

Conference shapes direction of Doctrine 2015

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Fort Leavenworth, Kan. — More than 100 doctrine leaders from across the Army and joint community met in Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 3-4 to discuss a major change in the way Army doctrine is developed and disseminated. With guidance from the Army's senior leadership, the group reviewed plans that leverage emerging technology to accelerate and modernize the entire doctrine development process.

At a 2009 doctrine conference, it was decided that the Army had too many field manuals — 550 to be exact — and the doctrine program had to be streamlined. The Doctrine 2015 concept dramatically changes the Army's doctrinal structure. At this year's conference, participants reviewed how doctrinal information is categorized under the Doctrine 2015 concept, with the goal of making fewer and shorter publications and the entire development process faster, more collaborative and more accessible. The conference was led by the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate, a subordinate organization of the Mission Command Center of Excellence in the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth.

Army representatives included the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, the Army Medical Department Center and School, the Judge Advocate General School, and the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Joint participants included doctrine chiefs from the Marine Corps Combat Developments Command, the Naval Warfare Center, and the Air Land Sea Applications Center.

"Conference attendees had the opportunity to directly shape what the doctrine process of the future will look like," said CADD Director Clint Ancker. "This is the first comprehensive review of our doctrine structure that is based on the impact that an evolving operational environment and technological advances have in how we collect, display and disseminate information."

Doctrine 2015 will create five separate classes of publications:

1st level: The Army is currently looking at a total of 15 Army doctrine publications, each limited to approximately 10 pages.

2nd: A reference publication will be published for each Army doctrine publication and include multi-media educational tools.

3rd: A final group of 50 FMs, limited to 200 pages each, will lay out tactics and procedures and describe how the Army executes operations described in the ADP.

4th: This class of techniques will discuss non-prescriptive ways or methods used to perform missions, functions or tasks. They will be wikis that can be accessed, updated and maintained on the web.

5th: This final class of publications, applications, will consist of interactive media, podcasts and mobile apps that can be downloaded on "smart devices," such as smartphones, electronic tablets or other similar, yet-to-be-determined, portable devices. Combined with updated, knowledge-based training technology, the revamped process helps Soldiers and leaders receive the right information at the right time and right place. In the coming months, CADD will continue to refine the new process and determine how to best implement it with the Army's doctrine proponents.

"This initiative provides the Army a body of knowledge that serves as the foundation for the profession," said MC CoE Director Col. Charles Flynn. "The Doctrine 2015 initiative creates a doctrinal process that is clear, concise and current, relying on capturing lessons learned and delivering experience-enriched doctrine to the force."

Based at Fort Leavenworth, the Mission Command Center of Excellence develops and integrates mission command solutions at all levels of command to prepare leaders and their units to successfully conduct full-spectrum operations in any environment. To learn more about the Mission Command Center of Excellence, visit <http://mccoe.army.mil>.

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