

United States Army

Maneuver Support for Strategic Landpower

The United States Army Maneuver Support Center

“Our nation requires us to compel our enemies and protect our interests, and Strategic Landpower is what will win the clash of wills.” GEN Robert W. Cone



KITGUM, Uganda – A Ugandan Military Police soldier describes operations at an entry control checkpoint (ECP) to SSG Aubrey McElroy (front) and SFC Coit Dixon, assigned to the 304th Military Police Company in Johnson City, Tennessee. Photo by MAJ Corey Schultz, Army Reserve Public Affairs.

As the Army moves towards Strategic Landpower, the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE) also adapts to better support the Army as it prevents conflict, shapes the operational environment, and, when called upon, wins our nation's wars. Specifically, the MSCoE is focusing concepts and capabilities development on ensuring future Army forces have the capabilities needed to facilitate movement and maneuver, protect the force and partners, and preserve combat power during the employment of Strategic Landpower.

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Maneuver support for Strategic Landpower provides critical capabilities and resources across the entire prevent, shape, and win framework. The MSCoE is focused on ensuring these capabilities enhance both strategic and expeditionary maneuver, as well as preserving the force during operations. As MSCoE develops future concepts and capabilities, it emphasizes meeting the following requirements for better Strategic Landpower support:

- Provide synchronized, integrated maneuver support and protection to strategic and expeditionary maneuver.
- Enable sustainment by establishing and / or maintaining the infrastructure necessary for military operations and enhancing the movement, protection, and support of forces.

- Conduct operations to assure mobility and enhance protection in support of unified land operations and the execution of combined arms maneuver and wide area security.
- Conduct Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) activities.
- Provide policing and detention capabilities and expertise.
- Enhance interdependence with special operations forces and unified action partners and conduct engagement activities across the range of military operations.
- Provide maneuver support and protection capabilities and expertise during homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.
- Foster habitual relationships with / augmentation to maneuver forces.

With these key areas, maneuver support and protection forces provide meaningful support across the range of military operations, regardless of the phase or operational environment. Support to strategic maneuver may include engineers conducting engagement activities, and assisting with stability operations, by improving local infrastructure, digging wells, or building schools, military police developing legitimate, effective, and sustainable host nation police forces during security force assistance operations, or Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) units working with special operations forces to counter weapons of mass destruction (CWMD).

Maneuver support and protection during expeditionary maneuver may include engineers establishing and maintaining the infrastructure needed to set the theater and conduct unified land operations, CBRN units conducting WMD active defense or CBRNE passive defense, engineers or explosive ordnance disposal units conducting counter-explosive hazards tasks, or military police providing investigative and forensics expertise in support of security operations over wide areas.



United States and Republic of Korea Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Response Teams (CRTs) participate in a combined training mission. Photo from Army Chemical Review, Winter 2012

Increased interdependence with special operations forces and the establishment of habitual relationships with maneuver forces and commanders are critical areas which ensure better support during strategic and expeditionary maneuver. Maneuver support and protection forces have unique capabilities which benefit these units and their operations; however, the relationships could greatly benefit when established well in advance of real world requirements.

The habitual augmentation of forces to maneuver units will be vital to future mission success. The MSCoE continues working closely with the operational force and appropriate headquarters to foster these important relationships.

The MSCoE also focuses on developing adaptive leaders and Soldiers who understand the changing operational environment and requirements associated with future operations. Training and leader development are key parts of the process which ensures future Soldiers and leaders are operationally adaptable and regionally focused, with a good understanding of mission command, the human dimension, and Strategic Landpower.

Finally, the MSCoE is working with the Army Capabilities Integration Center, and other Centers of Excellence, to rename and redesign the Protection Warfighting Function to the Maneuver Support and Protection Warfighting Function. This provides a more effective construct which fully meets the intent of a warfighting function, better supporting Strategic Landpower employment. The effort to rename and redesign the warfighting function ensures complimentary and reinforcing tasks, systems, and capabilities to enhance movement and maneuver and preserve the force. The redesignation allows for a synchronized and integrated approach which helps commanders accomplish the mission.

Strategic Landpower is at the heart of MSCoE modernization. Maneuver support for Strategic Landpower is extremely important, and requires assessment and change to ensure the Army receives the support it needs in future operations. Adapting to meet the maneuver support and protection requirements associated with future operations is a first step; however, there is more work to be done. Future concepts and capabilities development efforts will explore and describe how maneuver support and protection forces provide the best possible support to Strategic Landpower. Your thoughts and contributions are important and will help the MSCoE successfully adapt to better support the Army, Joint Force, and nation in the future. ★★

MG Leslie Smith is the Commanding General of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE) and Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He recently completed command of the 20th CBRNE Command in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He has 30 years of service as a Chemical Officer with numerous deployments that include Iraq and Afghanistan. He has a BS degree from Georgia Southern University, a MA degree from Central Michigan, and a MS degree from the National Defense University.

LTC Jason M. Stoddard is the Chief, Tactical Maneuver Support Concepts Branch at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He recently completed battalion command in Germany and will relocate this summer to attend the Air War College. He has 21 years of service as a Military Police Officer with deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Cuba. He has a BS degree from Evangel University and a MA degree from Webster University.