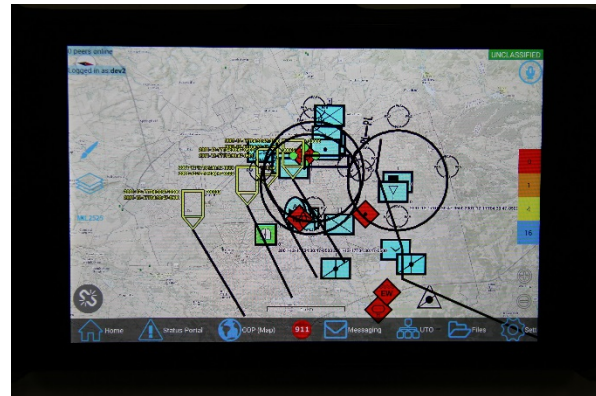




Mission Command Battle Lab Science and Technology Bulletin May 2015



The Mission Command Battle Lab (MCBL) initiated and executed an Army Regulation (AR) 5-5 study in FY13, sponsored by the DA G3/5/7. The study provided the underlying research and analysis to define the requirements for an information system designed and built for Commanders. The study, *Commander's Toolkit*, was executed during the summer and fall of 2013 and the final report published in December 2013. The study findings were immediately embraced by systems developers and user representatives across the Army. The CERDEC, Command, Power, and Integration (CP&I) Directorate quickly moved to use the study findings to build a prototype Commander's Toolkit application. The Tactical Computing Environment (TCE) program was the development organization within CP&I to design and build the prototype. Over the period



Commander's Toolkit on Handheld Tablet

January 2014 to March 2015, the TCE project

worked closely with the MCBL S&T Branch to bring the Commander's Toolkit to life.

On 13 April 2015, after a number of iterative builds and collaborative sessions, the TCE project demonstrated a working Commander's Toolkit prototype to of the MCBL, the TRADOC Capability Manager (TCM) for Mission Command (MC), and a member of the First Infantry Division (1ID). The prototype was met with overwhelming acceptance. Colonel John R. Cook, TCM MC/CP, stated that he



Commander's Toolkit – CGSC Demonstration Oct 2014

wanted to get the Commander's Toolkit in the hands of Army/1ID leaders ASAP. He further stated that the collaboration space and functionality "are precisely what commanders need." The Commander's Toolkit grew from a study proposal to a functioning prototype in two and one half short years. LTC Slagle, 1ID Deputy G3, reinforced the need for the Commander's Toolkit and will begin coordination to host a broader demonstration/user jury with key 1ID

leaders in the near future. It also provides great value as a tool for continued research,

experimentation and development of mission command systems interfaces. We expect the Commanders Toolkit to become part of the Computer Operating Environment (COE) as Army Mission Command continues to evolve.

Networked-enabled Mission Command produces a greater need and a more challenging environment for effective collaboration between soldiers and leaders.

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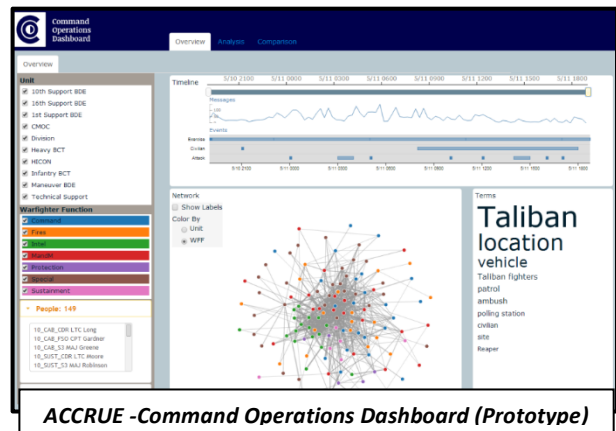


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The Army Research Lab (ARL) has partnered with the MCBL in developing the Automated Collaboration Collection & Relationship Understanding Environment (ACCRUE). ACCRUE helps the Army to focus on the Human Dimension of Mission Command by tracking and graphically displaying the level of interaction between soldiers and leaders, particularly the staff.

On 13 April 2015, the ACCRUE development team provided a demonstration to the MCCoE Director, BG Bursleson who was pleased with ACCRUE's potential value to Army training within the Human Dimension (HD). BG Bursleson highlighted the need, and value, of the Army "seeing ourselves" with the assistance of Social Network Analysis (SNA) techniques; ACCRUE is a SNA tool with potential to meet that need. The ACCRUE team was also asked to plan for its participation in a future NIE event and potential excursions in other Army training venues such as a CTC, the MCCoE Director concurred with providing



an endorsement and support to the project as it works through the commercialization/transition phase of this development cycle. Historically, ARL has leveraged MCBL experiments and Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) exercises to identify data requirements and collection methods that help further refine development of ACCRUE software. The staffs and teams involved in the research have ranged from battalion and brigade level CPs to simulated division CPs level during MCBL experiments. The endstate for ACCRUE is an integrated toolset that provides a real-time, metrics-based assessment of mission command and team performance. It will do so without survey-based methods or individual biases in observation, providing commanders in distributed command environments with an "organizational heartbeat" monitor. The project is funded through 2017.

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