



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX KENTUCKY 40121-5000

November 18, 1999

Office of the Commanding General

SUBJECT: Platform Performance Demonstration

Dear Industry Professionals:

I want to thank you for your interest in the U.S. Army's Initial Brigade Platform Performance Demonstration at Fort Knox, Kentucky from December 5, 1999 to January 20, 2000. We see this as a great opportunity to educate our leaders and soldiers on system and platform technologies that are available today. Additionally, we want to use this opportunity to inform you of the Army's perspective of the Organizational and Operational (O&O) capabilities that Medium Brigade platforms must satisfy.

The Commerce Business Daily informed you that the purpose of this demonstration is to "determine the potential availability of a family or families of systems to equip a new brigade organization designed for full spectrum operations." This requires an organizational structure that integrates the unique capabilities of our light and mounted forces with Army XXI experimentation in information dominance into a rapidly deployable force that is agile and operationally effective once on the ground. Our analysis of these new brigade concepts shows that a high level of platform commonality is essential to achieve maximum organizational effectiveness in both Force Projection Dominance, on one hand, and Battlespace Dominance, on the other.

With all of this in mind, we have designed Performance Demonstration scenarios to assess potential system and platform technologies as they are subjected to environmental conditions addressed in the O&O concept; that is, those most commonly found in small-scale contingencies executed in complex and urban terrain. Our subject matter expert team of officers, noncommissioned officers, and engineers will focus on the following platform qualities from the O&O assessing each platform's potential to accept enhancements and digital connectivity:

- a. C130 deployability.
- b. Increased sustainability, reliability, ease of maintenance and recoverability.
- c. MANPRINT characteristics such as ease of operation, ability to transport an infantry squad, and platform safety.
- d. A direct, rapid fire gun to support an infantry-centric force as demonstrated in a realistic live fire exercise.

e. High tactical mobility, agility and ability to “own the night” during an extensive day/night movement on- and off-roads in close, complex and urban terrain. Included in this category is the ability to swim and tow trailers, howitzers, etc.

f. Survivability as a system of systems underpinned by complementary tactical procedures.

g. The potential to accept enhancements and digital connectivity.

We will assess platforms for adaptability and their potential for technology insertion to meet other required capabilities. For example, we will explore the potential of your vehicle to meet primary organizational needs to include infantry carrier, mobile assault gun, Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and recce functions. We will also consider the adaptability of platforms to perform mortar, fire support, engineer, command & control, recovery, sensor, biological and chemical recce, ambulance and other logistical functions. For this reason, I would encourage you to take this opportunity to demonstrate your capability to deliver systems based on a common platform(s) approach that might have a place in our future modernization plans.

Conceptually, the Platform Performance Demonstration has been organized into four distinct phases:

a. Phase I – Planning is ongoing. A key component of this phase involves a safety evaluation of candidate platforms by a team of Army safety and equipment experts to ensure the demonstration may proceed safely. Also during this phase, we would request your support in training a select group of Army “Master” Operators at your facility in early December.

b. Phase II – Reception, Staging and Integration (December 5 - 17) focuses on welcoming your support team and platforms to Fort Knox. We intend to assign Army crews partnered with your experts to each vehicle in order to give our soldiers the opportunity to learn vehicle capabilities and gain key warfighter insights. Also, it gives our soldiers an opportunity to communicate with your experts changes or adjustments to the platform that could enhance man-machine interface characteristics. Finally, we plan to assess platforms for technology integration and adaptability potential during this phase.

c. In Phase III – Deployability (December 18 - 19), platforms will be required to demonstrate deployability characteristics by undergoing measurements and be loaded aboard C130, rail and heavy equipment transport systems. The demonstration will pause for the holidays and then resume on January 3, 2000.

d. During Phase IV – Demonstrations (January 3 - 20), platforms will be subjected to a combination of on/off-road driving courses, day and night live firing, a swim exercise, and a tactical situation exercise that culminates in a performance demonstration at our Mounted Urban Combat Training Site where vehicles will face urban challenges such as rubble, wire and barricades. A primary VIP period has been scheduled for January 15-16 in order to coincide with this tactical situation exercise.

The bottom line for this demonstration is to gain observations that will assist the Army in refining the O&O concept and, later, requirements documentation. We will provide you with a written report that summarizes our observations of your platform's ability to meet the capabilities derived from the Initial Brigade O&O. This will be an assessment across the six force effectiveness areas described above (deployability, sustainability, MANPRINT, lethality, survivability and battlefield mobility). We will also provide you comments on adaptability, technology insertion potentials and discussions on possible problem areas. Again, this demonstration is a market survey, not a competition!

I draw your attention to the language within the Commerce Business Daily announcement that this demonstration is at no expense to the U.S. Government. The appropriate Tank & Automotive Command (TACOM) official, or their representative at Fort Knox, will require that an authorized representative from your company enter into a Demonstration and Product Display Agreement which highlights this understanding, the operational details discussed above and other routine protections such as safeguarding against unauthorized disclosure of proprietary information. A copy of the agreement is enclosed. Please refer any questions that you may have regarding this agreement to Mr. Matt Bowman, (502) 624-3006, FAX (502) 624-2488, e-mail: bowmanm@ftknox-emh19.army.mil.

In summary, we look forward to your participation and the opportunity to collectively make this event a success. We are actively coordinating with your point of contact to ensure that you are provided with all specific details necessary. Additionally, to further assist you in preparing for the Platform Performance Demonstration, the following information is enclosed: Required Industry Actions, Platform Performance Demonstration Activities, Required Participant Safety Information, Required Manufacturer Performance Data. My designated representative for the demonstration is Colonel Richard "Doc" Savage at (502) 624-7809 or DSN: 464-7809, e-mail address: savage@ftknox-mbb1-lan.army.mil.

Sincerely,



B. B. Bell
Major General, US Army
Commanding General

Enclosures