Strike Swiftly: Developing Sustainable Maintenance Strategy in Combined Arms Battalion

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The mission of the combined arms battalion (CAB) is to close with and destroy enemy forces using fire, maneuver, and shock effect or to repel their assault by fire and counterattack (Army Techniques Publication 3-90.5, Combined Arms Battalion). Although this is the singular mission of the CAB, the demands and requirements put on the organization are great, and personnel challenges [both military occupational specialty (MOS) and experience shortages] exacerbate the ability to effectively meet mission. While the Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model (ReARMM) provides a framework with clear delineation between train, modernization, and mission windows, in practice, there is overlap where mission sets bleed into each other creating great demand on battalion formations.

Given this environment, it is paramount that leaders provide a clear and detailed vision that prioritizes and manages both training and maintenance lines of effort, while clearly articulating areas where risk can be assumed.

There are many ways to approach this problem set. The purpose of this paper is to convey a way to define the CAB fight, develop a framework to guide the maintenance enterprise, and provide recommendations to equip battalions in executing their mission set.

Defining CAB fight

It is commonly said that maintenance builds lethality. In a constrained environment, it is more apropos to state that lethality requirements drive maintenance. It is the responsibility of the Battalion Commander to clearly define what lethality means to the formation. The following utilizes an approach used by the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 1st Infantry Division. The overachieving goal of the 2-70 Armor is the following: Thunder Battalion coordinates and synchronizes warfighting functions to mass two companies at the decisive point.

It is a singular statement that guides all battalion efforts. The commander is responsible to define this guidance based on a clear and defined construct. The CAB construct can be broken down as dipicted in Figure 1 below.

For each of these elements, the lethality capability requirements can be summarized as dipicted in Table 1.

Having listed all the required lethality capabilities, it is important to clearly describe the equipment/platform needed to meet each capability. This category, which is called the Fight category, is the baseline of equipment / platforms needed to deliver the requirement. Although based on the modified tables and organization equipment, the number requirements are based on a realistic evaluation of the fleet. Leaders who expect every piece of equipment and platform to be fully mission capable are detached

CAB Elements		CAB Command Nodes				
Scout Platoon (PLT)		Tactical Operations Center				
Sniper Section	·	Tactical Command Post				
Mortar PLT		Combat Trains Command Post				
Tank Company (x2)		 Field Feeding Unit Maintenance Control Point (UMCP) Battalion Aid Station (BAS) 				
Mechanized Infantry Company	\bowtie	Field Trains Command Post				
Retrans	Ø RTNS	- FSC HQ - Distro Section - HHC Elements				

Figure 1. Identification of CAB elements and command nodes. (U.S. Army)

from reality or are being lied to. Using the Scout PLT as an example, the baseline list of equipment / platforms needed to deliver the capability is depicted in Table 2. The full list is depicted in Ta-ble 3. The overall vision is encom-passed in the following compilation of the figures depicted in Figure 2. This single framework (Figure 2. The Thun-der Fight) focuses the battalion on both training and maintenance lines of effort.

Where formations fit

Each formation at echelon has a clear idea of how it fits into the overall fight and the equipment/ platforms required to deliver their capabilities. The next logical step is to take the fight equipment/ platform requirements and com-pare them to the current mission capable status of those items.

The O/H column is based off the mod-ified table of organization and equip-ment list, the Fight column is the re-quirement defined by the battalion commander, and the company column is the current slant of the item. If the company fully mission capable (FMC) equals or is greater than the Fight col-umn, the status box remains blank. If the company FMC is less than the Fight column, the status box turns red. The final column Manned encompasses personnel readiness. It is a seemingly innocuous column but one that con-veys significant information. If the plat-form is manned (denoted by Y), it means that the crew is deployable, qualified and meets all rank require-ments (particularly if an NCO vehicle commander is required). If a platform is not manned due to personnel short-ages, the team can assume risk and not devote maintenance energy to that platform or request support from high-er.

