

Army Modernization — How the Army Is Visualizing the Objective Force and Bringing Capabilities to the Soldier

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Modernizing the Army's Current Force to prepare for the challenges of the Future Force is crucial to the health and preparedness of our Armed Forces. With a Nation at war, our Army is consistently challenged with the obstacles of sustaining our forces during the current fight. Additionally, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan present new challenges as the U.S. military faces a different type of warfare with missions in and among the civilian population. A panel of Army military leaders discussed these challenges and how Army leaders and commands are delivering capabilities to and setting conditions for success in the Army in a discussion titled "Army Modernization: Visualizing the Objective Force" at the 2008 Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington, DC, Oct. 8, 2008.

In an era of persistent conflict, the Army is challenged with operating among the civilian population during missions. Here, SPC Carlos Morales and Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, Bravo Co., Bandit 4-64 Armor, 3rd Infantry Division (3ID), provide security in Risalah, Baghdad, Sept. 16, 2008. (U.S. Army photo by PO2 Joan Kretschmer, Joint Combat Camera Center Iraq.)

LTG Stephen M. Speakes, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, emphasized that the Army's modernization effort is headed for success. Speakes reflected on an excerpt from the 2003 Army Posture Statement: "The Objective Force is the Army's full-spectrum force that will be organized, manned, equipped, and trained to be more strategically responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, and sustainable than we are today — across the full spectrum of military operations as an integral member of a cohesive Joint team."

Critical needs of the Army were clear in 2003, and now 5 years later, the Army is fulfilling those needs and fielding the Objective Force. The Army has adapted to the era of persistent conflict and is in the process of fielding a force that is versatile, expeditionary, agile, lethal, sustainable, and interoperable for the 21st century. Speakes proclaimed that the Army is on the right track to success — "We've taken that central vision and we've adapted it to an era of persistent conflict."

Challenges

The panel members' remarks specified that modernizing the Army is a complex challenge. BG Robert B. Abrams, Deputy Commander, Combined Arms Center for Training, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), advised that the complexity of the

operational environment in which our Soldiers work "does not replicate or resemble what we prepared for before Sept. 11 [2001]." Conventional, stability, and irregular operations are intertwined and the conditions within an area can change rapidly, causing increasing challenges for Soldiers. The international battlefield environment is perhaps more complex than ever before and the complexity is expected to increase in the future. Therefore, the Army must modernize to remain technologically ahead of our enemies and be able to adapt to ever-changing capabilities requirements.

LTG Michael A. Vane, Director, Army Capabilities Integration Center, advised that modernizing the Army is crucial to protecting U.S. national security. He explained that our national security depends on global security, which requires diplomatic, information, military, and economic (DImE) power. DImE requires local security in the U.S. itself and also in deployed areas. This local security requires landpower, and to have dominant landpower requires a full-spectrum modernized force. Vane said that Soldiers face adaptable adversaries today and to be effective against these, the Army's landpower must be versatile, agile, lethal, sustainable, and interoperable. TRADOC's challenge in modernizing the force is to maintain meeting the need of continually changing sets of capabilities.

Abrams advised that we are not in a "3-block war," meaning offense, defense, and stability operations are not done disjointedly. Our Soldiers have to do all three simultaneously, presenting significant change from the Army's previous operations and radically raising the level of mission complexity. Conducting full-spectrum operations in an urban environment is a new challenging facet of the battlefield. Since our Soldiers operate among the civilian population, they must be able to close and destroy the enemy while engaging the populace. Modernized protection and equipment are critical to accomplishing this task.

The Army has made great advancements in overcoming these challenges with *Field Manual 3-0, Operations*, which recognizes the obstacles of 21st-century conflict and commits to resource all units across the full-spectrum of operations. "We have embraced the notion as an Army that we will operate in the future among the people," said Abrams. "That's a major cultural change for the U.S. Army and landpower. Before, we'd always avoid the population areas; now we embrace it."

