

Project Convergence 2022: Army to work closely with allies in the future fight

by Joe Lacdan

Army News Service

U.S. Soldiers can expect greater integration with British and Australian troops in the future battlefield as the Army focuses on bolstering interoperability with allied partners and other military branches during Project Convergence 2022, Army leaders said.

The Army hosted the all-service event to merge joint capabilities and develop speed, range and decision dominance to achieve overmatch.

After acting as observers in PC 2021, members of the British and Australian militaries actively participated in this year's Project Convergence, the Army's series of annual experiments held at Camp Pendleton, California, in October and Fort Irwin, California, in November.

About 500 British troops and 200 members of the Australian Defense Force took part in PC 2022, which expanded the scope, scale and complexity of the experiments of 2021. The Army and the joint force also focused on sustainment and augmenting its ability to rearm in contested environments.

Project Convergence falls under the service's larger effort in building the Army of 2030, where the service will reorganize and develop innovative technologies to outpace near-peer adversaries in future battles.

"I believe that the Army has a huge role to play in the future war fight whether it's in the European theater or whether it's in the Indo-Pacific theater," Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth said during a meeting with reporters on Nov. 9. "We obviously have a tremendous role in terms of providing sustainment. We've got tremendous command and control capabilities."

Greater collaboration among each of the nation's military branches along with partner nations will pose multiple threats for enemies, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville. Additionally, the joint capabilities showcased during the event provide combatant commanders with more options on the battlefield, he added.

Those options include mid-range and long-range precision fires and precision strike missiles that can hit targets up to 500 kilometers away.

"We're going to fight as a joint force. We're going to fight as a combined force," McConville said. "What you want to do is present your adversary multiple dilemmas so they can't focus on one problem set."

During this fall's iteration, the British Army



Courtesy photograph

Members of the British Army take part in an exercise during Project Convergence 2022 at Fort Irwin, Calif.

displayed its interoperability capabilities in air defense, unmanned aerial systems, fires, and electronic warfare and signals intelligence.

The Australian Army's division and brigade command and control nodes contributed to the experiments with satellite communications and coalition network capabilities.

"[Adversaries] just can't focus on the air because it's a multi-domain fight that they're going to have to deal with," McConville added. "And land is part of that along with space, cyber, air and sea. And what we see in the future fight is we're going to be contested in all those domains."

About 3,000 service members, civilians and contractors took part in the first phase at Camp Pendleton, which focused on integrated offensive fires and effects experiments using video, simulation, and subject matter expert input.

Participants engaged in experiments in a maritime environment across the Indo-Pacific region with forces stationed in Japan, the Philippines, Australia and Hawaii.

The number rose to about 4,000 during the second phase at Fort Irwin, in which Soldiers deployed tactical maneuvers with simulated and live demonstrations. The scenarios focused on linking sensors to shooters and expanding the range of the joint force, said Lt. Gen. Scott McKean, Army Futures Command deputy commander.

The militaries tested about 300 new technologies including the Army's 82-ton light

maneuver support vessel, which can sail at great speeds while carrying heavy cargo, and the Air Force's Tactical Operations Center, a lightweight, scalable, battle management sys-

tem. The technologies range from autonomous aerial supply vehicles to remote combat vessels.

"It's going to be really hard to tell what's Army, what's Air Force, what's Navy, and what's Marine Corps, what's British land forces, what's Australian," said Lt. Gen. Clinton Hinote, Air Force deputy chief of staff for strategy, integration and requirements. "The enemy won't be able to tell because we'll be so integrated and such a team that the combined effects of the all-domain force will roll right through them and that would happen today."

In addition, representatives from Canada, New Zealand and other nations acted as observers for the experiments.

During PC 2022, the U.S. Army prioritized assessing the all-service ability to connect and collaborate with allied nations. In one instance, during an Australian experiment, the joint force will use U.S. sensors to detect an adversary.

Participants transmitted the intel through the Army's Firestorm system, an artificial intelligence-powered network which pairs sensors with shooters, to the Australian forces. After receiving the information the Australian military can then decide whether to target the enemy.