Provide clear snapshot

Once done throughout each element and command node, the gaps in readi-ness (maintenance + personnel) be-come readily clear. This provides the battalion a clear snapshot of where their maintenance and personnel read-iness

2 gaps exist based on lethality requirements. Leadership can then de-yelon a maintenance strategy

Scout PLT Capability
Recon & Security: 3xSections
Observe NAIs / Anticipate BN
Decisions / Report
Reduce Fog of War for COs / Sync
with Squadron / RPOL / FPOL
Soak Up Enemy Combat Power
Sustain for 72 hrs. / Go to Ground -
Seize next terrain feature
Sniper Section Capability
Long range precision fires
Answer CDR PIR
Surveillance and Observation
Mortar PLT Capability
Suppress / Disrupt the Enemy:
2xSections
Retrans Capability
Retransmit Comms
Tank CO Capability
Close-in with and Destroy the
Enemy / Seize Terrain
Command and Control
Call for Fire
Logistic Release Point Ops
EVAC (personnel & platforms)
MECH IN CO Capability
Close-in with and Destroy the
Enemy / Seize Terrain
Clear the High Ground
Command and Control
Call for Fire
Logistic Release Point Ops
EVAC (personnel & platforms)

Т	OC Capability
Control OP:	S
Plan Future	OPs
Report Flov	V
Fight ISR	
Sync Susta	inment
Fight Fires	
Role 1: Tria	ige, Treat, Evac
Т	AC Capability
Control Spe	ecific Operation
Control Figh	nt (TOC Jump)
Facilitate Ti	imely Decision Making
C	TCP Capability
Serve as Al	It CP
Manage A8	L Net
Maintenanc	e Collection Point -
Repair + Ev	/ac
Controls Su	stainment Traffic
Runs 2xLRF	Ps Daily
Resupply S	couts and Mortars
Personnel S	Services
F	TCP Capability
Coordinate	Log w/ BSB
Configure L	OGPAC
Coord Repl	acements
Legal Servi	ces
Postal Serv	ices
Coord Evac Personnel	of Equipment and

Table 1. List of capability requirements. (U.S. Army)

Scout PLT Capability	Equipment / Platform
Recon & Security: 3xSections	M2A3: 2
Observe NAIs / Anticipate BN Decisions /	JLTV: 4 LRAS: 1x per section
Reduce Fog of War for COs / Sync with Squadron / RPOL / FPOL	Raven: 1 LRAS: 1x per section Raven: 1
Soak Up Enemy Combat Power	JBCP: 1xper section
Sustain for 72 hrs. / Go to Ground - Seize next terrain feature	

Table 2. Scout capability and equipment/platform requirements. (U.S. Army)

enterprise against a prioritized list. The battalion maintenance officer then coordinates with the S-3 Operations Shop and puts the maintenance strategy (unscheduled maintenance, services and leadership professional development) on the training calendar. This is a way to synchronize training and maintenance lines of effort based on required lethality capabilities. It is a holistic strategy to streamline efforts, provide clear guidance and prioritization, and identify areas where the battalion can assume risk. The overall assessment maintenance and personnel readiness status is captured in Table 5.



o o out i E i oupublity	
Recon & Security: 3xSections	M2A3: 2
Observe NALS / Anticipate BN	JLTV: 4
Decisions / Report	LRAS: 1x per section
Reduce Fog of War for COs / Sync	Raven: 1
with Squadron / RPOL / FPOL	LRAS: 1x per section
Soak Up Enemy Combat Power	Raven: 1
Sustain for 72 hrs / Go to Ground -	JBCP: 1xper section
Seize next terrain feature	
Sniper Section Capability	Equipment / Platform
Long range precision fires	Sniper Section
Answer CDR PIR	3xPSR
Surveillance and Observation	9xSDMR
Mortar PLT Capability	Equipment / Platform
Suppress / Disrupt the Enemy:	M1064A3: 4
2xSections	M577A3: 1
	Gun Tubes: 4
	Bipods: 4
Retrans Canability	Equipment / Platform
Retransmit Comms	
Tank CO Capability	Equipment / Platform
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs:
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2)
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TDY: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms)	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms)	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms) MECH IN CO Capability	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1 Equipment / Platform
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms) MECH IN CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1 Equipment / Platform M2A3: 10
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms) MECH IN CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1 Equipment / Platform M2A3: 10 JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms) MECH IN CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Clear the High Ground	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1 Equipment / Platform M2A3: 10 JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms) MECH IN CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Clear the High Ground Command and Control	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1 Equipment / Platform M2A3: 10 JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms) MECH IN CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Clear the High Ground Command and Control Call for Fire	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1 Equipment / Platform M2A3: 10 JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 3x SQDs per PLT (2x Rifle and 1x WPNS SQD)
Tank CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops EVAC (personnel & platforms) MECH IN CO Capability Close-in with and Destroy the Enemy / Seize Terrain Clear the High Ground Command and Control Call for Fire Logistic Release Point Ops	Equipment / Platform M1A2: 10 (3 M1A2 x 3 PLTs; 1xC2) JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 M113: 1 M88: 1 CNT TRK: 1 BOH: 1 Plow: 2 Roller: 1 Equipment / Platform M2A3: 10 JBCP: 1xPLT ; 1xC2 FIST: 1 LMTV: 1 3x SQDs per PLT (2x Rifle and 1x WPNS SQD) M88: 1

