Army Warfighting Challenges

updated 29 Sep 2017 (this edition supersedes all previous editions)

Army Warfighting Challenges (AWFC) – enduring first-order problems, the solutions to which improve the combat effectiveness of the current and future force.

Develop Situational Understanding – Lead: ICoE, Primary Support: MCoE, SOCoE
How to develop and sustain a high degree of situational understanding while operating in complex environments against determined, adaptive enemy organizations.

Shape the Security Environment – Lead: MCCoE, Primary Support: SOCoE
How the Army influences the security environment and engages key actors and local/regional forces in order to consolidate gains and achieve sustainable security outcomes in support of Geographic Combatant Commands and Joint requirements.

Adapt the Institutional Army and Innovate – Lead: ARCIC
How to improve the rate of innovation to drive capability development and deliver DOTMLPF-P solutions to the warfighter at a pace that meets operational demand within the existing constraints of the acquisition and budgeting processes.

Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction – Lead: MSCoE
How to prevent, reduce, eliminate, and mitigate the use and effects of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosives (CBRNE) threats and hazards on friendly forces and civilian populations.

Conduct Homeland Operations – Lead: MSCoE
How to operate across multiple domains and with multiple partners to defend the homeland and mitigate the effects of attacks and disasters.

Conduct Space, Cyberspace, Electronic Warfare, and Communications Operations –
Lead: CCoE, Primary Support: SMDC
How to assure access to and integrity of critical data and information, across multiple domains, in an increasingly contested and congested operational environment, while simultaneously denying the same to the enemy.

Enhance Realistic Training – Lead: CAC-T, Primary Support: MCCoE
How to train Soldiers, leaders, and units to ensure they are prepared to accomplish the mission across the range of military operations while operating in complex environments against determined, adaptive enemy organizations.

Improve Soldier, Leader, and Team Performance – Lead: ARCIC CDD
How to develop resilient Soldiers, adaptive leaders, and cohesive teams committed to the Army professional ethic that are capable of accomplishing the mission in environments of uncertainty and persistent danger.

Develop Agile and Adaptive Leaders – Lead: MCCoE
How to develop agile, adaptive, and innovative leaders who thrive in conditions of uncertainty and chaos and are capable of visualizing, describing, directing, and leading and assessing operations in complex environments and against adaptive enemies.

Conduct Air-Ground Reconnaissance and Security Operations – Lead: MCoE, Primary Support: AvCoE
How Army formations conduct continuous integrated reconnaissance and security operations across multiple domains (air/land/cyberspace/space/maritime) to rapidly develop the situation while in contact with the enemy and civilian populations.

Conduct Joint Expeditionary Maneuver and Entry Operations – Lead: MCoE
How the Army deploys and projects forces, conducts forcible and early entry, and sets conditions across multiple domains to rapidly transition to offensive operations to ensure access and seize the initiative.

Conduct Wide Area Security – Lead: MCoE, Primary Support: AvCoE
How Army forces establish and maintain security across wide areas (wide area security) and across multiple domains to protect forces, populations, infrastructure, and activities necessary to shape security environments, consolidate gains, and set conditions for achieving policy goals.

Ensure Interoperability and Operate in a Joint, Interorganizational, and Multinational Environment – Lead: MCCoE, Primary Support: SOCoE
How to integrate joint, interorganizational, and multinational partner capabilities and campaigns to ensure unity of effort and accomplish missions across the range of military operations.

Conduct Cross-Domain Maneuver – Lead: MCoE, Primary Support: AvCoE
How to conduct effective cross-domain maneuver across multiple domains to defeat enemy organizations and accomplish missions in complex operational environments.

Set the Theater, Sustain Operations, and Maintain Freedom of Movement – Lead: SCoE, Primary Support: AMC
How to set the theater, provide strategic agility to the joint force, and maintain freedom of movement and action during sustained and high tempo operations at the end of extended lines of communication in austere environments.

Employ Cross-Domain Fires – Lead: FCoE, Primary Support: SMDC
How to employ cross-domain fires to defeat the enemy and preserve freedom of action across the range of military operations (ROMO).

Exercise Mission Command – Lead: MCCoE
How to understand, visualize, describe, and direct operations consistent with the philosophy of mission command to seize the initiative over the enemy and accomplish the mission across the range of military operations.

Develop Capable Formations – Lead: ARCIC CDD
How to design Army formations capable of rapidly deploying and conducting operations for ample duration and in sufficient scale to accomplish the mission.

AvCoE = Aviation Center of Excellence	*AMC = US Army Materiel Command*
CCoE = Cyber Center of Excellence	*ARCIC = Army Capabilities Integration Center*
FCoE = Fires Center of Excellence	*CAC = US Army Combined Arms Center*
ICoE = Intelligence Center of Excellence	*CAC-T = CAC-Training*
MCoE = Maneuver Center of Excellence	*CDD = Capabilities Developments Directorate*
MCCoE = Mission Command Center of Excellence	*SMDC = US Army Space and Missile Defense Command*
MSCoE = Maneuver Support Center of Excellence	*SOCoE = Special Operations Center of Excellence*
SCoE = Sustainment Center of Excellence	

Army Warfighting Challenges Online:

❖ Contribute at the milBook collaboration site: *https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/army-warfighting-challenge-awfc-group*

❖ milWiki information site: *https://www.milsuite.mil/wiki/Army_Warfighting_Challenges*

❖ Public information site (does not require a common access card or password): *http://www.arcic.army.mil/Initiatives/armywarfightingchallenges*

❖ SIPRNet collaboration site: *https://intellipedia.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Army_Warfighting_Challenges*

Change from the 8 Sep 2017 edition: new title and problem statement for AWFC #15 were approved by Director, Army Capabilities Integration Center on 29 Sep 2017.