



FINDING BLIND SPOTS, GAINING TEMPO: AI IN CORPS TARGETING

**BY: COLONEL FRANK
MAXWELL, MAJOR
SARA ROGER, &
CAPTAIN JAROD DAVIS**

The 41st Field Artillery Brigade (41st FAB) tested CAMOGPT, an AI-enabled targeting tool, to determine if machine-generated courses of action (COA) could reduce planning timelines and improve targeting logic. This article outlines the pilot's design, execution, and outcomes, and provides an operational framework and recommendations for scaling AI-informed targeting within corps and division operations.



THE CAMOGPT PILOT & HUMAN VS. AI COMPARISON

In support of the Army Transformation Initiative (ATI) and V Corps' operational requirements, the 41st Field Artillery Brigade (41st FAB) conducted a pilot to test Artificial Intelligence (AI)-informed targeting using CAMOGPT, a SIPR-enabled large language model developed by the Artificial Intelligence Integration Center (AI2C). The pilot integrated AI into the fires planning process to assess whether machine-generated targeting COAs could reduce planning timelines, improve targeting logic, and enhance staff efficiency. This article outlines the pilot's design, execution, and outcomes, and provides an operational framework and recommendations for scaling AI-informed targeting within corps and division operations. It also previews the next phase of testing during a V Corps CPX, and lays the foundation for doctrinal adaptation of human-machine teaming in fires planning.

THE CHALLENGE OF TARGETING AT SCALE & TEMPO

In large-scale combat operations (LSCO), generating lethal and nonlethal effects within constrained timelines is critical. Targeting Working Groups (TWG) and Boards (TWB) must process vast volumes of intelligence, fires capabilities, friendly maneuver plans, and sustainment data, often with limited staff and compressed timelines. With Army fires formations increasingly supporting distributed operations across joint and multinational echelons, staffs must integrate AI to streamline COA generation, standardize input consumption, and free planners for critical refinement tasks.

THE CAMOGPT PILOT: METHODOLOGY & EXECUTION

The 41st FAB and V Corps ran the pilot during a five-day training cycle aligned with the Joint ATO process as part of Swift Response 25.

The experiment compared CAMOGPT-generated targeting COAs with human-developed COAs, focusing narrowly on lethal surface-to-surface fires. Inputs included the situational template (SITEMP), high-payoff target list (HPTL), ISR overlays, ammunition forecasts, and maneuver schemes. Planners provided these through plaintext prompts and structured documents to replicate command post workflows. Within minutes, CAMOGPT generated multiple coherent COAs that included prioritized targets, sequencing logic, ISR dependencies, and resupply forecasts. This contrast established the foundation for evaluating how human AI planners approached the same targeting problem from different perspectives.

INSIGHTS FROM THE HUMAN VS. AI COA

CAMOGPT consistently outpaced human planning, generating viable COAs in under five minutes. It revealed blind spots by exposing ISR gaps, flaws in fires sequencing logic, and sustainment thresholds that staffs might otherwise overlook under time pressure. However, CAMOGPT lacked depth in maneuver synchronization, deception planning, and contextual judgment. Human planners contributed critical context and creative problem solving, factors essential for translating plans into effective fires execution.

RESULTS: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AI VS. HUMAN COAS

AI's rapid framework generation provides staffs a decision-support baseline that frees planners to focus on analysis, refinement, and synchronization while preserving the primacy of human judgment.

LOOKING AHEAD

The CAMOGPT pilot revealed both the promise and limitations of AI-informed targeting. These results provide a foundation for understanding how AI can strengthen tempo and synchronization across echelons.



Criteria	CamoGPT (AI)	Human Targeting	Better Performer	Remarks
Speed	Near-instant output	~6–12 hours	AI	TWG: 3 hrs Staff Work: 3-6 hrs TDB: 1.5 hrs
Target Prioritization	Efficient, high-impact on Day 1/2	Prioritized but less synchronized	AI	
ISR Integration	Moderate	High (human ISR intuition and planning)	Human	Unable to replicate human domain with AI
Sustainment Forecast	Strong (ammo, resupply timelines)	Manual forecasting, less precise	AI	Challenged to organization sustain criteria in AI to align with mission requirements
Risk Consideration	Needs improvement	Better at incorporating risk and enemy COA	Human	
Context Awareness	Limited beyond inputs	Deep context integration from staff	Human	Unable to replication human domain with AI

FIGURE 1: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AI VS. HUMAN-GENERATED TARGETING COAS. THIS CHART CAPTURES THE RESULTS OF A SIDE-BY-SIDE ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY 41ST FA BRIGADE DURING A PILOT EXPERIMENT USING CAMOGPT TO GENERATE AI-INFORMED TARGETING COURSES OF ACTION. (PHOTO PROVIDED BY AUTHORS)

TRANSLATING AI ADVANTAGE INTO OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

AI-informed targeting offers operational and strategic benefits, reducing staff workload, accelerating decision-making, and strengthening tempo. Results reveal more than technical improvements, but a broader shift in how AI can redefine tempo, synchronization, and mission command across echelons. The next section examines the broader implications, operational lessons, and the way ahead for AI integration in Army fires planning.