TOC Capability	Equipment (How)
Control OPs	JBCP: 2
Plan Euturo OBc	
Fian Future OFS	
Report Flow	.II TV + Trailer: 1
	1068 1
Fight ISR	GBD: 1
0	CD1: 1
Sync Sustainment	JLTV: 1
	1068: 1
Fight Fires	AFATDS: 1
	FM (Fires): 1
TAC Capability	Equipment (How)
Control Specific Operation	M1A2: 1
Control Fight (TOC Jump)	MZA3: 1
Facilitate Timely Decision Making	
CTCP Canability	Equipment (How)
Sonyo as Alt CB	
Serve as All CF	JETV (JBCP/FW): 1
	I MTV + Trailer: 1
	1068 (JBCP/FM): 1
Manage A&L Net	Shop Van: 1
	Expando Van: 1
	VSAT: 1
Maintenance Collection Point -	88s: 1
Repair + Evac	Wrecker: 1
	FRS: 1
Controls Sustainment Traffic	SAT: 1
	LMTV: 1
	BOH: 5 Maint Engl 1
Runs 2xLRPs Daily	Gop: 1
	Elat Racks: 2
	LHS/Trailer: 3
Resupply Scouts and Mortars	JBCP: 1
	FM: 1
	Fuelers/TRM: 2
Dereennel Convises	JBCP: 1
Personnel Services	FM: 1
	Cache** (3 crops / LMTV+Trailer)
	LMTV + Trailer: 1
FTCP Capability	Equipment (How)
Coordinate Log w/ BSB	JLTV: 1
Configure LOGPAC	JBCP: 1
Coord Replacements	FM: Z
Legal Services	(1) IBCP/(1)EM
Postal Services	Fuelers/TRM: (2)
Coord Evac of Equipment and	(1) JBCP/(1) FM
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\./ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Table 3. Consolidated list of capability and equipment/platform requirements. (U.S. Army)

Tank Company							
ltem	O/H	Fight	A CO	Status	B CO	Status	Manned
M1A2	14	10	8		11		Y
JBCP	16	4	0		0		\geq
FIST	2	1	1		1		Y
LMTV	2	1	1		1		Y
M113	2	1	1		1		N
M88	2	1	0		0		Y
Contact TRK	2	1	1		1		N
вон	2	1	1		1		\geq
Plow	6	2	0		0		\geq
Roller	2	1	0		0		\geq

Table 4. Tank company maintenanceand personnel readiness status. (U.S.Army)

Based on this assessment, the battalion can clearly identify priorities and friction points, and the commander can provide Training Week (TW)+8 guidance. Furthermore, this dashboard (comprised of Figure 2 and Table 5) provides a tangible output (status update) for CAB meetings. The battalion training meeting must entail the development of capabilities required by the CAB to accomplish its mission while maintenance and personnel readiness (non-deployable scrubs, etc.) meetings must feed Table 5. Commanders are responsible, with input from their first sergeants and executive officers (XOs), to update the battalion commander on the dashboard. While this is a way to organize and assess capabilities and personnel, there are several doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF) efforts that can better equip the CAB in building readiness.

Recommendations to support CAB maintenance

Even with clear guidance and a detailed maintenance strategy, CABs will continually face challenges in execution. Below are several DOTMLPF recommendations that would support and streamline maintenance operations.

Recommendation #1 (Organization/ Personnel): Radio Equipment Repairers (MOS 94E) and Computer/Detection Systems Repairers (MOS 94F) Organic to the CAB.