TRADOC — Developing a Dominant Landforce

Vane explained how TRADOC enables full-spectrum operations to fulfill the Army's needs and achieve

Army modernization. He advised that dominant landpower is essential to this goal: “Land forces must be capable of conducting full-spectrum operations and [have] the ability to simultaneously conduct offense, defense, and stability operations across the spectrum of conflict as well as civil support operations.” The Army is developing a dominant landforce with a sense of urgency because of its critical nature to mission success.

Achieving a dominant landpower and Army modernization success requires the Army to adopt a holistic approach. In the 21st-century era of persistent conflict, military power alone is not enough. “We must not only be able to kick down the door, but to clean up the mess, and sometimes rebuild the house afterwards,” said Vane.

The Army is also aggressively pursuing organizational change to modular forces. The Army Force Generation

(ARFORGEN) model provides a process for narrowing a unit’s focus according to its mission. The division-corps Army is tailored to land forces for regional combatant commanders.

Abrams provided a warfighter’s perspective on how the Army can get the capabilities needed for modernization

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to its Soldiers. Full-spectrum operations are conducted at squad, platoon, and company levels, so the force must be trained and prepared to operate at those levels. Abrams advised that the Army needs a battle command network that is distributed down to the Soldier level.

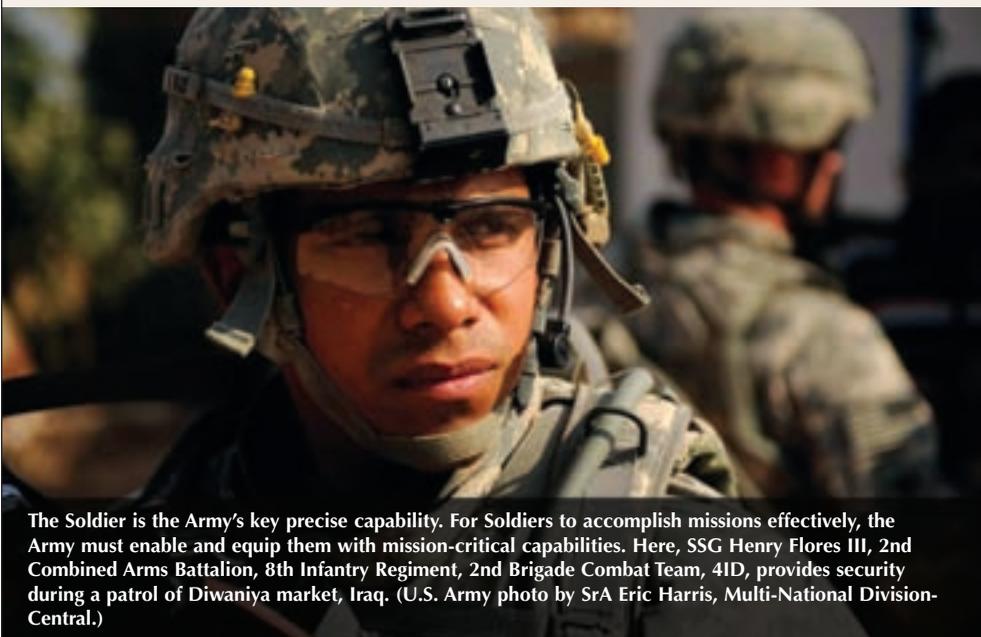
This network would enable every Soldier to operate in today’s complex battlefield environment. Reiterating a topic Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey Jr. also discussed at AUSA, Abrams said, “Our Soldiers are our most precise capability we have, both lethal and nonlethal.” Therefore, we must enable and equip them to do their jobs effectively.

