BASE CAMP 2025

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Beginning with a ground breaking meeting at MIT’s Edicott House in 2005, the Army began to rethink the design principles of the base camp sustainability by envisioning Base Camp 2025 to support Army in the future. In the intervening period, the relevance of the ideas they developed increased from highly relevant to incredibly relevant. For example “On July 25, 2006 Al-Anbar commander and U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Richard Zilmer submitted an MNF-W priority 1 request pointing to the hazards inherent in American supply lines, and noted that many of the supply convoys on Iraq’s roads (up to 70%, by some studies) are carrying fuel. Much of that fuel isn’t even for vehicles – it’s for diesel generators used to generate power at US bases et. al. In response, the document requests alternative energy solutions to power US forward operating bases… and the U.S. military looks like it will act on the request.” (Defense Industry Daily, August 23, 2006)

This discussion will argue that the time has come to consider base camps as a component system of the system war fight. On the basic research side, the conversation will call for the application of habitation sciences as an enabler for the science and technology developers to allow the Army to project power around the globe in a manner that builds sustainable operational capability. Program interests cover a broad spectrum of habitation issues including scalability, modularity, interaction with terrain and climate, and force protection, broadly defined in the context of systems inhabited by soldiers. On a broader note, the discussion will challenge the audience to consider the potential of design optimizations of the entire base camp systems, modularity, and re-use. The discussion will end with examples of a few suggested capabilities for Base Camp 2025.