Due to the sheer amount and complexity of communication systems and equipment, it would benefit the CAB to have one NCO and two 10-level Soldiers organic to the CAB for internal communication and electronics (C&E) and electronic maintenance (ELM) repairs. Currently, all night vision devices and communication devices are evacuated to the brigade support battalion for repair/service.

Centralized repair naturally creates a backlog, which prioritizes units executing training for repairs. This inhibits units preparing for training to conduct proper repairs and services prior to execution. Having organic C&E and ELM capabilities will decrease overall turnaround time, create shop stock for common repairs, and provide flexibility in garrison/field environments to build equipment readiness.

Recommendation #2 (Education): Training Deficiencies for MOS 91F (M242 25mm) and MOS 91A (M1 Abrams Schematics).

Small Arms Repairers (MOS 91F) and Tank Mechanics (MOS 91A) do not receive sufficient training through Army schools to prepare them for operations. The 91F is responsible for servicing the M242 25mm Bushmaster. They do not receive adequate training during advanced individual training (AIT) to properly service and repair the weapon system. While master gunners are present to assist in repairs and services, they are only capable of executing 10/20 level tasks and repairs. The 91F is responsible for 30 level tasks, but they are not provided the education needed to complete these repairs. The Army must increase training time during AIT for 91F Soldiers, so they are equipped to execute repairs once they get to their unit. An alternate solution is to make the repair/services of the M242 a critical task for Bradley mechanics (MOS 91M).

91A Soldiers must receive tank



Figure 1. Thunder Battalion coordinates and synchronizes warfighting functions to mass two companies at the decisive point. (U.S. Army)

		FTCP			
Item	O/H	Fight	Current	Status	Manneo
JLTV	2	1	1		١
JBCP	1	1	0		\geq
FM	2	2	1		\geq
LMTV	1	1	1		Ì
LHS/Trailer	4	3	3		١
JBCP	3	1	0		\sim
FM	4	1	2		
Fuelers/TRM	3	2	2		
IRCP	3	1	0		\sim
EM	3	1	2		\Leftrightarrow
1 101	5	1	2		\sim
		СТСР			
Item	0/н	Fight	Current	Status	Manner
item	0,11	C2	current	Status	Wannee
	2	2	2	_	,
	2	1	2		\sim
EM	2	2	2		\Leftrightarrow
FIVI	Z	Z	Z		\sim
1.5.475.4.5.7		51			,
LIVITV + Trailer	1	1	1		
1050		\$4	-		
1068	1	1	0		
JBCP	1	1	0		\geq
FM	1	1	1		>
		UMCP			
Shop Van	1	1	1		`
Expando Van	1	1	1		`
VSAT	1	1	1		\geq
M88	1	1	1		`
Wrecker	1	1	1		
FRS	1	1	1		$>\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!$
SAT	1	1	1		ì
LMTV	1	1	1		Ň
вон	5	5	.5		\geq
Maint Enc	1	1	1		,
Gen	1	1	1		> <
Flat Backs	2	2	2		\Leftrightarrow
ac macks	 Die	tro Sec	tion 2		
IHS + Trailer	3	2	2		
IBCP	1	1	0		\sim
FM	1	1	1		
Fueler + TDM	2	1 7	1	-	
	3	1	2		\searrow
ENA	1	1	1		\bigcirc
Cronc	1	1	1		\Leftrightarrow
LATE I	3	3	3		
LIVIIV + Trailer	1	1	1		
	o./!!	TOC			
Item			C	C+ ·	
JRCb	О/Н	Fight	Current	Status	Manneo
ENA	0/H 2	Fight 2	Current 1	Status	Manneo
r IVI	О/Н 2 6	Fight 2 6	Current 1 6	Status	Manneo
STT	0/H 2 6 1	Fight 2 6 1	Current 1 6 0	Status	Manneo
STT OSRVT	0/H 2 6 1 5	Fight 2 6 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1	Status	Manned
STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer	0/H 2 6 1 5 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1	Status	Mannee
STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068	0/H 2 6 1 5 1 2	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1 1	Status	Manneo
STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD	0/H 2 6 1 5 1 2 2 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
rivi STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1	O/H 2 6 1 1 5 1 2 2	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
rivi STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1 JLTV	O/H 2 6 1 5 1 2 2 1 2 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
rivi STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1 JLTV 1068 w/	O/H 2 6 1 1 5 1 2 2 1 2 1 1 2 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannec
rivi STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1 JLTV 1068 w/ AFATDS	О/Н 2 6 1 1 2 2 1 2 2 1 1 1 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
rivi STT OSRVT JULV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1 JLTV 1068 w/ AFATDS EM	О/Н 2 6 1 1 2 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
rivi STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1 JLTV 1068 w/ AFATDS FM M112 (Madian)	О/Н 2 6 1 1 2 2 1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
rivi STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1 JLTV 1068 w/ AFATDS FM M113 (Medics)	0/H 2 6 1 5 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
rivi STT OSRVT JTLV + Trailer 1068 GBD CD1 JLTV 1068 w/ AFATDS FM M113 (Medics) LMTV DDAGU	O/H 2 6 1 5 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Fight 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Current 1 1 6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Status	Mannee
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Item		RETRAN	3						
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		FAS							
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1068 w/		1				N			
JBCP		1			\geq	$\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!$			
FM		1			\geq	\sim			
		VORTA	RS						
Item	O/H	Fight	Current	Status	Ma	nned			
M1064A3	4	4	1			Y			
M577A3	1	1	0			Y			
Gun Tubes	4	4	4		\geq	\sim			
Bipods	4	4	0		\leq	\geq			
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FIST		2	1	1			1		Y
LMTV		2	1	1			1		Y
M113		2	1	1			1		N
M88		2	1	0			0		Y
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	1	1	1			Y			
M113	1	1	1			Y			
10188	1	1	1			Y			
Squads	9	3	1			N			
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Table 5. Consolidated list of maintenance and personnel readiness status by element and command node. (U.S. Army)

