope of turning into servicewide knowledge...Noncommissioned officers are communicating about issues ranging from combat operations to physical fitness - all on one internet forum developed by the Army. The forum, called NCO Net, is meant to make it easier for NCOs to share information, ideas and best practices among other NCOs. 'I can't understate the importance of NCO Net and knowledge sharing platforms,' said Col. Charles Burnett, director of the BCKS. 'It allows a Soldier to expand his collective base of peers to hundreds or thousands.' " --- *DOD Bloggers Roundtable*

"BCKS is part of CAC-Knowledge, which is moving towards creating one-stop shopping for knowledge products for operational commanders...leverage all [CAC] capabilities to train Soldiers for full-spectrum operations." --- *Defense Daily Network*

"Battle Command Knowledge System Director Col. Charles Burnett said, 'The knowledge manager helps take all the information and all the data that's available out there today in the information world - there's like gazillions of pieces of information - culls it and provides the right information to the right person so they can make the right decision.' " --- *The Fort Leavenworth LAMP*