Providing a continuously available capability to engage large numbers of distributed targets with high volumes of precise, long-range and cost-effective fires.

One system can responsively mass fires on a single target or engage multiple targets simultaneously.

CRUSADER

CRUSADER as having enabled the Army to transition to the Objective Force while minimizing risk to the Legacy Force.

In the year 2030 when we look back we will see CRUSADER

- Revolutionizing and changing the “way we fight”— doctrine, organizations, leader development
- “Skipping a generation”
- Placing a “thinking” person inside the cockpit who can shape the battlefield
- Developing enabling technologies and enabling industry to transition to the future combat system
- Taking “brute strength” out of the equation
- Complementing missile/standoff capability
- Providing strategic options

CRUSADER enables fires for the Objective Force

CRUSADER bridges the gap and lays the foundation (enables fires) for success in the future.
CRUSADER is a fully digitalized, open-architecture, stand-off attack system that revolutionizes fires on the network-centric battlespace. CRUSADER can destroy a large number of small, distributed targets well beyond 40kms, versus the current approach of using artillery to merely neutralize large enemy formations at far shorter range. Furthermore, CRUSADER’s information systems enable it to provide client-server fires when employed with Comanche, UA’s or other joint target-acquisition capabilities in sensor-to-shooter strike packages.

CRUSADER has already “skipped a generation” and enabling industry to transition to the future combat system. CRUSADER is a vital technology carrier for the future combat system. Approximately $2 billion has been spent developing the integrated crew cockpit, robotic munitions handling, projectile tracking radars, advanced composites, and various protection and susceptibility reduction technologies. CRUSADER’s functionality is driven by nearly 2 million lines of operating code that also drives embedded and external training simulators. CRUSADER has fired over 1,500 rounds at Yuma, AZ over the last year—already demonstrating leap-ahead advances in laser ignition, modular propellants, robotic loading, sustained rates of fire, and over 26,000 cycles without failure.

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CRUSADER delivers precision, low-cost munitions in all weather that are tracked and guided from launch to impact. These munitions have small footprints that minimize collateral damage. Such a capability is critical for attacking air defenses, destroying fleeting targets, or engaging forces in urban terrain. Rocket and missile systems offer great range, but despite technological advances, lack of responsiveness and capacity to engage (extended downtime before reloading), offer few munitions, require significant logistics and cost, and risk collateral damage from their relatively large effects dispersion.

CRUSADER revolutionizing

CRUSADER shaping the battlefield

CRUSADER developing enabling technologies

CRUSADER taking “brute strength” out of the equation

CRUSADER has three times the effectiveness of Paladin, with a 33% reduction in manpower for each system—6 soldiers do more than it takes 27 to accomplish today. It is a key system behind the Army’s force redesign that cuts 25% of the combat platforms, while still covering two and one-half times the battlespace.

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The Army has greatly reduced the weight of CRUSADER to enhance mobility and deployability with two howitzers, or a howitzer and resupply vehicle pair being airlifted in one C-17 sortie. A package of only 4 CRUSADERS can make a real full spectrum difference. CRUSADER ammunition and fuel have also been packaged in C-130-deployable modules that interface with palletized loading system (PLS) trucks to enable completely automated resupply in 10 minutes. This approach allows CRUSADER to be organized essentially without in-theater tail using anticipatory logistics—the key requirement for transitioning from nonlinear to nodal concepts of operations. The advanced crew cockpit also provides a shirtsleeve environment and ballistic sanctuary, enabling the crew to continue fighting on a WMD battlefield, while robotic systems conduct material handling, resupply and weapon functions.

--- CRUSADER Enables Fires for the Objective Force ---

CRUSADER will provide the Army combat overmatch and dominance across the full spectrum of missions with technologies that have yet to be integrated into ground combat vehicles anywhere in the world, and it will do this with fewer systems, less logistics, and fewer people. Our nation and the soldiers it sends into battle deserve the finest systems with which to fight. We owe them CRUSADER now, in the Legacy Force, and in the Objective Force.

✔ NETWORKED

Links ISR, C², fires and logistics in real time

✔ RESPONSIVE

Provides fully integrated, scalable fires—on demand

✔ DECENTRALIZED

Applies overmatching firepower more dynamically

Enables rapid maneuver, executes distributed operations, and achieves greater survivability

✔ AGILE

CRUSADER: Enabling Fires for the Objective Force

SUMMARY

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CRUSADER... Bridge to the Objective Force

LETHAL
Provides full range of effects to destroy, isolate, fix and suppress—on demand

SURVIVABLE
Provides continuous support in face of corresponding threat

SUSTAINABLE
Minimizes logistical burdens for mission and sustainment

DEPLOYABLE Transportable by C-130-type aircraft at less than or equal to 20T

Only lack of C-130 transportability keeps CRUSADER from Objective Force; however, 2 CRUSADERS = one C-17 sortie

TRANSFORMATION... Objective Force fires

CRUSADER... Bridge to the Objective Force