

U.S. Army's Critical Documents Go Digital and Mobile

United States Army Mobile Learning Division (MLD)
Best Advance in Mobile Learning Technology
February 2018



Company Background



Company At-a-Glance	
Headquarters	Headquarters, U.S. Army TRADOC
Year Founded	1973
Revenue	\$8 billion budget
Employees	47,452 Army soldiers and civilians
Global Scale	Six major schools and 32 specialized schools globally.
Customers/Output, etc.	Advanced training products for the betterment of U.S. Army Soldiers.
Industry	Training
Website	https://www.atsc.army.mil/tadlp/

Value Proposition

Current U.S. Army doctrine – policies and regulations – is provided to soldiers in the form of thousands of pages of static, printed text. This makes critical information difficult to find and use when needed.

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Army Training Support Center (ATSC) Interactive Digital Publications (IDP) program is converting existing Army doctrine manuals to IDPs.

Taking the form of ePubs and E2 Books, these IDPs enhance doctrinal information with video, audio, interactive graphics and animations, and additional resources within a complete package that can be viewed on almost any computer, tablet, phone, or other handheld device.

The use of digital technology not only saves millions of dollars in hard-copy printing and distribution costs, but also makes the critical doctrine accessible to soldiers anywhere they have a tablet or smartphone.

Product or Program Innovation

The ATSC IDP program provides **advanced functionality** to formerly static doctrinal publications both in form of data presentation and accessibility. Existing content has been enhanced with interactive animations and tables, video, audio, and additional graphics and text resources that support better comprehension and greater retention of complicated concepts and functions.

The ATSC IDP is accessible to soldiers through a wide variety of electronic devices that range from desktop computers to smartphones – any electronic device with an internet connection and a browser or Adobe Digital Editions. Critical skills publications can be downloaded to individual devices to allow soldiers to have access even in remote/combat conditions.

Approaching each publication as a unique product, at its core, the ATSC IDP program has the principles of:

- Flexibility.
- Customization.
- Integration.

The needs of each specific command are identified, along with preferences for enhancement types, expected use, and target audience. The subject doctrine is then carefully analyzed and enhancements are identified that will meet those specific needs. Each IDP can be further customized to incorporate source command logos and colors.

Unique Differentiators

The ATSC IDP program, completed in partnership with C2 Technologies, is a leader in digital publication technology, breaking new ground and expanding the capabilities of electronic publications to levels previously reserved for multimedia courseware on desktop computers:

- Interactive animations.
- Multi-level interactions.
- Checks on learning.
- Video and audio demonstrations.
- Direct links to external sources.
- Sample and resource forms.

ATSC IDPs provide unique access to these capabilities over handheld devices such as tablets and smartphones under any conditions. In addition, the ATSC IDPs provide all common ePub features, including search, bookmarking, and notetaking, as well as pinch and zoom on handheld devices.

Figure 1: Mobile Platform – Smartphones and Tablets



Source: United States Army MLD 2018

Measurable Results

As the ATSC IDP program is just now releasing the first products on the Central Army Registry (CAR), no hard data is available on measurable benefits. However, the expected benefits from the IDP program are extensive:

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- Increased understanding and retention of critical Army procedures and operations.
- Greater interest in Army doctrine.
- Accessibility of critical instructions and examples in field/combat conditions.
- Distribution available to all soldiers all the time.



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