schematic training during AIT. This is increasingly significant as the CAB fights through personnel challenges and many mechanics fulfill positions of greater responsibility than their rank. In a CAB, junior 91As frequently are faced with tank schematic faults. There is a knowledge deficiency in tank schematics for junior 91A Soldiers. These tank mechanics do not receive training on tank schematics until the Advanced Leader Course. Tank mechanics, like their Bradley mechanic counterparts, should receive training on schematics during AIT.

The Maintenance Process and Friction

Points. Soldiers conduct preventative maintenance checks and services (PMCS) and manually annotate faults on a Form 5988. Mechanics, with a senior mechanic and team chief, then verify the faults and either dismiss (wrong annotation), repair, or request parts to be ordered. Once this process is complete, the equipment records parts specialist (ERPS) clerk manually inputs this information into Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-Army). There are two points of friction in this process. The first is the transition from a manual process (Form 5988) to a digital process (manual input of the 5988 information by the

ERPS clerk into GCSS-Army) and the second is the manual search of parts by National Item Identification Number (NIIN). To alleviate these frictions points, the following recommendations are presented.

Recommendation #3 (Material): Digital 5988: The amount of error that exists in the current manual process can be reduced through a digitized system. Additionally, the workload for clerks to manually input 5988 information into GCSS-Army can also be reduced. A software application with a simple user interface that can be accessed by all users is advantageous. Table 6 below

