

28 September 2010

Army Training Network (ATN)

What is it?

The Army Training Network (ATN) a single web-based portal for Army training resources. ATN is secure behind Army Knowledge Online (AKO) Single Sign-On (SSO) protocols. Unique to ATN are many tools that allow users an easy, intuitive means to comment on any and all features of the ATN website. A few of the major features on ATN include:

FM 7-0 (Training for Full Spectrum Operations). This data-based version includes links to additional resources that expand and clarify the content of the manual in an easy to navigate format. Future versions will contain links directly to the Training Management feature, also on ATN.

Training Management (TM). TM is the successor to FM 7-1 (Battle Focused Training). It provides step-by-step guidance on how to plan, prepare, execute and assess Army training management. The content of FM 7-0 and TM are inextricably linked.

Training Products. A database of unit developed training products (training briefs, SOPs, checklists, etc) for Soldiers and units to view and download as needed.

Collaboration. ATN has many collaborative tools built into the site providing Soldiers a quick and easy way to provide input to the ATN team and share ideas across the Army training communities of practice.

ATN2GO An iPhone/iPad and Android downloadable application (app) that provides useful training management features from ATN to Soldiers mobile devices. It brings training management to Soldiers when and where they need it.

What has the Army done? ATN was stood-up on 20 Apr 09. Since that time, ATN has continued to expand functions, features and capabilities to meet the training needs of our Soldiers.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future? The immediate future of ATN is to continue to exploit current technologies to deliver training information and knowledge in an easy to navigate format. Since all of ATN's resources are web-based, as new technologies become available, ATN will continue to leverage those resources to deliver training management. Additionally, as the Army has phased out FM 7-1 (Battle Focused Training), ATN is the Army's single source for training management processes. And because these resources are web-based, updating the site to track current Army training ideas, trends and concepts is faster and more efficient than ever before.

Why is this important to the Army?

ATN's goal is to collaboratively share the most current training management doctrine, processes and products to our Soldiers around the globe. This concept takes on greater importance as our Army faces an increasingly agile and persistent threat that demands a dynamic and innovative approach to delivering training management resources.

ATN is available at <https://atn.army.mil>

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Army Training Network Application (ATN2GO)

What is it?

The Army Training Network online application ('app') called ATN2GO allows for mobile access to selected ATN features from mobile phones. Specifically, ATN2GO is currently available for Apple i-Phone/i-Pad and phones using the Android operating systems.

What has the Army done?

In order to exploit current technologies to bring training management products and capabilities to wherever Soldiers are, ATN2GO was developed to do just that. In August 2010 an initial capability app was developed for both the Apple i-Phone/i-Pad and the Android operating systems. These provide Soldiers the ability to access the most useful features found on ATN without requiring access through a PC, or laptop in an office.

Soldiers can download either the Apple or Android versions of the ATN2GO app from the ATN homepage at: <https://atn.army.mil>. To date, about 2,000 downloads of ATN2GO have been noted with around a 10% increase each week in the number of Soldiers downloading the app.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

The ability for Soldiers to do more while they are mobile is becoming increasingly more important by providing the ability to access training information and knowledge while on the go. In the near future, a more dynamic second generation of the original ATN2GO app will be released, giving Soldiers greater access to more ATN features and functions. Additionally, this version will give ATN administrators more flexibility in adding new features to the app without adding significant programming time. It is expected that the next version of ATN2GO will be available NLT JAN 2011. Future plans for ATN2GO will be increasingly oriented to delivering more and more of the many web-based Army training applications beyond just those currently available on ATN.

Why is this important to the Army?

The ability to provide our Soldiers the ability to access training management functions, features and products in a mobile setting is critical. Whether in a classroom, or in a field environment, leveraging current technologies to enable Soldiers to train better is vitally important. Delivering real-time training capabilities to our troops where they need it and when they need will help increase training readiness across the Army.