

MODERNIZING ARMY TARGET DEVELOPMENT: A MODEL FOR ASCC LEVEL PRODUCTION CELLS

SUSTAINING TARGET PRODUCTION AT THE ASCC LEVEL—CERTIFICATION, TRAINING, AND ENDURING CAPABILITY

BY: CW2 CODY SORRELL

Editor's Note: This article concludes a three-part series examining why Target Production Cells matter at the Army Service Component Command level and how they are designed, organized, and sustained to support timely, compliant target development in competition and conflict.

RECAP

The previous installments in this series established why deliberate TPC design matters at the ASCC level and how these cells should be organized to enable effective target development. Structure alone, however, is insufficient to sustain production over time. Maintaining target development at scale requires disciplined certification standards, recurring training, and deliberate integration with evolving systems and enterprise processes. This article examines how ASCCs sustain TPCs through certification, training pipelines, and system integration to ensure continued effectiveness in competition and conflict.

CERTIFICATIONS

The following section explains each certification timeline applicable to each phase of target development. These explanations include training gates, signature requirements, and command oversight and responsibilities, and associated accreditations.

While ITD does not have specific certifications, the explanation provides training opportunities for those personnel tasked with outputs for this phase.

ITD Recommended Training:

Joint Targeting Staff Course

- Focuses on the Joint Targeting Cycle, TVA, Targeting Taxonomy, and TSA
- 80-hour course, Dam Neck, VA
- Joint Intermediate Target Development Certification
- Defense Intelligence Agency accredited course; focuses primarily on all ITD functions and introduction to graphic production
- 80-hour course, Fort Sill, OK
- Targeting Analysis and Production Standards (TAPS)
- Focuses primarily on PVCHAR analysis, graphic production, and synthesizing data from All-Source Analysts to GEOINT Analysts
- 40-hour course, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency - East



MIDB Managers Course

- Focus on individual operation of MIDB including processing graphics and data for inclusion to the database
- 24-hour course, Defense Intelligence Agency

MARS Producers Course

- Focus on individual operation of MARS; mirrors MIDB processes
- 24-hours, JWICS, iConnect and video delivery

ATD certifications are referenced in several places based on steps. Below is an explanation of certification requirements and applicable references:

Weaponeering

- Army Weaponeering Certification Course (AWPN)
- Focus on target to weapon pairing
- 40-hour course, Fort Sill, OK

JTCG / ME

- Currently, it does *not* require a joint or service certification; AWPN is a familiarization course only

Aimpoint Selection

Target Material Production Individual Qualification Training (TMP IQT)

- Focuses on JDPI production and graphic production of explicit weaponeering solutions for Army targets, Work Center accreditation requirements and analyst certifications
- 80-hour qualification course, Fort Sill, OK
- Certification required; see the Army TCM Instruction for further clarification.

Analyst Certification Timeline

- Subject to change based on specific criteria; reference the Army TCM instruction for further details

Work Center Accreditation Timeline

- Certification and accreditation standards are referenced from the Geospatial Intelligence Target Coordinate Mensuration Program Accreditation and Certification Standards, NSGI 2351.B, and the Army TCM Instruction.

Collateral Damage Estimation Course (APPS Course)

- 40-hour, Dam Neck, VA
- Theater specific certifications are based on individual TPC requirements

SUSTAINING THE TARGETING ENTERPRISE

This series outlines a foundational framework for ASCC and higher echelons to establish effective TPCs. The Army Targeting Committee delineated the roles, responsibilities, and essential skillsets required within Targeting, Intermediate Target Development, and Advanced Target Development sections, providing a clear roadmap for optimizing target production capabilities. The proposed structures emphasize integrating experienced officers, warrant officers, NCOs, and analysts from various MOS, highlighting the necessity of a collaborative, functional approach to target development.

Collaborative efforts between USAREUR-AF, USARPAC, AGB and the Army AMTC informed the recommendations, offering a practical pathway for ASCCs seeking to enhance their targeting processes. Standardizing TPC certifications, ensuring the presence of key MOS roles, and



implementing the proposed structural improvements will lead to a more agile, precise, and ultimately, more effective targeting enterprise.

Ultimately, rapidly and accurately identifying, prioritizing, and targeting enemy assets remains paramount in modern operations. By embracing the principles and structures outlined in this paper, the Army can strengthen its targeting capabilities at the ASCC level to meet the demand in competition and conflict to ensure mission success and maintaining a decisive advantage in an increasingly complex world. We recommend further research and practical implementation of these recommendations to refine and adapt these structures to meet the evolving demands of future conflicts.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CW2 Cody R. Sorrell is the current Assistant Army Targeting Programs Manager and Targeting Officer at the Army Multi-Domain Targeting Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He previously served as the Counterfire Officer for the 75th Field Artillery Brigade, “Tough as Diamonds,” and as the Battalion Targeting Officer for 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment “Deep Attack.” Prior to that, he was assigned to 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, “On the Minute,” at Camp Casey, Korea, where he served as both the Counterfire Officer and the Intelligence Officer. His operational experience includes deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve from 2014–2015. CW2 Sorrell’s military education includes the Warrant Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Joint Fires Observer Course, Joint Firepower Course, Joint Operations Fires and Effects Course, Collateral Damage Estimation Certification and Qualification Courses, Echelons Above Airspace Control Course, and the Common Faculty Development Instructor Course. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Liberty University.

For questions/inquiries regarding this series, please contact the author at: cody.r.sorrell2.mil@army.mil.