Army photograph by Staff Sgt. Matthew Lurnagui

U.S. Army Gen. Randy George (left) vice chief of staff of the Army, and Australian Lt. Col. Stuart Purves, liaison at Army Futures Command, discuss an experiment during Project Convergence 2022 on Nov. 3, 2022 at Fort Irwin, Calif. Project Convergence is an all-service and multinational effort to test and integrate emerging technologies.

News

1st Cavalry Division participates in PC-22

FORT IRWIN, California — 1st Cavalry Division participated in Project Convergence 2022, an experiment offering opportunities to access future warfighting strategies, including how the All-Service and Multinational Force can work together to detect and defeat threats Sept. 29 through Nov. 9 at Fort Irwin, California.

The First Team's primary mission during the experiment consisted of forming attack positions each morning while moving to the landing departure zone in the M113 Tracked Armored Personnel Carrier, M1A2 SEP v3 Abrams Tank, M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) while fighting the opposing forces. Each day new technology is added to the mission to test the success and practicality of the technology when used in a lifelike scenario.

Electronic assets allowed the unit to conduct reconnaissance and bring out the enemy without endangering Troopers, preserved combat power of larger platforms, scan the battlefield in a minimal amount of time, and allowed the commander to make decisions with less risk.

The assets also allowed rapid communications with allied partners across the spectrum of operations, reducing the time needed for decision making and allowing for more rapid target engagement by the 1st Cav artillery.

The 1st Cav is transforming by integrating these new technologies across the formation to enhance our ability to compete globally, deter adversaries, and win on all-domain battlefields.

"I firmly believe that everything we do here is something that we'll see throughout the Army over the next 60 years," said Lt. Col. Brennan Speakes, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, commanding officer. "This is the equivalent of the Army moving from the horse drawn cavalry to the armored formations we know today."

Army Futures Command established Project Convergence in 2020 as an opportunity for collaboration, experimentation and a way of informing how we fight, how we organize, the talent we need and what we fight with.

"1-7 Cav is going to be the best trained squadron in the Army by next summer," said Maj. Gen. John B. Richardson IV, 1st Cavalry Division commanding general. "You are building an incredible reputation right now across the Army."

Project Convergence is designed to aggressively advance and integrate the Army's contributions to the Joint and Multi-National Force and ensure that the Army, as part of the Joint and Multi-National partner's fight, can rapidly and continuously converge effects across all domains including air, land, sea, space and cyberspace, to



overmatch our adversaries, increase operational tempo and generate decision advantage over our adversaries.

Convergence means integrating efforts across all echelons, from the tactical to the strategic level, to deliver optimal lethal and non-lethal effects across all domains.

"Project Convergence 2022 is good for not only the training value for the squadron, but to learn the use and capabilities of this new technology," said Sgt. Kyler Tackett, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Bradley gunner. "Hopefully PC22 will help with the further development of these vehicles, and to help solve problems for the future of the Army."

Through Project Convergence, the Army is demonstrating new technologies continuously throughout the year to ensure we can fight and win as one Joint, Multi-National team by framing objectives within the Joint Warfighting Concept and Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2) network.

These experiment demonstrations and future modernization capabilities inform Army emerging technologies, future concepts and future formations.

"Hopefully we leave our mark as a con-



tributor to future technologies that are going to help the Army fight our future wars," said Cpt. Rannie Lintag, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, human resources officer.

Looking to Project Convergence 2023 and beyond, the Army will continue to expand its alliances and demonstrate the impact modernization will have in various theaters of our geographic combatant commands.

"I couldn't be prouder of the team that's out here," said Speakes. "This team is making things happen, and I've seen a stark improvement in not only their capabilities, but also their leadership potential."

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2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment takes part in Project Convergence 2022

After serving as observers in previous iterations of Project Convergence, the British Army was active participants in Project Convergence 22.

C Company of the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (The Experimental Company) was at Fort Irwin, California, using the opportunity to take part in more experiments using a number of resources.

Fort Irwin provides Soldiers with a vast training area to experiment with new concepts and equipment.

