



# Victory Through Training

from CAC-T Deputy Commander Col. Charles Lombardo

## 1AD embedded in WFX 21-3 will enhance division's WFX 21-4 training



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, and 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division conduct a Combined Arms Live-Fire exercise near Camp Buehring, Kuwait December 20, 2020. 2ABCT was deployed to southwest Asia in support of Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Army photo by: Staff Sgt. Michael West)

### MCTP Staff Report

Fresh off the heels of training as an Enhanced Response Cell (ERC) during Warfighter Exercise 21-3 in February, the 1st Armored Division (1AD) is set to put those lessons to the test in the upcoming WFX 21-4. In April, 1AD will conduct a warfighter simulation at its home base of Fort Bliss, Texas. Every division and corps headquarters in the Army usually conducts a warfighter validation every two years as a training audience. Yet, for the 1AD headquarters team, familiarity with this training opportunity is much more recent.

Warfighter exercises (WFX) test the commanders and staff of brigade, division, and corps headquarters on mission essential tasks, as well as the commander's training objectives in a simulated large scale combat operations environ-

ment (LSCO) through an exercise computer network. The challenges of managing simulated complex ground operations in a highly time-constrained environment helps commanders to identify gaps in their staff's planning and execution capabilities for managing combat operations.

Having evolved the training scenario away from a primary focus on counter-insurgency, the Mission Command Training Program's (MCTP) warfighter exercises today focus on the crucial role that the division main command post, tactical command post and support area command post fill in operating across the deep, close, and consolidation areas of a LSCO environment.

Prior to going through a WFX, training audiences complete a series of command post exercises, much in the

way that Army training starts at the individual and works its way up to collective squad, platoon and company-level training events. During WFX 21-3 in February, 1AD used their Command Post Exercise-3 (CPX 3) training event to perform as an ERC for the 1st and 3rd Infantry Divisions.

"Embedding CPX 3 into a WFX as an ERC improves WFX training objectives," said MCTP Deputy Commander Myron Reineke.

According to Lt. Col. James Brogan, the main benefit to embedding 1AD's CPX into this warfighter exercise is that it allowed the division to execute a repetition in the new Baltic scenario under III Corps as the higher command element before the division goes into WFX 21-4 with III Corps as its higher headquarters. Brogan is the intelligence warfighting function chief for MCTP's Operations Group Bravo and lead planner for the group's upcoming warfighter with 1AD.

This arrangement offered the 1AD staff access to other exercise role players operating in support of WFX 21-3, including unified action partners. The CPX also allowed the division to observe peer units during warfighter training and to revise operating procedures and staff products. The 1AD staff used the enhanced response cell experience to revise the tactical standard operating procedures (TACSOP) and planning standard operating procedures (PSOP) to provide better information, make better decisions, and generate more refined guidance to subordinate units. This sets the conditions for a higher level of division staff training for 1AD during WFX 21-4.

## VICTORY THROUGH TRAINING

A Combined Arms Center-Training podcast produced by CAC-T Public Affairs



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### DOCTRINE UPDATE

The updated Army Field Manual 7-0 is scheduled to be published late spring.

Major changes include

- Simplified training by re-introducing the Training Management Cycle.
- Inextricable link between training and leader development
- Critical role of senior leaders/NCOs in training
- "Fight to Train" principle of Training
- Return to three training proficiency ratings (T, P, U)

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