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August 11, 2011

Doctrine planners meet to validate Army's new doctrine process

(Bill Ackerly, Mission Command Center of Excellence)

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KS – More than 100 doctrine leaders from across the Army and joint community met in Kansas City, August 3-4, to discuss a major change in the way Army doctrine is developed and disseminated. With guidance from the Army's senior leadership, this 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 FM's (550 to be exact) and that the doctrine program had to be streamlined. Fast forward a couple of years and we now have the Doctrine 2015 concept that dramatically changes the Army's doctrinal structure.

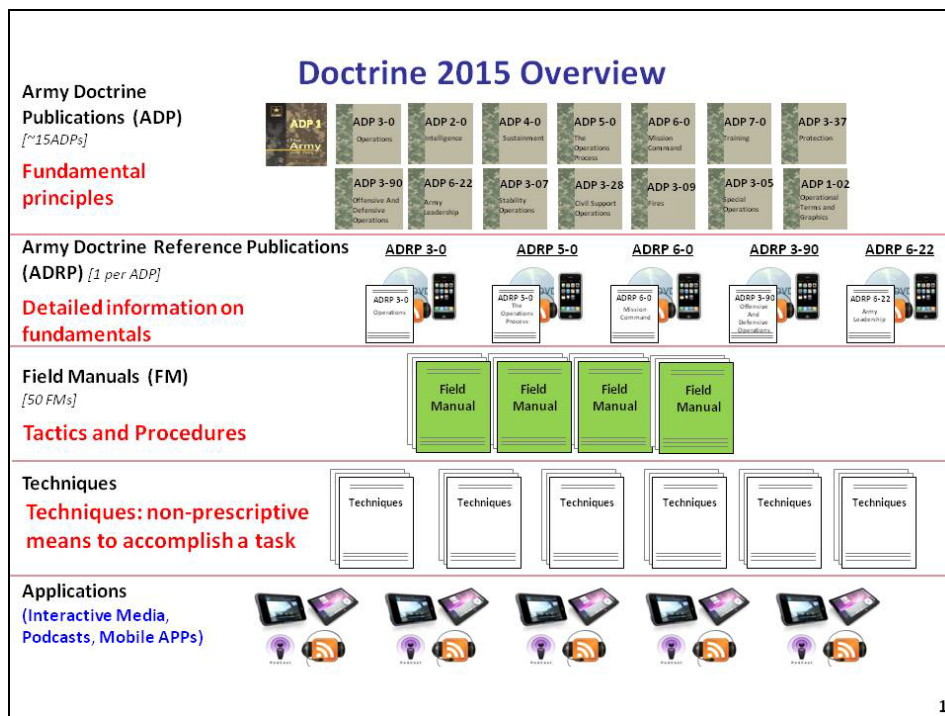
At this year's conference, participants reviewed how doctrinal information is categorized under the Doctrine 2015 concept, with the goal of making fewer and shorter publications and the entire development process faster, more collaborative and more accessible.

The conference was led by the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate (CADD), a subordinate organization of the Mission Command Center of Excellence (MC CoE) in the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC) at Fort Leavenworth.

Army representatives included the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, JFK Special Warfare Center, Army Medical Center/School, the Judge Advocate General (JAG) 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 (Multiservice TTP).

"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."

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Doctrine 2015 will create five separate classes of publications:

1st level: The Army is currently looking at a total of 15 Army Doctrine Publications (ADP), each one limited to approximately 10 pages.

2nd: An Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP) will be published for each ADP and will include multi-media educational tools.

3rd: A final group of 50 Field Manuals (FMs), limited to 200 pages each, that 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 is Applications and 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 Colonel-promotable 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.”

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