Force 2025 Maneuvers White Paper

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Introduction

Force 2025 Maneuvers provides the means to evaluate and validate expeditionary capabilities for the Brigade Combat Team (BCT), retain overmatch through 2025, and set conditions for fundamental changes to the Army beyond 2025. To accomplish these objectives, Force 2025 Maneuvers includes wargaming, exercises, experiments, evaluations, and other efforts focused on determining how the Army organizes and designs the force. Ultimately, in the operational and organization concept for Force 2025, the Army explores and validates organizational structures and integrated DOTMLPF solutions needed to optimize the force to accomplish its assigned missions in the future.

Army Vision for the Force 2025 Maneuvers

The Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of 2025 or BCT 2025 is a component of the efforts of Force 2025 for a more responsive, expeditionary BCT than exists today. BCT 2025 provides more capable protection to its Soldiers, than the BCT of today and retains operational and tactical overmatch against its opponents. BCT 2025 provides mobile, protected firepower and long-range precision fires. Manned and unmanned ground, as well as air platforms is able to operate at greater ranges, higher speeds with improved fuel efficiency. BCT 2025 has reduced power and energy demands, prepared to operate effectively against any threat.

Accordingly, the Army enables the BCT with increased CBRNE detection, effective counter anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) and leading cyberspace operations capabilities. BCT 2025 employs reliable mission command on-the-move (MCOTM) providing leaders and Soldiers with timely, correct, and precise information facilitating decision making from the brigade to the squad. The BCT's Mission Command (MC) is agile, innovative, defendable and dependable.

Bringing BCT 2025 capabilities from concept to reality requires a series of experiments and exercises. Force 2025 Maneuvers will be the method to do so, which ensures the Army can better execute Strategic and Expeditionary Maneuver to facilitate the application of Strategic Landpower by 2025. TRADOC has direct oversight responsibility for implementation and management of Force 2025 Maneuvers and determines evaluation, experimentation, and exercise requirements. FORSCOM selects the best available units to benefit from particular experiments and exercises. The Brigade Modernization Command's (BMC) mission is to support Force 2025 Maneuvers, with attached FORSCOM units as directed, as well as directed FORSCOM enablers to facilitate Force 2025 Maneuvers. BMC's focus is to evaluate operational and organizational concepts and capabilities, including science and technology initiatives.

Force 2025 Focus Areas

The near-term focus is "Enabling an Expeditionary Army." The objective is to create an expeditionary Army with increased survivability, lethality, and mobility than we have today. The themes of Force 2025 Maneuvers focus on improving specific capabilities, including, but not limited to: (1) lethality, mobility, and protection, (2) sustainment, (3) mission command on the move, (4) CWMD, (5) deployment/employment of operationally significant forces, (6) cyberspace operations, and (7) the human dimension.

1. Lethality, Mobility, and Protection

Force 2025 requires the capability to close with and defeat enemy forces while conducting combined arms operations, wide area security and special operations to accomplish mission objectives. They also require the capability to maneuver in all tactical and operational environments to destroy enemy capabilities and accomplish joint task force objectives by employing a combination of defeat and stability mechanisms. Additionally, Force 2025 needs the capability to detect threats at sufficient ranges and with sufficient accuracy and timeliness to disrupt, degrade, or destroy threat capabilities and protect friendly and other critical assets.

This focus area evaluates and validates innovative training capabilities, including Live/Virtual/Constructive (L/V/C) integrated training events, Capability Set fielding, Home Station Training, and Soldier, Leader, and Sustainment Training to support the force. BMC will evaluate all capabilities for Doctrine, Training, and Leader Development and Education (DTL) impacts and compile DTL annexes for DOTMLPF report to support Army gap resolution.

2 Sustainment

Force 2025 requires the capability to support centralized and decentralized operations for extended periods of time, over extended distances and at various rates of maneuver. Operations will be in permissive, semi and non-permissive environments. Force 2025 requires the capability to rapidly deploy and sustain forces, equipment, and materiel to multiple, widely dispersed locations down to point of employment in immature theaters. Reliance on improved aerial and sea ports of debarkation, fixed bases or gratuitous operational level supply nodes will not be a viable. Anti-access challenges to allow the joint force to seize, retain, and exploit the initiative will stress sustainment. This includes the capability to sustain operations under conditions of limited resources through the increased use of energy efficient technology and renewable energy sources.

Force 2025 Maneuvers collaborates operations with science and technology to source non-materiel and materiel solutions. Force 2025 Maneuvers works across DOTMLPF disciplines to validate Force 2025 capabilities and concepts. The end-state for sustainment is accelerated capabilities to support strategic landpower and sustain the expeditionary Army.

