



*Brig. Gen. David Elwell, commanding general of the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), speaks to his staff during the Command Post Exercise–Functional at Camp Parks, Calif., on Sept. 20, 2015. The exercise used a closed computer network to simulate the operation of a command post within a simulated theater of operation. Simulations like this are provided through the Simulation Training Center at Fort Lee, Va. (Photo by Maj. Gregg Moore)*

## The Simulation Training Center: Contributing to Army Readiness

A collection of organizations located in the Simulation Training Center at Fort Lee provides training and simulation tools that improve the readiness of sustainment units.

■ By Capt. Liliana Tolliver

**F**or the Army to remain the most elite fighting force in the world, it must continually make changes and advancements to its tactics, processes, and technologies. For this reason, the Simulation Training Center (STC) at Fort Lee, Virginia, offers a training capability that is available to Army forces worldwide.

The STC provides individual and collective training and simulations.

The Army uses the center to assess sustainment doctrine, validate logistics systems, and develop simulation-driven training for digital systems. To accomplish these missions, the STC has five departments:

- The Sustainment Knowledge Management–Process Improvement (KM–PI) Office.
- The Command Post Exercise–

Functional (CPX–F) Branch.

- The Logistics Exercise and Simulation Directorate (LESD).
- The Deployment and Distribution Training and Simulation Center (DDTSC).
- The Experimentation and Analysis Branch.

### The KM–PI Office

The KM–PI Office is a special

staff element that reports directly to the Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) deputy chief of staff and is led by the chief knowledge officer. The office comprises an operations branch and a technology branch. Core competencies include knowledge management (KM) services, process improvement services, data and content management, performance management, and KM-PI training and education.

dures and program of instruction briefings for the Army basic instructor courses for the Quartermaster and Ordnance Schools.

Organizations pursuing process improvements seek out the help of the KM-PI Office; however, in most cases, the office offers its services when it notices a flaw in the flow of information or in a process. For process improvements, the organization assesses units' needs and identifies

### The CPX-F Branch

The CPX-F Branch enhances units' operational readiness by leveraging institutional capabilities to support home-station training for unified land operations. The branch develops and maintains CPX-F training support packages, identifies training gaps and institutional training resources to fix those gaps, and informs the total Army force of available resources.

The CPX-F Branch conducts constructive, simulated, realistic training events to train support operations (SPO) staffs on sustainment warfighting function requirements. The training focuses on sustainment-centric collective tasks, such as conducting the military decisionmaking process, producing concepts of support, logistics status reports, logistics common operational pictures, and logistics synchronization matrices, and coordinating distribution operations.

A CPX-F event shows unit leaders that their existing battle rhythms and event processes are trained, refined, and streamlined, which allows them to focus on preparing and providing support to a corps or division for a warfighter exercise (WFX) or combat training center rotation.

### LESD

LESD is a component of the National Simulation Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Being collocated with CASCOM at Fort Lee allows LESD to coordinate simulation support for the Army sustainment community. LESD provides sustainment mission command simulation exercise support for military operations, mission rehearsals, and training exercises, while giving the Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) priority.

LESD is the capabilities integrator and worldwide provider of sustainment mission command training exercises. It provides exercise support for the institutional and operational Army to assist commanders in preparing Soldiers

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The KM-PI Office's mission is to develop and implement Department of Defense, joint, Army, and Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) enterprise KM-PI and collaboration policies, practices, and technologies within CASCOM, the Sustainment Center of Excellence, and the Army sustainment community. The office provides services to CASCOM, Transportation School units at Fort Eustis, Virginia, and to sustainment-related schools at Fort Lee.

Day-to-day activities include updating and maintaining SustainNet (a logistics forum in milSuite) to ensure questions are being addressed and answered by the appropriate subject matter experts and facilitating the CASCOM SharePoint, which is accessible to all staffs and schools at Fort Lee. The KM-PI Office also conducts daily checks and updates to ensure information is accurate and relevant within the Sustainment Knowledge Network.

The KM-PI Office provides user- and owner-level SharePoint training, conducts KM briefings, and provides tactical standard operating proce-

and designs KM solutions. It then develops, builds, tests, validates, and integrates the KM solutions. These KM solutions help many units cut down on man-hours.

The office contributes to Army readiness by giving units and commanders the tools to perform their jobs. It takes individuals' tacit knowledge (internal) and makes it explicit (external) knowledge to share throughout the Army.

The KM-PI Office manages the Sustainment Warfighting Forum and CASCOM's various knowledge centers (for the Ordnance, Quartermaster, and Transportation Schools, the Army Logistics University, the Army Materiel Command's Logistics Support Activity, and the Soldier Support Institute). Its staff also conducts online collaboration and video broadcasts of reverse collection and analysis team (R-CAAT) briefings, Sustainment Connects (quarterly interactive sessions about the sustainment community's hot topics and initiatives), and other events to ensure important information and lessons learned are made available to Soldiers and units expeditiously.

to successfully execute their sustainment missions.

LESD advises CASCOM on the use of training technologies to execute the sustainment collective training mission. As the user representative for sustainment constructive simulations, LESD assists the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in integrating the constructive sustainment model into the Joint Land Component Constructive Training Capability (JLCCTC).

LESD includes officers, warrant officers, senior noncommissioned officers, Department of the Army civilians, and contractors. All are subject matter experts in sustainment simulation operations. The directorate is composed of three divisions: Futures Simulation, Simulation Support, and Exercise Support. LESD is the Army's leading provider of sustainment simulation training and a key contributor to building and maintaining readiness in a complex world.

