



THE MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OPERATIONAL CONCEPT

By Colonel Philip Federle

The Secretary of Defense announced his recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission on 3 March 1995. Among those recommendations was one to move the Military Police and Chemical Schools from Fort McClellan, Alabama, to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In a video teleconference involving Fort Leonard Wood and Fort McClellan personnel on 27 March 1995, the TRADOC commander gave his early guidance toward developing the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN). In subsequent briefings, his guidance was expanded as shown in Figure 1.

A primary concern while developing the MANSCEN operational concept was to maintain a strong propensity for each branch across the doctrine, training, leader development, organization, materiel, and soldiers (DTLOMS) program. Figure 2 depicts the relationship between propensity and the amount of integration to be achieved in building the concept.

During the briefing to the TRADOC commander, the consensus among the three school commandants was that with consolidated Directorates of Training Development (DOTD) and Combat Developments (DCD), we had achieved a mark about one-third of the way between "collocation" and "full integration." Since that time, the three schools have worked to consolidate common portions of the officer training courses. The commandants now agree that we have passed the midpoint along the continuum.

The operational concept was first published by the Garrison Command in June 1995. The Engineer School Directorate of Training revised it in November 1996 and again in November 1997. The revisions were the result of many discussions by key civilian and military leaders in the three schools, guided by a MANSCEN Council of Colonels. The council provided the focus to build a team among

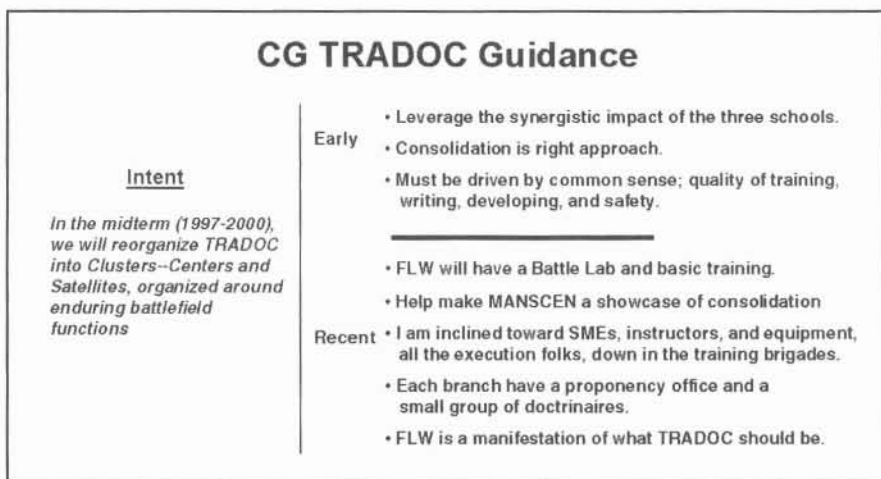


Figure 1

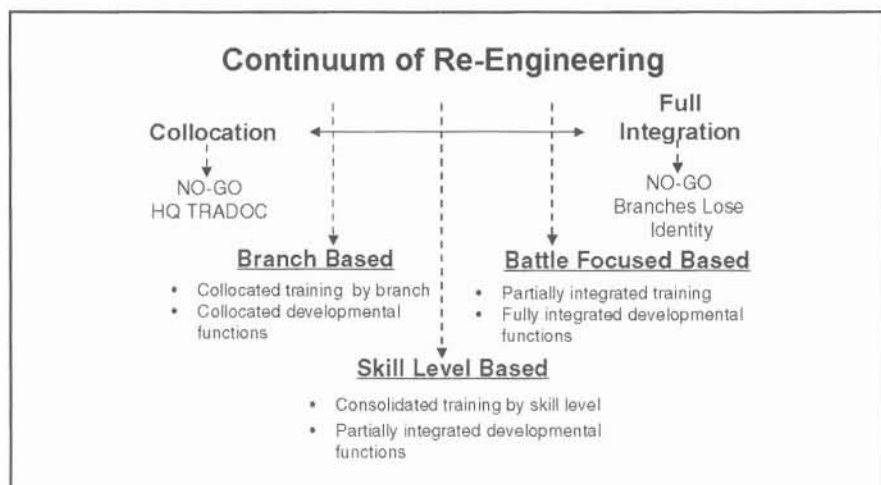


Figure 2

our three branches. The result is an organizational structure that will use our limited resources most efficiently. The operational concept guides facility design, development of organization mission and functions, and the tables of distribution and allowances needed to support the organizational structures agreed on by the commandants.

The road to MANSCEN is entering its final phases. Facilities are under construction and new organizations are

developing operating procedures. The following article highlights how the Engineer School will fit and operate within the context of the Maneuver Support Center.



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