A first for many of the British Soldiers was a flight in a U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk.

The Blackhawk is a four-blade, twin-engine, medium-lift utility military helicopter built by Sikorsky in a Lockheed Martin company. Sikorsky submitted the S-70 design for the U.S. Army's Utility

Tactical Transport Aircraft System competition in 1972.

On the ground, Soldiers from C Company worked alongside the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) using equipment such as the SkyDIO unmanned aerial vehicle, and variants of the Remote Piloted Vehicles.

Project Convergence is the joint force experimenting with speed, range and decision dominance to achieve overmatch and inform the Joint Warfighting Concept, and Joint All Domain Command and Control.

A campaign of learning, it leverages a series of joint, multi-domain engagements to integrate Artificial Intelligence, robotics and autonomy to improve battlefield situation awareness, connect sensors with shooters, and accelerate the decision-making timeline.

Following the Army 2020 Refine, 2 YORKS was converted to a 'Enhanced Light Force Battalion,' part of a £120 million three-year program. The battalion helps spearhead the British Army's transformation into the 'Future Soldier' program relating to the Light Infantry.

The Project Convergence experience, and in light of the recent changes, a new status for the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment begins to emerge.

For Commanding Officer Lt. Col. James Ashworth, the opportunity is one that he and Soldiers relish.

"It's not only a huge privilege to command a battalion that's been entrusted with such a financial investment, but with such as conceptual investment to redesign and re-imagine how we will fight in the future," he said.



A soldier from C Company 2 YORKS, utilising the the latest technology on Project Convergence.



British Army photographs

Members of 2 YORKS and the Infantry Trials and Development Unit utilize the SkyDIO unmanned aerial vehicle during Project Convergence.



The experimentation company or C Company 2 YORKS, utilizing the the latest technology on Project Convergence.



At Fort Irwin, California, troops from C Company 2 YORKS utilize the U.S. Blackhawk helicopter to make the most of the available training area.



British troops making the most of the training facilities available at Fort Irwin, California.

News



Army photograph by Spec. Collin S. MacKown

Multinational partners conduct medical experimentation as part of Project Convergence 22 (PC22) at Fort Irwin, California, Nov. 7, 2022. PC22 brings together members of the All-Service and Multinational force to rigorously assess the effectiveness and interoperability cutting-edge weapons and battle systems.

PC22 experiments with new medical technology for the battlefield

by Sgt. Trinity Carter

Fort Irwin, Calif.

A buzz could be heard as a medical supply drone known as Project Crimson flew overhead to drop off packages of crucial medical field supplies to medics assisting wounded warriors. As the supplies hit the ground, a medic rushed to retrieve the packages, as many of the other medical warriors kept applying field aid to their Soldier counterparts.

The mass casualty scenario, part of Project Convergence 22, brought together medical personnel from the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and the Australian Army's 2nd Health Battalion, to experiment with advanced field care technologies, including those enabled by artificial intelligence.

"Project Crimson is a project to take a common unmanned air system and adapt it to support a medical mission," said Nathan Fisher, Medical Robotics and Autonomous Systems division chief at the U.S. Army's Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center.

"This drone supports medical field care when casualty evacuation isn't an option. It can keep whole blood and other crucial items refrigerated in the autonomous portable refrigeration unit and take it to medics in the field with wounded warriors."

Fisher explained how the drone is a vertical landing and take-off aircraft, therefore doesn't need a catapult launch or runway to perform a lifesaving mission. This allows military personnel to preserve life in the critical phase of injury and facilitate rapid transport to an Army hospital for further treatment.

While Project Crimson sustained the medical field from the air, military medics used Medical Hands-free Unified Broadcast, or MedHUB, and Battlefield Assisted Trauma

Distributed Observation Kit, or BATDOK, systems strapped to their arms and chests to input medical treatments digitally from the ground.

"MedHUB is used to enhance medical situational awareness," said Philip Featherston, an Air-ground Interoperability and Integration Lab systems engineer. "At the point of injury, we can start hands-free documentation. All we do is place a sensor to the patient that will apply a broadcast to the treatment facility and control center."