3. Mission Command on the Move

Force 2025 require leaders, Soldiers, and organizations are grounded in fundamental attributes and military tactical and technical competencies, skilled in applying the principles of mission command and capable of employing mission command systems to succeed in unified land operations. BCT 2025 transitions from large, fixed command posts (CPs) to expeditionary and mobile mission command posts and nodes. In order to best leverage our Mission Command capability, Force 2025 Maneuvers assess/validate portable and energy-efficient CPs for BCT 2025. In addition to being modular and scalable, CPs will have maturing multi-fuel and renewable energies.

In order to facilitate Mission Command, the Army transitions to a single Common Operating Environment (COE). Force 2025 Maneuvers standardizes Mission Command systems/capabilities at all the C2 nodes (BDE and BN Main and TAC) with COE and common mobile MC systems capable of vertical and horizontal integration. Force 2025 Maneuvers achieves a standard MC solution down the squad in the dismounted force. MC solutions are accessed for all variations of BCT 2025, Echelons above Brigade and Air-Ground integration. Finally, Force 2025 Maneuvers assesses requirements for cloud capabilities at the Battalion and Brigade.

4. Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD)

Force 2025 requires the capability to operate in contaminated environments. Toxic industrial chemicals and materials, chemical warfare agents, biological weapons, radiological hazards, nuclear devices and high-yield explosives represent the range of threats which Force 2025 must protect against. Force 2025 requires the capability to identify these threats and hazards and the capability to conduct chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protection.

Employment of these threats as a weapon of mass destruction against the homeland or overseas adds a higher complexities as enemy forces weaponize these hazards to cause large scale fatalities, contaminate areas and produce widespread damage. Force 2025 is able to survive contamination or a WMD attack, manage the consequences and aftermath thereof, and maintain mission effectiveness in contaminated environments.

Neutralization of WMD or toxic materials requires Force 2025 to be able to identify, secure and dispose of these hazards. The ability for a CWMD force to conduct successful operations in permissive, semi or non-permissive operational environments is required. This involves small to large scale civil-military operations domestically within the national response framework and with interagency and international partners abroad.

Force 2025 Maneuvers identifies best operational practices, civil-military, interagency, non-governmental and international integration, as well as science and technology to enable an expeditionary Army to operate successfully in a complex operational environment involving WMD and high toxic hazards.

5. Deployment/Employment of Operationally Significant forces

Force 2025 requires the capability to deploy forces with a fight off the ramp configuration with minimal reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) and reconfiguration. Employment will be for austere and complex geographical environments to allow the joint force to seize, retain, and exploit the initiative. Force 2025 requires the capability to control, integrate, and synchronize retrograde and redeployment for intra and inter-theater transportation flow, enabling rapid combat power regeneration during all phases of unified land operations. By do so; Force 2025 reconstitutes quickly extending operational reach and prolonging endurance.

6. Cyberspace Operations

Force 2025 requires a combined arms approach to building, operating, and defending friendly cyberspace, while simultaneously exploiting, attacking, and influencing adversary cyberspace to enable mission command and succeed in unified land operations. Soldiers, leaders, and organizations must understand space and cyber electromagnetic (CEM) capabilities, limitations, vulnerabilities, and interdependencies and can holistically integrate space operations and CEM activities in and across all warfighting functions. Force 2025 gains and maintains a technological advantage; deny, disrupt, degrade, or destroy enemy space and CEM capabilities; and succeed in unified land operations.

Force 2025 Maneuvers serves to exercise cyberspace operations and experiment with emerging or new practices to improve cyberspace operations tactics, techniques and procedures. Force 2025 Maneuvers exercises different configurations to protect friendly systems and counter threat cyberspace activities. Force 2025 Maneuvers may operate virtually across all DOTMLPF functions to advance ideas, concepts and possibilities into realistic and viable solutions.

7. Human Dimension

Force 2025 requires the ability to identify, access, retain, and develop Soldiers with unsurpassed cognitive, physical, and social (moral and cultural) capabilities. These forces require Soldiers enabled by technology and cognitive, medical, and social sciences to excel in small unit competence and dominate increasingly complex operational environments. Additionally, future Army forces require the ability to leverage technologies and processes that optimize and restore cognitive and physical performance.

Force 2025 Maneuvers employs internal and external aspects to explore DOTMLPF solutions which enable the expeditionary Army to meet these challenges.

Conclusion

Force 2025 Maneuvers provides DOTMLPF solutions for the expeditionary Army. Force 2025 Maneuvers uses multiple venues, experimentation in Army battle labs and other field locations, joint and combined multi-echelon collective training exercises to define Force 2025. This focused development produces more easily deployed BCTs which have the same or better lethality, mobility, and agility as our current BCTs.

As a result of this effort, Force 2025 Maneuvers builds the Future Army by moving from today's known point to an expeditionary land force for tomorrow. The complex operational environment of 2025 requires the Army to operate differently. Force 2025 is able to conduct operations to prevent, shape, and win utilizing agile, responsive, and innovative combined arms, wide area security and special operations guided by Mission Command. Force 2025 maneuvers strategically as the Army is regionally engaged and responds globally through expeditionary maneuver to restore strategic balance.