**Futures.** The Futures Simulation Division is a capabilities integrator and the user representative for sustainment constructive simulations. The organization orchestrates the capabilities development efforts of

the other LESD divisions and leads the capabilities development process. Additionally, the division provides testing and reviews documentation for development efforts and fielded capabilities.

The Futures Simulation Division has three branches: the Capabilities Integration Branch, the Field Support and Army Reserve Planning Branch, and the Database Branch. The Capabilities Integration Branch leads the division's capabilities integration effort in coordination with the TRADOC Capability Manager (TCM) Constructive, TCM Live Virtual Constructive, TCM Integrated Training Environment, and TCM Gaming.

The Field Support and Army Reserve Planning Branch interfaces with reserve component units and the MCTP for the collection of exercise simulation training objectives. It also provides reserve component units with simulation architecture development. This branch also provides testing support to the Capabilities Integration Branch and manages Joint Deployment Logistics Model (JDLM) problem ticket reports.

The Database Branch designs, de-

velops, implements, modifies, and manages exercise design and databases. Its staff researches current doctrine, missions, tactics, techniques, procedures, organizations, and equipment characteristics to ensure the exercise databases accurately depict units for simulations.

**Simulation support.** The Simulation Support Division delivers technical support for the JDLM to support exercise execution. It provides JLCCTC model interface testing, JDLM functional testing, and software troubleshooting. It also assists in requirements development for testing future software versions.

The division provides technical support for exercises, manages Simulation Modeling and Training Networks and the Department of Defense Information Assurance Risk Management Framework, and supports wide and local area networks, including the Global Simulation Network, permanent circuits to Korea, and the National Simulation Center's network.

**Exercise support.** The Exercise Support Division (EXD) plans and supports JDLM-based sustainment constructive simulation exercises



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to prepare multicomponent staffs at Army service component commands, corps, divisions, theater and expeditionary sustainment commands, and sustainment brigades for their wartime missions. It also supports home-station training, MCTP events, WFXs, and Republic of Korea theater-level exercises.

The division supports active, National Guard, and Army Reserve organizations. As the principal agent for on-site support to the warfighter, EXD supported more than 21 brigade- through theater-level simulation exercises in 2017. This included many exercises for active duty divisions, including the 1st Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and 101st Airborne Division.

EXD is also the principal agent for the integration of joint sustainment players into large-scale multiservice exercises, MCTP events, WFXs, and Logistics Federation standalone exercises. EXD personnel analyze, evaluate, and depict logistics operational concepts and techniques within exercise frameworks. They also analyze the procedures, methods, and processes involved in logistics concepts being considered for use and the concepts' responsiveness to the needs of the combat forces.

EXD teams regularly travel to exercise locations and attend planning conferences to help units identify desired training objectives. They supervise the development of sustainment functional areas and their incorporation into interactive computerized training models. They also train units on how to use the models.

EXD provides unique opportunities to train a combatant commanders' staffs to successfully perform their wartime missions in a high-stress simulation-supported exercise. The division directly contributes to the training and readiness of sustainment commanders, staffs, and Soldiers by providing exercise support to deploying and forward deployed units for culminating training events.

## DDTSC

DDTSC provides realistic individual training on the current doctrine, processes, and systems involved in the deployment, projection, and sustainment of forces around the world. The organization conducts deployment, movement control, and distribution training exercises in support of the Army Transportation School's officer, mobility warrant officer, and noncommissioned officer programs of instruction.

DDTSC is an extension of the Army Logistics University and its curricula. The center trains Transportation Basic Officer Leader Course and Logistics Captain's Career Course students in preparation for their capstone exercises. The exercises are a series of scenario-based vignettes in which students must meet deployment requirements when developing a plan for the deployment of forces.

Deployment is a vital part of the Army. Having trained officers who arrive at their duty assignments properly trained and ready to execute their mission greatly contributes to unit readiness.

## Experimentation and Analysis

The Experimentation and Analysis Branch leads sustainment experiments and participates in wargames. The branch uses the Battle Lab Collaborative Simulation Environment for both live and constructive simulation experiments in order to find problems and recommend changes to doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities.

The Experimentation and Analysis Branch uses logistics-focused exercises and simulations to test the future logistics force of 2025 and beyond. It supports concepts of development and experimentation for TRADOC battle labs throughout the sustainment community. The experiments not only validate future concepts and new ideas but also drive science and technology research.

The branch's recent experiments

have focused on these topics:

- ❑ Preparing for a near-peer threat in 2030.
- ❑ Logistics operations in the future.
- ❑ Making logistics units semi-independent.
- ❑ What seven days of supply looks like in a brigade combat team.
- ❑ Reducing commodities, increasing effectiveness, and driving science and technology.

The Experimentation and Analysis Branch collaborates with the maneuver battle lab, and it also works with all of the Army's centers of excellence. The branch has an operations research/systems analyst who collects data, forms threads or like themes, searches for observations made by others, notes discrepancies, and sends findings to the capability needs assessment staff, which looks for and identifies gaps. The Experimentation and Analysis Branch helps shape the Army's future forces, and its scenario-based experiments help drive science and technology advances, which improve Army readiness.

The STC contributes to the training and readiness of the current and future logistics forces. The center's capabilities and access to information and subject matter experts are available to all sustainment forces worldwide. Find out more about these organizations and how they can enhance your unit's individual and collective training. Contact the CASCOM G-3/5/7 and the LESD for additional information.

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