"The facility can see the patient's status real-time using BATDOK, while the medics on ground can update treatments and medications for the patients as well. This allows the facility to be alerted, rally and prepare to treat the patient once they are transported," explained Michael Sedillo, an integrated cockpit sensing program airman systems director with the Air Force Research Laboratory.

During the experiment, litters carrying casualties were taken from medical evacuation vehicles, while Army field hospital medics rushed to apply advanced medical care. As casualties were taken into tents, medics with BATDOK and MedHUB systems traded patient information with the previous medical personnel with the near field communication card.

"The ability to have these technologies on hand has enhanced medical field care tremendously," said Capt. Morgan Plowman, a nurse with the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. "To take a tablet or phone to input personnel data has increased the communication down the line and accuracy of field care. So much so that the rate of patient care has increased to the point that caring for a casualty start to finish has sped up drastically."

The mass casualty experiment also highlighted the potential for allied nations to work together more closely on future



Army photograph by Sgt. Thiem Huynh

The U.S. Army Group 3 Medical Drone delivers a payload during Project Convergence 22 (PC22), Fort Irwin, California, Oct. 28, 2022.

battlefields in the area of emergency medical care.

"This is an excellent opportunity to come over here and work with multinational partners," said Capt. Michael Harley, an Australian Army medical officer, of Project Convergence 22 experimentation. "It is eye-opening to see the initiative between everyone and see the interoperability between the nations."

"I just came from [advanced individual training], so I didn't know what to expect coming out here during this event," said Pfc. Tyler Swanson, a 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division field medic. "When I used this medical technology, it was easy to pick up and learn, even in a fast-paced field environment."

"I am excited to see what the future of medical technology will look like a decade down the road," Swanson added.

Ops Group takes part in annual Turkey Bowl

On Nov. 18, 2022, Operations Group, National Training Center/Fort Irwin, California, participated in the Annual Turkey Bowl Event.

and FOOTBALL. All of the teams had fun and played hard but there could only be one champion of this event.

What better way to welcome the Thanksgiving season. A bit of team building, camaraderie

And the Trophy goes to ... The Panther Team. Congratulations!



Community

Brito's BBQ Pit updated, re-dedicated

On Nov. 9, 2022, Operations Group updated and re-dedicated Brito's BBQ Pit.

This Place in the desert (PID) is a dedication to Gen. Gary M. Brito (BB #415) who served as Scorpion 07 for 10 Rotations at The National Training Center/Fort Irwin, California, from June 2006 to June 2007.

Army photographs by Staff St. Julie Jaeger



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NTC/Fort Irwin mark Thanksgiving holiday

Brig. Gen. Curt Taylor, commanding general of the NTC and Fort Irwin, California, joined leaders from across the NTC in serving the annual Holiday Meal to Soldiers and civilians, at the Coyote Cafe.

Army photographs



Blackhorse Diner serves Thanksgiving meal at Fort Irwin

On Nov. 22, 2022, leaders from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment served their Troopers a Thanksgiving meal at the Blackhorse Diner, Fort Irwin, California. Happy Thanksgiving to all of our Troopers, their families, and our Veterans.

Army photographs



gobble
gobble



Community

NTC/Fort Irwin Soldiers return home



More than 300 Operations Group Observer, Coach/Trainers returned to Fort Irwin, California, Nov. 12, 2022, after providing exceptional coaching and support for the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center's Rotation 23-01 in Hawaii.

The rotation provided realistic training designed to build readiness and enhance interoperability throughout the Indo-Pacific region.





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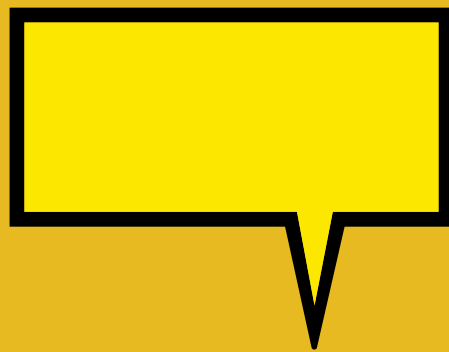
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