USER	STEP	USER ACTION	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS	NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT
	1.4	Soldier indicates that they would like to	System provides an application that serves as the primary	System application must be accessible off of Soldier's
	1A	begin the PMCS process	user interace	device through Army Mobile Connect
			o System provides a list of user type from which an individual	
		Soldier selects the type of user, selects the	can select: Soldier, Maintainer, or Enterprise User	
		Bumper Number of the	o System provides a list of bumper numbers or equipment	
	1.0	platform/equipment on which they will be	identifying feature which the Soldier can select from; search	
	TB	conducting the PMCS and selects the type	a Pased on human number system provides the PMCS	
		of PMCS they will be conducting (before,	checklist for that niece of equipment	
		during, after, weekly, monthly)	o Based on Soldier selection, system provides PMCS checklist	
			for before, during, after, weekly, or monthly	
Soldier			o System provides a method to indicate faults; for each PMCS	
			line, the "Equipment Not Ready / Available If:" statement is	
	10	Soldier conducts PMCS checks line by line;	available to click if true; If soldier clicks, it annotates the fault	
	lic .	if fault is found, Soldier indicates the fault	on the Digital 5988	
			o As faults are selected, the System saves them to a Digital	
	L		5988 that consolidates all faults during the PMCS process	
			o System provides a Digital 5988, with consolidated faults, for	
		Once complete, Soldier views the	the Soldier to review	
	1D	consolidated faults on a Digital 5988 and	Digital 5988 forward	
		sends forward	o Once complete. System alerts the maintenance enterprise	
			that a Digital 5988 is ready for verification	
	24	Maintainer indicates that they would like	System provides an application that serves as the primary	System application must be accessible off of Maintainer's
	ZA	to verify the Digital 5988	user interace	device through Army Mobile Connect
	2B	Maintainer selects their user type and	o System provides a list of user type from which an individual	
		selects the Bumper Number of the platform/equipment on which they will be conducting the PMCS	can select: "Soldier," "Maintainer," or "Enterprise"	
			o System provides a list of Bumper Numbers from which the	
			maintainer can choose from; search function provided;	
		-	filterable function provided	
			 Dismiss – System provides antion for maintainer to dismiss 	
			fault (wrongful entry by Soldier)	
			o Repair = System provides option for maintainer to confirm	
		Maintenance Soldier verifies the fault on	repair of fault	
Maintainer	2C	the Digital 5988: Dismiss, Repairs Fault, or	o Request Order of Parts = System provides option for	
		Requests of der of Parts.	maintainer to request for the order of parts	
			o System provides NIIN Recommendation (based on item	
			type)	
			o System provides NIIN search option (searches EMS NG,	
	<u> </u>		ADS, and AESIP TWIS)	
		Once complete Maintainer views the	parts request for the maintainer to review	
1		consolidated verified faults and parts	o Once reviewed, the Maintainer confirms completion and	
	2D	request on a Digital 5988 and sends	sends Digital 5988 forward	
		forward	o Once complete, System alerts the Enterprise that a Digital	
			5988 has been verified	
	3A	Enterprise indicates that they would like to	System provides an application that serves as the primary	System application must be accessible off of Enterprise's
		view the verified Digital 5988	user interace	device through Army Mobile Connect
1		Fastermaine and a static discussion is a second	o System provides a list of user type from which an individual	
1		Enterprise selects their user type and	can select: "Soldier," "Maintainer," or "Enterprise User"	
		platform/equipment on which they will	o System provides a list of Bumper Numbers from which the	
Enterprise User (Senior Mechanic,		view the Digital 5988	Enterprise can choose from; search function provided;	
Team Chief, ERPS Clerk, Maint Tech,		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	filterable function provided	
WICS, WICO, BIMO)			o System displays the Digital 5988, with verified faults and	
1		Enterprise views the verified faults on the	parts request, for the Enterprise User to review	
1		Digital 5988, confirms the parts request.	o System provides ability for enterprise user to edit	
1		and places parts on order	verification options: Dismiss, Repair, Parts Requested	
			o System provides ability for enterprise user to confirm parts	
			request and place order	

Table 6. Use Case and Functional Requirements for Digital 5988 Software. (U.S. Army)

annotates the use case and functional requirement for this software application.

Recommendation #4 (Material): Artificial Intelligence Chatbot for NIIN Search

The current process to find correct NI-INs for parts is inefficient and desynchronized. Currently, users have three disparate and delinked locations to look for NIINs: Electronic Management System-Next Generation; technical manuals through the Army Enterprise System Integration Program; and Interactive Authoring and Display Software. Additionally, there are numerous NIINs for similar parts or like items which induces error.

It is not uncommon for a unit to receive a part only to find that it is the wrong item. An artificial intelligence (AI) Chatbot that an enterprise user can interact with to search through all three systems simultaneously would save inordinate amounts of time and reduce human error. The advent of AI software that can assist in the creation of datasets, train AI, and automate workflows, makes this a reasonable endeavor. Companies like Palm AI through their Endobyte Software as a Service allows users to customize datasets, execute AI training and implement AI Chatbots. Below is the use case and functional requirements for this software.

