

INFORMATION PAPER

ATFC-EE
26 May 2016

SUBJECT: Unified Challenge FY17

1. Purpose: To provide an overview on the Unified Challenge FY17

2. Background: The Concept Development and Learning Directorate (CDLD) leads the FY2017 Unified Challenge (UC) series of experiments for the Centers of Excellence (CoEs) to qualitatively and quantitatively assess Army Warfighting Challenge (AWFC) learning demands and measure force effectiveness of Force 2025 and Beyond (F2025B) Operational and Organizational (O&O) concepts. UC 17 confirms Mid O&O concepts, and will focus on Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), functional brigades, multifunctional brigades and other formations directly influenced by Theater Army, Corps and Division and will evaluate the performance of the O&O Concepts through the lens of the Force Design Principles.

3. Description:

a. Think. In FY 17, UC will explore O&O concepts, force designs, and innovative technologies that will improve how the Army operates in the future (2025-2030 timeframe). Specifically, we will explore possible solutions to issues such as: how the Army, against a near-peer threat conducts reconnaissance and security operations; conducts Joint Combined Arms Maneuver without air superiority; exercises Mission Command and synchronizes operations across all domains; and develops capable formations through echelonment, allocation, and force pooling. Additionally, Unified Challenge provides opportunities for the operational force to influence future force development while training commanders and their staffs.

b. Learn.

(1) UC 17 is composed of two Army-level experiments: 1) a *Game-based* experiment (GAMEXp) in 22 JAN- 10 FEB 2017, to inform Entry Forces Mid O&O concepts and continue development of Follow-on Forces and Support Forces Mid O&O concepts. and 2) a *Simulation-based* experiment (SIMEXp), 05-29 SEP 2017, to confirm, deny, or modify issues from initial O&O concepts; refine capabilities; and increase fidelity of S&T enablers in O&O concepts. Maneuver Battle Lab will lead both events. These discreet and separate learning events are a part of the overall Force 2025M Campaign of Learning and will inform the AWFC Running Estimates. They will provide an Army-level platform for all warfighting functions to execute Army core competencies to adapt the current force to complete Force 2020, and explore innovative approaches for the Force 2025 and Beyond. Across UC 17 experiments, all BCT types will be examined through vignettes, i.e. reconnaissance and security forces, to explore options to generate tailorable and scalable force designs. Experiments are conducted within the overall timeline of the scenario, but are independent of each other in the sense that each experiment will reach its own outcomes.

(2) Scenario. UC17 will use Defense Planning System compliant - TRADOC Scenario 7. Army Forces as part of the joint force will face a near-peer threat to create realistic starting conditions reflecting new capabilities with a new way to fight, including joint and interorganizational participation. The scenario and all associated products will be classified SECRET//REL FVEY to allow for allied participation. In order to meet planning milestones, TRAC will publish a Division OPOD (Phase III) and all annexes in 4Q FY16 and the complete the scenario NLT 1Q FY17.

c. Analyze. Each UC experiment will conclude with a week-long “Analytical Scrum” where analysts and concept writers will analyze results and incorporate finding into revised O&O Concepts. Army Experimentation will use CNA task completion and gap assessment to measure force effectiveness; and multiple maneuvers to assess formations, based on critical gaps, AWFC LDs and other issues nominated by O&O concept developers. Each experiment will produce a F2025 Maneuver Event Report with key insights, findings, and recommendations. F2025M Event Report will be submitted to the battle lab’s proponent organization, Joint and Army Experimentation Division (JAED), and ARCIC F2025B Directorate. JAED, in collaboration with the Experimentation Council of Colonels, will ensure approved recommendations are staffed to inform AWFC running estimates. All event reports will be posted on the F2025M Collaborative Environment, Master Library (<https://cadie.tradoc.army.mil/F2025M/Bi-weekly%20Sync/SitePages/Home.aspx>).

d. Implement. The report will recommended findings either “For Continued Learning” or “For Implementation”. “For Continued Learning” findings will recommend new learning demands for inclusion in the AWFC Learning Demands section of the AWFC Running Estimates. “For Implementation” findings will recommend Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership & Education, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF) solution strategies for inclusion in the Near, Mid, and Far Term Solution Strategies section of the AWFC Running Estimates. These findings will be included in the Mid O&O updates.

4. Summary. UC 17 will provide a rigorous and realistic set of learning events to qualitatively and quantitatively assess AWFC learning demands and possible improvements to force effectiveness while providing training and collaboration opportunities for the operational force.

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