Future Combat Systems (FCS) — The Core of Army Modernization

FCS offers the capabilities needed to modernize the Army. The era of persistent conflict and the challenges it presents in both the present and future drive the Army to develop FCS. Speakes outlined the steps the Army must take to implement FCS and modernize the Army:

- Finish Army growth, so that requisite growth will bring the Army into balance by FY11.
- Focus on the Future Force. For that force to be effective, it has to start providing answers today to warfighters’ needs. The FCS investments that the Army has made over the past years are beginning to take precedence and provide capabilities. The Army needs to get these capabilities into Soldiers’ hands as soon as possible.
- Accelerate capabilities to infantry brigades. Today’s Soldier has to be part of the battle command network for it to be useful.
- Restore funding to FCS and complementary capabilities. The Army needs to deliver FCS on time and on target and be absolutely committed to the FCS program.
- Limited modernization for combat and tactical vehicles. The Army needs to take advantage of the money and opportunities that have been provided to upgrade vehicles so they are more prepared for today’s fight. The Army needs to be fiscally purposeful with this money and recognize the benefits it has provided for our force.

MG Charles A. Cartwright, Program Manager FCS (Brigade Combat Team), and Gregg Martin, Vice President, Boeing, FCS, Lead Systems Integrator, provided an FCS program update. FCS includes eight hybrid



The Soldier is the Army’s key precise capability. For Soldiers to accomplish missions effectively, the Army must enable and equip them with mission-critical capabilities. Here, SSG Henry Flores III, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 41D, provides security during a patrol of Diwaniya market, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by SrA Eric Harris, Multi-National Division-Central.)

electric Manned Ground Vehicles (MGVs) on a common chassis, two classes of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (both with electro-optic/infrared laser designation and network capability), unattended systems including unattended ground sensors (UGS) and the Non-Line-of-Sight (NLOS) Launch System, and the family of unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) to include the Small UGV (SUGV) and Multifunctional Utility/Logistics and Equipment Vehicle.

The FCS family gives Soldiers advanced technological, information-gathering, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. Cartwright advised that there are active protection systems across all platforms (medical, combat, etc.) and the FCS network is tied together in all of these platforms. Every platform receives the same capabilities, making FCS much more advanced than previous stovepiped Army systems.

When FCS was first conceptualized, the Army had to overcome immense challenges until it was made a tangible reality. Today, the FCS program is evolving and getting closer to being deployed into the hands of Soldiers. Martin advised that every one of the FCS systems is in some form of the test and evaluation phase and the program is about halfway through the development cycle. The FCS program is currently “keyed into detail, design, critical design reviews, and interqualification testing,” he said. FY09 will be focused on

detail design for final prototype builds, FY10 will be the initial integration, and FY11 will be formal qualification testing. Cartwright advised that FCS has involved Soldiers in development from the beginning: “The bottom line: it’s all about Soldiers and prototype testing.” This enables the FCS program to be tailored to Soldiers’ needs in the initial development and testing phases, so the program can remain fiscally and punctually on track.

LandWarNet

BG Brian J. Donahue, Coordinator, LandWarNet Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/-5/-7, explained how the Army will bring FCS network capabilities to the force and synchronize the LandWarNet concept to bring a networked capability to the Army. “What we are seeking to do here is establish a minimum baseline, a battle command environment for the entire

operational Army,” he said. “And it is from that minimum baseline that we will tailor up to meet the needs of specific formations.” He advised that the Army’s task is to enable the current fight en route to the Future Force and that Army transformation is an incremental process over time. Some FCS capabilities can be introduced in early capability set fieldings now, with the entire FCS program being fully fielded later.



FCS is aiding Army modernization by bringing unprecedented capabilities to the warfighter. Here, Soldiers from the Army Evaluation Task Force, Fort Bliss, TX, test the FCS’ SUGV. (U.S. Army photo.)

All LandWarNet/battle command capabilities are delivered in 2-year increments and are tailored for each modular formation.

To make the implementation of modernization most effective, the Army will use a capabilities set decision process, an annual deliberation process that will develop capability set courses of action for decision. All courses of action must be fiscally affordable and interoperable to be feasible and the courses of action will vary the application of resources. These decisions will be based on what provides the greatest operational value with which to spend our resources.

The Army Modernization panel at AUSA 2008 provided a holistic view of Army modernization — what it entails and how Army leadership will accomplish its integration into the force. As Speakes affirmed, “This is an Army that is proud of its modernization program, confident of what it’s doing, and deeply appreciative for its remarkable success.”

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