Conclusion

Combined arms battalions are faced with challenges as the Army modernizes and transforms during an inter-war period. In a time and resource constrained environment, it is imperative that the CAB commander provides a clear and detailed fighting strategy to coordinate and synchronize training and maintenance lines of efforts. By defining lethality at echelon, a CAB can prioritize maintenance requirements and develop a coherent strategy over time and space. The operational tempo for armored brigade combat teams has been significant and does not look to slow down. It is important that CAB leadership find efficiencies in the Re-ARMM framework to increase warfighting capabilities throughout the formation.

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MAJ Nate Bennett is the Secretary of

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CW3 Jason T. Amsdell is the battalion maintenance technician, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, Fort Riley, KS. His previous assignments include battalion maintenance technician, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 11th Airborne Division, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK; battalion maintenance technician 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Liberty, NC; and maintenance management NCO, 7th Special Forces Group Airborne, Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), FL. CW3 Amsdell's military schools include Jumpmaster Course, Eglin AFB; Unit Movement Officer Course, Fort Richardson, AK; Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced

				1
USER	STEP	USER ACTION	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS	NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT
	1.4	User indicates that they would like to	System provides an application that serves as the primary	System application must be accessible off of
	14	search for a NIIN	user interace	User's device through Army Mobile Connect
Enterprise User	1B	User inputs their desired part in the chat	o System identifies the requested part o System requests any clarification or additional information needed to identify specific part o System searches for the NIIN	
	1C	User inputs any additional questions to confirm the part is correct	o System provides clarification of why NIIN is correct o System provides options of different NIINs to clarify correct part	
	1D	Once complete, user reviews the NIIN , confirms correct part, and sends forward to Digital 5988	o System provides final NIIN for part in question o Once confirmed, System sends NIIN from chat box to Digital 5988	

Table 7. Use Case and Functional Requirements for AI Chatbot NIIN Search Software. (U.S. Army)

(SAMS-1E) Course, Fort Richardson; Standard Army Retail Supply System -Level 1 (SAARS1) Course, Bagram, Afghanistan; Advanced Leaders Course; Senior Leaders Course; Warrant Officer Basic Course; and Warrant Officer Advanced Course, Fort Gregg-Adams, VA. CW3 Amsdell completed Lean Six Sigma - Army Business Management. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

1LT Collette Benavidez is the battalion maintenance officer, 2-70 Armor Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS. Her previous assignments include maintenance control officer, H Forward-Support Company (FSC), 2-70 Armor, 2nd ABCT; maintenance platoon leader, D FSC, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st Infantry Division; maintenance control officer, D FSC, 5-4 Cavalry, 2nd ABCT; and S-3 Overstrength, HHC, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd ABCT. 1LT Benavidez completed the Quartermaster Basic Officer Leader Course, Fort Gregg-Adams, VA. She has a bachelor's of arts degree in international relations from American University.

ACRONYM QUICK-SCAN

ABCT – armored brigade combat team AESIP - Army Enterprise Systems Joint Battle Command-Platform AFATDS – Advanced Field Artillery **Tactical Data System** AFB - air force base AI – artificial intelligence AIT – advanced individual training BAS - battalion aid station BCT - brigade combat team BMO - battalion maintenance officer C&E – communication and electronics CAB – combined arms battalion CGSC - Command and General Staff CTCP - combat-trains command post DOTMLPF - doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities **DRASH** – Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter **ELM** – electronic maintenance EMS – Electronic Management System ERPS – equipment records parts specialist EVAC – evacuate FiST – fire-support team FMC - fully mission capable FPOL - forward passage of lines FSC - forward-support company FTCP - field-trains command post

GCSS-Army – Global Combat Support HHC – headquarters and headquarters company JBC-P – JLTV – Joint Light Tactical Vehicle LMTV – Light Medium Tactical Vehicle LOGPAC – logistics package

LRAS – Long-Range Acquisition System MCO – maintenance control officer

MCS – mission-command system MOS – military occupational specialty NAI – named area of interest NG – National Guard NIIN – National Item Identification Number OSRVT – One System Remote Video Terminal College PMCS – preventive-maintenance checks and services PIR – priority intelligence requirement ReARMM – Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model RPOL – rearward passage of lines RETRANS – retransmission STT – Satellite Transportable Terminal TAC – tactical command post

TOC – tactical operations center TM – technical manual UMCP – unit maintenance collection point

