



For media queries or more information please contact Bill Ackerly, Strategic Communication Officer, Mission Command Center of Excellence (MC CoE) (913) 684-8525 william.g.ackerly.civ@mail.mil



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mission Command Center of Excellence
415 Sherman Ave.
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
<http://mccoe.army.mil>

31 January 2012



Army Professional Forums reach 250,000 members

(Bill Ackerly, Mission Command Center of Excellence)

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – The Army Professional Forums recently reached 250,000 members. The 250,000th member was Staff Sgt. Matthew Taylor, Counter-IED Instructor, from Fort Polk, La. Taylor said he joined “to ensure that his unit was tracking the most current trends, TTP’s, and equipment used in the C-IED fight.”

The Army Professional Forums began in 2004 with four officers who were preparing to assume command of companies and wanting to learn lessons from those who had gone before them. This marked the beginning of CompanyCommand.com. At nearly

the same time, NCOs began a forum to share online with each other at SquadLeader.com. Both forums were gifted to the Army.

Since then, the Forums have grown by an average of 30 per cent every year. Other forums have been started in order to assist even more Soldiers and answer the needs of the Army. Today there are more than 50 Forums that offer Soldiers of all ranks and professions a secure way for them to exchange ideas and information to grow personally and professionally.

On September, 2010, the Battle Command Knowledge System (BCKS) Professional Forums were transferred from BCKS to the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL). The power of peer to peer learning provided by the Forums is now coupled with the thoroughly analyzed and captured knowledge of CALL. Providing a link to the Request for Information (RFI) system and the Army Lessons Learned Information System (ALLIS) has enriched and expanded CALL’s extensive database, enabling the organization to not only respond to one individual Soldier, but also reach a potential 250,000 professionals world-wide.

The Army Professional Forums have also grown in their ability and capabilities to better assist both the Operating and Generating Forces to exchange knowledge within the Army. With more

than 250,000 Soldiers and Civilians voluntarily participating in the Professional Forums, the flow of Army knowledge from those Soldiers who have it to those Soldiers who need it has greatly improved.

The overarching mission of the Army Professional Forums is to support the online generation, application, management and exploitation of Army knowledge to foster collaboration. Soldiers and units share expertise, experience, best practices, and lessons which are rapidly disseminated back to the soldiers that need it. Furthermore, the Army Professional Forums facilitate leader development and intuitive decision making as well as support the development of organizations and teams.

The enemy is very adaptable and shares best practices and lessons at the speed of cellular phones and emails. Our Army must be at least as fast, if not faster, than them. 250,000 members, working in unison with CALL's Rapid Adaptation abilities, have provided a tool that has become very difficult for adversaries to keep up with, thus assisting our Soldiers to stay ahead of our enemies in the learning war.

If you are not a member of the Army Professional Forums and would like to join, you can find them at the url <https://forums.army.mil>

Headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., the Mission Command Center of Excellence (MC CoE) is a network of organizations that develops and integrates Mission Command DOTMLPF requirements and solutions across the six warfighting functions in order to prepare commanders and leaders to successfully conduct Unified Land Operations. To learn more about the MC CoE, visit <http://mccoe.army.mil> .