STRATEGIC IMPACT: ENABLING TRANSFORMATION & OPERATIONAL ADVANTAGE

AI-informed targeting has implications beyond brigade fires. As ATI 2.0 advances, tools like CAMOGPT can drive efficiencies across operational planning, sustainment, and mission command.

Standardizing doctrinal inputs and outputs can create predictable formats for targeting, enable distributed COA generation, and shorten kill chains. Against peer adversaries who aim to saturate and out-cycle decision-makers, the Army's advantage must rest on speed, synchronization, and agility. AI-enabled decision support strengthens this advantage at corps and division echelons. These strategic advantages translate directly into measurable gains at the operational staff level, where AI integration shapes daily planning, coordination, and decisions.

OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The pilot produced clear operational benefits: reducing staff workload, accelerating Target Working Group (TWG) preparation, improving munition forecast fidelity, and enabling distributed mission command.



These advantages are especially relevant in 24/7 operations where tempo strains targeting cells. The limitations were equally instructive: CAMOGPT can't conduct terrain analysis, struggles with poorly structured inputs, and lacks the judgment to interpret commander's intent. These findings reinforce the requirement for human oversight and refinement in every AI-assisted process. The lessons drawn from these operational gains now inform the next phase of experimentation, where AI integration moves from pilot testing to deliberate employment across fires and effects functions.

WAY FORWARD: AVENGER TRIAD & FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

AI-informed targeting is a tangible capability, not a future concept. Building on the May 2025 pilot, the next phase will occur during V Corp's Command Post Exercise, Avenger Triad, in October 2025. Planned enhancements include expanding to nonlethal effects such as EW, IO, and space capabilities, as well as compatibility with AFATDS, JIPTL, and TSS. Development will also prioritize collaborative editing, version control, and a graphical interface for COA comparison. Support from AI2C remains essential to advance ingestion pipelines, FSCM logic, and CPCE/JBC-P integration. These improvements will embed CAMOGPT into targeting workflows, transforming fires planning across corps and divisions.

If implemented, these developments will reinforce that AI-informed targeting has progressed beyond concept; it's now an operational reality demanding doctrinal reflection and professional adaptation.

CONCLUSION

CAMOGPT doesn't replace the targeteer and fires planner—it enables them. By accelerating COA generation, surfacing blind spots, and allowing staffs to use their time more efficiently, AI-informed targeting strengthens the Army's ability to maintain tempo and decision dominance. Human-machine teaming will remain essential to achieving tempo and decision dominance in LSCO. With continued experimentation and doctrinal adaptation, AI-enabled targeting will transform the speed and quality of fires planning. The path forward will depend not only on continued technological progress but on how leaders cultivate trust, adaptability, and disciplined judgment in the human-machine partnership.

REFLECTIONS ON MODERNIZATION

The 41st FAB's work with CAMOGPT is more than an experiment, it's a signal of how the Army must evolve to fight and decide faster. The lessons drawn from this effort demonstrate that modernization is not only about systems but about people, processes, and the mindset to harness both.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

COL FRANK MAXWELL is the Commander of the 41st Field Artillery Brigade (V Corps), stationed in Grafenwoehr, Germany. A career Field Artillery officer, COL Maxwell has commanded at every level from battery to brigade and is a leading voice in modernization and innovation in Army Fires.

MAJ SARA ROGER is a U.S. Army Field Artillery officer currently serving as the Executive Officer for 1-77 Field Artillery Regiment. She is a graduate of the Naval War College and has led cross-functional teams in multinational training environments across Europe. Her professional focus includes fires integration, leadership development, and the evolving role of technology in mission command.

CPT JAROD DAVIS is a U.S. Army Field Artillery Officer currently assigned as the Assistant Operations Officer for 1-77th Field Artillery Regiment. He previously served as the Assistant Brigade Operations Officer for the 41st FAB and has contributed to numerous NATO exercises. His interests lie in advanced fires tactics and the practical application of AI in operational environments.

