# 131A Mission Command/Sensor (System Integrator)

## Field Artillery Warrant Officers slated for transition from Radar Technicians to Targeting Techicians by 2017

As the Field Artillery branch continues to modernize, the MOS 131A, Field Artillery Targeting Technician is also undergoing an modernization. 131As are on schedule to transition from Radar Technicians to Targeting Technicians by assuming the role of Mission Command Systems and Sensors integrators by 2017. This transition will enable our Warrant Officers to better facilitate the targeting process and fire support planning to deliver accurate and timely fires in support of the Commander's scheme of Maneuver. 131As will use the modernized Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) as the central Fires Mission Command tool. This will dramatically improve integration of organic and Joint targeting sensors and effective data sharing of Army and Joint Mission Command systems.

This effort is intended to solve a significant technical capability gap that continues to grow with the rapidly increasing numbers and complexities of Army and Joint Interagency Multinational (JIM) targeting sensors and Mission Command systems. Today, technology doubles in capability every 18 months. In order for the Army to achieve overmatch in a near peer conflict we must have the ability to keep pace with technological advancements that allow the Fires community to rapidly integrate all assets through our automated systems within Cyber and Electronic Warfare (EW) contested computing environments.

The 131A Warrant Officers are considered the true technicians of the Field Artillery Branch. With the advancement of Radar technologies that simplified Radar maintenance — coupled with highly trained NCOs, the need for on-site technicians has become obsolete. The transition of our 131As to targeting Technicians embedded within the Fires Cells from battalion to Echelons Above Corps (EAC) provides both the stable source and technical abilities to solve this critical capability gap; integration of Army and Joint Mission Command systems and sensors to enable targeting and fire support planning and execution.

As a Systems Integrator, the 131A will fully understand the existing intelligence capabilities resident in Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A) and how best to utilize those capabilities in the targeting process. They will also know how best to integrate the ADAM Cell systems which consist of the Air and Missile Defense Work Station (AMDWS), Forward Area Air Defense Command and Control (FAADC2), the Air Defense Systems Integrator (ADSI), and AVN Cell Tactical Airspace Integration System (TAIS) to facilitate Air/Ground integration and the clearance of fires process. They will provide the Maneuver Commander with a Fires Common Operational Picture (COP) overlaid on the Maneuver COP to enable the Commander to Visualize, Describe, Direct intent for fires into the scheme of Maneuver.

The 131A Systems Integrator will fully understand the sensor capabilities that reside organic at their Echelon as well as Joint and National Sensor capabilities accessible through Mission Command coordination processes and integration through the Targeting Process. This thorough understanding of Mission Command Systems and Sensor capabilities is intended to facilitate the Fires Processes to include; Deliberate and Dynamic Targeting; Collateral Damage Estimation; Weaponeering; Target Mensuration; Target Material Production; facilitating proactive fires and the Counter-fire fight.

With the FA Warrant Officers currently in the Fires Cells from FA Battalion to EAC few if any organizational modifications are anticipated to meet the current systems integrator capability gap. There is a current analysis being conducted to determine if replacing the 13A Assistant Targeting Officer at the Maneuver Battalions with a 131A Targeting Technician is feasible.

Implementation of Systems Integrator tasks into Institutional training and education will not require additional time to the current Program of Instruction (POI) since the Joint Automated Deep Operations Coordination System (JADOCS) and radar maintenance blocks will be utilized for the Mission Command and

*Continued on Page 6, See 131As*

131As ...Continued from Page 5

Sensor integrator instruction. The AFATDS will be utilized throughout the Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) and reinforced during the 131A Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC). Since the 94M has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of the Q53/50, the Warrant Officer Instruction Branch (WOIB) will utilize the allocated time that was traditionally spent on the AN/TPQ-36/37 maintenance for the Mission Command System and Sensor Integrator blocks of instruction. The new POI is currently being developed and it is anticipated the Mission Command (Systems Integrator) instruction will begin in Fiscal Year 2017.

Due to major software update(s) of the AFATDS, to include merging of the legacy JADOCS capabilities into the AFATDS, the Targeting Technician is now able to utilize a single Army Battle Command System (ABCS) instead of multiple systems to perform their assigned duties. The AFATDS allows the Targeting Technician to clearly integrate with the entire ABCS Software Suite, organic sensor feeds, as well as gain access to Joint Mission Command and sensors greatly amplifying situational awareness throughout the operational environment.

***Editor's Note: POCs are CW3 Luis O. Martinez and CW5 Robert D. Wilson***

# Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System gets dramatic upgrade

With new software upgrades to include version 6.8.1.1, the Fires Mission Command System (AFATDS), will now have increased capabilities allowing it to dramatically improve integration of organic and joint targeting sensors and effective data sharing of Army and Joint Mission Command systems. This will enable the targeting process and fire support planning to deliver accurate and timely fires in support of the Commander's scheme of maneuver.

AFATDS v6.8.1.1, Software is to be released during the first quarter of FY17. Here are a few facts about what this upgrade will provide:

## Commander's Guidance

AFATDS v6.8.1.1. can implement user provided commander's guidance governing how targets are attacked (e.g. target selection standards, high payoff targets, system attack parameters). It will streamlines target delivery from sensor to which shooter using Mission Routing guidance, Mission Prioritization, and Munition Restrictions.

## Mapping Display Abilities

Using WorldWind map engine and Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED) v6.8.1.1. Provides a visual 3D display of all friendly units, enemy SITEMP, geometries, FSCMs, Air Coordination Measures (ACMs), Range fans, and munitions flight path (MFPs) for surface-to-surface fires. The enhanced mapping allows for Commanders to visualize the operational environment with proper altitudes and elevations providing near-real display of the Modified Combined Obstacle Overlay (MCOO).

## Fire Support Planning & Attack Analysis

It will provide the Commander the ability to incorporate several JADOCS target managers (e.g. Joint Time Sensitive Target manager, Fires manager, Inter-AOC Manager). It will also give the Commander the capability of conducting a Fire Support Planning Course of Action (COA) Analysis with his assigned shooters. The FS COA displays tube strength, munitions required for mission success and system, by type, utilization. Attack Analysis will allow a by-type, by-target of when each tube will be engaging each target displayed on the scheduling worksheet.

## ASL, ACO, and ATO Management

It will also manage the Air Strike List established

*Continued on Page 7, See* AFATDS