



# Knowledge Management Update

By CSM Donald R. Sanders

In support of the Department of the Army's Knowledge Management objectives, the Army Aviation Center of Excellence here at Fort Rucker, Ala., stood up the *Aviation Net* portal for use by our aviation Soldiers.

Field Manual 6-01.1, dated Aug. 31, 2008, is a recent publication that addresses Army Knowledge Management (KM) implementation.

## What is Knowledge Management?

As stated in the Army KM principles, "knowledge management is a discipline that promotes an integrated approach to identifying, retrieving, evaluating, and sharing an enterprise's tacit and explicit knowledge assets to meet mission objectives.

The objective of the principle is to connect those who know with those who need-to-know (know-why, know-what, know-who and know-how) by leveraging knowledge transfers from one-to-many across the Global Army Enterprise."

Simply stated, knowledge management is the art and science of connecting people who need the right knowledge, at the right time, to those who have it.

## Knowledge Sharing

Knowledge is a very valuable asset that can be applied to everything in our branch from professional to personal circumstances.

For instance, a Soldier can share information about a new operations cell tactic, technique and procedure so other Soldiers deploying to Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom have the knowledge needed to be more effective and reduce risk to the mission.

To begin to share tacit knowledge, we as a branch must encourage, teach and promote a knowledge-sharing



The new *Aviation Net* knowledge management website can benefit Soldiers such as SPC Chad Wageman, an AH-64D Apache helicopter crew chief with Co. B, 4th Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., 1st Air Cav. Bde. He and fellow Soldiers can help share tips and knowledge on issues like how to assemble the improved outer tactical vest (seen here Feb. 3 at Fort Hood, Texas) and on other topics.

culture to help people understand the value of their knowledge.

This will increase collaboration among peers and enable one to learn from the experience of others.

This can be accomplished through such methods as team-peer assistance, virtual teaming, communities of practice, and in forums.

Documentation of these learning activities can then produce an explicit knowledge source which can be

used to train others in the future.

Listed here are some principles that Soldiers need to know to better use and exploit KM.

## Core Principles of Collaboration

1. Responsibility to Provide: A "need-to-share" should be replaced by "responsibility to provide" mind set.
2. Empowered to Participate: Soldiers and civilians are empowered to participate and share insight in virtual collaborative communities without seeking prior permission.
3. User-Driven: Collaborative communities are self-defining, self creating and adaptable. Users own the collaborative community – not the IT providers.
4. Train and Educate KM Leaders, Managers and Champions: The rationale is to create a culture of collaboration and the Army needs to educate the next generation of KM change agents who understand KM principles and technologies, and can effect change to accelerate meeting mission objectives. The implications are the development of curriculum and instructional delivery methods identified to train and educate the force in KM competency at all levels of the Army.
5. Prevent Knowledge Loss: Here the rationale is knowledge is perishable. It has a life cycle and the life cycle can't begin until it is documented and assessed for its value.

## Joining *Aviation Net*

Accessing the *Aviation Net* and becoming a member is easy. From any non-secure NIPR net computer, open the internet browser.

In the URL address window type: <https://forums.bcks.army.mil>. Then log onto the Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS) with your AKO credentials or your CAC card.

Once into BCKS, click on the “Professional Forums” link, and then the “Index–All Professional Forums” link.

When the next Webpage loads, click on either of the “*Aviation Net*” links that appear on the page. You are now on the front page of *Aviation Net*.

To become a member of *Aviation Net*, click on the “Become a Member” tab. Complete and submit the online form. You will be notified via email when your request has been processed.

## Summary

We have hired James McKinley, a trained BCKS facilitator, to design, develop and maintain the *Aviation Net*.

Any recommended changes can be posted in *Aviation Net*, or you can contact McKinley via email at: [james.mckinley1@us.army.mil](mailto:james.mckinley1@us.army.mil).

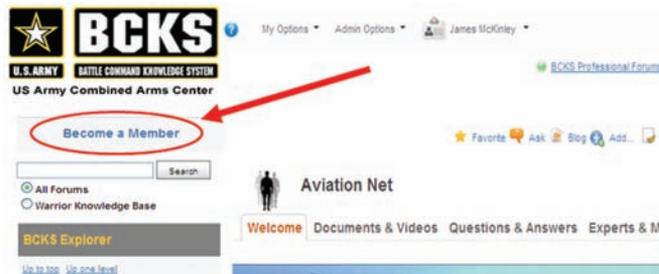
Above the Best!



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